



The Right Place

The Right Sunday



FEBRUARY 4, 2018

PRICE: E6.50 (VAT INCLUSIVE)

ANGLICAN ORDINATION SERVICE



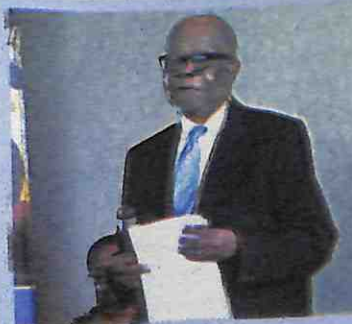
AFTER THE STRIKE...

SRA'S E2M FOR MANAGERS

- Tokens of E10 000 each allegedly paid out to about 100 managers
 - Juniors get E5 000 each
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shares
registration

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before raid -
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Sunday Observer
Scene



**SUPER
HERO
DADS**

CLARIFICATION

STORIES BY THEMBEKA
DLAMINI

The four-week strike by Swaziland Revenue Authority employees has paid dividends for those who did not part take in the protest which saw some services grounded.

Tokens of E10 000 were allegedly paid out this past week to nearly 100 managers whereas the amount for directors could not be ascertained.

This is according to well-placed sources who preferred anonymity seeing as SRA management and the workers' representative Swaziland Revenue Authority Workers' Union reached an agreement to cease talking through the media when the strike was terminated, January 12.

The employees who revealed this, said they were sure the amount reached over E2million seeing as there were about 96 managers, accounting for over E1million, and considering that the directors allegedly got paid more.

Junior staffers who did not take part in the strike, especially those who are not unionised, such as those from the human resources department, information technology as well as payroll departments, were said to have been paid E5 000 each.

"We are not sure how much was received by those who abandoned the strike, but we know they received something as they were all talking about it in hushed tones on Wednesday through Thursday as soon as these amounts reflected in their accounts," the source alleged.

Of note, even though there are over 400 unionised SRA employees, some of these did not take part and some abandoned the strike before it ended.

The protracted strike took place from December 10 after junior workers called for an additional 6.5 per cent increase to their salaries whereas they had received 6.8 per cent cost-of-living adjustment approved by SCOPE to all Category A parastatals. What started as a go-slow and lunch-time picketing, turned into a full-force strike which saw over 400 workers down tools and protest at different work sta-

Striking workers paid...but

In a move appreciated by workers, despite having been threatened with the no-work-no-pay rule, they received salaries for January.

Several workers confirmed that they were paid for their anticipated work from 16 to 31 January despite returning to work after the payroll had been computed.

"We returned to work fully prepared to find means of sustaining ourselves and were pleasantly surprised," workers said.

This is despite having been away from their duty stations for over a month seeing as their strike started December 12 and ended around the same time on January 16.

"We were paid in full in December as well seeing as the strike started after our payday." They said they were however made to understand that the January payments were an advance which they would repay, come month end.

Loaned

"Our salaries were basically loaned to us," they said adding that the reprieve would be for a little while as deductions would be for four months.

They feel the full effects of the strike have been postponed, rather than cancelled all together, despite their gratitude.

"they will take back the money for the days we did not work for in December," they said.

SRA strike aftermath:

SRA MANAGERS GET
OVER E2M, JUNIORS
ADVANCED SALARIES

...juniors who shunned strike get E5 000 each while managers get E10 000



Some of the SRA workers during their recent strike.

tions.

This resulted in a lock-out which saw workers then converge at different venues while awaiting their employer to relent and pay them the demanded increase.

The lock-out was partially lifted December 27 to the next day, which was to enable workers who wanted to return to work to inform their managers of their decision.

Some employees reportedly returned to work resulting in a war of words from their President, Tremendous Dlamini, who labelled them as those who betrayed their cause.

The exact numbers of those who returned was disputed as the union claimed 12 against SRA's 22.

Another lifting of the lockout was announced for January 15 and workers were called to attend a meeting on the Saturday before the deadline.

Before the union could hold a meeting with employees to ascertain whether the strike would continue, union representatives as well as management were called by Minister of Labour and Social Security Winnie Magagula to her offices January 12.

First to meet the minister were union leaders, who were closely followed by management. Despite confirming the meeting with the minister on the day, SRAWU Secretary General Moses Masilela would later retract all his comments

concerning employees complaining that the E1billion which was said to have been collected by workers who were not part of the strike, was due to their efforts as well.

He had been called while management met with the minister.

In the evening of the same day, both management and union revealed their about turn concerning trashing their differences in public, through the media.

During the subsequent private meeting between union leaders and striking workers; which the Sunday Observer was able to attend January 13; workers resolved to return to work January 16, as opposed to the Monday which was the cut-off date communicated to them by the employer.

...some don't know what money is for

They are grateful for the financial boost which comes at a time when most families are dealing with setbacks which stem from having to pay school fees for the new academic year, however, some employees said they were not aware what it was for.

Several employees from different SRA duty stations said they were yet to be informed about the money which reflected in their accounts from Wednesday.

"E5 000 was deposited in my account on Wednesday, however, I am not sure what it is for," an SRA junior staffer from Lavumisa said.

This was repeated by some from as far as Siteki, Matsamo, Lomahasha as well as Gege. They said nothing was communicated to them and they

heard rumours that the tokens were for work done during the strike.

"When we were paid our salaries for January, we received our allowances such as hardship and lunch out, however, the E5 000 was not reflected in our salaries which makes us think it was for being part of the contingency which averted disaster during the strike."

Employee

Another employee said the only person he could ask about the amount which reflected in his account on Thursday was bereaved and waiting for tomorrow to ask about it.

"Being far from head office renders us the last people to know what is happening in the absence of a memorandum from management," the employees said.

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Union not aware of tokens

The Swaziland Revenue Authority Workers' Union (SRAWU) revealed they were not aware of tokens paid out to workers who did not partake in the strike.

Secretary General Moses Masilela said they heard such reports but were not aware

of their veracity.

"We will find out on Monday (tomorrow) whether this is true," he said as a brief response adding that he could not be in a position to confirm the varying amounts.

Workers

However, some workers feel this money was not deserved

as minimal operations were noted during their strike.

"Some offices were closed completely as there were no employees there and those who were there retained their 8am to 5pm schedules with minimal overtime, which we believe was paid in full during salary rollout."

SRA junior workers find backlog

True to their fears, SRA junior employees are currently trying to reconcile work which they left hanging in December when they engaged in the protracted strike.

This was confirmed by several employees, especially those from VAT refund, who said they were hard at work trying to ensure that all refunds were made out to deserving importers.

Revealing some of the backlog, they said, "The VRA/Sekulula VAT where you fill up the form and leave your receipts at the border without paying so that SRA can claim your Vat from their counterparts from South Africa (South African Revenue Service) were not filled properly."

Feared

They alleged that they feared this could affect the current quarter's Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts.

They alleged that vehicle valuations were either not done or cars were under-valued and this could affect revenue collected in the long run.

"We have to work overtime whereas there are people who have been given bonuses for doing our work," they said adding that this was serving as a deterrent to some of them from engaging in union protests in future.

... fear this could negatively impact SACU receipt



SRA Boss Dumisani Masilela.

"This has divided us, mainly because we did not get what we were fighting for," they said.

They further decried the fact that they were doing work which should have been done during the strike, a period they were not paid.

The employees revealed fears of backlog prior to the end of the strike after their Commissioner General, Dumisani

Masilela, reportedly commended workers who collected E1 billion during the strike.

Striking

The striking workers, who were speaking out prior to the agreement by management and union to avoid speaking to the media, had revealed that they foresaw a situation where they would have to do the work on return.

SRA Management — we are not enemies

The Swaziland Revenue Authority stands by its stance not to respond to strike related matters in the public domain. This was said by Director Communications Vusi Dlamini. "Our stance is that the organisation and union leadership have agreed not to discuss strike related matters in public domain."

He said remuneration issues were not just personal but sensitive and could not be discussed with the media.

He however stated that it was important to highlight that union leadership and management continue with

negotiations and both employer and employee have a common objective; interest of all staff; those who went on strike and those who didn't; and the organisation.

Adding, he said it was important to highlight that the SRA has a staff recognition policy which is important as they deal with such issues.

"We are all employees of the same organisation. We have one common purpose and our priority is to ensure that all our staff members feel appreciated for the contribution they make to the organisation's mandate."

In essence we are not enemies and we all have a mandate to defend and deliver effectively to the Swazi nation."

He was responding to the questions on whether reports that management had been paid E10 000 each whereas junior employees E5 000 were true.

In the questionnaire, he was also asked to state whether the money was approved by SCOPE from the Public Enterprise Unit (PEU).

Further, he was asked to confirm whether the E2 million was the correct reflection of the total amount paid in tokens.

Another question asked was whether the money advanced to workers in January would be deducted in four instalments.

'Police tipped 'Dzodzo' on raid' — friends allege

STORIES BY SUNDAY OBSERVER REPORTER

His closest allies say they do not trust the police enough to give him away because they tipped him off on the raid at his home.

These are allegations which were made this past week following revelations by the police service that they had put a bounty of E450 000 on his head along with those of his alleged accomplices, Mbuso Ncaza Nkosi as well as another unidentified person, who's picture was taken off surveillance cameras.

When asked how they deduced that Sicelo 'Dzodzo' Zikalala was told of the raid, a few friends said he informed them prior to it, that he was leaving to until the heat was off him.

The police are alleged to have informed him a few hours ahead of the raid which saw him alleged-



Sicelo 'Dzodzo' Zikalala.

ly walking towards the hill near his house. However, reports are to the effect that he surfaced in front of his work station, Solanis, where he boarded a vehicle before leaving. These are the events according to witness accounts from a group of young men who were present on the day of the raid as well as his self-acclaimed associates. "The money is not

enough for three people who are allegedly well connected and supposedly dangerous," a 'friend' said.

Despite the hype from members of the public about the amount, five people who said they know the wanted Swazi, decried the amount as meagre.

"If only we could be assured of safety and a new life outside the country in a place where there would be no fear of retribution, we would say something in the event we knew of his whereabouts."

It should be noted that, despite claiming kinship, they all said they were not aware of his whereabouts with one stating that he believed his friend was dead.

"When looking at all the information which is supposed to be privileged which is in the hands of the public and compromises investigations, a person in their right mind cannot trust local police and their alliances," the group said.

'Dzodzo' calls friend using WhatsApp

Calls to Sicelo 'Dzodzo' Zikalala's contact numbers are met with a voice prompt which states that the numbers are not available, however, a friend says he calls using WhatsApp due to it being encrypted.

"He calls selected people using a different contact as he believes

the calls via WhatsApp are not traceable."

This move is opposite to the way his alleged involvement was found out by the police as it is alleged a discarded SIM card cover led the police to suspect his involvement and gave them other clues of those who might have had a hand in Victor

Gamedze's killing.

Reports of his calls were initially made on the day he was reported to have been killed as he spoke to some associates without the knowledge that he was supposed to be dead.

"We don't know who started the rumour, but we know it is not him."

Death reports an old trick

Despite assurances by the police that Sicelo 'Dzodzo' Zikalala is alive and is sought in connection with his alleged role in the death of Victor Gamedze, one of his friends is mourning his death.

The Matsapha socialite close to Zikalala, said he was in mourning and will not believe the police as he was aware that the wanted man was dead.

"Those assassins killed my friend and I will believe him to be alive in the event I see him,"

he said earnestly while in the presence of other associates. Their response was to however tell him to stop wasting his feelings as reports of death were one of the oldest tricks of the book. "Mafia criminals use that to diffuse the situation and stop police from looking for them," they said in response.

Facebookers 'find' wanted man

They have been several steps 'ahead' of the police on several occasions and before midday yesterday, they had found one of the suspects wanted by the police on Facebook.

An account with pictures of one of the wanted men, was active for the better part of the day, seemingly taunting users with updates.

The South African, Mbuso Ncaza Nkosi is, according to the account, from Cape Town and is self-employed.

However, one should note that Facebook biographies are not usually a true reflection as they can be faked by users.

Local users started responding to his public posts with others calling for him to surrender. Prior to the announcement that he was a wanted man in the country, the char-



South African, Mbuso Ncaza Nkosi.

acter posted two pictures of himself with several of his friends welcoming back on the platform.

The January post came after

a post from August. The account has several pictures of people who Nkosi reportedly mourns revealing that they might be deceased.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS RECOGNISED

BY LUNGILE IULANE

Pupils from eight schools around Mbabane were yesterday presented with Awards for Academic excellence courtesy of Academic Achievers Awards (AAA) 2018 at the Uniswa Sports Emporium.

According to Academic Awards Achievers, the goal and aim of this event was to, "improve the standard of education in Swaziland, maintain and encourage a high positive outlook in studies throughout the year, to assist teachers in bringing back academic excitement in pupils, rewarding and encouraging academic excellence and creating a new breed of career professionals."

About 200 excited pupils received awards from Bonkhe.

These high schools include KaBoyce, Sifundzani, Woodlands, John Wesley, Fonteyn, St Mark's, St Francis and Mbabane Central.

Pupils and parents were asked questions after each speaker to test if they were listening. Prizes for the day ranged from sweets for those who failed to answer, diaries, back packs and water bottles from Swaziland Building Society for those who showed to be receptive.

Parents walked away with power banks as they were asked to give words of advice to the pupils.

AAA Public Relations Officer Nokwanda Tfwala said they were happy with the parent's participation as their programme heavily relied on them.

She said the parents were chosen to be the award presenters because they wanted them to be a part of this experience in their children's lives.

Volunteers were asked on stage for a spelling bee competition conducted by Mlandvo Mngomezulu from Manzini Nazerene High School.

Pupils from St Mark's and Ka-Boyce took up the challenge with the pupil from St Mark's failing to spell extraterrestrial and the pupil from Ka-Boyce correctly spelled pre-anthropoc.

Programme Directors Zwakele Mkhonta and Temnotfo Ndzimandze kept the audience entertained with games which saw the audience winning themselves different prizes.

Temnotfo who was one of the programme directors had both pupils and parent's fingers glued to their phone as she would come up on stage and randomly call out Swazi MTN airtime number vouchers.

Students seemed to be getting more of the airtime than the parents.

Guest speakers and award presenters at the event include, motivational speaker Bonkhe Shabangu and Hugues

...According to Academic Awards Achievers, the goals and aims of this event was to, "Improve the standard of education in Swaziland, maintain and encourage a high positive outlook in studies throughout the year, to assist teachers in bringing back academic excitement in pupils, rewarding and encouraging academic excellence and creating a new breed of career professionals"



A pupil from Sifundzani High School who won one of the four copies of Hugues Hakazimana's book 'The Pursuit of Success.'



Mlandvo Mngomezulu conducting a spelling bee competition with two volunteers from Ka-Boyce High School and St Marks High School.

Hakazimana, the youngest author in the country, inspirational and motivational speaker, Sakhile Nkambule, a motivator and model as well as parents. This initiative was in association with Swaziland Building Society. The role of all the guest speakers was to motivate the pupils and they all stuck to that, emphasising the

importance of education for the development of the country.

Bonkhe explained the purpose behind AAA by explaining to the pupils that they need to be ambitious, committed, be hustlers, be inspired, take education seriously, have good values, expertise and be responsible.



A pupil from KaBoyce High School receiving his academic excellence certificate.



Swaziland Building Society staff following the event proceedings closely.



Sakhile Nkambule, one of the guests of honour with a friend.

He further stated that if pupils combined all the above, they were guaranteed to be academic achievers. Hakazimana implored pupils to redirect their energy into other academic aspects that can improve their education.

He urged pupils to be motivated by every situation around them.

Making an example about himself, Hakazimana said he used to

get bad grades at school, such as 15 per cent on mathematics, but that is the very same mark that motivated him to study even harder and he eventually got 50 per cent.

He said he then did an introspection and realised what he was good at, which was when he redirected his focus to writing.

He then gave away four copies of his book.



A pupil from John Wesley High School with a back pack from the Swaziland Building Society.



A section of parents and teachers present during the event.



Terms of Reference: Micro Finance Unit Business Clinics for Community Income Generating Projects funded through Government Funding.

Title	Micro Finance Unit Business Clinics for Community Income Generating Projects funded through Government Funding.
Country of Assignment	Swaziland
Start Date	26 th February 2018– 23 rd March 2018
Duration	23 working days
Supervision	Micro Finance Unit(MFU)

1.0. Introduction

The Micro Finance Unit (MFU) is a semi-autonomous body under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) established to facilitate access to financial services for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and the unbanked population through creating an enabling environment for the sector. The Unit plays a facilitative role through its engagement with the financial regulators, policy makers and building the capacity of the financial sector and Business Development Services (BDS) providers to enable the smooth implementation of the country's National Financial Inclusion Strategy. The MFU further responds to a critical need to develop on-farm and off-farm business opportunities for the rural poor through capacity building on technical and business skills along with the extension of mechanisms to increase access to rural financial services.

2.0. Purpose of the Assignment

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the very important employment creators in local economy. In times where, formal labour markets do not offer enough jobs, out of necessity, people often turn to entrepreneurial activities for economic survival. As part of its mandate to capacitate financial institutions and development finance institutions to extend financial services to MSMEs and the unbanked population, the Micro Finance Unit is collaborating with the Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development (MTAD) and the Micro Projects Coordinating Unit to support the nurturing and growth of the enterprises/businesses at Inkhundla level that have received financial support from Government funding schemes to enhance their sustainability and contribution to economic development.

The Government of Swaziland using The Regional Development Fund Regulations Notice, 2015 mandated the Micro Projects Coordinating Unit to facilitate the operation of the Regional Development Fund. This entails amongst other things that the Micro Projects Coordinating Unit can identify training needs and develop appropriate capacity building programmes in collaboration with communities and other development partners as well as appraise project or enterprises for funding.

The purpose of the MFU Business Clinics as a follow up to the training received by the Officers is to improve the sustainable access to affordable and quality financial products and services of the enterprises based at the Tinkhundla Centres through enhancing linkages with the mainstream financial system.

2.1 Expected Results

The Business Clinics are expected to help provide a diagnosis of the participating businesses. This diagnostic exercise should assist the participating businesses in improving profitability through assessing the break-even point, market position, competition and potential for growth. The ultimate goal is to improve the income returns from the businesses and enhance their viability and sustainability

3.0 Specific Objectives Tasks

The Consultant shall be expected to facilitate/conduct Business Clinics with guidance from the Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development, the Micro Projects Coordinating Unit and the Micro Finance Unit. The Business Clinics will be conducted in selected Tinkhundla Centres in the Shiselweni and Lubombo Regions. The Business Clinics are targeted primarily at leaders of Income Generating Projects that have benefited from the Regional Development Fund (RDF). Participation in these Business Clinics will however not be limited to beneficiaries of RDF only. Other community based IGPs will also benefit from these Clinics.

The selected Tinkhundla Centres are as follows; Lubombo - Dvokodweni, Hlane, Matsanjeni North, Siphofaneni and Lubulini. Shiselweni - Maseysini, Ngudzeni and Nkwene.

3.1. Methodology

The methodology to be used is detailed below

Activity	Outcome
Common Business Pitfalls	Participants must be able to identify what can make their businesses thrive or die in order to take appropriate actions. Topics include poor business planning, doing business for the wrong reasons, counter-productive group dynamics, lack of business management skills, not understanding profitability, business independence, customer service and growth.
Developing and executing the marketing plan	Participants equipped with stronger insights to sufficient markets for business, diagnosing markets, increasing market share and identifying niche markets to get maximum returns.
Profitability, retained earnings, and business growth (reinvesting)	Participants helped with better understanding of profitability, tax issues, creating business reserves, and reinvesting, including loan financing for growth.
Cash flow management	Participants equipped with knowledge on how to ensure business liquidity and spending business funds wisely

Attending to individual business cases	Individual business issues addressed through proper advice from experienced Consultants
Develop and implement Pre-Training and Post-Training Tools to assess status of the participating enterprises pre-and post the training	A comprehensive Report detailing status of the participating enterprises pre-and post the Business Clinics

4.0 Qualifications, Experience and Competencies

Competencies:

- Potential Consultants should possess at least a Master's Degree in Economics, Development Studies or any human development-related field, with a strong focus on SME development.
- At least 5 years of experience of working in research, rural development and MSME development.
- Demonstrated proven track record of successful completion of similar work for Governments and international organizations would be an added advantage.

5.0 Evaluation of Proposals

Evaluation of the received Proposals will be based on the criteria detailed below:

Criteria	Points Allocated
Experience, Qualification and Competency of Firm and Key Personnel	15 points
Understanding of Assignment and Methodology	20 points
Detailed Work Plan	15 points

The Consultant will be required to attain a minimum score of 70% on the technical evaluation /proposal to proceed to the next stage. The proposal will be evaluated based on quality and cost. The technical proposal will contribute 70% and financial proposal 30%.

6.0. Financial Proposals Evaluation

Financial proposals of bidders attaining the minimal score of 70% will be opened during the evaluation. Financial proposals from Consultants that have not attained the minimum technical score required of 70% will not be opened. Financial Proposal shall comprise 30% of the overall score. The Consultant is required to attain a minimum score of 70% on the technical evaluation /proposal to proceed to the next stage.

7.0 Information to be submitted with Proposals

- Certified copy of original Tax Clearance Certificate;
- Certified copy of original Trading Licence;
- Submission of a Company Current Form J or equivalent for foreign registered companies, endorsed by the Registrar of Companies;
- Submission of a Company Current Form C, endorsed by the Registrar of Companies; and,
- The Directors as listed in form J should provide certified copies of personal identity documents.

8.0. Submission of Proposals

Interested candidates are invited to submit detailed Technical Proposal in English (1 original and 2 bound copies) and Financial Proposal (in separate sealed envelopes) clearly marked "Micro Finance Unit Business Clinics for Community Income Generating Projects funded through Government Funding" to the Reception of the Micro Finance Unit Offices at Lot 192, Ground Floor of Injabulo House, Somhlolo Road, Mbabane on or before 1630hrs on Friday 16th February 2018.

- NO FAXED, EMAILED OR LATE PROPOSAL WILL BE CONSIDERED. QUERIES RELATED TO THIS BID MAYBE ADDRESSED TO FAX NUMBER +268 2404 7025 OR EMAILED TO (info@mfu.org.sz)

PLEASE NOTE:

- SUCCESSFUL FIRMS WILL BE CONSULTED AFTER TWO WEEKS OF DATE OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS
- SHOULD YOU NOT BE CONSULTED WITHIN TWO WEEKS FROM THE DEADLINE, PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR PROPOSAL UNSUCCESSFUL
- THE MFU RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO IMPOSE ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS IT MAY DEEM PROPER.

PM RECALLS FUNEKILE GULE AND OTHERS IN HIS MEMOIRS

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

It is a brief mention, but Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini recalls Funekile Gule and the brutal manner in which her life ended.

Introducing how his work ethic was nurtured while attending school at Ndzingeni Nazarene Primary, Dlamini recalled how he had move to the area which was serviced by two busses, one owned by the deceased's grandfather.

This was after having initially left Hhlelehle, where he briefly attended Grade One before moving to Bulembu, then Emlembe, which had the Havelock Asbestos Mine.

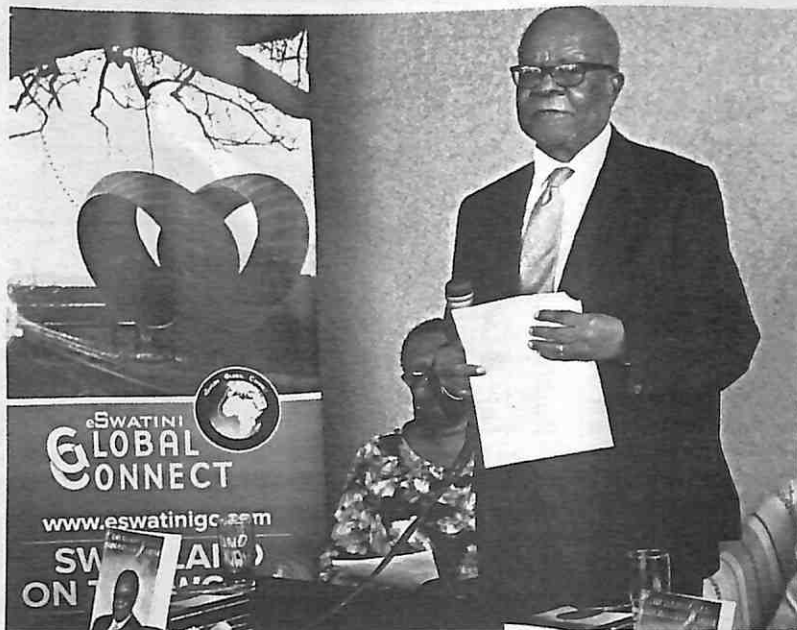
The move was necessitated by his father's assignment to open a Nazarene Mission school in the area and seeing as the school went only up to Grade IV, Dlamini had to travel to Ndzingeni by bus, something which he said shocked his system as he moved from being a coddled child to one who had to fend for himself.

The two buses which serviced the route were Ukhozi Olumavitsi which was owned by Funekile's grand-father, James Gule whereas another, Vulindlela Bus Service, was owned by Dzelelwako Mavimbela.

Even though he states that the tragedy took place in 2013, the brutality of the April 2014 incident left the whole country reeling in shock, more-so, due to the crime never being solved.

Preliminary reports from the police were to the effect that the young woman was bitten by dogs whereas post mortem results which were released reluctantly nearly a year later, after the family had threatened to approach the courts for

...Even though he states that the tragedy took place in 2013, the brutality of the April 2014 incident left the whole country reeling in shock, more-so, due to the crime never being solved



Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini addressing members at the launch of his book.

them, revealed stabbing with a sharp object. The perpetrators are yet to be arrested.

Another untimely death mentioned in the opening chapters of the book is that of deceased Swazi TV News Editor George Mthunzi Mabuza who died when a tree fell and crushed his car as he drove along Mantjolo Road in 1992. In the book, the PM talks of the people he attended school with at Franson Christian High School which he attended after the late editor's sister, Eunice Mabuza.

Of note, the PM recalls many people who he met during his life, and reveals either their parents or children, according to how he related to them or their positions in life.

Another notable mention is that of Eleanor Mthamali who disappeared in September 1996 after complaining to her husband that she was being stalked.

Mthamali features in the chapter where Dlamini reveals how he met his wife in a restaurant which was owned by her father, Elias Dlamini along Betfusile Street.

The Premier's 'women'

The main woman in Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini has always been Jane Matsebula, the woman who became his wife, lifelong companion and mother to his children.

She was earnestly introduced in Chapter Four with the declaration that she was to be the love of his life.

Despite their long relationship, there were others along the way.

The first woman mentioned in the PM's book is Mary Bhembé, mother to Swazi Television Authority Journalist Siphiso Dlamini.

She is the first woman he calls his friend, with the explanation that theirs was a platonic relationship as was other subsequent ones. They met during their time at Manzini Nazarene when they were both attending secondary there.

He recalls how, on meeting Siphiso for the first time, he asked her whether she had any relation to his long-lost friend only to find out she was Mary's daughter.

Prior to leaving the country to

pursue his education in the United States, Dlamini said he had met his wife, but they were not yet together. He admits to have had his fair share of testosterone as well as flings, something he said kept him going. Although he admits its difficult for men to have a friendship with women without it becoming physical, he says he respected women's wishes whenever they asked that to forego the physical by keeping it platonic.

Cynthia Dodge is the first woman with whom he admits to have had a fully-fledged relationship with although it never advanced to carnal as she made it clear that she would remain untouched until married.

After Cynthia, Dlamini met Margaret Eberle in a bus and struck up a friendship with her and her fiancé. He says he went on dates with the couple with Margaret tagging along.

He says his wife, who was then his girlfriend, was not happy with the relationship, though understood years later into their marriage.

Mphandlana honoured to be recognised in PM's book

They have over the years been directly and indirectly at loggerheads due to their differing political views, but Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini makes mention of Mphandlana Shongwe and labels him a human right's activist in his book.

When informed about this, Shongwe said he was honoured about the mention and the title of

being a human rights' activist, one he embraces and lives by. Of note, Shongwe is usually referred to as a political activist due to his trademark appearance at protests, either political or labour related.

Showing interest in the book even before knowing the contents and how he is mentioned there-in, Shongwe first asked whether it was out and how much it retails.

PM & Jane: a fairytale for the story books

Theirs seems to have been a love of fairy tale proportions as each time he talks of his wife, it is with affection and reverence.

The softness and devotion that Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini refers to his wife who died in 2012 belies the tough leader who was over the years known for his tough no-nonsense stance where use of Makhundu and Spakatane seemed to define his character.

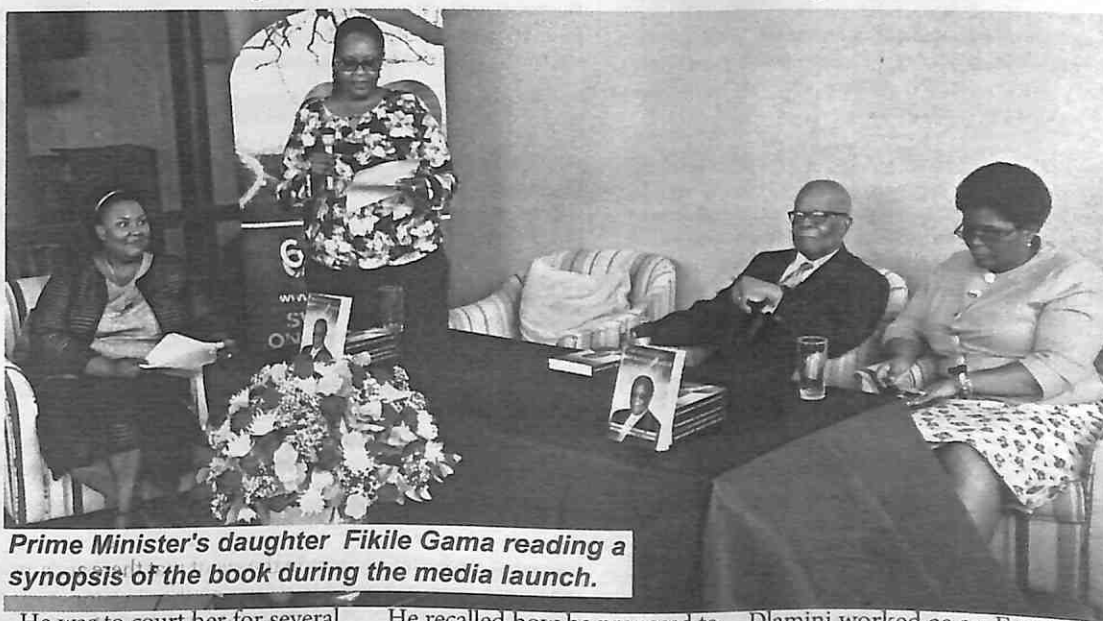
Later in the book, he even attributes his love for farming on his wife's acumen which saw her bidding for a herd of 11 pregnant cows at E400 piece which was their monthly budget.

Recalling how they met, he reveals they initially met as young children when he lived at Bulembu.

He was to later meet her in a Mbabane restaurant where she spurned his requests to accompany her when she was due to make her way home.

He says he lost sight of her as he looked down on his food and on finding her gone, proceeded to run all over Mbabane's streets looking for her.

On finding her, he was able to walk her to Checkers where she stayed with relatives as she attended Mbabane Central High School.



Prime Minister's daughter Fikile Gama reading a synopsis of the book during the media launch.

He was to court her for several years before he caught her heart in earnest.

On his return from a three-year study session in the United States of America, Dlamini says he was disappointed to find that the object of his desire was leaving to attend university in Lesotho.

After hearing that she had returned a few years later, he reportedly went far and wide looking for her in places like Bulembu before getting wind that she was in Msunduzi. He says he walked for hours looking for her until he located her.

He recalled how he proposed to her in 1970 as she was watching her favourite team, Mbabane High Landers Football Club at the Msunduzi Sports Ground and had to postpone their wedding ceremony to be a day after pay day so he would have enough money for the fee and stamp.

From the birth of their first child to how Jane sowed a seed of farming in him, the PM recount proceeded to recall how his beloved wife became tired in 1995 and was diagnosed with fragmented kidneys during his stay in the US while

Dlamini worked as an Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund. He recalls how they did not think the prognosis too serious until a visit to Libya in 2000 had Jane walking laboriously. It was in 2001 when the severity of the situation was revealed to them and a life of dialysis started at the Mbabane Government Hospital.

The PM recalls all that happened until she died in 2012. He reveals his regret at not being South African as this could have made his wife eligible to get a donor kidney which could have prolonged her life.

BRIEF REVIEW

It might be a memoir by the country's longest serving prime minister, however, it is not devoid of some of the most significant occurrences that deserve entry into conventional history books.

Yes, it is heavy on his personal life, as any autobiography should, but this gives balance and clarity on who he really is.

At times he comes across as too soft, especially when talking about his family, only for the tough exterior to surface when he talks of unsavoury characters, such as the boy who threatened Manzini Nazarene Principal Dorothy Bevil to submit and give him an undeserved Form II certificate.

The most amazing feature found within the over 500 pages is how, despite it being a historical narrative, it is contemporary because a younger reader is able to recognise most of the characters due to the connection they have with current players.

These memoirs bring to light his opinions as the head of government while putting to perspective some of the decisions made during his tenure.

Despite being willing to say a lot about his personal life, a lot of questions remain unanswered, especially when it comes to other children who he fails to elaborate on as he does on his three with Jane.

Of note, the most compelling episode, well for me, is his recount of the period when he was appointed PM.

Swazi Mobile extends shares deadline

BY LUNGILE LULANE

Good news for Swazi Mobile shareholders who have not yet submitted their personal documents to Swazi Mobile.

Swazi Mobile has yet again extended its deadline for the submission of personal document to customers who are eligible for shares.

This comes after the deadline slated to have been this past Wednesday. Swazi Mobile Brand and Communications Manager Macford Sibandze said the decision to extend the deadline came after they realised that most people start-



ed flocking into their Experience Centres on the last day and they could not assist all of them which resulted in customer complaints.

He said as a company that cares about their customers, they decided to extend the deadline and allow customers enough time to submit the necessary documents.

Sibandze cautioned customers against waiting for the last day to submit these documents as they may not be as lucky next time.

Sibandze said for individuals who cannot produce all the necessary documents due to the fact that their bills are registered under their landlord or landlady's name, they need to have something written by the owners of the residence acknowledging that they live in their home-stead together with a affidavit.

Concerning when the shares will

start paying dividends, Sibandze said they are not yet at a point where they can discuss earnings. He said what is important now is to have all the shareholders submit the necessary documents and receive their share offer benefits which includes 10 per cent bonus every time prepaid customers load airtime and 10 per cent discount monthly bill and 10 per cent bonus on all loaded airtime for postpaid customers.

However, this share offer benefit will only be received by customers who have submitted all the required documents. "Customers are advised to be on the lookout for updates on what is next pertaining their shares," explained Sibandze.

GOVERNMENT, SCU AT LOGGERHEADS OVER MoU

... SCU opposes Government MoU which enables takeover

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

If everything were up to government, the Swaziland Christian University (SCU) would now be a fully fledged parastatal.

This is contained in a newly drafted Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the government of the Kingdom of Swaziland and the Africa Continent Mission (ACM).

ACM is the owner of SCU.

This investigation desk is in possession of the MoU draft which is allegedly the cause of the trouble brewing at the institution which saw violent clashes hardly two months after His Majesty King Mswati III ordered it to re-open following its closure when the academic year was supposed to open in August.

SCU operations were suspended in August after the Swaziland Higher Education Council (SHEC) assessed and found that there were a number of issues that needed immediate attention and they were relayed to the administration for them to them.

Once again, the future of 960 students is blurry as the students on Wednesday involved in a class boycott demanding among other things, the announcement of graduation day for students who completed their studies last year. The students also demanded answers on government scholarships.

Impeccable sources revealed to this investigation desk that there would be no graduation and no government scholarships granted to students in that university until the signing of the MoU.

Of note, the first Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed between the two parties dated December 17, 2012; deemed the institution to fall in the Category A list of the Public Enterprise Unit (PEU) in terms of the Public



Enterprise (Control and Monitoring) Act of 1989. On the other hand, ownership was for the owners of ACM. In that MoA, government undertook to provide the institutions with an annual subvention of E27million.

This publication understands that the proposed MoU was sent to authorities of the ACM in a soft copy format to enable the institution to go through the draft and make changes.

The first change that the institution allegedly made was the changing the MoU to MoA. In the MoU, government is duly represented by Dr Phineas Magagula in his capacity as the Minister of Education and Training. The minister is referred in the MoU as Government while ACM was yet to appoint it representative who is to sign the MoU and that individual would be referred to as ACM.

The sources further claimed that every blue text were changes made by the ACM while blue cancelled texts are terms that ACM was not willing to adopt in the proposed MoU. SCU would be allowed to continue operating under this trade name despite signing of the proposed MoU.

First page of the MoU reads; "For the establishment of the status of the Swaziland

Christian University as Public Enterprise in terms of the Public Enterprise (Control and Monitoring) Act a fully owned government parastatal."

However, the last five words of the above quote appeared in blue and cancelled with a thin blue line.

The eight objectives of the MoU are said to define the roles and responsibilities of the ACM and Government in the partnership of running the institution and takeover of SCU. The last three words are appeared in blue and they are cancelled. It further reads that it was to allow SCU to be a fully fledged government parastatal. However, the last three words were cancelled and partnership with the government in terms of the MoU was added.

"Allow Government to exercise effective control over all aspects of management of SCU," reads the original clause before ACM allegedly added in partnership with the ACM after the word government.

ACM also made an amendment in objective nine which says the institution must operate in line with the Public Enterprise Unit (PEU) Act. ACM added that the institution must also operate in terms of the MoA. The PEU Act is the Public Enterprise (Control and Monitoring) Act 1989.

Other objectives which ACM did not temper with includes objective four which reads; "Enable government to manage and control the allocation and usage of finances by SCU."

In section 11.2, Force Majeure of Section 11, the General Provisions of the MoU, ACM has added that in the event that the government of Swaziland would no longer be in a position to maintain or fulfil its obligation in the running of the SCU either due to financial constraints or other act, ACM would retain complete ownership of the institution.

Obligations of Government, ACM in the proposed MoU

In the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland and the Africa Continent Mission (ACM), government would appoint the Swaziland Christian University (SCU) Council.

However, SCU made an amendment to this clause stating that the university's council should be appointed 'acting on the recommendations of ACM together with the ministry of education and training'.

Government also wanted to appoint the Bursar; nevertheless, ACM added that the bursar would be appointed 'acting on the recommendations of ACM together with the ministry of education and training'. Government further responsible for fully fiduciary responsible of SCU to enable the institution to meet its operational expenses.

Government would also be in charge of the oversight functions over the academic performance, operations, finance, and general administration of SCU.

On the other hand, ACM regional council would only be responsible for providing the infrastructure and equipment required for the successful operation of SCU and mobilise donor funding of the institution.

Interesting, the same university council that was to be appointed by government was going to be the supreme governance structure of SCU. The council was to be appointed by education and training minister Consultation with SCOPE. However, ACM added that the council should be appointment by the minister acting on the recommendations made by ACM and the ministry of education and training in consultation with SCOPE.

Furthermore, the SCU council that government wants to appoint on its own would be responsible for governance, control, and administration. The council would also monitor compliance with relevant national legislation and international standards.

Government wants control over SCU donations

The government is not only aiming to take over the Swaziland Christian University (SCU) but it also aims to control every penny received by the institution.

To allow the control of funds at SCU, in the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), government through objective 10 of the MoU says government is to monitor donations due to SCU.

"In the spirit of accountability and transparency, it is hereby agreed that in the event that there are any donations whether in monetary terms or in the kind in relation to SCU should be declared to government," reads the original MoU.

Additionally, donations should edbe accord following government

process and channelled through the ministry of economic planning. ACM allegedly cancelled this additional information.

Government also wants to appoint a Bursar through SCOPE while ACM wants the Bursar to be appointed on the recommendation of ACM and the ministry of education and training.

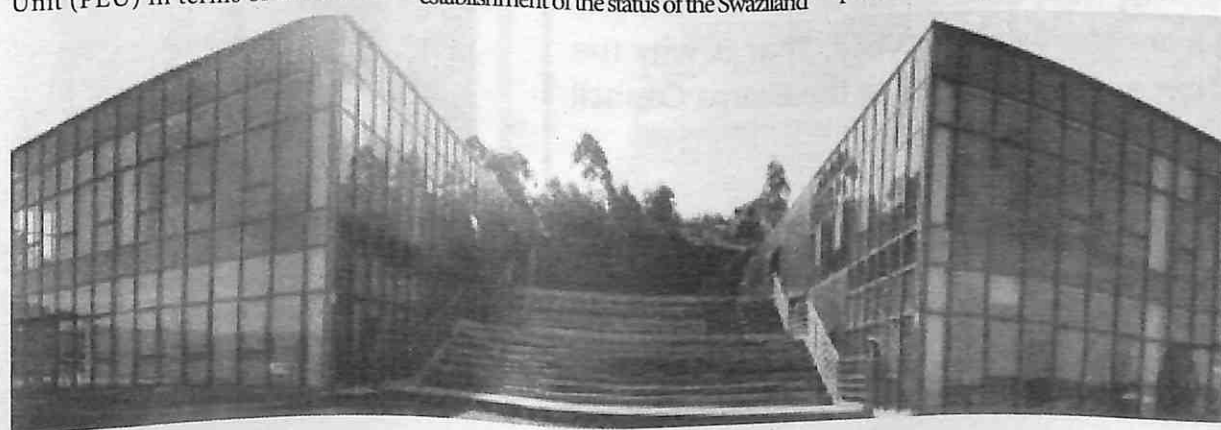
Responsibility

The bursar that government wants is to bear the full responsibility of ensuring the existence of financial controls and compliance with those controls as well as other relevant finance management legislations and auditing standards.

SCU bank account would be opened in line with Government procedures for opening bank accounts.

“

In the spirit of accountability and transparency, it is hereby agreed that in the event that there are any donations whether in monetary terms or in the kind in relation to SCU should be declared to government



BRUTALLY MURDERED EX-SPTC CHAIRMAN WAS AN IT GENIUS

STORIES BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

Brutally murdered Phanel Vilakati, who was former Swaziland Post and Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC) board chairman, has been described by his colleagues as an Information and Technology (IT) genius.

Vilakati was murdered last Sunday at his farm in Vuvulane, allegedly by his farm worker Sandile Malindzisa over December's wages disagreements. According to Malindzisa, Vilakati did not pay him his salary and this led to an altercation which left the latter dead.

During his memorial service held at the Mbabane Church of Nazarene, close to 500 mourners passed their last respects to the fallen IT specialist. Manana, a colleague and a friend to Vilakati described him as a hardworking and dedicated, brilliant man.

Manana stated that Vilakati was involved in the first generation of Automated Teller Machines (ATM) in the country. He said Vilakati was part of the IT specialists who installed ATM's in the country. He went on to state that Vilakati was a true electronic engineer.

Wondered

"He was the first generation of ATM, I am not sure if we know this," Manana wondered.

On the other hand, former SPTC Managing Director (MD) Elijah Zwane, who was also Vilakati's colleague at SPTC, said they were part of Science Pre-Entry Course (SPEC) 79. He explained that the 79 after SPEC denoted the year they enrolled at the University of Swaziland (UNISWA). Zwane said the deceased used to be one of the brightest students in class as he would also raise his hands to give answers to questions.

Zwane added that during electronic experiments

Vilakati, would be the first one to successfully complete any given tasks.

He gave an example of connecting a circuit board, he said while other students would be struggling with connections; Vilakati's circuit would be working.

"After completing our studies at UNISWA we worked for an entity which was big at that time. I don't know now whether it is still huge," Zwane jokingly said, referring to SPTC.

Resigned

He mentioned that SPTC sent Vilakati to further his studies overseas but two years after his return, he resigned from the SPTC going for new challenges. Zwane portrayed his dead friend as someone who liked to develop computer systems and said it was for that reason he left SPTC.

When Zwane became MD, Vilakati was board chairman and whenever something was amiss



Pastor Grace Masilela preaching during the memorial service. In front is a portrait of Phanel Vilakati.



Examinations Council of Swaziland

PRESS STATEMENT

The Examinations Council of Swaziland would like to express appreciation to the public for the interest shown in our work and would like to reassure our stakeholders and the public that the Council is committed to fulfilling its mandate diligently and professionally, which include issuing of quality qualifications at SPC, JC and SGCSE.

In this regard, the Exams Council has systems in place for validation of processes to ensure credibility of results.

The recent instances of leakages of results were regrettable. However, despite these leakages, the public should rest assured that the 2017 results were credible as they had also undergone the validation processes for quality control and authentication.

The reports in the Media accusing the Exams Council of leaking the SGCSE results were unfortunate. Specifically the report of the 28th January by Mr Sifiso Sibandze, the Editor of the Times Sunday Newspaper, insinuating that the leakage originated from the Exams Council, was not only completely misinformed but also damaging to the reputation of the Institution. Further to that, the Editor used derogatory language to describe the professional officers as being "amateurish". Yet in a press conference held on the 25th January, the Exams Council explained that the matter was still under investigation by the Police. So far, there has been no evidence to suggest that the results were leaked from the Exams Council. That is why the Editor's article is seriously viewed by the organisation as grossly unfair to the Exams Council professionals.

Dr A. Nxumalo
CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL



Children of brutally murdered Phanel Vilakati paying their last tribute to their father. (Pics: Wandile Vilakati)

...Ex-SPTC

Board Chairman's child moving tribute

The memorial service was sombre but it got worse when Gcebile who is Phanel Bongani Vilakati's last born took the podium to pay her last respect to her loving father.

Gcebile was crying throughout her speech was accompanied by her siblings, Sabelo, Dumisani, Bhekumusa and Lunga. As she paid her tribute, many people from the floor were heard crying while others were seen holding back tears.



Family and friends in a sombre mood as Gcebile Vilakati paid her last respects to her father.



Swazi Bank Public Relations Officer Phesheya Vilakati talking to relatives after the service.



Gcebile, Sabelo, Dumisani, Bhukumusa and Lunga watching proceedings during the memorial service of their father.

Vilakati would attend meetings with a serious face to avoid their friendship interfering with their work. When resolutions had been taken, they would start discussing personal affairs.

"One thing that I learnt from him is that he stuck by his decisions even if the decision was met with negative responses," Zwane recalled.

Zwane said Vilakati was someone who was always honest and he executed his duties without fear or favour, regardless of who was going to be offended by his remarks or actions. He said

he was saddened by the manner in which the decent man died. He then sent his condolences to the family and friends of Vilakati.

Represented

On the other hand, SPTC workers were represented by a man who only identified himself as a Khoza. He said Vilakati was more like a brother to the network service provider.

He said they would sometimes refer to the fallen IT specialist as PB. PB is taken from his first two first names. He described Vilakati as a God



Wearing in a mourning gown is Sizakele Vilakati nee Ntshangase who was the wife of killed Phaniel Vilakati being comforted by family members.

fearing man who was talented in singing.....

Recent reports of brutality especially murder in the country has stunned some South Africans.

A group of about seven Vilakazi's from South Africans who attended the memorial service of the brutally killed former Swaziland Post and Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC) Board Chairman Phaniel Vilakati decried the way people get killed in the country.

The visibly hurt mourner who introduced himself as a friend and a brother-in-law of the deceased

SPTC board chairman said the way that his friend died was not acceptable and it was not something he was expecting especially from the country. He added that Swazis in the past has been praised for their politeness and humanity.

"A few weeks ago I learnt that one of the soccer administrators was brutally killed and I was shocked. While I was still adjusting to that then I heard my brother-in-law had been murdered," he said, while referring to the assassination of Victor Gamedze.



Mbuso Simelane who was representing the Simelane family during the memorial service.



Sifundzani High School pupils emotional as Gcebile their schoolmate read her speech.



A section of mourners following proceedings.

SD13-33-1-3-MECH
TENDER NO 03 OF 2018/2019
SWAZILAND FIVE STAR HOTEL
FIRE PROTECTION INSTALLATION
SUBCONTRACT



KISS JOINT VENTURE

SWAZILAND FIVE STAR HOTEL

TENDER NO. 03 OF 2018/19: ADVERTISEMENT - FIRE PROTECTION INSTALLATION - SUBCONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIVE STAR HOTEL AT EZUWLINI, SWAZILAND

Applications are invited from Suitably Qualified Fire Protection Installation Specialists that are registered with the Swaziland Construction Industry Council (CIC) for the financial year 2017/18 wishing to tender for the abovementioned project.

Tender returns comprise the following:

1. A completed set of Tender Documents
2. A valid Trading License
3. A valid Labour Compliance Certificate
4. A valid Tax Clearance Certificate
5. A valid tender surety worth E6 000.00
6. A valid certification of registration with the Swaziland Construction Industry Council
7. Details of proposed Joint Venture agreement
8. Signed Site Inspection Certificate

Preference will be given to Swazi Companies and foreign companies will only be considered if in Joint Venture with Swazi Companies.

Tender documents will be available from **8 am on Wednesday 7th of February 2018** and may be collected from:

The Engineer
Site Office
Ezulwini,
Swaziland

There will be a compulsory site inspection on **Tuesday 13th of February 2018**. Tenderers are advised to assemble at the site security gate by 10 am. Tenderers who will not attend the site inspection will not be evaluated.

Tender bids should be returned no later than **10 am on Friday the 9th of March 2018** to the tender box located at Site Office and must be addressed as follows:

Tender No. 03 of 2018/19
The Engineer
Site Office Ezulwini,
Swaziland

The Client does not bind herself to accept the lowest tender or any part thereof.

DOC15082

SD13-33-1-4-MECH
TENDER NO 04 OF 2018/2019
SWAZILAND FIVE STAR HOTEL
LIFT INSTALLATION SUBCONTRACT



KISS JOINT VENTURE

SWAZILAND FIVE STAR HOTEL

TENDER NO. 04 OF 2018/19: ADVERTISEMENT - LIFT INSTALLATION - SUBCONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIVE STAR HOTEL AT EZUWLINI, SWAZILAND

Applications are invited from Suitably Qualified Lift Installation Specialists that are registered with the Swaziland Construction Industry Council (CIC) for the financial year 2017/18 wishing to tender for the abovementioned project.

Tender returns comprise the following:

1. A completed set of Tender Documents
2. A valid Trading License
3. A valid Labour Compliance Certificate
4. A valid Tax Clearance Certificate
5. A valid tender surety worth E6 000.00
6. A valid certification of registration with the Swaziland Construction Industry Council
7. Details of proposed Joint Venture agreement
8. Signed Site Inspection Certificate

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Tender No. 04 of 2018/19
The Engineer
Site Office Ezulwini,
Swaziland

The Client does not bind herself to accept the lowest tender or any part thereof.

DOC15081

Revealed: Why government is not hiring permanent teachers

GOVT ALLEGEDLY SAVES OVER E30M WHILE NOT ENGAGING CONTRACT TEACHERS

BY FORTUNE NDLANGA-MANDLA

TEACH According to Qualification (TEATQ) believes that the main reason the Teaching Service Commission was not hiring teachers on permanent basis was because they could save E30 205 800 annually.

This publication reported a fortnight ago that the affected teachers held a meeting at the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) Centre Hall where same allegations were made. The agenda of the meeting was to address the issue of their contracts. During this meeting TEATQ executive estimated contract teachers to be over 1 000.

TEATQ Secretary Mcolisi Motsa said teachers should be given permanent post after two years as per the Legal Notice 147 of 2009, particularly if the teacher has a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), which most of the teachers have.

He further alleged that teachers were now asked to hide their PGCE qualification in order to be considered for employment on a contract basis in high schools.

He said this was because the ministry of education no longer wanted to employ the degree and PGCE holders permanently in primary schools. He said this was the reason teachers took government to court.

Efforts to verify these figures and get

...alleged that teachers were now asked to hide their PGCE qualification in order to be considered for employment on a contract basis in high schools.

He said this was because the ministry of education no longer wanted to employ the degree and PGCE holders permanently in primary schools.

a balanced story hit a snag as a questionnaire emailed to Teaching Service Commission (TSC) Secretary Mduduzi Nkambule was not replied in writing despite acknowledgment of receipt. Yesterday afternoon, Nkambule called the reporter and gave a response to the effect that the board was yet to discuss the questions.

Deployed

He stated that some of those who were employed on contractual basis were those still in tertiary institutions doing their studies. Nkambule said TSC had a large number of permanently employed teachers than contracted ones. He did not give out the exact figure of those engaged in contracts as per this publication's request. "Contract teachers are deployed everywhere, in rural and urban schools," Nkambule said.

On Wednesday, TEATQ Secretary Motsa reiterated that government was saving millions through non-notching and lost gratuity. Addressing the issue of non-notching, Motsa said contract teachers forfeit E705 monthly which should have deservedly been added to their salaries.

"They will have lost E8 460 by December this year," Motsa said.

He gave an example alleging how 1

000 teachers were in such a condition of alleged exploitation: E705 X 1000 = E705 000.

This, he said, was the amount allegedly saved by government.

He alleged that more money was saved through gratuity which is not paid to contract employees.

Quantifying government's contribution at 15 per cent, he said calculated as follows, using the C4 Notch 3: E12 292 X 0.15 = E1 843.80 X 12 months: E22 125.60, this is an amount lost to one contract teacher.

"That which was your five per cent per month on the C4 Notch 3: E12 292.00 X 0.5 = E614.60 X 12 months: E7 375.20. E22 125.60 + E7 375.20 = E29 500.80 just one exploited teacher. Let's tentatively say there are 1000 of short-term 'educators' in such a condition: E29 500.80 X 1000 = E29 500 800.00," Motsa made some calculations.

He said about E705 00 was forfeited in notching while E29 500 800.00 was forfeited in gratuity. When this is summed, E30 205 800.00

"What I'm fully cognizant of is that this is how government saves a year. This is the money it splashes on extravagant expenditure," Motsa alleged.

Motsa said the Legal Notice that

allowed the alleged exploitation of teachers was the September 18, 2009 Government Gazette, Legal Notice 147 signed by then Ministry of Education and Training Principal Secretary (PS) Pat Muir, revoking Legal Notice 61, 2005; provision 6A.

The notice said teachers should be employed on contract terms not exceeding two years per contract which may be renewed for one year by the Commission if an individual's qualifications were without education.

He noticed that lately most of these contracted teachers in atypical employment had a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and they were compelled to conceal same by the TSC with the pro rata bonus as a dangled carrot.

Requirements

Motsa said the Legal Notice 147 altered the core provision in terms of proper remuneration of the degreed primary teachers (as rightly engaged by the ministry). The 6 (c) changed to be entitled to remuneration, according to the requirements of the post in which he is employed.

"Numerous meetings were held to engage the MoET, TSC and MoPS to try and find an amicable solution. A TEATQ Group got created on

September 17, 2015 to engage in mass mobilisation at a massive scale of the affected teachers," Motsa explained.

He went on to add that bilateral meetings with the relevant stakeholders (employer) drew a blank. Meanwhile, attempts to resolve the impasse internally hit a snag as SNAT resolved to engage other avenues to resolve the dispute.

"The case got registered at the Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration Commission (CMAC) as a Dispute of Right towards the end of 2016. Invitations were sent to the relevant parties (MoET and TSC) where it had been registered as Njabulo and five others. Due to advice from other legal minds the case was withdrawn and registered as SNAT (representing primary teachers) vs MoET, TSC with new invitations," Motsa elaborated.

He said at CMAC the case led to the commissioner issuing a Certificate of Unresolved Dispute as the ministry refused to consent to take the arbitration route to resolve the dispute.

He continued to state that following numerous consultation by SNAT legal team and other relevant stakeholders, the case became an Equal Pay Claim. That is, Equal Pay to Equal Value of Work. He said in their founding Affidavit with 11 prayers, the overall demand was to pay all primary teachers at C5 as the employer has always done with the so-called 150 "Teachers (Degreed)" created in 2004, remunerated at EDN051 grade (C5).

Contract teachers at high school are paid at C4 whereas primary school teachers are at C3.

It is further alleged that contract teachers this year were given one year, not two years as was the norm. Motsa viewed this move by government as a plan concocted to run away from the pro rata bonus of two years as means of trying to save money.

Agriculture Minister economical about 3 buffaloes' status

BY FORTUNE NDLANGA-MANDLA

WAS the Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati economical with the truth when he said the three buffaloes from Zambia had been moved to Mkhaya Game Reserve?

That is the question now after it was gathered that the three buffaloes are still quarantined at His Majesty King Mswati III (KMIII) International Airport, not Mkhaya Game Reserve as per the minister's claims.

On December 24, this publication carried an article where Minister Vilakati claimed that the buffaloes were already quarantined at Mkhaya near other wild animals. The three buffaloes brings the population residing in the country to 53.

When contacted Minister Vilakati, confirmed that the buffaloes were still quarantined at KMIII. Diverting from his previous claims, he said the delay in moving of the buffaloes to Mkhaya Game Reserve was caused by some stalled processes that needed to be done before the movement was executed. "The buffaloes are still at KMIII as we are still finalising certain processes.



Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati.

es. It would not be long before they are moved to Mkhaya Game Reserve," said Vilakati.

Clarify

When asked on how the processes were essential on the movement of the buffaloes, Vilakati at first dodged the question mentioning that he would call a press conference to clarify on the matter. He divulged that the process included medications needed which were not available at the moment. He

said everything else was in order.

The minister further disputed allegations that they was no clear progress made towards regaining of European Union (EU) beef markets which the country lost due to the arrival of the buffaloes.

EU banned the country's beef in fear of FMD outbreak. Four months after the same ministry claimed the buffaloes were FMD free; however, the FMD was not lifted its ban. It was report-

ed that if the EU beef ban continues for a year, the Swaziland Meat Industries (SMI) stands to lose over E 50 million. This estimation was an annual income from sales of beef to the EU market.

"People always think there is no progress when a matter is being dealt with behind closed doors," the minister said while declining to divulge stages undergone by the country as means of regaining EU beef markets.

Disputed

He said he would call a press conference soon to give an update on the matter as they were many people asking questions.

Sources close to the matter revealed how, much against the minister's claims, EU has not done any tests on the buffaloes.

The sources claimed the EU markets was far from being opened due to that reason. However, Minister Vilakati disputed the claims saying that his ministry was close to finalising the matter.

"It is work in progress. Just like yesterday (Thursday) we had a meeting with the EU where the matter was discussed.

We are working on something but

this is not the right time to give out information," he claimed.

The quarantining of the buffaloes results in an extended ban on movement of livestock at Malindza where there is a foot-and-mouth (FMD) outbreak scare.

At the time the minister said the buffaloes being moved to Mkhaya Game Reserve there were allegations from reliable sources that the buffaloes were suffering from Corridor Disease, which is also known as East Coast Fever.

The minister refuted these claims. Corridor Disease must be differentiated from other febrile conditions which usually causes fatally after a course of one to two weeks and feature progressive emaciation, respiratory distress, diarrhoea, corneal opacity, and lymphoid hyperplasia.

Brown ear ticks are transmitters of the Corridor Disease to livestock mainly cattle. Buffaloes are carriers of the disease and it can be deadly once transmitted to livestock.

This was after the buffaloes were cleared by the country's veterinary department from FMD after several of blood tests were conducted on them. Sources claimed that the buffaloes had Corridor Disease and it was for that reason why they have not been moved from KMIII to Mkhaya Game Reserve.

MAHLANGATSHA HIT BY ANOTHER CROP-DESTROYING STORM

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

For the second year running, Mahlangatsha residents will not harvest much as a hailstorm destroyed their promising crops.

Whereas last year's storm happened early in the planting season as it came three days into the New Year, this time around, farmers were left bereft as their fields were into their last few weeks' prior maturation.

"Everything in the fields was destroyed," Mahlangatsha *Indvuna Yenkundla* Mduduzi Fakudze said during a tour of the disaster struck area by Swaziland Baphalali Red Cross Volunteer Sikhumbuzo Dlamini. Fakudze said the rain which fell in most parts of the country presented itself as hail in the area which resulted in the destruction of property. Most homes had their windows broken by the force of the hailstorm whereas they were yet to get reports

on more destruction at the time of going to press. "Even though we are grateful there was no loss of life reported, the loss of crops at such a time is disheartening because it is too late to plant again and the maize and bean crops were promising," Fakudze said.

Concerning the scale of the destruction on crops, Fakudze said all the areas visited by 4pm showed widespread disaster which will only be mitigated by food aid in the future



Different fields of beans and maize were left in a deplorable condition after Friday's hails storm which destroyed crops which were near maturation. (Pics Thembeke Dlamini)



Simon Shabangu sitting on his new wheelchair. (Pic: Samson Ncongwane).

Chief Velamuva Maseko donates wheelchair to sickly Mkhulu

BY FORTUNE NDLANGA-MANDLA

"It is more blessed to give than to receive," reads Acts 20:35 in the Holy Bible.

One would assume that Chief Velamuva Maseko of Zondwako had this biblical verse in mind when he donated a brand new wheelchair to Simon Shabangu (72) of Magegedla. It is said that his previous wheelchair became obsolete last year.

The chief was touched by a story he read last Sunday in this publication.

We reported that Shabangu, who suffered a stroke in 1980, was seeking help from the public to donate to him a wheelchair and disposable napkins.

The stroke left Shabangu's left side of the body paralysed. The sickness took a serious and uncomfortable twist as the old man was rendered incapable of relieving himself naturally and voluntarily as he would soil himself without warning.

After reading the touching article, the chief of Zondwako near

Bhunya then contacted this publication assuring to donate the brand new wheelchair to Shabangu. On Tuesday, the chief handed the wheelchair to this publication but requested not to have his picture appear in the paper. He further requested that the handover be done by this publication.

The wheelchair was then taken to the Shabangu family. Shabangu was found with his sons, Thabo and Nhlanhla. The visibly extremely happily sickly elderly man said he would finally be able to perform some of the easy tasks for himself. Shabangu said he would now be able to move about his homestead.

"Send my sincerely thanks to the chief."

How I wish he was here so I can thank him in person," the old man said while enjoying the comfort of his wheelchair.

His son Thabo who takes care of the old man also passed his appreciation to the Chief.

"I would like to thank the Chief for what he has done for us, may the Lord bless him," Thabo said.

WE ARE PREPARED TO DIE FOR WHAT IS OURS – VUVULANE RESIDENTS

BY FORTUNE NDLANGA-MANDLA

The residents of Vuvulane especially those under Vuvulane Irrigation Farmers Association (VIFA) (Public) Company (Proprietary) Limited has vowed to die fighting to regain full ownership of VIF Limited.

This is after numerous unsuccessful attempts to gain full ownership of VIF Limited. These sentiments were shared by three Vuvulane Irrigation Farmers who claim that they were on the forefront of a mass demonstration that is set to see 302 homesteads participating in it. The aggrieved farmers said this on Thursday during an interview with this publication.

The three farmers, Nhlanhla Mazibuko, Skhova Dlamini and Samson Khathwane were armed with previous court papers which have led to the unrest on Farm 860 Vuvulane in the Lubombo region.

Worth noting is that both parties occupy the same Farm.

The bone of contention is that in 2000, the Supreme Court of Swaziland ruled that VIFA should gain control of the farm and ordered its liquidation in 2005 so its workers would get owed monies.

That was not the case until 2015 where VIF appealed and won the Court verdict. As a result, it is said that VIF who had at that time taken control had the people occupying the hostels violently evicted from the farm. VIFA suspect foul play in the 2015 Court verdict as they believe that by that year the farm was supposed to have been long liquidated. The farm is also said to be a property of Tibiyo TakaNgwane.

Fast forward to date, the farmers said they have lost hope in Swaziland Courts as they feel it has failed to resolve the crisis peacefully. The farmers who are also residents of Vuvulane said they

were now looking and getting advises on how they can pursue their case in South Africa. An outspoken Mazibuko said they were planning a massive strike which will see the VIF Manager Willis Shabangu being evicted and stripped off his power over the farm.

Shook

"We have registered our grievances against Shabangu with the police and the regional administrator but they have also failed to assist. Now we are ready to die while fighting for what belongs to us," Mazibuko said while his companions shook their head in agreement.

Dlamini added that Shabangu was collecting rent from the close to three hundred houses in the hostel. He said the rent paid by tenants varies from a E100 to E2 500.

Dlamini raised concerns on who was accountable for the rents money collected by Shabangu. The tenants occu-

pying the hostels are those working in the sugarcane plantations in the farm.

The farmers also threatened that if Shabangu is not willing to leave the farm while still alive they would not hesitate to harm Shabangu as means of pushing him out of Vuvulane area.

This publication was made aware that the first strike was scheduled for January 12 this year.

However, this strike could not see the light of the day as the elders of the region programmed a meeting with those in the forefront of the strike. The meeting took place on Thursday and those mobilising the residents to engage in the strike were told to desist from doing such. It is said that the region leaders feared that the strike would turn violent.

The Manager, Willis Shabangu said he was aware of the threats directed to him by Vuvulane residents. He

alleged that at some point, the bitter residents once sent a hit man to kill him but that plan failed as most of the people who are behind the strike were not part of the people who were to benefit from the liquidation as they owed VIF money. He said the money included water bills.

Shabangu said some old citizens of Vuvulane fed the youth with inaccurate information regarding the matter. He said there was no need of taking the matter to court as it was now a done deal.

"The youth know nothing about the matter that is why they think I am the problem. They do not understand that even if I were to die nothing would change," Shabangu said.

He said his life was in the hands of God so he has no fear. He said the matter was once reported to the court. He said he was to report the recent threats.



The leaders captured in prayer. (R) Anglican Bishop, The Right Reverend Ellinah Wamukoya ordained three preachers during a ceremony held at All Saints Anglican Church yesterday. Ernest Mnisi was ordained as a Deacon for Mankayane Parish, Reverend Humprey Mavuso was ordained as Priest and seconded to Pigg's Peak Parish while Nomkhosi Zulu was ordained as Deacon for Esigangeni Parish. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

'MORE PREACHERS NEEDED TO FURTHER GOD'S WORK'



Bishop Wamukoya assisted by Reverend Pat Wright who was the Bishop's Champlain for the day as she led the congregation in prayer.



Reverend Advent Dlamini directing proceedings of the event on the day.



Deacon Ernest Mnisi leading the congregants in the holy communion which was also joined by High Court Judge Qinisile Mabuza.

By Simon Shabangu

Anglican Bishop, The Right Reverend Ellinah Wamukoya, says those with the calling to do God's work should not suppress it as the church needs more preachers.

She was speaking at the All Saints Parish during the ordination service of three preachers yesterday.

The Bishop made mention that there is a lot that needs to be done, as the Bible states that the harvest is bountiful where as there are few harvesters.

She said the Diocese of Swaziland might look small in the eyes of man, but when it came to the work of God there was too much work to be done.

"I welcome the new preachers and challenge others whom God has called upon to preach not to sit on their calling. As you have realised among the three who were ordained, there is only one reverend which tells you that there is a great need of more to join us in disseminating the Word of God.

"As you will be going out to minister to the people, be the light of the areas and shine bright to attract the people to God. Live holy and exemplary lives," she said.

The Bishop who was the first female Bishop in the Anglican Church, told the gathering that she is also in the field preaching at Pigg's Peak and stressed that the church needed more preachers. "We pray to God

that he raise more men and women who will take the challenge and follow their calling to do the work of God," she said.

Of the three preachers, Reverend Humprey Mavuso, was elevated from deacon to reverend and seconded to the Mankayane Parish. Nomkhosi Zulu was ordained as deacon and seconded to lead Esigangeni Parish whereas Ernest Mnisi was ordained as Deacon and posted to Nkomanzi under the Pigg's Peak Parish.

The ordination service was witnessed by a number of preachers from the church and beyond. Church members, family and friends also came through to witness the ceremony.

Notable

Among notable figures were Retired Anglican Bishop Meshack Mabuza, High Court Judge Qinisile Mabuza, Liqoqo Member Reverend Percy Mngometulu and his wife as well as Douglas Nkomeni Ntiwane among others. Reverend Advent Dlamini led proceedings of the ceremony.

Mbabane Lawyer Manene Thwala was also a witness to the proceedings to ensure the statutes of the church were properly followed so that the ordained preachers are legally in office and registered with the relevant structures within government and church.

The Diocese of Swaziland is a diocese in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. The diocese was founded in 1968.



High Court Judge Qinisile Mabuza taking a bow during the holy communion session led by newly ordained Deacon Ernest Mnisi.



Deacon Ernest Mnisi listening to Bishop Wamukoya, while Lawyer Manene Thwala ensured that all the paperwork was in order.



Bishop Wamukoya detailing the rules to Deacon Nomkhosi Zulu after she was ordained.

HAPPY VALENTINES

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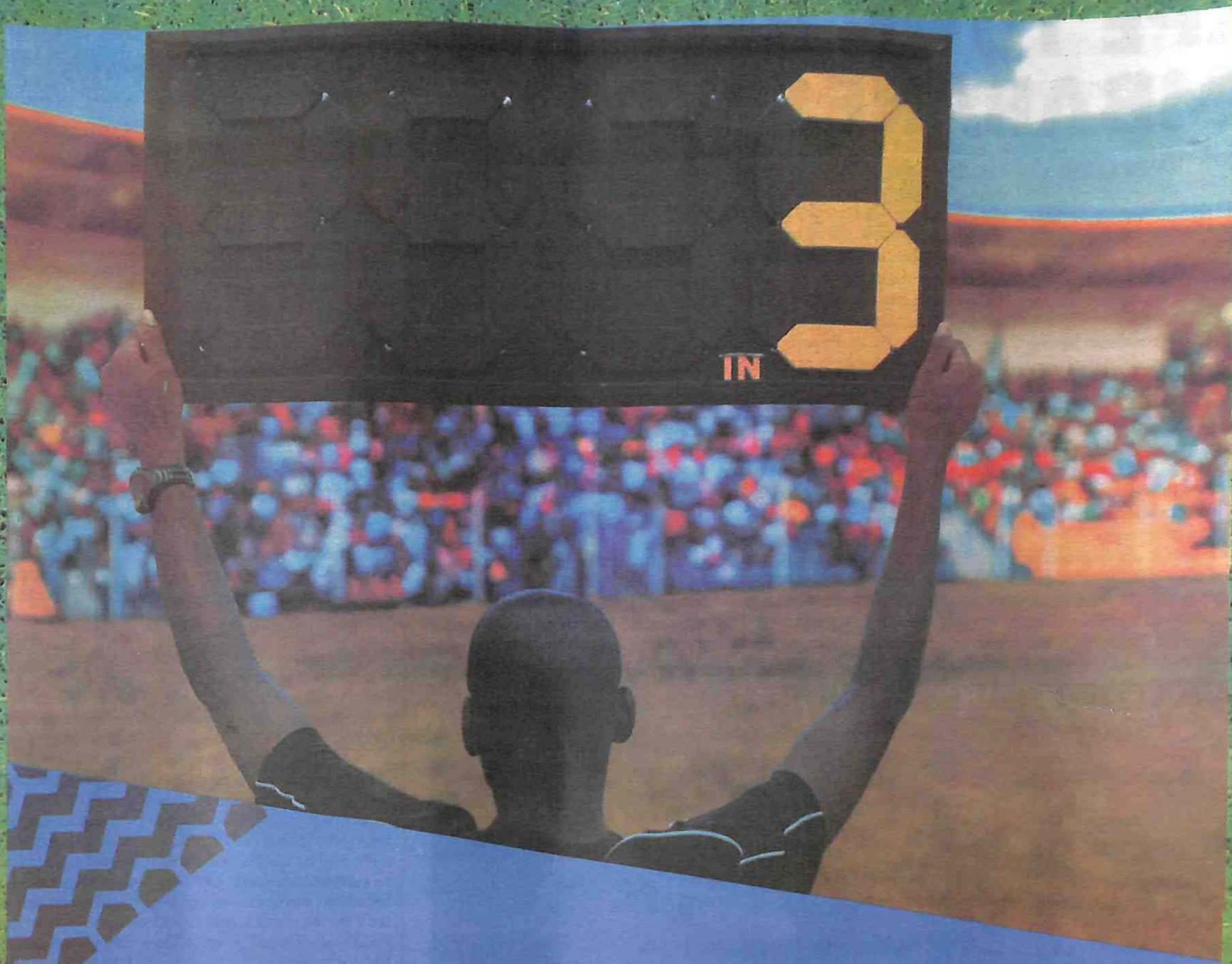


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Terms & Conditions

- The competition is open to all members of the public except employees of Afri Berry and the Swazi Observer.
- Participants should note that there should be a space between FUN and the product Barcode
- The more SMS's you send the better the chances of winning
- The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into
- Each SMS costs E1.71



2017/18

Ingwenyama Cup semi-finals Knockout Fixtures

Sunday, 04 February 2018, Somhlolo National Stadium

*Gates open: 10:30am

*Fee: E30.00

Mbabane Citizens	Vs	Mbabane Swallows	13:30pm
Royal Leopards	Vs	Young Buffaloes	15:30pm



Remember to visit the MVA stand at the stadium on the day to enquire on all processess relating to your claim

CAPE TOWN RELIVING MBABANE'S WOES

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Two years ago, a crippling drought brought Mbabane to its knees in much the same way Cape Town residents are having to endure using water from buckets and other storage methods.

This past week saw residents having their water quota reduced from 87 litres to only 50 litres per day as the city of about 14 million people tries to find ways to mitigate the looming day zero, when taps are expected to be switched off altogether.

Of note, the city's rainy season comes in winter, unlike local rains which are currently pouring in torrents.

In Mbabane's case, calls to preserve water were not always adhered as the affluent reportedly bought water tanks to keep some stored for days when there would be no water. At the height of the

drought, rationing in cycles was implemented with several places being without water for four day stretches. Of note, water tanks for public use were put up in strategic places with residents able to collect water in containers.

At that time, even though the El Nino-induced drought affected the whole of the Southern African Development Community, Mbabane was reportedly the worst affected city in the region and this was attributed to poor planning by the country.

Despite the rationing being scheduled, there were cases of some areas not being rationed whereas others noted prolonged dry taps.

The shock of the water shortages has South Africans in outrage as spats along political lines have been noted with the Democratic Alliance putting blame on the ruling African National Congress and vice versa. In the country, car wash-

es were closed, and gardens forgotten whereas wealthy Capetonians initially had a hard time cutting off water supply to their swimming pools and lawns.

The seaside city's water is expected to run out on April 16, a day dubbed 'Day Zero' whereas locally, the dam supplying Mbabane nearly ran completely out of water with the Swaziland Water Services Corporation looking for alternative means of supply such as the Mbabane River as well as bore holes. Another plan saw the desilting of the Hawane Dam as well as means made to channel water from Luphohlo Dam in Siphocosi, something which was not completed before the rains fell.

In Cape Town's case, the rich are digging boreholes whereas authorities are looking at means of building desalination plants which will enable the city to extract and process fresh water from the sea.

WET WEATHER LEAVES 14 INJURED

BY LUNGILE LULANE

A driver of a Kombi from Fontein escaped with a mere bump on his forehead after he lost control of the public service vehicle he was driving yesterday morning.

The kombi was driving from Fontein to Mbabane City centre when the driver realised that the brakes had failed and it veered off the road into the traffic circle, injuring all passengers.

The kombi had 14 passengers including the driver and two of the passengers are said to have been badly injured with all of them taken to the Mbabane Government Hospital where they were treated.

A traffic police officer who was found on the scene said the driver is believed to have realised as he was descending the sheer decline leading to the golf



course traffic circle too quickly and tried to slow down the vehicle. "The driver was very smart in controlling the vehicle or it could have been a more serious accident considering the area it happened in," he said.

The accident happened a few minutes

before 10 am, when it was drizzling and the road was wet.

The driver Mthembu (31) reiterated that which was said by the officer stating that he veered towards the raised circle in an attempt to avoid other vehicles.

RSA STUDY VISA STUDENTS ON BRINK OF GIVING UP

BY LUNGILE LULANE

The academic year in South Africa is underway and some prospective students are thinking of giving up their hopes of getting an education in the neighbouring country's institutions.

This is because they are yet to forward their applications for study permits as they line up outside the South African High Commission on a daily basis while their peers prepare for the first day of lectures whereas pupils have lost three weeks of learning already.

On Friday, students were still found queuing outside the South African High Commission with frustrations and tempers flaring.

There are three sets of people in the queue.

Those hoping to be enrolled at primary schools, others to high schools and those furthering their studies at tertiary level.

With universities opening soon and some already opened, students fear they will be left behind as it doesn't look like their study permits will be out anytime soon.

A group of boys, who preferred to speak in anonymity from fear of being victimised, said they had been going to the commission on a daily basis for a few weeks and were yet to submit documents.

They said this was their first attempt to submit documents and they found that they queued every day until the last minute, only to still find themselves no closer to the front of the queue.

On Friday, things were no different as they had arrived the day before at 10pm, spent the night in the open and left in frustration when an official from the high commission office addressed them and said that they would only be attending students who had been turned back the previous day for document shortages.

Those were identifiable by the

commission stamp on some of their document.

The students said they were starting to lose hope because no matter how hard they tried to be the earliest, they would find that others cut the queue and get assistance first.

One student went on say he felt like this was a way of discouraging them studying in the South African tertiary institutions.

"The biggest challenge is that when you submit they do not check and let you know if you are missing any documents, they just take your file and when you come back the next day to check, that is when they tell you that you do not have all the required document, not even mentioning which ones specifically," said one of the frustrated students.

Complained

Frustrations and tempers were obviously high among the students as they complained that some high-ranking government officials were getting into the commission offices ahead of them without queuing and being attended at their expense.

Other students revealed fears that they would not get their permits as there seemed to be an incessant shift in the requirements.

A student decried how the bank proof of payment was no longer needed as they were told to go to their institution and bring proof that they had paid in full.

Some of those approaching the commission for the first time said information on what was needed was not always communicated to them as the security guard was not welcoming.

There students said they feared standing in line all day only to be told last minute that they are missing some of the required documents hence they approach the security guard to find out if they have everything that is required of them.

CHILDREN COMMEMORATE THEIR DAY

STORIES BY LUNGILE LULANE

Children with disabilities stole the show with their impeccable artistic display of storytelling paintings that address issues of child protection, HIV and disability during their gallery event on Friday at the Royal Swazi Spa Libandla Conference Room.

This was the last event in celebrating the Day of the African Child themed 'For every child, protection, empowerment and equal opportunities' funded by UNICEF. The well framed portraits were so impressive to the extent that participants dug into their pockets to bid for the paintings.

The event was graced by the United States of America's Ambassador to Swaziland Lisa Peterson, EU Ambassador to Swaziland Esmeralda Hernandez Aragon, Children's Consortium's Dumsani Mnisi, Chief Executive Officer of the Swaziland Arts and Culture (SNCAC) Stanley Dlamini, World Vision's Country Programme Director Francis Dube

Children Consortium's Dumsani Mnisi making his remarks.



(CPD), EU's Phillip De Loof and representatives of the Government and corporate sector. The SNCAC CEO in his brief remarks said, "there are three basic purposes of art. Art creates joy, art sends a message and art is for making money. It should be upon ourselves as key players of the industry to ask how much we have invested in local talent. We should model ourselves around Abidjan where people even wear locally made clothes. There it's a crime to support international products than those

locally made." The Children Consortium's Mnisi explained what the day was about and said, "the paintings we will see today have been produced by students from special schools and other schools around the country. They are an expression of how they feel about child protection issues they encounter on a daily basis. These include sexual violence, stigma and discrimination as a result of disability, and the effects of HIV & AIDS on their lives." He described the paintings as "very amazing and that they

teach us as adults to listen and observe as children express themselves.

Mnisi encouraged the students to continue pursuing their passion whilst communicating pertinent issues that need urgent attention from parents and organisations working for them. He also requested Government institutions such as the department of arts of culture to support these children through programmes that encourage the participation of all children, including children with disabilities. He furthermore called upon members of Parliament to enact the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill of 2015 as well as the Disability Bill of 2012.

"It goes without saying that the invaluable contribution that these two pieces of legislation would make in strengthening the legal environment for child protection and especially children with disabilities. If we have strong laws to not only deal with offenders but also act as a deterrent for others, then the sad situations depicted through the art pieces produced by the children would be avoided," said Mnisi.

Deputy Prime Minister's Office Appreciates World Vision

The deputy prime minister's office-children services department at the art exhibition appreciated World Vision for co-organising the exhibition that showcases young artists.

"Your unwavering belief in these children is commendable. For a while some people have viewed art as a frill that is nice to have, and not essential, but for these children it is a means of communication.

Through art these artists can express their emotions and their inner most thoughts eloquently, if not more so than other children," said Mhambi Ndlangamandla.

Ndlangamandla also appreciated the facilitators who led the workshops, principals, teachers and parents who have worked long and hard for success of this exhibition.

"We are confident as a department that these artists have every prospect of graduating to the ranks of professional artists.

In time to come, their precious talents will mature and if they so wish, they will choose a career in art," explained Ndlangamandla.

HILLARY TAKES LEAF FROM TAIWANESE ELECTION COMMISSION

BY LUNGILE LULANE

Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Senator Edgar Hillary says there is a vital need for government departments to work together in order to improve service delivery in a bid to attain the first world status.

Hillary who was speaking during a briefing upon his return from the Republic of China on Taiwan (RoCoT) on Friday where he, together with His Majesty's Correctional Services Commissioner General Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase, had gone on a week-long familiarisation on best practices of justice and correctional services study tour. He stated that efforts by the government were paralleled with the numerous interventions undertaken by Taiwan.

Whilst sharing ideas and experiences in the country, Hillary stated that they had the opportunity to visit places which fall within the



Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Senator Edgar Hillary, His Majesty's Correctional Services Commissioner General Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase and the Deputy Commissioner General Bongani Khumalo.

jurisdiction of the ministry of justice. Amongst the visited places was the Central Election Commission (CEC). The CEC is the permanent statutory agency responsible for managing local and national elections in the Republic of China on Taiwan. It is an important agency which carries out elections and

enhances the democracy in the country. It is also charged with improving the election legal system, improve the quality of service, and reinforce impartiality and independence. It has offices in all counties, cities, provinces and municipalities and is headed by the chairman of commissioners

or chief of commissioners.

The minister explained he was pleased to learn that despite the population of Taiwan exceeding 30 million people, the country manages to conduct elections in the most efficient and aptly manner. He said the high level of technology used by the republic also enables them to carry out elections within a short period.

The minister further highlighted that they had the opportunity to share experiences about matters affecting Human Rights. He said a fully-fledged body exists in the republic which focuses mainly on human rights issues. These rights also extend to the rights of those incarcerated in the country's correctional facilities.

Hillary also mentioned that the Anti-Corruption Unit in Taiwan is one of the most effective bodies that play a pivotal role in fighting crime and corruption. Corruption cases in Taiwan are handled with a priority preference as they are brought before the courts without any delays.

...COMGEN pleased with Taiwan's rehabilitation programmes

Commissioner General of Correctional Services Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase is pleased with the litany of rehabilitation programmes that are offered to offenders in correctional centres in the Republic of China on Taiwan.

Ntshangase said the official trip ushered them with the opportu-

nity to reflect on the progress made by the country in as far as the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders is concerned.

However, he said he was pleased to learn that the department of Correctional Services (HMCS) has made major strides in this regard as many of the programmes that were offered locally tallied

with those in the international community.

Similarly, to the undertaking by HMCS to have a tailoring section where uniforms for officers are sewn in a bid to ease the financial burden from government, offenders in Taiwan also embark on a large-scale production for the security forces; being the army,

police and correctional services.

Ntshangase also applauded the numerous educational programmes that are offered in the correctional centres, stating that inmates serving time in this centre do not have unaccounted for time as they are always equipped with various skills.

SADAT calls for vigilance against drug abuse, human trafficking

BY LUNGILE LULANE

The new academic year comes with new challenges in the fight against underaged drug abuse.

The Association of Students Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking (SADAT) is calling for inclusive participation of parents, teachers and students in the fight against drug abuse at school and in the community.

SADAT coordinator Peter Ssemwogerere welcomed learners to school for the academic year of 2018 and congratulated those who performed well last year.

As an organisation, Ssemwogerere revealed that they were saddened to learn that drug abuse was the cause of poor performances in some schools and he asked those schools to invite them to inspire discipline.

SADAT commemorates 20 years of dedicated service in the field of preventing drug abuse. Ssemwogerere said they had, over the years, learnt that drug abuse and human trafficking were not isolated problems local only to Swaziland hence there was a need for collective effort against them.

Accessible

Ssemwogerere, urged learners to be aware that they were the main targets of the drug industry, and that they were an easily accessible and vulnerable group.

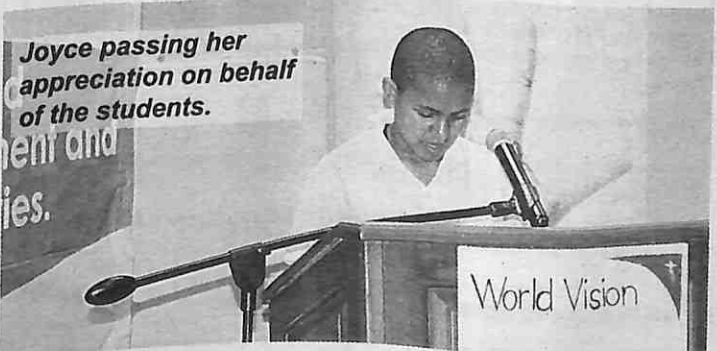
He said it was disheartening to note that in their fight against abuse, they had to seek permission from various quarters before approaching the youth whereas drug dealers do not need anyone's permission as they can easily find students within and outside school premises. Ssemwogerere appealed to parents, school, other organisations and government to support SADAT financially as their services are required by students.

He said they were struggling to get money for transport and workshops whereas the drug industry is heavily wealthy, well-connected and frighteningly ruthless.

Ssemwogerere encouraged students, parents, teachers and other people of goodwill to equip themselves with tools recommended by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC). He wished students and teachers good health and academic success.



Communications Specialists Zanele Dlamini and Thabile Maripe who is now with the Swaziland Sugar Association.



Joyce passing her appreciation on behalf of the students.

Gospel artist Nothando embraces disability

Gospel Nothando Hlophe known for her famous song, *Khuhulugcobo* had a fun-filled day mingling with the children living with physical challenges at the Ezulwini Royal Swazi Hotel. Most of these children were responsible for the beautiful paintings that were being showcased on that day.

This was during the Picture Gallery Event held by the Children's Consortium last week Friday. The beautiful and moving paintings were demonstration of how they feel about child protection issues they encounter on a daily basis. These include sexual violence, stigma and discrimination as a result of disability, and the effects of HIV and AIDS on their lives.

She mingled with the children and took pictures with them bringing excitement to the children. Nothando is not new to such noble activities as she is one of the brand ambassadors for a National campaign that will soon be launched, 'It Takes Swaziland to End Sexual Violence Against Children.' This campaign spearheaded by World Vision and other partners aiming at curbing or stopping sexual violence that is rife in children in the country. This is an international campaign, which came

A MOVING POEM BY SIHLE MDZINISO- ST. JOSEPH'S

A better day for me, a better day for all.

I will be granted a platform, a platform to showcase my capabilities and not discriminated for my disabilities, so tomorrow will be a better day Like a flower I will be watered with education and information, and have rights that will be protected.

I will be given a chance to bloom and shine to prove that I can be a solu-

tion to a problem, so indeed tomorrow will be a better day.

I will be taken seriously because disability is not inability.

When I cry it is not that I seek attention, My sadness does not mean that ashamed of myself but when I smile it is a genuine smile.

For that I lay my trust in God and you my good people to make my tomorrow a better day. I thank you.

about after the World Vision Global Partnership launched the campaign known as Ending Violence against Children (EVAC) on 12 July 2016 at the United Nations (UN) in New York City. This was aimed at supporting the efforts of those seeking to prevent violence, protect and help make societies safe for children.

As part of Agenda 2030, the world's governments have set ambitious targets

to end violence by 2030 with the vision of a world where all children - girls and boys alike - grow up free from violence and exploitation. For the first time in history, this global partnership brings together governments, UN agencies, international organisations, civil society, faith groups, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, researchers and academics, and children themselves to prevent and respond to violence against children.



Central Transport Administration

INVITATION TO TENDER

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CENTRAL TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION (CTA) PRINTED STATIONERY. Tender Reference NO. 14 of 2018/19

The Central Transport Administration under the Ministry of Public Works and Transport now invites sealed Tenders for the provision of Supply and Delivery of Central Transport Administration (CTA) Printed Stationery.

Tenders must be accompanied by a receipt for E 500 (five hundred) which should be paid at Mbabane Revenue Office. (Account no. 911/1101/21990) payment is non-refundable.
Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope
The Outer envelope must be marked as follows:

"The Secretary to the Swaziland Government Tender Board
Treasury Building
P.O. Box 38
MBABANE"

The Envelope must be clearly marked with the following words: "The Supply of Central Transport Administration (CTA) Printed Stationery Tender No. 14 of 2018/19 "Do not open before 09:00 Hours on the 23rd February, 2018"
A Compulsory pre-tender meeting will be held at Mbabane CTA Body Shop on the 7th February, 2018 at 15:00 - 16:00 Hours.

Tenders must be delivered to the offices of Tender Board, Treasury Building, Tender Box, Mbabane, Swaziland, by 09:00 Hours on the 23rd February, 2018 and deposited in the Treasury Tender Box.

Tenders received in time by the latest date and time for submission will be opened at the Treasury Building at 09:00 Hours on the 23rd February, 2018. Late, telegraphic, electronic and faxed tenders will not be considered. Tenderers may attend the opening procedure.

The documents specified in the Instructions to Tenderers must include certified copies of current Government Tax Clearance Certificates, Trading Licence, Form C, Form J, Labour Compliance Certificate, Swaziland National Provident Fund Certificate, Original Government General Receipt and Tender Security of E40,000.00 must be enclosed in the tender envelope.

The Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

For further information contact the following email: swanedlamini@yahoo.com or centraltransporta@gmail.com.

Tender documents must be collected from C.T.A. at GTM'S office Dlanubeka Building Mbabane Fourth Floor, after producing an original government receipt

SECRETARY TO SWAZILAND GOVERNMENT TENDER BOARD

DOC15388



Central Transport Administration

INVITATION TO TENDER

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NEW BATTERIES AND ACCESSORIES Tender Reference No. 11 of 2018/2019

The Central Transport Administration now invites sealed Tenders for the provision of the Supply and Delivery of New Batteries and Accessories for Vehicles and Motor Bikes.

Tenders must be accompanied by a receipt of E 500.00 (Five Hundred Emalangeni only) which should be paid at Mbabane Revenue Office. (Account No. 911/1101/21990) payment is non-refundable.

Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope
The Outer envelope must be marked as follows:

"The Secretary to the Swaziland Government Tender Board"
Treasury Building
Tender Box
MBABANE"

The Envelope must be clearly marked with the following words: "The Central Transport Administration Tender No. 11 of 2018/2019 The Supply and Delivery of New Batteries and Accessories for Vehicles and Motor Bikes".

Do not open before 09:00 Hours on the Friday of the 23rd February, 2018.

Tenders must be delivered to the offices of Tender Board, Treasury Building, P.O. Box 38, Mbabane, Swaziland, by 09:00 Hours on the 23rd February, 2018 and deposited in the Treasury Tender Box.

A Compulsory pre-tender meeting will be held at Mbabane CTA Body shop on 7th February, 2018 at 08:30-10:00hrs.

Tenders received in time by the latest date and time for submission will be opened at the Treasury Building at 09:00 hrs on the 23rd February, 2018. Late, telegraphic, electronic and faxed tenders will not be considered. Tenderers may attend the opening procedure.

The documents specified in the Instructions to Tenderers must include certified copies of current Government Tax Clearance Certificates, Trading Licence, Form C, Form J, Labour Compliance Certificate, Swaziland National Provident Fund Certificate, Manufacturers Authorisation, Original Government General Receipt and Tender Security of E30,000.00 must be enclosed in the tender envelope.

The Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

For further information email the following: swanedlamini@yahoo.com or centraltransporta@gmail.com
Tender documents must be collected from C.T.A. at GTM'S office Dlanubeka Building Mbabane Fourth Floor, after producing an original government receipt.

SECRETARY TO SWAZILAND GOVERNMENT TENDER BOARD

DOC15388



Central Transport Administration

INVITATION TO TENDER

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NEW TYRES, TUBES AND ACCESSORIES Tender Reference NO. 18 OF 2018/19

Central Transport Administration in the Ministry of Public Works and Transport now invites sealed Tenders for the Supply and Delivery of New Tyres, Tubes and Accessories.

Tenders must be accompanied by an original general receipt for E 500.00 (Five hundred) which should be paid at Mbabane Revenue Office (Account no. 911/1101/21990) payment is non-refundable.
Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope.

The Outer envelope must be marked as follows:
"The Secretary to the Tender Board"
Treasury Building

The Envelope must be clearly marked with the following words: "Central Transport Administration" Tender No. 18 of 2018/19 Supply And Delivery of New Tyres, Tubes and Accessories; Do not open before 09:00 Hours on the 23rd February, 2018.

Tenders must be delivered to the offices of Tender Board, Treasury Building, P.O. Box 38, Mbabane, Swaziland, by the 23rd February, 2018 at 09:00 Hours and deposited in the Treasury Tender Box.

A Compulsory pre-tender meeting will be held at Mbabane CTA Body shop on 7th February, 2018 at 10:30-13:00hrs.

Tenders received in time for submission will be opened at the Treasury Building on the 23rd February, 2018 at 09:00hrs. Late, telegraphic, electronic and faxed tenders will not be considered. Tenderers may attend the opening procedure.

The documents specified in the Instructions to Tenderers must include certified copies of current Government Tax Clearance Certificates, Trading Licence, Form C, Manufacturers Authorisation Form, Form J, Labour Compliance Certificate, Swaziland National Provident Fund Certificate, Original Government General Receipt and Tender Security of E50,000.00 must be enclosed in the tender envelope.

Tenderers must have the same Company owner's name/s on all documents. If it is not the same, the tender document will be rejected.

Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

For further information contact the following: email addresses swanedlamini@yahoo.com or centraltransporta@gmail.com

Tender documents to be collected from CTA, General Transport Manager's Office Dlanubeka Building 4th Floor Mbabane Headquarters. Original general receipt must be produced in order to obtain tender documents

SECRETARY TO SWAZILAND GOVERNMENT TENDER

DOC15388



Central Transport Administration

INVITATION TO TENDER

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR LUBRICANTS, OIL, GREASES Tender Reference NO. 17 OF 2018/19

Central Transport Administration under the Ministry of Public Works and Transport now invites sealed Tenders for the Supply and Delivery of Lubricants, Oil and Greases.

Tenders must be accompanied by an original general receipt for E 500.00 (Five hundred) which should be paid at Mbabane Revenue Office (Account no. 911/1101/21990) payment is non-refundable.
Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope
The Outer envelope must be marked as follows:

"The Secretary to the Swaziland Government Tender Board"
Tender Box
MBABANE

The Envelope must be clearly marked with the following words: "Central Transport Administration" Tender No. 17 of 2018/2019 Supply and Delivery of Lubricants, Oils and Greases"

Do not open before 09:00 Hours on the 23rd February, 2018.

Tenders must be delivered to the offices of Tender Board, Tender Box Mbabane, Swaziland, by the 23rd February, 2018 at 09:00 Hours and deposited in the Treasury Tender Box.

A Compulsory pre-tender meeting will be held at Mbabane CTA Body shop on 7th February, 2018 at 14:00-15:00hrs.

Tenders received in time for submission will be opened at the Treasury Building on the 23rd February, 2018 at 09:00hrs. Late, telegraphic, electronic and faxed tenders will not be considered. Tenderers may attend the opening procedure.

The documents specified in the Instructions to Tenderers must include certified copies of current Government Tax Clearance Certificates, Trading Licence, Form C, Form J, Labour Compliance Certificate, Swaziland National Provident Fund Document, Manufacturer's Authorisation Certificate, Declaration of Eligibility, Original Government General Receipt and Tender Security of E40,000.00 must be enclosed in the tender envelope.
Tenderers must have the same Company owner's name/s on all documents. If it is not the same, the tender document will be rejected.

Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

For further information contact the following: email to: swanedlamini@yahoo.com or centraltransporta@gmail.com

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SECRETARY TO SWAZILAND GOVERNMENT TENDER BOARD

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OBSERVER

INFORMED • INNOVATIVE • INSPIRED

home

THE WAY YOU STYLE YOUR SPACE..

Why it is important

Interview with Fashion & Interior Designer
Foo Maphalala



See Our
"Home of the Week"

BUYING PROPERTY

Advice For 2018

MABUYA TOWNSHIP

A SERENE RESIDENTIAL AREA JUST FOR YOU!

- Situated at Ngwenya Town, 2-3km from Ngwenya Boarder Post
- Easy access from the MR3 Highway
- Has 98 residential plots
- One public open space
- Fully serviced infrastructure
- Gently sloping terrain
- Plot sizes ranging from 449m² to 963m²



LEGEND

Reserved	23
Sold	33
Available	43

Finance
available
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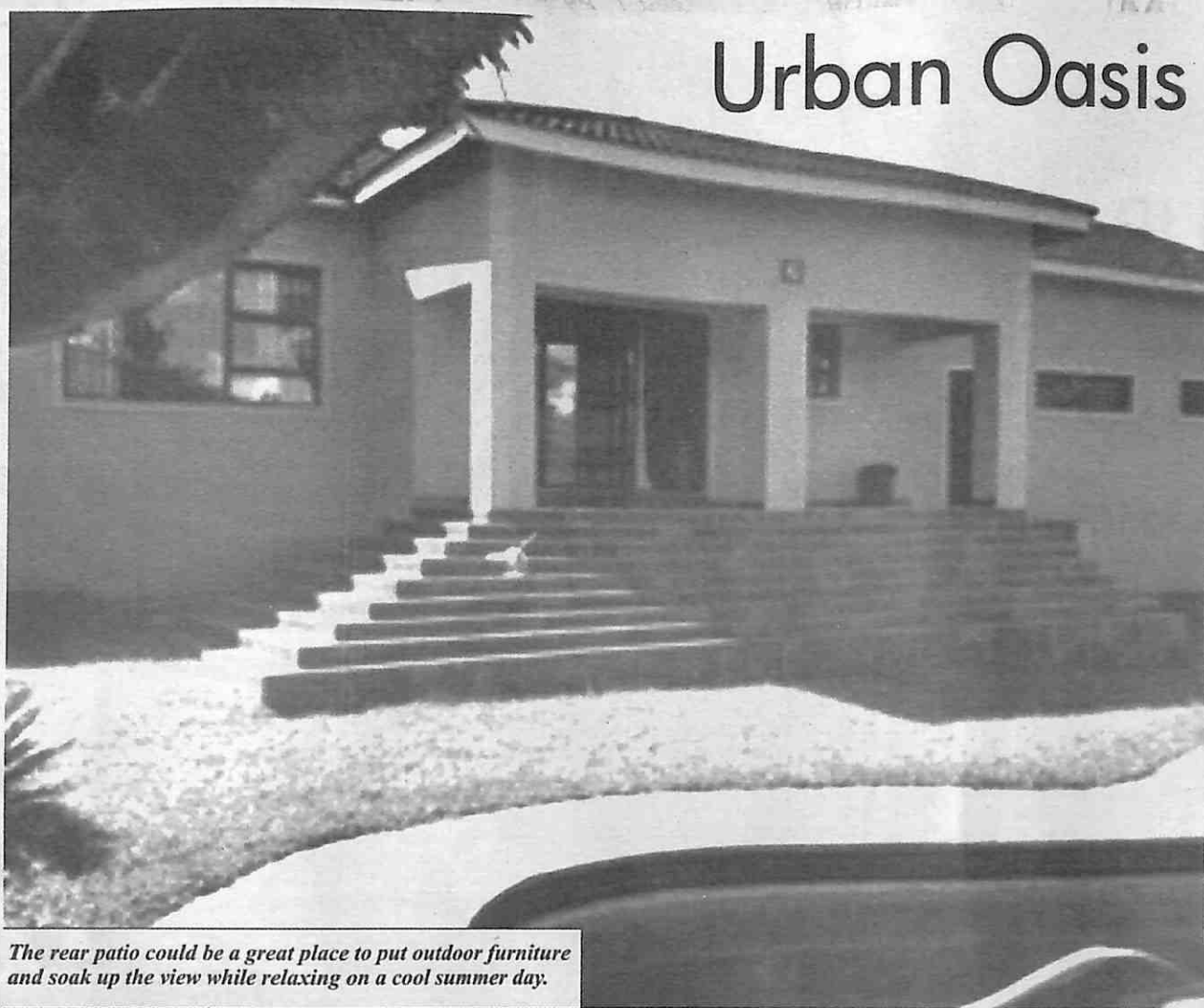
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2495 5000/22/26/35/23

HOME OF THE WEEK

Urban Oasis



The rear patio could be a great place to put outdoor furniture and soak up the view while relaxing on a cool summer day.



Two patios provide ample space to add outdoor furniture and extend the living room when the sliding glass doors are opened.

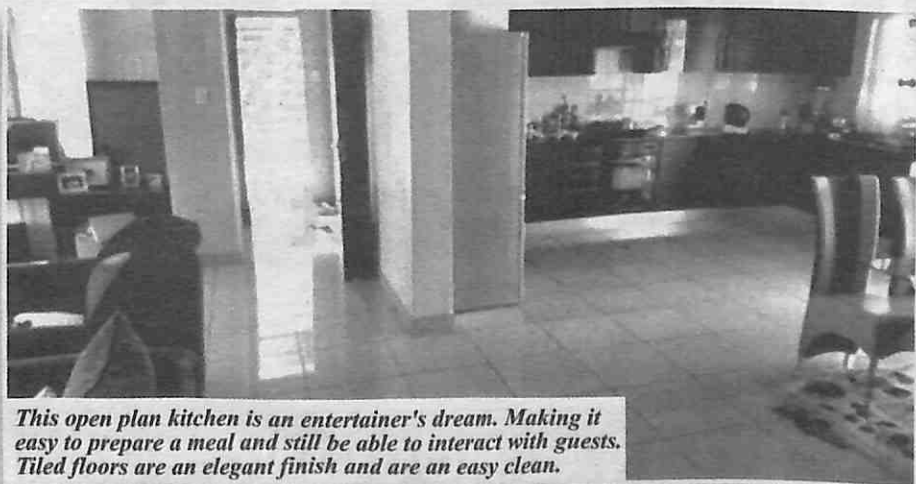
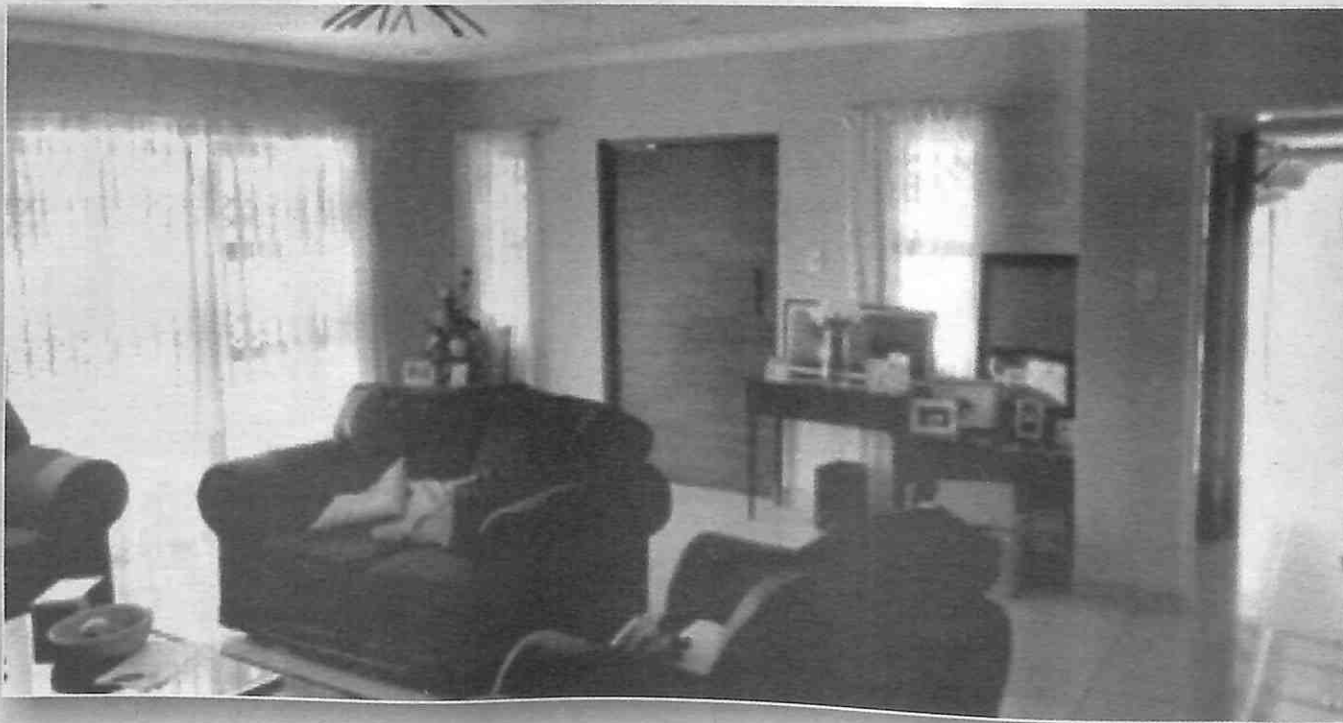


The large front yard is great for the owner looking to start a family or looking to own pets. Lots of space for running around and making new memories.

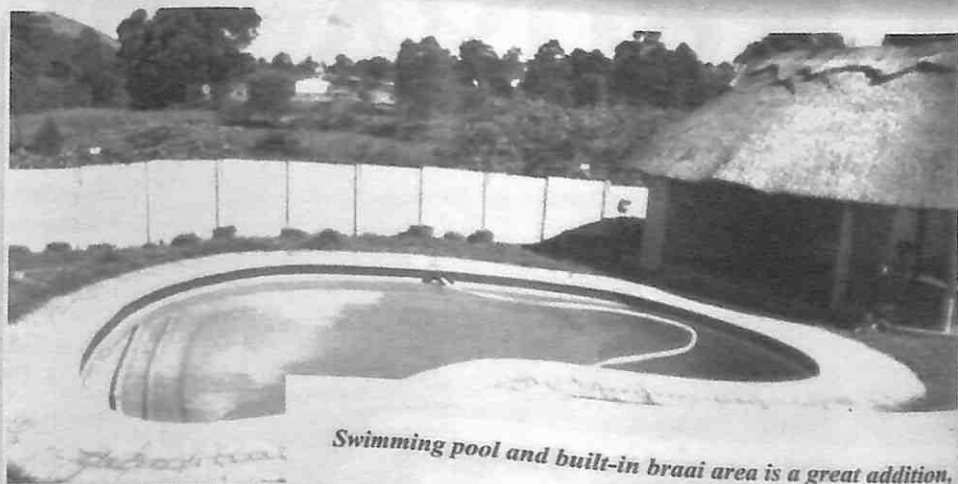
Nestled on 1 400sqm of prime property near St. Marks, Mbabane, lies an urban oasis. This home has 3 bedrooms, a double garage, built-in braai area, swimming pool and quality fitted kitchen.

Security is of great importance in a suburban dwelling especially one not far from the CBD but this home is equipped with a wall fence, electric fence and a guard house for the owner who needs extra eyes on their property 24/7. P.O.E

Slamlock sliding burglar bars all-round the house for added security. The open plan living area combined with the kitchen and dining area creates one large spacious area. the door to the garage adds further accessibility.



This open plan kitchen is an entertainer's dream. Making it easy to prepare a meal and still be able to interact with guests. Tiled floors are an elegant finish and are an easy clean.



Swimming pool and built-in braai area is a great addition, especially if you have guests

Meet Foo- Founder of NOMI DESIGNS

Interview by Thandukwazi Hadebe

To be honest the term 'interior décor' can come across as a bit daunting but we sat down with the founder of Nomi Designs, Foo Maphalala, a fashion & interior designer.

Why is the way you style your space important?

It's about time people took décor into their own hands. It's really not that complex, your space is your world and it is the one thing you choose to control. Décor is the celebration of your awareness of this space you have total control of. Décor can do a lot for you; it changes you or mood as soon as you walk into that room and gives off a certain vibe.



Foo Maphalala

Where does a regular person even start?

The regular individual must start with what they like. Basic stuff like your favourite colour; maybe get cushions or even candles in your favourite colour. Even if your choice can look a bit off in somebody else's eyes find comfort in knowing that it is authentically you.

What's the first thing you take into account when 'sproosing' up a room?

The size of the room is very important. If it's a small room or space then consider a coat of lighter coloured paint and if it is a larger room then darker colours suffice because they give the illusion of the space being smaller and more intimate.

What are simple changes that can make the most difference for the longest time?

Colours can change everything in a room. Cushions are the saving grace; they add splashes of colour here and there. Scented candles are also a great way to add colour in a room. A few other items; rugs, runners, vases and flowers, are simple basics you cannot go wrong with. If you feel confident enough you can play around with lighting; portable lighting like side lamps are a great way to manipulate lighting in a room to give off a certain feel.

Most importantly..

Don't be afraid to try new things with your space. It should be a place you enjoy spending time in and not just a place you sit to watch TV or a place you go to sleep. You should experience your space; it must be a reflection of you and your tastes.

NOMI
NOMI
NOMI

BUYING PROPERTY

Advice For 2018

Currently, the property market has swayed in favour of the buyer than the seller which is great news for those in the market for a new home. However this does not mean that buyers should be letting their guard down. There are still some important things to consider when buying real estate in 2018.

1. Price

The price of the property determines the type of home a buyer should be looking at and also where this property will be located, this directly correlates with a buyer's budget and requirements. This is why it is important to know exactly how much you are willing to spend but still insuring that you do not undercut a seller's asking price to an extent that could turn the deal south. Your thinking as a buyer should be within those parameters.

2. Location, Location, Location!

Location remains paramount to your purchasing decision. Buyers should narrow down a list of areas that they would be interested in and then do a thorough check of influencing factors such as traffic and the proximity of schools and other amenities they deem to be important to have close by. Buying a home in a less fancy neighbourhood is much better than a mansion located in an area that meets little or none of your requirements.

3. Accommodation

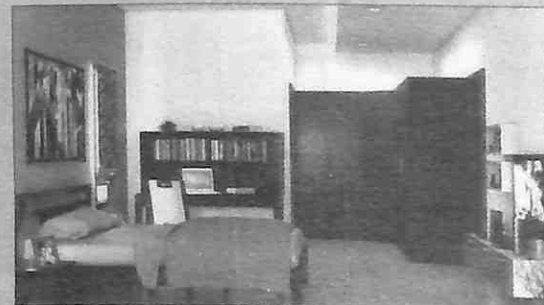
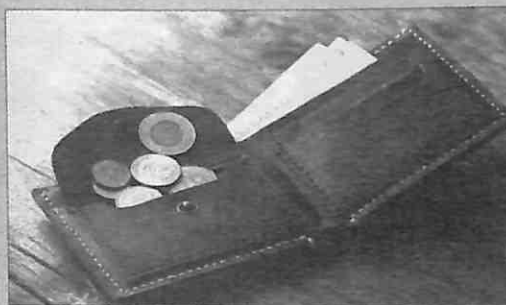
Before going out to look at homes in person, buyers should be certain of their accommodation requirements. Buying a home is a long-term investment and commitment therefore buyers need to make sure that a home of their choice will meet their accommodation requirements for at least the coming 5 years. It's important for buyers to conjure up a list of 'must haves' and 'negotiables' as this will help find the accommodation requirements they have.

4. Special Features

Another area where Justus-Ferns advises buyers establish a list of 'must-haves' and 'negotiables' is a home's special features. From a swimming pool and air-conditioning to the type of flooring or kitchen design, buyers should have a good idea of what features they are looking for in a home, and which they would like but can live without. This way buyers can easily pare down a list of potential properties and only physically look at the ones which they think will fit in with their needs and wants.

5. Price

The price of a home is one thing but buyers need to strongly consider the total cost of the purchase in terms of mortgage repayments because buying a home is a serious financial commitment. Water, electricity, rates, levies and home maintenance or improvements are all factors to consider before going ahead with the purchase.



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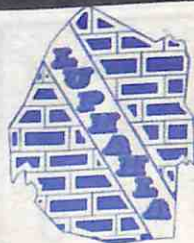
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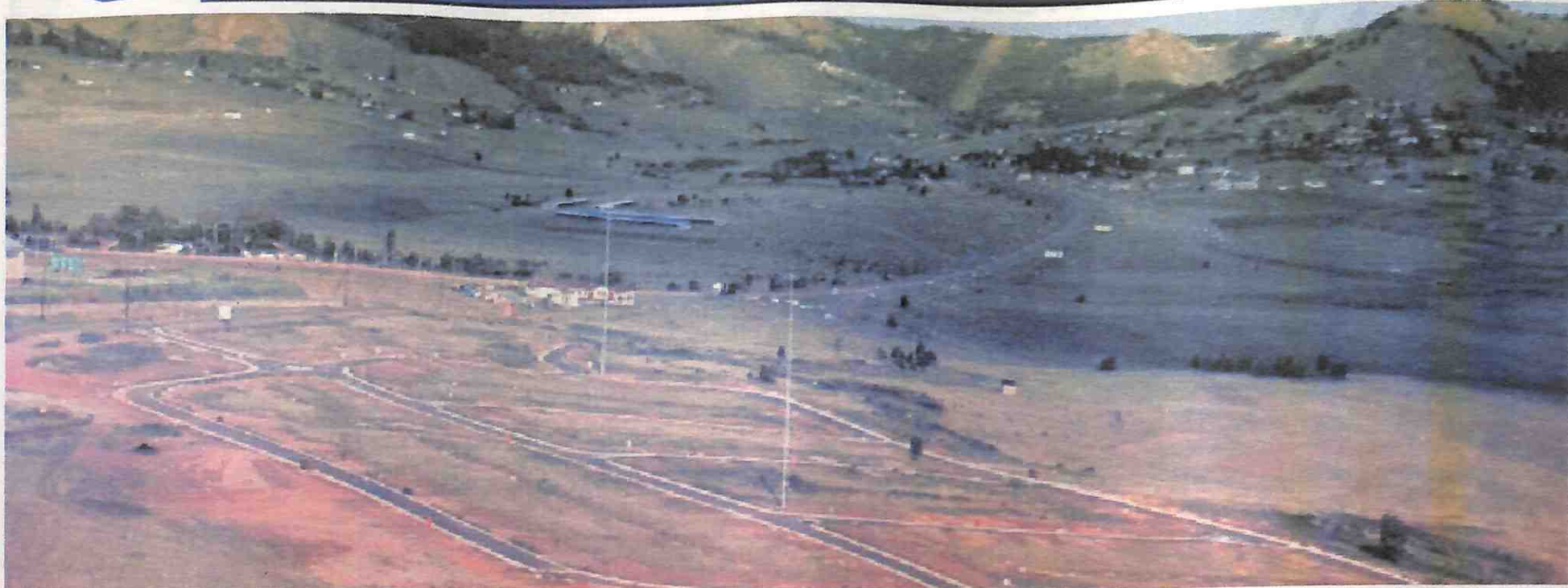
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A SERENE RESIDENTIAL AREA JUST FOR YOU

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mabuya Township Summary

- Situate at Ngwenya Town, 3 km from Ngwenya Border Post
- Has 98 fully serviced residential plots
- A public open space for recreational purposes
- Gentle sloping terrain
- Beautiful scenery
- To date 49 plots have been sold, 7 booked and 42 available for prospective buyers



Tel: 2405 5000

Email: salesandmarketing@snhb.co.sz

Facebook: Swaziland National Housing Board (SNHB)

WhatsApp: 7802 5763

MABUYA TOWNSHIP

A SERENE RESIDENTIAL AREA JUST FOR YOU!



LEGEND

- Reserved
- Sold
- Available

- Situated at Ngwenya Town, 2-3km from Ngwenya Boarder Post
- Easy access from the MR3 Highway
- Has 98 residential plots
- One public open space
- Fully serviced infrastructure
- Gently sloping terrain
- Plot sizes ranging from 449m² to 963m²

Finance available from:



Terms and Conditions Apply

SWAZILAND NATIONAL HOUSING BOARD

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2405 5000/22/26/35/37



WRITER'S NOTE...

Greetings once again dear readers and welcome to yet another lovely Sunday where we get to bring to you ASPIRE, your favourite youth section that ASPIRES to INSPIRE young people to be the best version of whatever they might ASPIRE to be.

Today is the first week of February and spoiler alert, but we will be celebrating Valentines by discussing love and dating issues amongst young people, where we will get different views from young people, and also try to get a few parents and a psychologist.

The issue of dating and how it should be done is a hotly debated issue amongst African society. Unfortunately for decades, our ancestors found it to be a taboo to talk to children about such topics and hence our grandparents passed on the same thing to our parents. Some parents still find it hard to talk to their children about this, and this may be catastrophic because due to naivety and curiousness, they will experiment and do things they are not supposed to do, often the wrong way.

This then calls upon us to take an action and make means towards making this topic one that isn't taboo in the country. That's how we will be celebrating the month of love. You can even get to be part of the discussion by conversing with us at sbusisodlaminitheg@gmail.com.

Coming to today's business though, we have a talented music guru who does everything, literally. This man is a genius with the music, as funny and corny as it may sound. This young man has worked with the likes of Da Les, JMolley, Reason, Young Swiss, Stilo Magolide and last but not least Shekinah.

On the following page, we have ASPIRE education and today we have a look at the importance of training your mind with books – reading. An old saying that ridicules Africans states that whenever you want to hide something from an African, place it in a book. It has always been our weakness to understand the power of reading, so today we bring to you the importance of reading. On the very page, we also have you poem of the week, and today's one is titled 'Patience.'

On the last page, we bring to you your regular feature by yours truly and today I opine on the issue of principals having to change their attitudes towards education. It is just simply not fair for education to only be accessible to the few privileged.

Till next week.

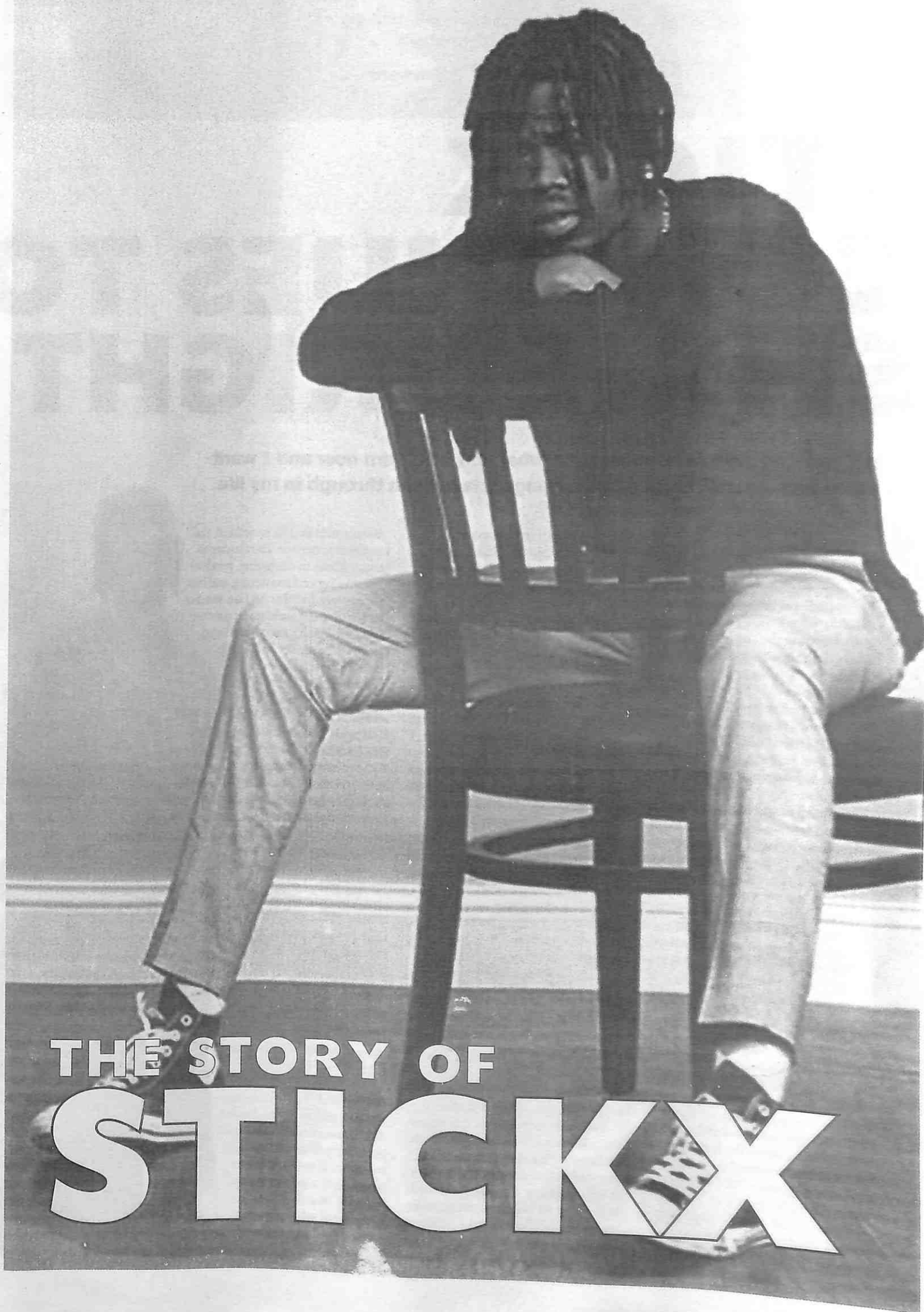
Have a good read and a blessed week!

Sibusiso Dlamini.

Aspire

February 4, 2018

A Youth Section On Youth Issues By The Youth



THE STORY OF STICKXX



STICKX CONTINUES TO SHINE BRIGHT

● I wanted people to understand what and who I am now and I wanted to give them insight into the things I have been through in my life.

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Last year, we brought to you an article on Lethumusa Simelane, the young music star who is currently hoisting the country's flag high in our neighbouring country's dog-eat dog music industry.

Well, Stickx is the official Disk Jockey (DJ) of talented singer Shekinah. The 23 year-old youngster dropped his debut EP titled 'ESC_ape' last year which has received a warm reception from music lovers across South Africa and locally.

The album is said to have taken a lot of time to work on and this is no surprise considering that the talented Shekinah is no stranger to the African music industry. She burst onto the scene after her stint on the eighth season of Idols South Africa back in 2012 and since then she has made some of the country's biggest pop hits and won the Best Pop & Alternative award at the MTV Africa Music Awards in 2016. She has collaborated with people like Sketchy Bongo, Kyle Deutsch and DJ Sliqe, and now she has just released her very own debut album, Rosegold.

When asked on working with her, Lethumusa described it as great.

"She is wonderful. It might sound weird but she started working on Rosegold ages ago, well at least that's how she described the feeling to us. She had been constantly writing music for this album since 2015 and kept the music. The compiling of the album took place last year though, that's when all the decision-making on the songs she wanted and those that could

be adapted to a certain sound."

When asked on the album Shekinah has revealed that she always wanted her debut album to reveal who she really is.

"You know because this is my debut album, I wanted people to understand what and who I am now and I wanted to give them insight into the things I have been through in my life. I also want them to see that I am actually a very serious person, weird but serious and I am serious about my career. I think that a lot of the time as women, our hard work ethic is usually brushed aside and that should not be the case, this album shows my work ethic.

Difficult

Being a lover of almost every genre there is, trying to put everything in this album and making it all gel was very difficult, and I mean really difficult. If I had my way it would be a mashup of everything but that wouldn't make any sense. "She said during an interview with South African personality Siyabonga Ngwenkazi.

Meanwhile, other than touring with Shekinah, Stickx has also been busy in studio working with the likes of up-and coming youngster JMolloy, and Young Swiss to mention but a few.

With his debut project, Stickz says he has been able to broaden his mind-scape for better music in future.

"Growth in music is very, very important. Without growth, I am simply Lethumusa Simelane, who is just a 23 year-old Swazi artist currently based in Johannesburg. But with the growth of my love for music, from a tender age, it led to me enrolling at the Academy of Sound Engineering," he says.

Born and raised in Swaziland, the youngster is now an all-rounder as he specialises in deejaying, production, mixing and mastering and has executively produced two studio albums, five EP's and four commercially released singles (co-produced Coopays-the thriller and Lucille Slade's-scratch the surface). A certified AVID Pro Tools operator, Lethumusa has worked with Calamity (a Nelspruit based rap duo), Dibi (produced his EP), Greg XV (performed alongside him Hipnotik 2017), Lucille Slade, Da Les, JMolloy, Coopay, Reason, Young Swiss and Stilo Magolide. This man knows his stuff.

"After much success in the industry, I then grew and released my debut EP entitled ESC_ape, a six track instrumental project which threads along the lines of experimental hip hop and future beat.

The EP has a distinct sound with a Kaytranada feel accompanied with sharp sampling, drums and loud 808s with some crazy, heavy bassline."

Personally, I have listened to the EP and it had me reminiscing of the olden golden days because of the crazy old skool sampling that was used by Stickx. If you haven't gotten to have a listen yet, don't lose out - cop this beautiful piece of art now!



SHERO DADS

PAGE 5: MASTER P, KENA, DEEFLAVA

WRITER'S NOTE:

Scrolling through social media, I always see lots of praise to mothers and specifically single mothers (which is great! but it's always been quite different when it comes to fathers.

I've witnessed in church environments where mothers are typically praised more than fathers, and I even saw a Facebook post that was made for father's day, but in the comments most people made it about their mothers. Fathers nowadays seem to all be deemed as "deadbeats" and worthless, which is not the case with most fathers. There are great fathers in the world who do not get ENOUGH recognition and praise.

This week's issue is about single fathers, the men who are doing it all by themselves and succeeding at it. SCENE readers will remember that last month we had an issue about single mothers where we profiled working women and model mothers and learnt how they juggle work and raising children. We felt the need to do a second edition on single parenting but this time let it be about single fathers.

Yes, single fathers; there are still men who do not shun their responsibilities. I'm talking about men who are working while also raising their children. These men, hands down are doing the most out there. In this issue we talk to three gentlemen (Master P, Kena and Deeflava) who are raising their children together with their ex-partners while the latter is doing it all by himself.

We talk the joys and trials of fatherhood, dating as a single father, all the things that women need to know about dating a single father and all the challenges that come with raising a child, financially, physically and emotionally. These fathers have a lot to share. Single fathers are often compared to single mothers. Whatever type of single parenting, single parents do not have it easier. They all have their fair share of challenges. Read all about their lives on pages 4-5.

To the readers I hope this issue shows you that not all fathers are "deadbeats". Some fathers actually do man up and take care of their responsibilities.

And to all the single fathers, you are doing the most. We see you!

Cheers!!

By Lungile Lulane

GOING SOLO:

SINGLE FATHERS DOING IT ON THEIR OWN:

Over the past years single parent families have become even more common than the so called proper family inclusive of a mother, father and children.

Now we see all sorts of single parent families, ones headed by a father or headed by a mother. Whatever the case may be.

Being a parent is said to be one of the toughest yet most rewarding jobs in the world; it's almost like having to confront a daily struggle for the rest of your life. It's even more challenging for single fathers who basically need to put on their super heroes capes to be able to do it all on their own! In a functional family of two loving and supporting parents, responsibilities can be divided and shared, allowing for occasional breaks for each party. Whether the reasons behind your current single status is due to a friendly or unfriendly divorce or the tragic passing of your spouse and mother of your children, the situation is always complicated and requires major life adjustments that you're not always ready for or looking forward to.

In all honesty being a single father is not easy, it



is even tougher on men because they are not raised to nurture and be empathetic. In fact, the media does its best through a culture of shaming, bullying and por-

DATING A SINGLE FATHER

Raising children is tough enough. Add the prospect of dating to the equation, and you've got quite a challenge.

But regardless how your circumstance arose as a single father, you deserve to date. Read on for our expert-backed rules on navigating the dating scene while still keeping your children's interests at heart.

Most single fathers admit that women generally lose interests in them once they reveal that they have a child. They find it arbitrary that before women get to know them, they have already decided against them just because they are fathers. The key here is not to take it personally.

As fathers grow more engaged in the upbringing of their children, and are able and willing to take full responsibility, single fathers increasingly are dating with children in tow in, heart if not in hand. While single fathers face many of the same dating challenges as single mothers, there are some differences:

Most single fathers prefer dating

women with children, thinking that she would be more selfless and understanding of his commitment as a father. Single mothers, in contrast, prefer dating men without children to reduce complications. Single fathers have a tendency, more than single mothers, to "feel incomplete" without a partner in the house, so they risk rushing into a new relationship that may not be right.

Whatever the reason behind being a single father, they have to date with care. What that means is telling a date upfront that you have children and be sure to gauge early to see if she respects how much time as a father you spend with your children. It also means introducing your relationship when you're confident it's on its way to long-term or permanent status and, if you're cordial, giving the ex-partner heads-up.

Dating with care for a single father means not underestimating your children's intelligence. Know that children see everything no matter how you try to be discreet. A good rule is too keeping your children

away from your partner that is if it's casual.

A tough hurdle is when children dislike your new love interest as father. To determine the source of the hostility, be patient and constantly reaffirm your love for your children. Sometimes the children will love a new girlfriend until she moves in or you get engaged, because you have dashed their hope that their parents will get back together.

But they may also become attached to her, which creates different challenges. Keep everyone's expectations low.

A single father's love life is a balancing act, with a lot of time spent mediating from the middle. A common mistake men make is to neglect to have regular conversations with the new girlfriend to explain why he makes choices favouring the children. She can end up feeling unimportant.

While the children remain the priority, don't ignore the needs of the relationship.

Dating a single dad has its perks.

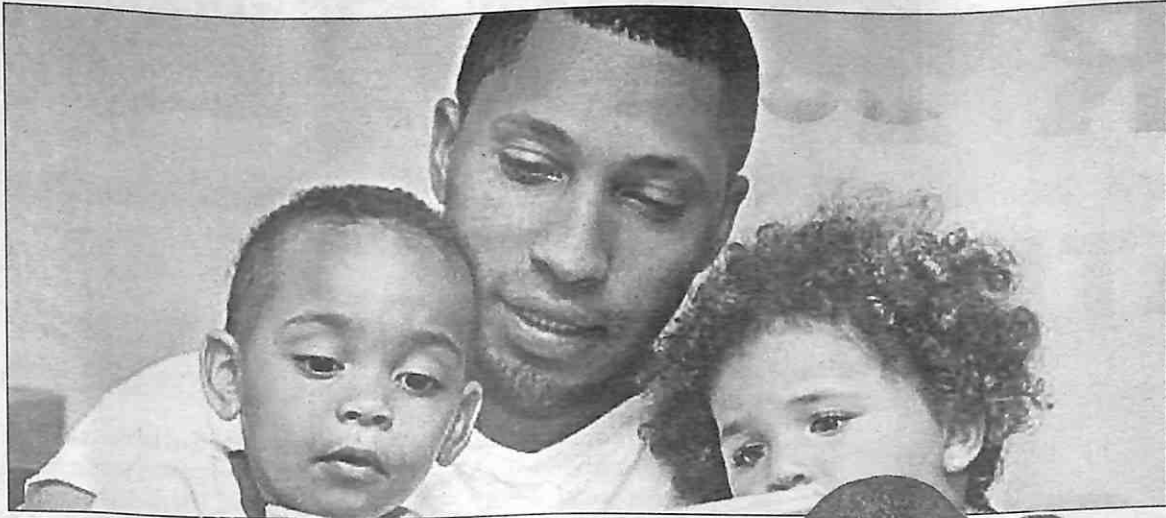
He's often more responsible and less selfish than his child-free counterparts. But it also comes with complications. Below are keys to dating a single father by Ellie Slott Fisher, author of *Dating for Fathers*.

Rule #1: If you're newly single, ease into it

Remember, you are the grown-up here. "The decision to date is 100 per cent yours," says Ellie Slott Fisher, author of *Dating for Fathers*. "If you are single, you can date." Of course, the reality of how and when to start ducking out depends on the circumstance and your readiness. Regardless of your circumstances, you'll know it's too soon to date if you need to talk incessantly about your former partner in glowing or not-so-glowing terms, Fisher explains.

Rule #2: Talk to your children about it

When you think you are ready to date, tell your children, Fisher suggests. "Say, 'You are, and always will be, the most important people in my life. But as much as I love to spend time with my friends and family, just like you do, I'd also like to have friends of the opposite gender, someone who I can go to the



trayals of fathers to teach men that they can never be successful parents.

Men do not carry babies around when they are little, they are not the ones asked to babysit when their are in their teen years, instead they are pushed to physical activities, sports and other activities to emphasise the testosterone factor rather than help them learn how to balance it with more traditionally feminine aspects of humanity.

And so retrospectively, it's no surprise to know that single fathers struggle with raising their kids at least for the first year.

For some men single parenting is a life altering change. So often men are the disciplinarians of the house the ones that actually enforced rules and behaviour and when all of sudden things changed, they never really know what to do. Everything pertaining a child's wellbeing emotionally becomes new to them because they can no longer depend on the female partner to be more sympathetic.

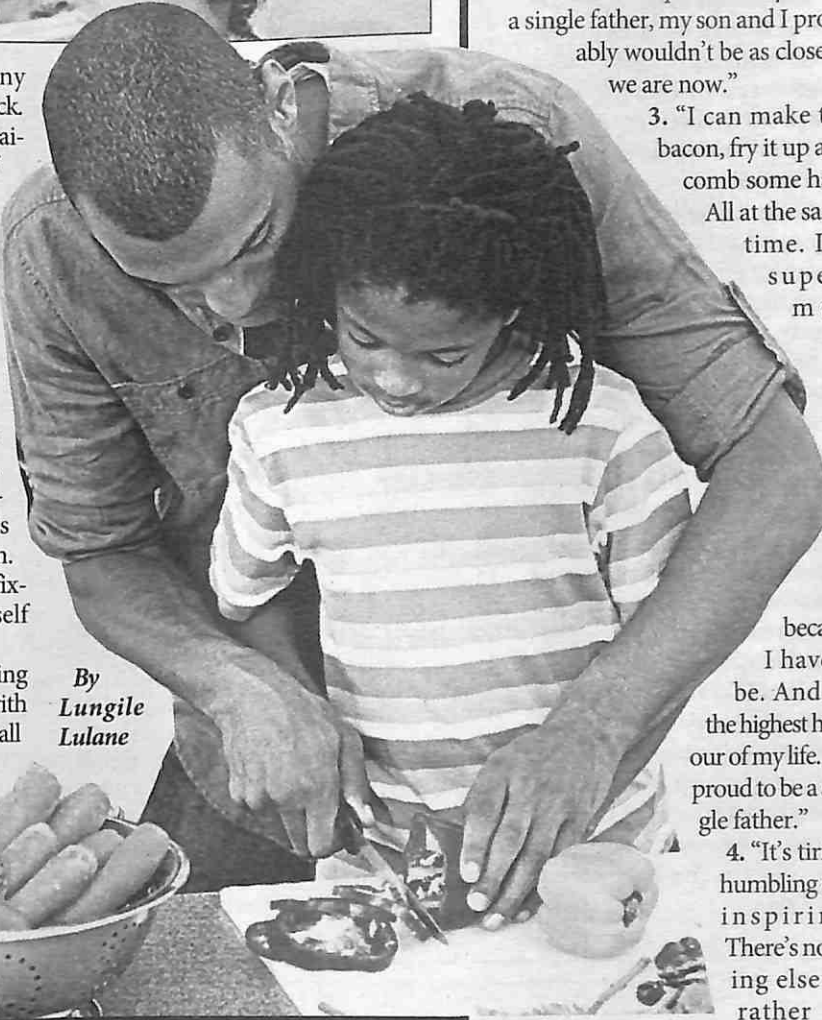
While single mothers almost always get the much-needed support from other mothers, single fathers don't. Single mothers have a hard enough

life, but single fathers get in many cases the even thinner end of the stick. Many support programmes are tailored to single mothers, a lot of books are written from a female perspective and both employers and society look at single male parents with a different perspective.

Single father need take a deep breath and let go of your expectations. Parenting really isn't about tomorrow as much as it is about this very moment. Rules are good, but their little hearts, their expectations, their dreams are what it's all about, so pay attention. Listen. Don't "fix" things that don't need fixing and have fun and cut yourself slack.

It's a tough job, this solo parenting thing. You'll make mistakes, but with positive intention and love, you'll all make it through. If it's going really poorly? Reach out and get some help. No shame in that.

By
Lungile
Lulane



because I have to be. And it's the highest honour of my life. I'm proud to be a single father."

4. "It's tiring, humbling and inspiring. There's nothing else I'd rather do more."

5. "It's difficult at times. Travelling recently with my three-year-old daughter, we had a layover and I had to use the restroom. I was aware of the stigma of bringing her into the men's room but managed to get by."

6. "The main stressors being financial and not being able to give as much individual time to each as I would like."

I find it funny how many people are shocked that a man takes care of four children. I wouldn't change it for anything."

7. "It made me into a better father. It made me more responsible."

8. "It is much like being a single mother, with all the same ups and downs. The experience deepened

my empathy and understanding of what it is to be a man and a feminist."

9. "I feel like a disappointment when I can't balance work and quality time with my daugh-

SINGLE FATHER'S CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS....

If parenthood is a roller coaster, going at it alone can make for one hell of a ride.

To find out what it's really like being a single father, we asked our wonderful community of single fathers to share their unique experiences.

1. "It is hard work and a real challenge involving anxiety and stress. A real respect to single mothers out there in the world."

2. "If I didn't spend a few years as a single father, my son and I probably wouldn't be as close as we are now."

3. "I can make the bacon, fry it up and comb some hair. All at the same time. I'm superman."

10. "I worry every day whether I am doing a good job or not."

11. "You don't get labelled as being the fun parent, the helping with homework parent, the one who lays down the law or anything that may be considered partial of the full job. You are the everything parent. You get all the tears, the joy, the tantrums, the hugs, the disappointments, and all that their life has to offer. You do it all, you love it all. You don't have to ask what your child likes, or what you should get. You know all there is to know about them."

12. "I feel empowered because often times raising kids is labelled 'the woman's job.'"

13. "It's the hardest job I will ever love. The hard part is not being able to provide as much for them as their mom and stepfather. Although it is extremely difficult and lonely at times, I wouldn't trade being their father for anything in the world."

14. "I'm raising my 13-year-old daughter without much of a support system, but that's alright. Her and I are learning together. It's hard at times but when my daughter says 'I love you father,' I know everything will be alright."

15. "It's been the most challenging and by far the most rewarding experience of my life. My seven-year-old daughter has made me a much more well-rounded person and I'm trying to raise her the same. Keep up the great work, fellow single fathers."

16. "It isn't much different from single mothers. Both fathers and mothers have the same goal: to teach their children essential skills to raise their own and continue future generations. In the end, single parents, whether you're a man or woman, are more focused than married parents."

17. "I have my son's back. I provide the soft place to land. He comes first in my life and he knows it. Being a Father is the greatest privilege."

18. "It can be a perilous and lonely but rewarding journey. Friends, family and even total strangers question your ability, your commitment, your loyalty, your intentions and pretty much everything else that you do, not only for your children but for yourself."

19. In terms of personal fulfilment I can say that raising my kids has, and continues to be, the toughest job that I've ever had. Children ground you.

They challenge you and they grow you up because you're forced as a parent to look inward at yourself, see your faults and strengths, then have to figure out how to bring it all together so that you can bring your best game to the field every day. I'd say that my idea of heaven would be being able to re-live every single day of raising my kids from infancy to adulthood.

They have been, without a doubt, the best thing that I've ever done

ies with, to dance with, to have a drink with," Fisher says.

Rule #3: Find the right girl
The woman you're looking for should understand that your men are your priority, says Armin Brott, a columnist for Mr.Dad. "You never know when there will be an emergency, when you will have to leave a date or cancel and that it make her jealous," Brott says. According to Fisher's research, single mothers are not looking specifically for a man children, but single fathers are looking for a woman who mother. "Men assume that a mother is less self-oriented more nurturing and will welcome his children," Fisher says. But there's no guarantee of this. Don't disregard a woman has never been a mother she may be wonderful with your men because there is no one competing for her attention.

Rule #4: Don't divulge too much about

ey will want to know her name, she looks like and whether she children, little else. terms of ing her, this is sition your child ld make. You can 'they would like eet the woman re dating, and y say no (some- s one may say nd the other will to), then respect

their wishes. However, be sure to add that at some point in the future if you should ever meet someone you want to date exclusively, you will want them to meet her. Most children will be okay with this because they can't really imagine that happening.

Rule #5: Avoid the revolving door
Introducing women into your children's lives too frequently can skew their perceptions. "Children can get attached to them, and then if they disappear it can make children sceptical and pessimistic about romantic relationships," says clinical psychologist Ken Condrell, Ph.D, author of *Be a Great Divorced Dad*.



MASTER P

A DJ FATHER



Master P is a proud father of two boys, Siyamthanda who is 8 and Aphiwe who is 5 years old.

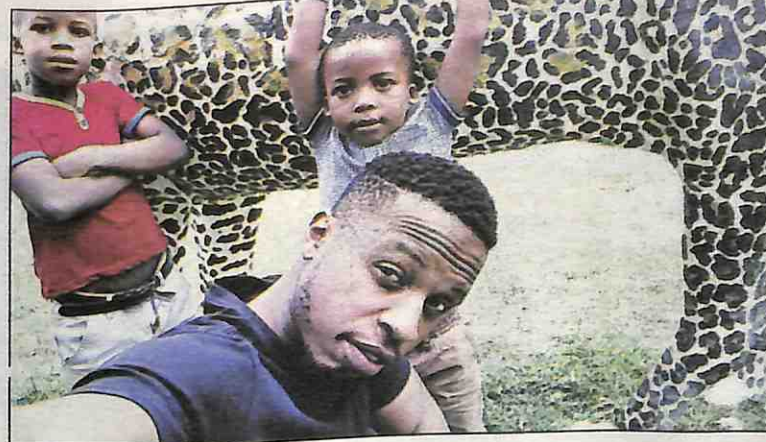
Speaking about how being a single father has been like for him, he is quick to clarify that he is a father yes but he wouldn't call himself a single father rather a co-parenting because the mother's of his children are present and contribute to making sure the children get the best life.

Being a working man with a busy schedule sometimes is hard to handle but he says it is easier for him because his children live with their mothers and he visits them every chance he gets or they come visit him. He says when they are around and he has to work, they are always well taken care of by his aunt.

He says as a father he has never ever felt judged just because he is a single father. He says the judgment normally is received by single mothers because there is still all this misconception and beliefs that the woman must have done something wrong to become a single parent. If any reaction Master P says he gets people who actually think he is a cool father. Speaking on dating, he says he has been a very lucky person because he has not dated a woman who had a problem with him having children. If anything he thinks he meets mature women who respect, love and do not try to compete with his children. This is something he is really happy about.



Being a father can change people positively or negatively, depending on the circumstances around you. Master P says, being a father has changed him a lot. "Before I became a father I lived my life recklessly but having people to live for changed me for the better", he explains. He



says there are a number of things he used to do which he is not proud of but being a father made him come to a decision to quit it all.

Speaking on how he spends time with his two boys, he says, "My kids stay far apart, the older one (Siyamthanda) stays in Mbabane and his little brother (Aphiwe) stays in Mhlume, so I rarely spend time with them together". He says that whenever they do get to spend time together it is always a good time. "I take them for games, but whatever happens, they must eat pizza at the end of the day", he chuckles.

As a father Master P says he teaches his chil-

dren to fear God before anything and respect other people, young or old. "My discipline method with my children is firstly I talk with them to let them know what and why it is wrong. If they continue to do the wrong, no pizza for them". He says that always works for him. As a parent you try and instil

good character traits in your children as a very young age. Master P says, one trait he is instilling in his children is that he hopes they grow with it, is to be always humble and smile in other people's face.

"I won't lie, raising children isn't cheap, with hefty school fees and stuff, one



MY LIFE AS A SINGLE FATHER AND DATING....

Tsela, Kena is a music prodigy with a unique style and creativity and from his own words the originator of Kasi rap music and a father. SCENE met up with the rapper to discuss fatherhood.

I am the proud father to Sabusiswa Sobahle Tsela who is five years old.

Being a single father has been very challenging for me because it calls for me to be on good terms with his mother which is currently not the case and the fact that I grew without a dad as I raise my son but at the same time it is very interesting because I get to live out my childhood fantasy with my son, we get to hang out, play football, video games and all kind of things that a son wishes to do with their father.

What people need to know that raising a child is not a joke? Financially it is very strenuous, considering that the music industry in the country doesn't pay enough to live off, so I find myself having to step up and do other jobs just to be able to cater for my son. That on its own is very distracting as it calls for

What people need to know that raising a child is not a joke? Financially it is very strenuous, considering that the music industry in the country doesn't pay enough to live off, so I find myself having to step up and do other things just to be able to take care of my son.



me to lose focus on my career just to manage the current situations.

Being a working father is not very hard for

me since my son lives with his mother. But whenever he is around I put everything on hold and we play soccer, watch cartoons, play

video games and just get up to a lot of mischief. Honestly being a father has changed me a lot in a way that surprises me as well, one big change has been being able to think for the next person because before it was all about me, doing what I want to do when I wanted to do it. So I can definitely say it has changed me for the better and am enjoying every minute of it.

My relationship with my son's mother is bitter sweet at the moment, when it comes to our son she is cool. I really give it up to her because of all the things she does for our son, I am happy with the way she is raising him. Things are only sour concerning our relationship not our son.

I have never felt judged for being a single father, it is just reactions that I get from ladies when I say I have a son, whatever interest seems to be cut short and it just ends there but I'm not complaining because it saves me all the time of thinking that this person is in it to stay and end up introducing her to my son yet she has other ideas.

Speaking on dating Kena says it hasn't been that hard, some women understand he has a son and others just don't get it. He says currently he is in a relationship with an understanding and a very supportive woman who gives him space to spend time with his son and he is very grateful for that.

My son is currently at that exploration stage, asking questions all day. He asks the hardest and the weirdest question. I think he is very





has to work really hard to make sure his children get a better life". He says for him it is a whole lot easier because he shares some of the responsibilities with their mothers.

Children are inquisitive by nature and as they grow they get to a point where all they do is ask questions none stop. Sometimes the problem is not that they are asking questions rather the kind of questions they ask and how they ask them. Master P says sometimes his children ask him if he's going to marry their mothers and he says that is the hardest question to answer. He says his response to that usually is "when the time is right we'll know".

There are a lot of comparisons about how children from single parent households fare against children from the "normal" households, Master P says he doesn't think there's any difference between whose parents have separated and those from "normal" households, as long as they get genuine love from both parents who are on good terms.

My biggest challenge as a single parent is I always have to travel whenever I want to see my children, sometimes I wish we could all wake

up in the same house, share the same space but that is not the case.

For any parent, the hardest part is not being always around for your child/children. Master P says it is no different for him. "I wish I were with my children 24/7 but that is not possible". He adds, he gets comfort from knowing they are well taken care of. On the contrary he says the best part about being a father is when he gets to spend time with his boys, just them with no disturbance.

Master P says the only advice he can share with other fathers would be, "do what is best for your children, don't use your children as weapons to fight your ex, love your children unconditionally and make sure you discipline them accordingly so you can be sure they will be able to survive the world even if you are no longer around.

observant more than anything. With his exploring, he kind of wants to be in the kitchen all day helping out however way he can and I think he is going to be a great cook; I wouldn't be surprised though because his mother is an amazing cook.

The hardest part about being a single parent is not having a good relationship with my ex and finances of course because as he grows he becomes very demanding, like right now, he wants new underwear with the latest cartoons characters every now and then. One challenge that I hope as he grows will change is my son understanding me and vice versa.

The best part about being a single parent is that having my son has taught me a number of things about myself that I never knew. It still amazes me that I am a father and I am actually taking care of my son seeing to it that he has a good upbringing.

Kena says he is a big disciplinarian. "I try to raise my son the same way I was raised". He says, when he misbehaves, he is given warnings followed by a beating just to bring him back to his senses.

When I am not working and with my son, we just sit in the house watch cartoons over and over again and play cars. He so interested in soccer so he enjoys us watching it together, I only hope he grows up to follow the team that his father follows.

It is often said that single fathers have it easier than single mother, but Kena disagrees. He says raising a child takes a lot

whether you are the mother or the father and he says it all depends on the circumstances around you.

"My advice to other single fathers would

be, be responsible, take care of your child; this is a blessing beyond all blessings. Do all you can just to ensure that he is well taken care off.



BEING A SINGLE FATHER

Dumisani 'Deeflava' Dlamini is a music producer, co-owner of Whosedat Media Marketing and Public Relations Company, Co-owner of Cold Addiction a clothing label and owner of Arbitrator Studios.

He has worked with numerous artists in the country, including Loma, Mcent and many more.. He is popularly known as Deeflava, but above all that, he is a single father.

SCENE spoke to this single father about her daughter.

"I have a beautiful daughter, Sakhelwe Dlamini who is eight. She is everything to me and I am everything to her", he explains. He says he literally cannot function when she is away. "My daughter keeps me alive and gives me purpose in that I have something to live for amidst all the challenges", he says smiling.

Deeflava says being a single parent has its ups and downs but most of all it grows you mentally and teaches you how to prioritise. It is both challenging and interesting at times.

Speaking on how he balances being a single father he says, it's all about time management. "That little time I get off work I use it to be with my kid". Deeflava says besides his studio work, he is also works for the Swaziland Electrical Company (SEC) and he works shifts, so whenever he is not working he is with his daughter. He says striking the balance is not easy but you get better at it everyday.

Deeflava say he has been judged for being a single parent. He says it is a pity that we live in a world where we are often judged for every little thing. He says people that do not know the challenges of being a single parent always have opinions on how to do this which in turn does come out as judgmental. "Others will tell you that you are not pushing enough to better the future of your child yet it is not always that easy", he explains.

He says as a single parent he is judged on his past relationship, put at fault for the outcome and he is expected to answer 'unanswerable' questions.

"I get mixed reactions from people who learn that I am a single father.

Most people are always eager to know how I cope. Some acknowledge my efforts and encourage me to keep taking

care of my child. At times others want to be part of our little world and we freely let them in. This has made us have lots of friend and made being a single father quite interesting", he says.

Deeflava say when dating as a single father you have to consider that when you choose a partner, you are extra careful because you are no longer looking for a partner just for yourself but someone that you can possible introduce to your child later on. He says there are qualities that you end up prioritizing just because you are a single father. Nonetheless, whatever relationship you get into does not mean that it has to be less romantic, you still need to enjoy moments with your partner and even after her to your child, the romance does not go away", he explains.

Speaking on how being a single father has changed him; Deeflava says it has made him have a whole new way of looking at life. "As a parent you no longer just live for yourself but also for someone else", he says. He says all he wants in life is to see her daughter grow into a big girl and for that to be possible he as her father has to do whatever it takes to prolong his life, starting by keeping healthy and changing his behaviour. Deeflava says being a single father has taught him to be strong and ride out situations no matter what because he wants to be the perfect example for his child.

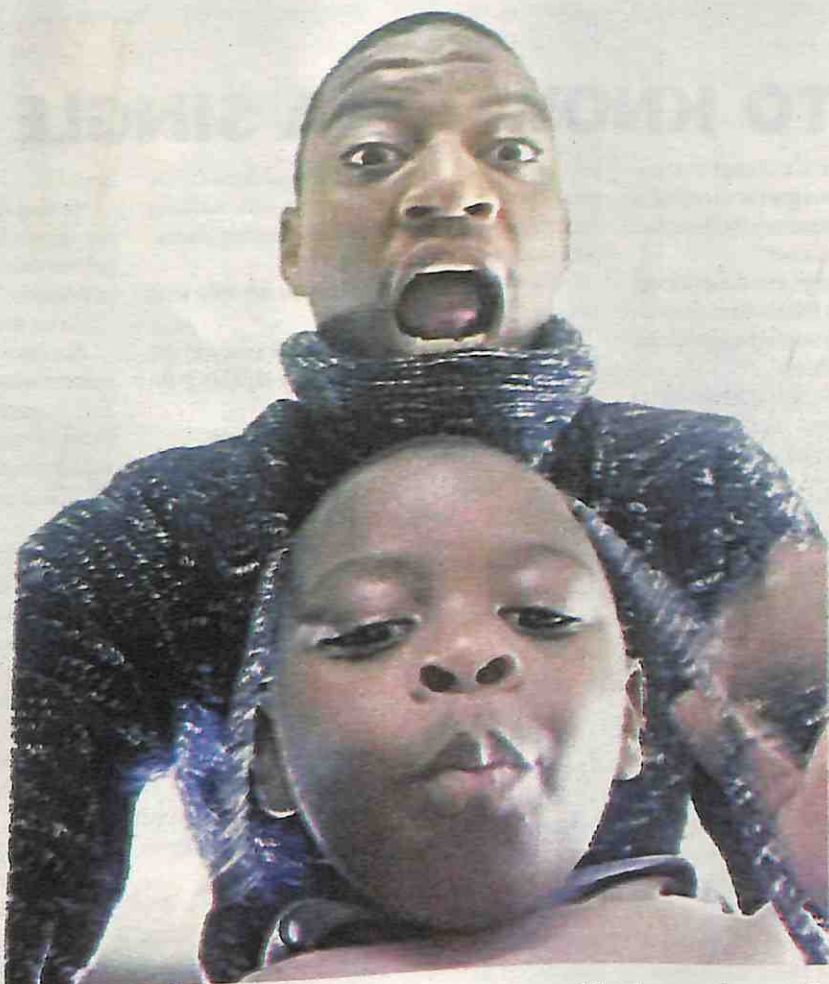
He says his daughter enjoys spending time with him as much as he enjoys it too. "When we have time we watch cartoons, go shopping and go for ice-cream", He says. He admits that raising a girl comes with unexpected challenges. He says sometimes he is forced to play 'girl games'. For this year he says he is planning on doing more fun activities to grow the bond between him and her daughter.

Deeflava says being a working father is very challenging but he balances that with ensuring that whenever he is not working, he makes up for all the time he doesn't spend with his daughter.

He says it has come easy for him to postpone certain engagements just to make sure that he spends enough time with his child.

As a parent you strive to teach your children right from wrong. This is not different from Deeflava who says he teaches his child never to disrespect adults. He says he knows that if he emphasises more on respect it will spill over to self-respect which leads to having principles and good values thereby giving her a better direction in life.

He says he is instilling character traits such as self-respect, acceptance, uniqueness and independence.



When you are a father, you are hit daily by a world of challenges and stressful situations.

Even when you have a partner to help you, fatherhood is the most challenging thing in the world. However, it is even more difficult when a man is charging forward alone as a single father.

Being a single father is a serious balancing act. The responsibility of parenthood is enormous, and men who are giving their all for their children should be praised. But sometimes it gets tough and lonely. We found common challenges that single fathers face.

1. Too little time. For a single father, time is at a very high premium. Work eats up most of it, so task overload can easily swallow what remains. There are mouths to feed, dishes to clean, clothes to wash and all the chores and charms of home that need your attention. As a generalization, try not to feel guilty if you leave the dishes in the sink overnight. Place the emphasis and importance on being with your children to play, read or just simply talk.

2. Financial difficulties. A great many single parents find themselves in financial distress.

Keep in mind that the thing your children need most from you is your love and attention. After that, separate the true needs from the pile and place top priority on them things such as food, shelter and clothing. Children don't always understand why they can't have everything they desire, but one day they will.

3. Feeling overwhelmed. It is difficult and challenging being the only adult in the room long term. Loneliness, stress and depression are common for single parents.

Know that you are not alone. There are a number others in your same boat who are experiencing the same things. Be sure to take time for yourself to recharge and

CHALLENGES OF A SINGLE FATHER



strengthen your mind.

4. Relationships old and new. The ex-spouse is still a very big part of family life and always will be. How that relationship is handled and functions is extremely important, not only to the children but also to your overall mental state.

In dating and new relationships, extreme care must be taken when introducing new people into the life of the family.

Resentment or early attachments are just two of the standard pitfalls. Keep the hope of love in your heart always, but be mindful of far-reaching, unin-

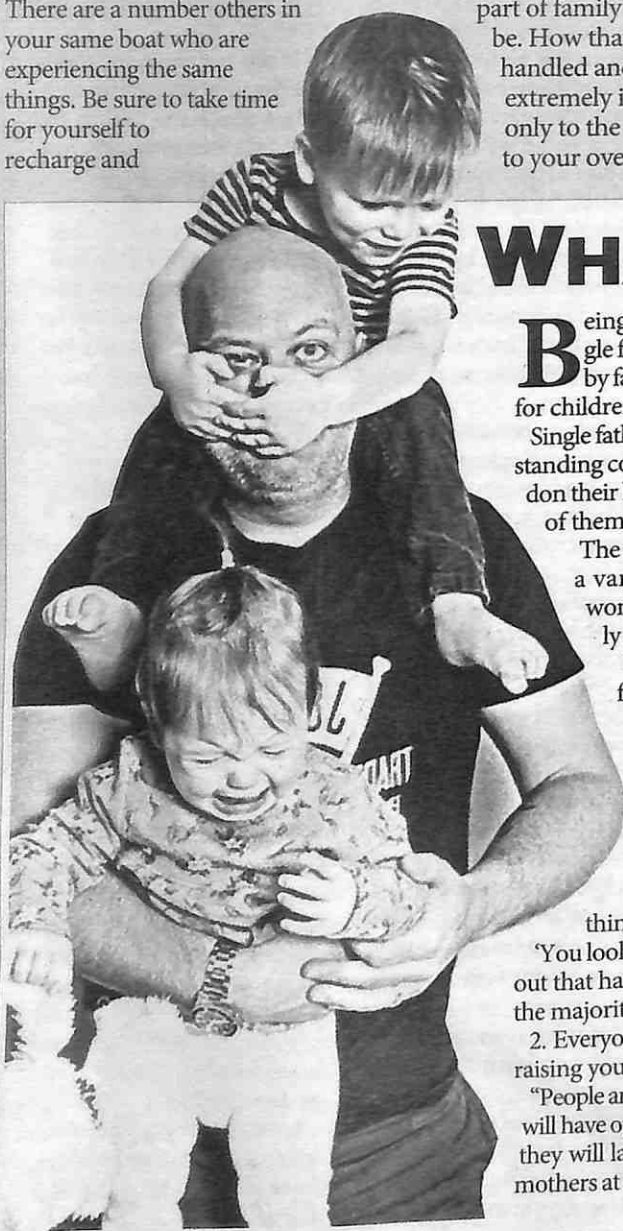
tended consequences.

5. Building a support system. Family, friends, babysitters, teachers, mentors and all sorts of people take a role in your family life.

However, separation can take a big toll on family support; judgment and bitter feelings can

split friends.

Try to display humility and understanding toward those in your life. In most cases, they won't understand the entire picture and will see only what they want to see. Only time and a new stable reality will change those perceptions. Be patient.



WHAT TO KNOW AS A SINGLE FATHER:

Being a single father is a change that single fathers say shows greater acceptance by families that sometimes the best place for children is with their father.

Single fathers say this helps tear down a long-standing conception that fathers tend to abandon their kids, or at least not take as good care of them as single mothers.

The rise in single fathers is attributed to a variety of reasons, including more women choosing their jobs over family life.

Nothing can fully prepare anyone from raising children as a single father but getting advice from fathers who've done it themselves certainly helps. This is what they had to say.

1. People will give undue credit to your ex.

"Here's one of my least favorite things I've heard people say to my son: 'You look so nice today. Did your mom pick out that handsome outfit?' Ummm, no, I buy the majority of his clothes and dress him."

2. Everyone will have an opinion about you raising your kids alone.

"People are people and they will talk. Everyone will have opinions on your failed marriage and they will lay blame. You'll get looks from the mothers at school and the waitress at the diner

and everyone in between. Regardless of the truth, you may as well have a nun walking behind you ringing the bell and chanting 'shame' with your every step."

3. People will stare when you act silly with the kids.

"Nobody tells you about the looks you get when you spend time with your child in public doing all kinds of silly things."

4. It doesn't pay to hide your feelings.

"No one told me that during divorce and separation, I would be an emotional train wreck and be in complete denial about it. Protecting my ego became my number one goal and I lied to everyone about how happy I was. I sought out relationships that supported my way of thinking. If I had the capacity to be honest with myself back then, things might be different. Humility is necessary to be a better father and a better you."

5. Being a single parent may even make you a better parent.

"Counter intuitive, but true. If you're a divorced father who split custody, you get a break from your kids."

A reprieve from the kids makes you more appreciative when you are with them. This in turn translates to being a more patient and caring parent. As they say, absence makes the heart grow fonder."

6. You won't necessarily be lauded as a super-

hero.

"No one ever tells you that you're a 'superhero single father.' Only single moms seem to get that title. You have to be proud of yourself in isolation."

7. Your social life will inevitably take a hit.

"The day I became a single father to a one-year old son, my social life skidded to an abrupt halt. It was a shocker. I was 25 and single but I had no time to date. I didn't have my first relationship until five years later."

8. Sometimes, doing it all on your own kind of sucks.

"You're doing it all on your own. That's trying to hold down a job that can work with your children's schedule, cooking, cleaning, school work, disciplining, preparing lunches, doctor visits, sick children and trying to find someone to date who doesn't care that you have kids."

9. If you share custody, you won't be able to stop thinking about the kids when your ex has them.

"When I first separated from my wife, the toughest part for me was that feeling that I was no longer there to protect my kids. Every night when my ex and I were married, I was the last one to bed. I doubled checked that the doors were locked and the windows were closed. Not being there to ensure their safety was pure anguish for me."



Floyd Lavine - Masala EP
Label: Rise Music
Released: 30-06-2017

A curtain-raising releasing from Floyd Lavine's recently founded label Rise Music, the release dabbles between afro house and tech house. The Berlin-based and well-travelled South African completes this EP with thrilling remixes from David Mayer and Pablo Fierro - which went on to be charted No. 137 and No. 1 on the Afro House Top 200 of 2017 by Traxsource, respectively. A definite dance floor filler and hip mover this release has set the tone as we eagerly await what Rise Music has in store for us in 2018.

Jackie Queens & VeneiGrette - Mwanangu Vol. 1

Label: Bae Electronica
Released: 25-08-2017

Zimbabwean born vocalist Jackie Queens teams up with South African producer VeneiGrette to render a beautiful afro house package. Filled with the spirit of Pan-Africanism, Mwanangu features remixes from some emerging afro house talents such as Benny T (Botswana) and SURAJ (Kenya). South Africa's Enoo Napa wins this one with a stand out remix which is charted No. 177 on Traxsource's Afro House Top 200 of 2017. Appreciable to note that 2017 saw Jackie Queens pick up a worthy nomination at the Dance Music Awards South Africa for Best Female Artist.

Dwson - Luna EP
Label: Stay True Sounds
Released: 15-09-2017

One of the best performers of 2017, Dwson, wrapped up an amazing year with this spell-binding release. Five killer tracks that one can't help but repeat rather than skip any. The more I listen, I can imagine just how much of a Super Mario fan Dwson is/was. Apart from a track titled Luigi - who happens to be Mario's brother - the EP is filled with traces of video games sounds serenaded in pounding deep house beats. My favourite is the title track Luna. This song sends me into over-drive, it gets me into video game mode ready to rhythmically shoot down any obstacle in my way.

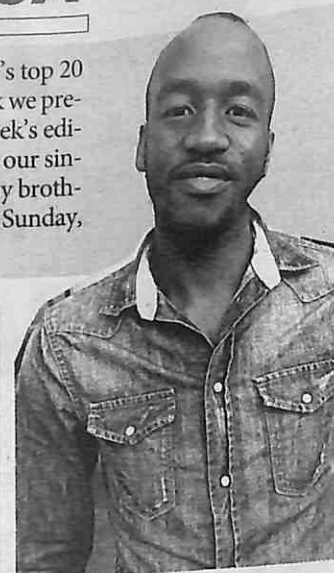
Hyenah - Usuthu EP
Label: Freerange
Released: 26-09-2017

Hyenah fuses his signature percussive afro house beats with B'utiza's scathamiya-influenced vocal to give us the title track - 'Usuthu'. Hyenah then goes on to a more laid back approach with 'Phases' which features the smooth and lush tones of Nonku who brings much depth to the song. Berlin-based Ivory Coast native, Mr Raoul K, completes the trinity with beautifully paced remix with vibrant strings laced on an energy-filled beat.

DJ Funky T Feat. Wanda Baloyi - Can't Deny It
Label Funky T Music

BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA

Welcome to another edition of Beat On Beats. Last week we reviewed Mmeli Hlanze of the Antidote's top 20 underground house music releases of 2017. We were only able to recap on half of them, so this week we present to you the last half, which include our very own producer, !Sooks. I hope you enjoyed last week's edition and this will be of great interest as well. On a sad note, as the Beat On Beats team we would love to send our sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the late Bheki 'Galaza'. May your soul rest in peace my brother, all your effort and hard work you put through in this industry will forever be cherished. Until next week Sunday, Keet It Deep.



You're Hoping to hear more from Chujo and as well the Soweto based label, Orbit Music.

!Sooks - The Kitchen Will Dub
Label: Deepstitched
Released: 03-11-2017

!Sooks introduces this EP with an interlude, 'Asteroids', which takes you on a movie like journey, interstellar to be precise. The cosmic sounds resemble a spaceship's take off. The title track echoes running water, kitchen sinks and the sounds of plates and cutlery mapped over a minimal beat. 'Phasen' and 'Secret Souls' complete the EP with their remixes though Secret Souls flex on this one with an outstanding rendition of their compatriot's original mix.

FKA Mash - PRJKT 3 EP
Label: Kalushi Recordings
Released: 08-11-2017

FKA Mash had me caught between his PRJKT 2 and 3. Both, fresh and deserving of being on this list but I had to make a decision and PRJKT 3 it is. The transition from the previous release of the PRJKT series is what caught my attention the most. This release gives a mature feel to FKA Mash's sound. He has almost perfect his emotion filled glitch theme sound, well embraced by warm bass lines. See Me remains my favourite while Take Me Back isn't far off the mark.

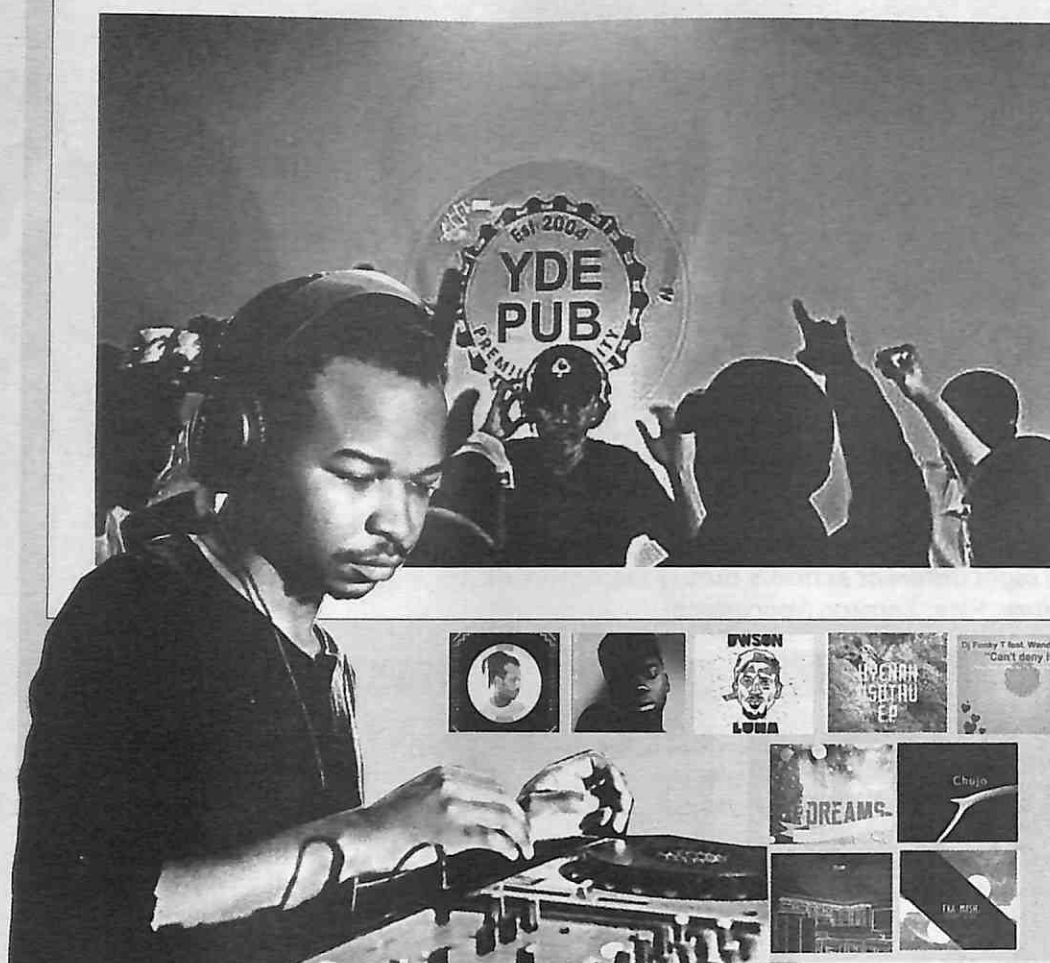
Various Artists - Surreal Selections Vol 1.5 (Mixed by Kunzima Theology)

Label: Surreal Sounds
Released: 05-12-2017

Surreal Selections 1.5 offers a majestic blend of afro, tech and deep house from local electronic music artists. It is a perfect ending to the 2017 and offers music that transitions one well into the New Year.

Though mostly a collage of previous releases from the label, the emergence of talented marvels such as Vandal M add the killer punch to this lovely compilation. Velvet Orchid remains one of my favourites.

MMELI'S TOP 20 UNDERGROUND HOUSE MUSIC RELEASES(PART 2)



Released: 12-10-2017

One of my favourite local soulful house jams of 2017 from one of South Africa's best kept musical secrets. DJ Funky T's Can't Deny It featuring acclaimed songstress Wanda Baloyi, a single taken off his upcoming

the help of Samantha Faison. Zulumafia render five different interpretations of Dreams flexing his musical prowess by effortless gliding through soulful house and deeper afro sounds with his remixes. He also invites Essential I who also offers a wonderful

album
 Reincarnation, is one of those sing along classic soulful gems with a dash of deep house. A well-timed release as it oozes spring and colours that can only be seen when one closes one's eyes and opens one's ears.

Zulumafia Feat. Samantha Faison - Dreams
Label: Zulumafia Digital
Released: 13-10-2017

One of the most hardworking and the most consistent in the underground house scene, Zulumafia, shares his dreams with

remix reflective of his signature Deeptone sound.

Chujo - Scandalies EP
Label: Orbit Music
Released: 26-10-2017

This is the kind of house music that never goes out of fashion. From the synths to the vocal samples used, Chujo's Scandalies EP has a very nostalgic feels to it.

It's the kind of house music that one can play during sundowners' sessions, by the poolside or even with the dance floor filled with music lovers. I've got favourites from this one, 'Scandalies' and 'Warm Like

ACADEMIC ACHIEVER AWARDS 2018

Academic Achiever Awards took place yesterday at the Uniswa Sports Emporium.

High achieving students from eight selected schools walked away with certificates and other prizes.

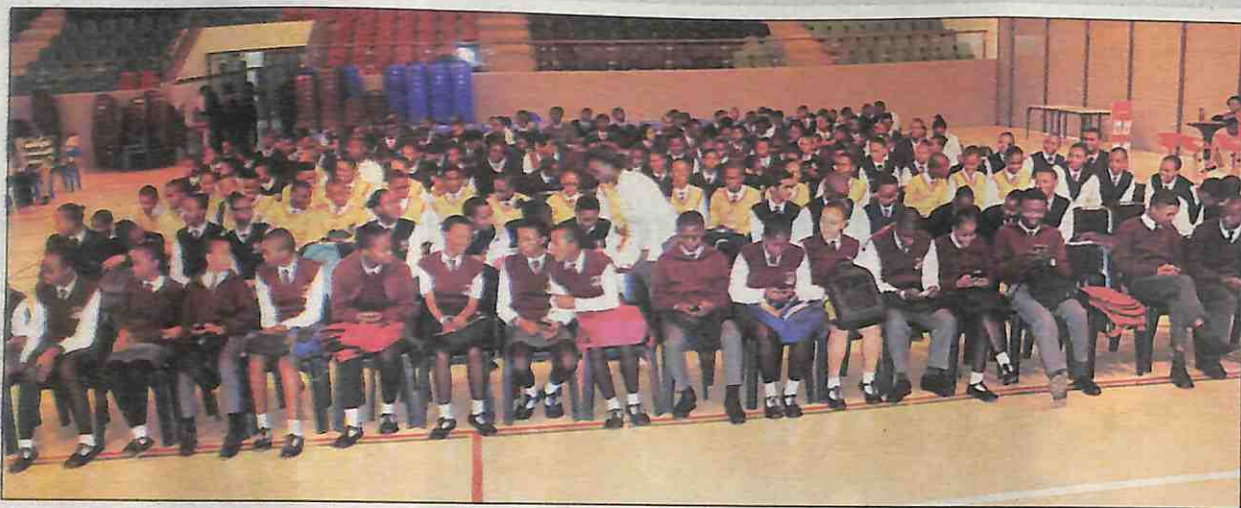
Schools presents include Ka-Boyce High School, St Marks High School, Fontein High School, Sifundzani High School, John Wesley High School, Woodlands High School, St Francis High School and Mbabane Central High School. Present during this event were event partners:

Swaziland Building Society, Uniswa Foundation and the Municipal Council of Mbabane.

Parents and teachers came in their numbers to support their children, ululating each time they were called up to stage. SCENE brings you more pictures from the Awards.



A student from Woodlands High School strikes a pose after receiving her certificate.



A section of the students from all eight different schools during the Academic Achiever Awards held at the Uniswa Sports Emporium. (Pics: Samson Ncongwane)



Bonkhe and Njabu enjoying a chat.



A section of the parents present during the Academic Achievers Awards ceremony.



A student from St. Francis receiving her certificate.



A student from Ka-boyce High School receiving her certificate.



Hugues, Sakhelo and Bonkhe getting ready to present the awards to the students.



Celimphilo Khanyile reciting his poem titled "Emaphupho".



Motivational speaker, Bonkhe during the Academic Achievers Awards.



Hugues Hakizimana the youngest author in the country captured on stage.

ASPIRATION

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers" - Charles W. Eliot



READ A BOOK AND TRAIN YOUR MIND

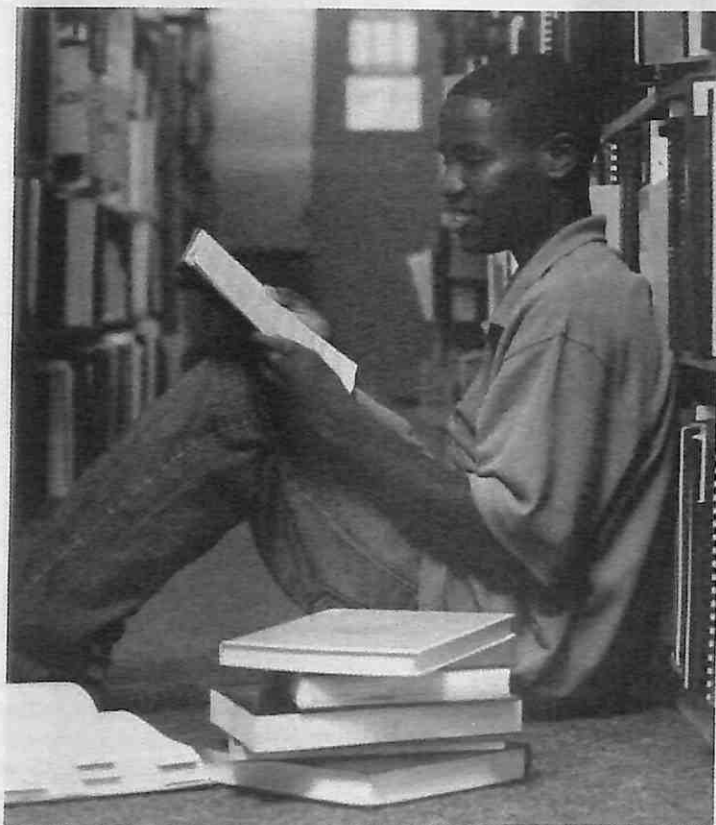
BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

It is said that gyms world over make a killing in January because people cram them because of New Year resolutions to be fit and healthy, but then of course people then lose steam along the way, and never return.

Unfortunately, most people seem to shy away from training the most important part of one's body - the brain. Today, we teach you the importance of reading.

With 24 hours in a day how much time do you dedicate to reading? Most people often overlook the value of reading and the role it plays in one's life. It is fundamental to functioning in today's society. So why is reading important? Don't worry I can help answer that question. One thing we should remember is that "word spoken-written are building blocks of life", meaning that you are right now, the result of the words you have heard or read. What you become in the future will depend on the words you believe about yourself now. Books are packed with knowledge, insights into a happy life, life lessons, fear, prayer and helpful advice. With the change in time and advancement of technology, the students, adults and children are avoiding books and are addicted to the tech savvy things which have led to moral degeneration, poor communication skills, low self-esteem etc.

When you give yourself some time to read you expose yourself to new things, new information, new ways to solve a problem which helps in the development of the cognitive function. It helps you as person in many ways as you begin to have a greater understanding of the world and exposes you to topics that inter-



est you; for example: how to build self-confidence, how to memorise things better, how to prepare the perfect essay. All these self-improvement skills start from reading. Non-readers or poor readers often have low opinion of themselves and their abilities. Reading improves the understanding of the rules of life, in order for you to accommodate, adapt into society better. When you are reading you gain the knowledge and experience of someone which can help you in your life journey. There are more than 4000 billionaires and 12 million millionaires, to become one of them, the first thing is to learn and get to know their past, learn their mistakes and what they did to get to where they are now.

As you know communication is of paramount importance, reading also improves your communication skills. As you communicate through reading, you understand more thus being able to communicate with a wide variety of people which is important in this global village.

Boost

Through reading you build a concrete foundation for communication. Reading helps boost your imagination and creativity as it exposes you to a world of endless possibilities and imagination showing you that nothing is impossible. When reading a person can go anywhere in the world or even better beyond, because of the imagination. Through reading you discover new things

and develop the brain. A person who reads often can teach themselves in any area of life they are interested in.

One of the greatest benefits of reading is that it improves your writing skills and vocabulary as a whole. The more you read, the more new words you come across and they make the way into your daily life. Being able to speak well with a good vocabulary improves your confidence and is also a key to any successful profession. Studies show that reading also helps reduce stress, when reading silently your heart rate slows down and the tension in the muscles is eased. It is also been proven that reading improves your patience level: when you have a book with 300 pages, you wish to complete it but with patience to know the in-depth meaning of each line and the word in it, with this attitude of understanding every single word comes to mind, the patience develops ultimately.

Above all reading brings tranquillity, awareness and change in your attitude diverting the minds towards positivity.

If I was not a reader I would have not been able to compile this piece. A majority of our favourite TV shows are just for amusement and do not build you as a person. A book communicates knowledge and wisdom of all kinds. Dedicating an hour each day to read can improve your life drastically. Start slow and cultivate it as culture, encourage your relatives and friends to do it and watch how you will develop. They say that "When you open a book, you open a new world". Books have been here for centuries and without them today's knowledge of our past ancestor's, cultures and civilisations would have been impossible.

POETRY

Patience

PATIENCE is one virtue so rare
That is often missing in our daily affair
PATIENCE is a companion of wisdom
He who has it stands among kings in any kingdom

It is an habit that cannot be thrown out of the window

Without it lives you in a place of limbo

PATIENCE is not just how long we wait

But how we behave while we wait
It is a virtue of grace put together to make a pretty face

One year of patience equals ten years of peace

PATIENCE is the key to contentment

That locks every gate of resentment

One ounce of patience is more than pounds of brains

Investing in the bank of patience yield no loss but more gains

PATIENCE makes lighter what impatience may not heal

Driving through a narrow road but on a balance wheel

A heart fuel with patience drives with an unseen speed

It might be a soar fruit but with a sweet seed
PATIENCE is truly a virtue acquire it if you can

It will make you a good father, a better mother and a perfect human

That's why some say PATIENCE it more than just a virtue

It's a state of mind

It's a way of life

IT kills the soul

and causes the heart stress and excessive beats

most times patience takes a lot of practice and lasts for what seems like

FOREVER

but the longer it lasts

the harder it becomes

to be PATIENT

you want answers

to your questions

you want the grade

for that paper

you want the date

of happiness to come

you want the girl

or the guy

you want something and the PATIENCE to wait for it

kills you!

But when your PATIENCE is running thin and you feel like giving in

just remember that I'm here

being PATIENT too

and even though it's

KILLING ME

I will continue to live in

PATIENCE

because some things

are worth being PATIENT for.

SUNDAY PODIUM

● How can this child be told to ASPIRE to be whatever she ASPIRES to be? Where will she get the INSPIRATION to continue doing exceptionally well? I have digressed, but I hope you get the point I'm trying to make today. Our attitude towards education in this country is terrible, appalling to say the least, especially considering that we have a vision of being a First World country by 2022.

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

As schools opened a fortnight, I have learnt of the many ordeals concerning children who have been turned back from school because they haven't paid their fees.

One particular case that touched me was one of a 13 year-old girl who passed the external Grade Seven examinations with flying colours (a useful and wasteful examination for that matter, if I may mention) but unfortunately her only parent couldn't afford to pay her fees.

Fortunately for this girl, she has a guardian – something that many of these unprivileged children aren't blessed with. Oh my, gone are the days where the raising a child in Swaziland and Africa as a whole wasn't just the parents' task, rather a whole community. Fast forward to the 21st century, people in this country and continent are either too busy building-up their own riches to even give and share a bit with others – even their own flesh and blood in family (that's a story for another day though) or simply just don't care.

Anyways, moving right along, the guardian then took on the task of finding a spot for this child at St Michael's Girl's School in Manzini – one of the top schools in the region and consequently the country. Albeit the fact that this young lady attained a Merit, she was told she couldn't learn at the school because she couldn't pay the required deposit, said to be somewhere around E6 000. The guardian, who also just wanted to offer help also couldn't afford the deposit, and hence they proceeded to a much affordable school, Lozitha High School. Now, no disrespect to Lozitha as a school and the quality of their education, but can you imagine the pain this child has gone through and what this has done to her. Also the guardian knows that this child will now depend on her to proceed to other grades and it hurts to even think about tertiary.

How can this child be told to ASPIRE to be whatever she ASPIRES to be?



PRINCIPALS NEED A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE



Where will she get the INSPIRATION to continue doing exceptionally well?

I have digressed, but I hope you get the point I'm trying to make today. Our attitude towards education in this country is terrible, appalling to say the least, especially considering that we have a vision of being a First World country by 2022.

Education has turned to be a privilege for the few and this is working against our own vision. I have complained time and again on this very column about the mess in our tertiary institutions, but now it's quite clear that the rot emanates from the roots.

I do not want to come across as inconsiderate to the fact that principals run schools and therefore need money for a number of things that aid in the day-to-day running of the school to ensure effectivity, but it is just not right!

Can't they find a better solution of dealing with such a situation, because chucking a child out of class or sim-

ply denying them the opportunity of walking into one just because their fees haven't been paid for seems rather bit drastic.

Also, as I said, we need to find a proper solution, and not handle it as carelessly as our South African neighbours have done. Sheesh, I don't want to dwell much on this.

Problem

I also have a problem, a big one for that matter with these school fees that have insurance and stationery with exaggerated prices, for example in the breakdown of some school's fees, I learnt that an instrument as a ruler can cost about E3 each and there's also money being charged for things such as insurance. Bullocks! As the Brits would say.

Insurance? What insurance is this anyways? I am still going to give St Michael's Principal Stanley Dlamini a ring to quiz Umlangeni about this charge because I know that his school is one of those that charges insurance. To me, these school fees that hike each

and every year are working against our development as a country. The million Dollar question therefore is what happens to all this children whose parents cannot afford to pay these fees? Well this answer is simple – crime.

Tears

I was close to tears last week when I read a story published by our sister paper, the Swazi Observer daily of two young men who were arrested for the murder committed on New Year's Eve. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw that one of those charged with the atrocious crime was a former classmate of mine.

This young man used to be one of the quietest and quite frankly on of the oldest in our class back in the primary school days. As the youngest, liveliest and somehow smartest at the time, I used to help him with his homework, and I remember vividly he had a torrid time with English and Math. In return, I was never bullied and of course a guaranteed spot in the start-

ing eleven of our class football team.

We wrote our primary school examinations and he passed but he told me he wasn't sure if he would make it to high school because his mother who resided with him and his four other siblings in one of the notorious areas in Manzini was sickly and hence couldn't afford his fees. I was shattered, but there was nothing I could do about it. He never came for high school, and as a matter of fact, he never attended school again because he had to start making means of putting food on the table for his siblings.

Now, seven years later, here I am tears smuggling my ink as I pen the ordeal of a young man who could have helped develop our economy, but now he is wasting the taxpayer's money in a correctional facility. I know this young man, and I know the potential he had.

He wanted to go to school, but he just couldn't afford school, and unfortunately decided to go with the wrong company to help him feed his family and be the man.

This example is one of but many other young people in this country who resort to criminal ways. Look at all these young girls selling their bodies to the highest bidder. For some of us who happen to travel during the dead of the night every now and then feel the pain and it makes one imagine if it was their very own daughter or sister or mother even. Some of those girls have daily jobs, but because of the alarming poverty and unemployment in the country, they have to make means of extra cash. Most uneducated people have to make ends meet by using criminal ways because for them to make a living, they will have to get a basic salary job, which certainly won't feed the number of dependants they have.

Telling a child that they cannot continue learning at your school because they haven't paid fees doesn't just work against the development of a country that is aiming to have experts in every field to enable viable economic activity, but it screams downright inhumanity. *Thank you.*

Analysis & opinion

BY SHALINI VOHRA

WHY THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE AUTISTIC CHARACTERS IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Senior Lecturer in Marketing, Sheffield Hallam University

Autistic characters in children's books are few and far between.

The children's writer Michael Morpurgo has written a new novel inspired by his autistic grandson, which is set to be published later this year. *Flamingo Boy* is set in the Camargue in the south of France during World War II and features a boy who "sees the world differently".

Morpurgo explained how it didn't occur to him to write a book about autism until his grandson was born, which isn't totally surprising – as autistic characters in books are few and far between.

Fiction plays a significant role in shaping how people understand and respond to autism. And in this way, books are often used by both schools and parents to help children and young people understand more about autism.

But the limited and skewed portrayal of autism means it is often misrepresented rather than represented in fiction. For an autistic child or young person this can be extremely isolating and they are often unable to find a version of "themselves" in a book.

There aren't many autistic characters in children's books. Pexels.

The sad reality is many authors and publishers – perhaps from fear of causing offence – appear to steer clear of autistic characters in their narrative. As a consequence, books with autistic characters are either tucked away in the special section of bookshops and libraries, or absent altogether.

WRITING TOGETHER

My research looks at the role fiction plays in creating awareness and acceptance of autism among children, as well as how the portrayal of autism in children's books shapes how autism is understood and responded to. As part of the research, I recently put on an interactive discussion at the Festival of Social Science around the topic of how autism is portrayed in children's fiction.

The panel included Vicky Martin, writer of *M is for autism* and *M in the middle*, and Amanda Lillywhite, writer and illustrator of picture books including *Friends*, written for the Neuro Foundation which works to improve the lives of those affected by neurofibromatosis – a genetic condition caused by a mutation in one of their genes. On the panel was also Elaine Bousfield, founder of new publishing house Zuntold. And the audience consisted of autistic children, young people and adults. As well as parents of autistic children, secondary school teachers, academics and the general public.

One of the key topics discussed at the event was around the idea of "co-production". This is where books are written in collaboration with autistic children and young people – much like the *M in the Middle* series, which was authored by Martin, but written jointly with girls of Limpsefield Grange, a school for autistic girls.

MAKING MAGIC HAPPEN

The story of *M* has captured the hearts of readers and already result-

ed in a sequel to the first book. The girls of Limpsefield Grange have also featured in an ITV documentary *Girls with autism*. Why? Because *M* is the story of an autistic teenage girl who is interesting, endearing and real.

She's written and created with a group of teenage autistic girls. Big chunks of the book is written verbatim, with their very words, and the rest is heavily edited by them. It doesn't get more real than that. *M* is the one girl they all created together.

With younger children, drawing or

comic workshops might be a more accessible way of getting them to think about characters. Pexels.

Similarly, as a part of her book for the Neuro Foundation, Lillywhite spent time with children with neurofibromatosis. They spoke about themselves and their experiences of things that matter not just to them but also to many other children, such as bullying. And while all the characters in the book have the genetic disorder neurofibromatosis, the stories aren't about that and are just as



● The sad reality is many authors and publishers – perhaps from fear of causing offence – appear to steer clear of autistic characters in their narrative. As a consequence, books with autistic characters are either tucked away in the special section of bookshops and libraries, or absent altogether.



relevant for every child.

GETTING HEARD

Autism is extremely diverse and perhaps the only way to have a good representation of it in fiction is by having lots of autistic characters – in comics, in picture books and in novels.

Publishers too have an important role to play in garnering collaborations and bringing work co-produced with autistic children and young people to market – much as in the *M* books. Publishing house Zuntold, for example, has an interactive novel writing project which encourages people to write the next piece.

Ultimately, every story – whether in life or fiction – has characters, and all characters are different. So given that autism affects more than one in 100 people, there needs to be more done to represent the outside world inside story books.

Millions of people have a relative on the autism spectrum. And it is only by making autistic characters a part of mainstream books that we can hope for widespread understanding and acceptance of autism.

The Conversation

THE RIGHT TO VOTE - VOTER EDUCATION SHOULD NOT WAIT TILL THE LAST MILE

Our people must be adequately empowered to embrace the ideals of understating that it is a desired culture and constitutional right to elect trustworthy people.



By Comfort Mabuza

Bravo to the Elections and Boundaries Commission for finally engaging Civil Society this past Wednesday at Sibane Hotel and conference centre.

Mr Chairman, Chief Gija and your team you are now responding to what has been bothering civil society for many years.

Why do we have to wait for voter civic education till the last minute and not engage people in between elections? Why do we leave such an important national exercise to chance, only run the 100 metres sprint? Voter education is a process not an event and should empower the masses. We already are way behind schedule. If there are 60 proposed *Tinkhundla* and hundreds of Royal Kraals that must be reached, how then are we supposed to adequately empower our people adequately? Surely to expect civil society to do justice to this national exercise is quite cumbersome indeed. Nonetheless, thank you for affording us an opportunity to engage your secretariat as critical partners in development. Right to vote is a fundamental human rights issue that should be done collectively. All people should be empowered and given adequate knowledge to choose deserving candidates from an informed position. Nonetheless, we thank the Commission for engaging the Civil Society and hearing our views. Better late than never.

VOTER EDUCATION IS KEY

We have time and again made presentations that there is need to engage Civil Society on the voter education process. This is a tedious process with many facets needing strategic interventions and well thought strategies. People must grasp the electoral system and be empowered on an ongoing basis about their rights to vote. This complex undertaking cannot be done adequately in six to eight months.

I am sitting here and wondering how we are to strategically cover so many chiefdoms in such a short time? Explaining some of the electoral laws and the very intricacies involved in this very vital national exercise is no magic. This should not be a sprint but a well-run marathon which should be an ongoing disciplined process in-between the elections. There is urgent need to review the manner EBC is doing voter civic education honestly. Aren't we expect-

RIGHT=VOTE



ing miracles in this time and age? One would appeal that civil society be allowed as part of their mandate to empower citizens on an ongoing basis just as we do with other national empowerment initiatives. I see no crime to empower citizens on their rights to vote and this should become their culture and way of life, *Yindzaba yetfu sonkhe!*

DEMOCRACY IS NOT AN EVENT BUT A PROCESS

'The right to vote is a citizens' democratic right and should be instilled in their minds and become a desired culture. Like those who preach the Gospel message, you do it over and over again. Our people must be adequately empowered to embrace the ideals of understating that it is a desired culture and constitutional right to elect trustworthy people. They should not be taken for a ride because of the lack of information. No one entity should hold us hostage for accessing information because access to any information is a fundamental human rights matter. In a normal multi-party democracy, voters engage their representatives and call them to account for their decisions they make that has all the potential to affect their wellbeing. This can only happen if there is an ongoing feedback and people empowered to know they have power to recall ineffective politicians. This requires adequate time and processes of reaching out to the masses periodically with the view of keeping them informed.

Any democratic order must be engaging the masses on an ongoing basis. Democracy is giving power to the people, and as long as citizens are not adequately empowered, we are being unfair to the masses. Democracy in simple layman's term is giving voice and power to the peo-

ple to choose preferred candidates of their own choice to lead on their behalf. Such a desired culture takes time to instil and establish. Hence our humble appeal that voter education should not wait till the last hour.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA STRATEGY

Reaching out to the people require an effective communication and media strategy. Right from the very EBC set-up to the very civil society formations, there must be a robust effective communications and media strategic crafted. Even though the Swazi media population is 1.2 million citizens, speaking one language, we still must ensure there is healthy communications and media information dissemination. In this time and age free flow of information cannot be left to chance. Invigorate the usage of new media platforms, yes the Facebook, Twitter, Whatsup and Toll free platforms as part of a healthy information free-flow communicating the message to the masses. Let us forget, this is about people enjoying their fundamental right to choose their preferred people. Reaching the voters to share information becomes critical. Communications lines must be opened and clear as information is the oxygen that pumps life to a desired democratic culture. It will be folly to think and assume that EBC's lines for communications are effective currently.

Urgently employ the new media now that will become a strategic and innovative means of reaching out in availing needed information about the electoral system. Where are the toll-free lines where people can phone or send short-messages (Sms) to create awareness? Such a strategy must

create lines and channels of communications as part of feedback, also. It should be about empowerment and ensuring that people's voices are being heard. A desired communications and media cannot be overemphasised is more desirable as part of empowering the masses. Ideally, such a needed strategy must be jointly crafted with stakeholders, because as it stands, we will be confusing the people in the process. I hope this will be given due attention as it's all about ensuring EBC communicate a clear message and not allow speaking in different 'tongues'.

VOTER EDUCATION MANUAL

Voter education by nature is about empowering citizens so that they make informed decisions. It is about exercising one's right to vote from an informed position. As matters stand, EBC should avoid bringing confusion to the masses by allowing a free-for-all Voting manuals, but give guidance on guidelines on what exactly is allowed and permissible as part of the elections processes. Those who are into the civic education process, will attest that any manual must be pretested before it becomes an acceptable document. I am asking myself with only about six months to go, how organizations will ensure that issues to be taught to the voters meet EBC agreed standards and principles. One is even wondering that even the language used must be user friendly. Voter education addresses bread and butter issues, citizens therefore should relate to any manual that gives them power to influence any governing system. We are appealing that such issues be adequately engaged because only then make mockery to the masses to come in a swift speed and expect people to grasp what is intended. From where I am sitting EBC should take lead and ownership in ensuring the content to be taught by civil society meets certain guidelines and minimum standards. It certainly does not add up to assume there is voter education going on in the country when the information being disseminated is not monitored and meeting acceptable best practices in an ideal democratic order. What exactly are we to teach the masses so they are more enlightened and empowered to choose deserving candidates. It certainly boils down to the ensuring that the manuals are somehow communicating the desired messaging and content.

STRONGER COLLABORATIONS

We are at pains calling for more collaborations between EBC and Civil society in ensuring that elections are well executed. We stand at a threshold of empowering people and giving them a voice to choose well. This is their democratic right and such a process requires a collective effort of ensuring that people are well knowledgeable of their rights and power to recall non-performing political leaders too. They should be enabled how they can track politician's performance in deliver on the promises made during the electioneering.

Cannon-performing politicians be recalled under the present system of governance as part of recalling? Should people wait for five years to recall those not delivering? Right to vote is giving power to the masses - *Phez komkhono - Asekufundziswa!*



JOY NDWANDWE'S ZONE LEADERSHIP

January 2018 commenced with significant losses within Pan African and Africa Renaissance activism.

Professor Willie Kgositsile and Bra Hugh Masekela, however, we celebrate their lives and they left volumes body of works for future generations. Their passing does not leave a void, normally expressed as 'we have lost a library.' These two activists, we will mourn by heading to the library for enrichment and wisdom from their body of works. They were and continued to be rebels with causes shaped by humiliation and dehumanisation they witnessed in South African and America. They were young adults during the Sharpeville massacre and went into exile, landed in United States during the height of Civic Rights movements, where they further experienced racism. These two tiny bombs propelled into using their voices, ensuring Pan Africanism and African Renaissance is real to those colonised by colonialism, captured by coloniality. Professor Willie, did not teach me at University of Botswana as he was in Humanities, I was studying accounting. What I truly appreciate about these two activist is, they never assimilated and remained true to their African identity, and may their souls rest in internal peace.

Global Icon

Bra Hugh was born for greatness and his mixed race background enabled him to be comfortable in both worlds of his cultural identity. Nurtured into greatness at 14 years by Huddleston through the Huddleston Jazz Band, at St Peters School, with his cousin and friend Jonas Gwangwa. They subsequently moved to New York where they were in exile after the Sharpeville massacre, Bra Hugh studied at the Royal Academy of Music, the then Manhattan School of Music. Bra Hugh was part of the King Kong Orchestra, collaborated with Abdullah Ibrahim, Makey Ntshoko, Kippie Moeketsi. In New York, he was collaborating with Dizzy Gillespie, John Dankworth, Harry Belafonte, and most significantly learning about the humiliation and dehumanisation of African Americans and Africans in the United States of America.

This must have been an exasperating time for young Hugh, in exile and yet experiencing racism in a foreign land with limited family support. However, this is the journey of global icons; they must understand the significance and relevance of the message to the global population. Miles Davis's 'rejection' shifted Bra Hugh from Jazz into African Style fused with Jazz and Funk, embedded with anti-apartheid messages for the global community. His soul blew the trumpet when delivering his messages into international spaces, *Stimela* the lifetime classical, teaching on the regional humiliation and dehumanisation of migrate labourers. The Apartheid regime's evil systems where being stumped on, every dance floor was cursing this system whenever *Stimela* was sung, exposing collective exploitation of humanity.

Bra Hugh collaborated with Nigeria's icon Fela Kuti, Dudu Pukwana, Eddie Gomez, the Hedzoleh of Ghana, and Herb Alpert in the 1970's. This global icon was transforming into a messenger of hope for ending and stumping against apartheid within the global village. His voice was profound and respected even during turbulent moments, such as the A.N.C cultural boycott, he collaborated with Paul Simon on Graceland. In my view, this stand affirmed music as a unifying cultural resources, this became evident when he recorded *Bring Back Nelson Mandela*. The song that caused more stumping against apartheid, as it was like a religious mantra to anti-apartheid activists. Bra Hugh's songs whether through portrayal of cultural romanticism or anti-apartheid messages, contributed positively to Pan Africanism and African Renaissance, globally.

Heritage Activist

Bra Hugh toured Africa, lived in the western world; this must have further anchored his heritage activism. This yearning for heritage is evi-

FAREWELL BRA HUGH #RIPHUGH



dent in his 1968 *Grazing in the Grass*, seven years after being in exile. This nostalgia must have been temporary healed in the 70's when touring West Africa, an experience that brought the best of Bra Hugh. He immersed in numerous cultural contexts, thus, enabling his soul to open up to heritage activism. As a Pan Africanist and Renaissance activist must evolved into broader cultural contexts for heritage activism to emerge. Bra Hugh evolved from South African cultural myopic views, into the African American, experienced West African culture, and enriched his heritage.

The Fela Kuti song, African Woman you go say, expresses the profound enrichment that Bra Hugh experienced, and its also telling of his love for African women. Later, his passion for African women emerges, Tandayi, Akasatshebanga uNomalungelo, this heritage activism sent a strong message warning women on obesity. The African heritage within Bra Hugh is profound when singing Ngobese, the anti-xenophobic mantra. As he had travelled and experienced African heritage, he could not condone the humiliation and dehumanisation of Africans by other Africans. His participation in the Graceland with Paul Simon and Black Mambazo expressed the profoundness of his heritage activism. As this Graceland project created global common heritage, that also saw the rise of Black Mambazo's into international space, now with numerous Grammy awards. Bra Hugh set up a mobile studio in Botswana in the 1980's, where his heritage was now lived experience within the SADC member states. This is when as students we hosted him during Africa day, under the leadership of Qiba Cawe. We were activists reclaiming the place of African heritage, and this was our day to affirm this heritage activism within campus. This Bra Hugh concert sabotaged, lights disconnected and show cancelled due to detractors. We spent time with Bra Hugh at Royal Swazi Hotel after the sabotage; we felt a sense of achieving our objective. Nothing is impossible and

African heritage celebrated by youth, and Bra Hugh honoured the invitation as were youth in action. Hence, Bra Hugh was a heritage activist, who remained intergenerational and most significantly taught us to be proud of our heritage.

Conclusion

In conclusion, after my expulsion from University of Swaziland, transferred to Botswana, we were stumping to the anti-apartheid and African heritage mantras of Bra Hugh. When in Montreal the Miriam Makheba and Hugh Masekela Reunion international show, we were stumping to our African heritage. This show was unaffordable, I recalled using my look alike features with Miriam to get discounts for members of the anti-apartheid movement. Back in Swaziland, Continental Restaurant courtesy of Shirley and Robert we were stumping our African heritage in Mbabane.

Bra Hugh is resting in peace, as he has overcome the cancer pains; today his soul is with God. He overcame the drugs and alcohol that almost ruined him, and he became a social activism on substance abuse. Paradoxically, all Bra Hugh's life experiences anchored his activism; apartheid turned him into an anti-apartheid activist. Racism turned him into an anti-racism activist, and living in exile made him an anti-xenophobia activist. Most significantly denied access to his heritage through apartheid and living in exile made him a heritage activist. All these experiences enabled Bra Hugh to enrich us as his was of service to humanity, walking the talk of his lyrics, *Thuma Mina!* Bra Hugh embodied all of these experiences with his soul, shared them with us through his trumpet, singing and dancing, thus, we all feel the loss. He shared every bit of himself on stage; hence, I appreciate his family requesting a private burial. As this is his last private moment, he deserves it as he has served us well, and he continues to serve us through his library collection. We can read his book, and continue stumping to his mantras on the dance floors, as he is our global and African heritage icon.

VOICE OF BUSINESS



The year 2018 will mark the second year of the implementation of the Costed Action Plan of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap, 48-year blueprint that outlines proposals on transformation of the region from a resource-based economy to one that is driven by innovation and high industrial productivity.

The Costed Action Plan on Industrialisation, approved by the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in the Kingdom in March 2017, allocated about US\$100 million for coordination of the industrialisation agenda at the level of SADC Secretariat and member states over the 15-year period extending from 2015-2030.

It seeks to establish a coherent and synergistic implementation scheme containing strategic options and general policies towards the progressive attainment of time-bound targets set out in the strategy and roadmap. The action plan aims to create an enabling environment for sustaining industrial development as a driver of economic transformation; and establish an enduring alliance for industrialisation consisting of the public and private sectors as well as strategic partners. Strategic interventions proposed under the action plan include an improved policy environment for industrial development, increased volume and efficiency of public and private sector investments in the SADC economy, creation of regional value chains and participation in related global processes, as well as increased value addition for agricultural and non-agricultural products and services. In order to improve the operating environment, there are plans to develop and operationalise a Protocol on Industry by 2020, which should lead to the development of industrialisation policies and strategies at national level.

These are in the areas of agro-processing, minerals beneficiation, consumer goods, capital goods, and services. A detailed value chain study is proposed for specific products or services in the priority areas.

As part of the process of promoting value-chain participation, there are plans to develop model legislation and regulations for intra-SADC agro-processing, minerals beneficiation and other manufacturing activities and services. A related and complementary activity expected to be undertaken during the coming year will be operationalisation of the proposed SADC University of Transformation, the brainchild of His Majesty King Mswati III.

The university will be a regional institution to train citizens in innovation and entrepreneurship as part of efforts to transform southern Africa into an industrialised region. Swaziland has offered to host the training institution and pledged to offer scholarships to 300 students – 20 each per member state for the initial intake.

The SADC Council of Ministers at its last meeting held in South Africa in August 2017 called on ministers responsible for education and training; and science, technology and innovation in member states to expedite the finalisation of the preparatory work for the

CONSOLIDATING STABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT KEY IN 2018

operationalisation of the university. The ministers are expected to submit proposals to council at its next meeting in March 2018.

On energy development, SADC is set to establish a regional Inter-State Natural Gas Committee that will be charged with ensuring the inclusion and promotion of natural gas in the regional energy mix and with facilitating "an increase in universal access to energy as well as industrial development in SADC." According to the SADC Energy Monitor launched at the 36th SADC Summit in the country in 2016, the contribution of gas to the regional energy mix is still very minimal, accounting for a mere 1.3 per cent of the total power generation mix. The low share of natural gas in the regional energy mix belies the fact the southern Africa has some of the largest deposits of gas in the world. New offshore natural gas finds along the Mozambique coast are expected to be a "game changer" for the country and the southern African region. The country has estimated recoverable natural gas reserves of between 15 trillion and 30 trillion cubic feet (tcf), enough to meet one year's gas consumption by the United States.

Efforts will be stepped up towards ensuring that the first-ever surplus electricity-generation capacity time experienced by SADC last year in over a decade is maintained through the commissioning of new power generation projects. The surplus is partly due to a slowdown in the South African economy but also the result of the coordinated approach in implementation of the SADC energy programme, which has seen a number of new power plants commissioned over the past few years.

Agriculture and food security will remain a top priority for SADC following a slow start to the agricultural season. At the continental level, the SADC region will work with other regional economic communities to conclude efforts to operationalise the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) as well as establish the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). The TFTA is an enlarged market covering 27 countries in eastern and southern Africa including the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and SADC.

At least 24 of the 27 countries have signed the agreement to establish the TFTA, which aims to facilitate the smooth movement of goods and services across borders, as well as allowing member countries to harmonise regional trade policies to promote equal competition. Negotiations for the CFTA were expected to conclude by the end of 2017. However, various challenges affected the discussions, and expectations is that concrete agreements will be made during the year.

Buoyed by the relative peace and political stability that has been obtained in the region for the past few years as well as the smooth transition of power experienced in three member states last year – Angola, the Kingdom of Lesotho and Zimbabwe – the SADC region will seek to maintain the same peaceful and tolerance atmosphere in 2018 when at least four countries hold elections. The Democratic of Congo, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and our own country are scheduled to go to the polls this year.

The Voice of Business calls for peaceful elections as the country intensifies efforts to deepen economic integration and achieve sustainable development and stability. In the year 2018, Swaziland is set to strengthen efforts to implement programmes and projects aimed at meeting various key milestones, including those on infrastructure development and industrialisation.



**NOKUKHANYA
GAMEDZE**

JA BOARD CHAIR

HOW LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES PREPARE GIRLS FOR THE WORKPLACE

Globally, girls perform academically at par with boys and often even out-perform them in school.

But when it comes to leadership during their careers women fall behind. This phenomenon is manifested consistently in many parts of the world, and especially in Africa where the C-suites are often devoid of female leaders. In fact, a study by Accenture in 2010 suggested that women are more resilient at work. Why then are women absent from or under-represented in leadership positions at executive level? Why do women choose to serve more on voluntary boards, at church and in civic spheres, leaving business and government leadership to be dominated by men?

Interestingly, the evidence overwhelmingly suggests that women disadvantage themselves and that the many of the limitations to leadership are as much internal as they are external.

While some circumstances impede women from professional success (such as a phenomenon dubbed PhD – Pull her Down), we have also learned that there are things that can be done with women – with girls – at a young age to help them prepare for the challenges and opportunities that leadership at the highest levels present. Today we shall benchmark from other African countries in the content where Junior Achievement exist as to how their nature their girls to take up leadership positions. Perhaps this will assist us benchmark as a country.

In Uganda and Nigeria, JA Africa runs leadership camps for girls annually, bringing together girls with female professionals at the top of their companies to exchange knowledge and learning.

The Girls in Leadership camp in Uganda, is a programme that was replicated from Norway called Female Future. It was originally championed by the Norwegian Federation of Employers to bridge the gen-



**Elizabeth Bintliff,
JA Africa CEO
making her
remarks during the
recent company of
the year competi-
tion.**

der disparity at senior levels in organisations and boards. Originally targeting women already in the workplace, it was then adapted to target young women before they enter the workforce, while they are making decisions about their careers in order to build their interests and ambition before society convinces them to alter their options and ambitions.

Within the Ugandan context, mentorship for girls through leadership camps like these is particularly important.

In addition to dealing with the absence of female executive leadership, they also help counter other challenges like dominant patriarchal systems and child marriage. JA Uganda introduces girls to this concept by encouraging them to start as managing directors in the companies they develop as they receive training in JA's flagship Company Program.

During a period lasting up to 30 weeks' students develop and manage companies from capitalisation to liquidation, developing business ideas, planning, appointing management, selling shares, developing products, marketing, making profits, managing shareholders, etc. "All of these have a multifaceted impact," says Josephine Kaleebi, the Executive Director of JA Uganda. "It helps them set their life plan. It helps them stay in school."

Over the last five years, the JA Girls in Leadership camp has pulled together girls from the ages of 14-19 to help them develop their life plans; learning important lessons on a variety of subjects including health, wealth, family, professionalism, etc.

During a three-day period the 200 girls who attend each year are coached by accomplished professional women from influential companies like Barclays Bank,

Stanbic Bank and others. They begin to think about what kinds of jobs they aspire to have and what it takes to get there, they explore how many children they want to have, what kinds of schools they want their children to go to and the affordability of their lifestyles including school fees, health insurance and vacations. They begin to understand the implications of all their life decisions. "The programme helps young girls to think about life purposefully and to start that now," says Kaleebi. "It triggers self-discovery, ambition to lead that goes hand in hand with practicing leadership among other things."

In JA Uganda's programme, modules take girls through different aspects of their lives that are components of success, like the importance of physical education and finding the balance between personal appearance and substance. "The magic in you" helps them

understand and optimise their personal gifts as well as overcome the limitations of their personal backgrounds, whether they be from poor backgrounds, broken families, low academic performance, etc.

They learn etiquette, self-awareness, how to navigate difficult professional crossroads, finding the courage to make bold decisions in the workplace, build financial resilience, manage peer pressure, speak publicly. Last year, speakers at the camp included powerful women like Irene Birungi Mugisha, CEO of All Round Consult Uganda Limited and Clara Mira, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Country Representative sharing on self-discovery. From their mentors in the camp they learn to demystify the myths of professional women.

An important component of empowering girls is ensuring that boys are able to understand the implications of marginalising women leaders in the workplace and embrace gender diversity. In 2014 boys were introduced into the programme, though their participation was intentionally capped at a third of participants. "We wanted boys to know what it feels like to be a woman in the minority at the top of leadership," says Josephine, "but it is important to bring both [genders] on board. We need to create a situation where boys are enablers. We need to balance the need to empower girls with the need not to leave boys behind. Girl child empowerment needs to be in a comprehensive context."

I came across a British entrepreneur last week who told me something peculiar.

He was on the brink of sealing a deal with a venture capital firm that was ready to put several million pounds into his company when the investors asked him to do something he had never done before: take a psychometric test.

It was actually a series of tests involving phone calls, an online questionnaire and eventually a face-to-face interview with a corporate psychologist who said there was one important thing the investors wanted to know about him. Was he a psychopath? "He said about 10 per cent of entrepreneurs are clinically psychopaths," the businessman told me. "I assume I'm not, because I got the investment." What struck me about this story was not the idea of the corporate psychopath, fascinating as it is.

Nor that some testers still think 10 per cent of business types are psychopaths when headlines suggesting this a few years ago turned out to be suspect. It was more that this was yet another depressing reminder of the relentless spread of psychometric testing. Once

OUR FAITH IN PSYCHOMETRIC TESTING IS FLAWED



confined to places such as the civil service and executive suite, tests can now be brandished at anyone

from a teacher to a town councillor. Private equity and venture capital firms use them more since the

2008 financial crisis, one expert told me, chiefly to "spread accountability if it all goes horribly wrong".

Thankfully, I have been so useless at changing jobs I have never had to take one. But every time I hear



TOURISM & TRAVEL

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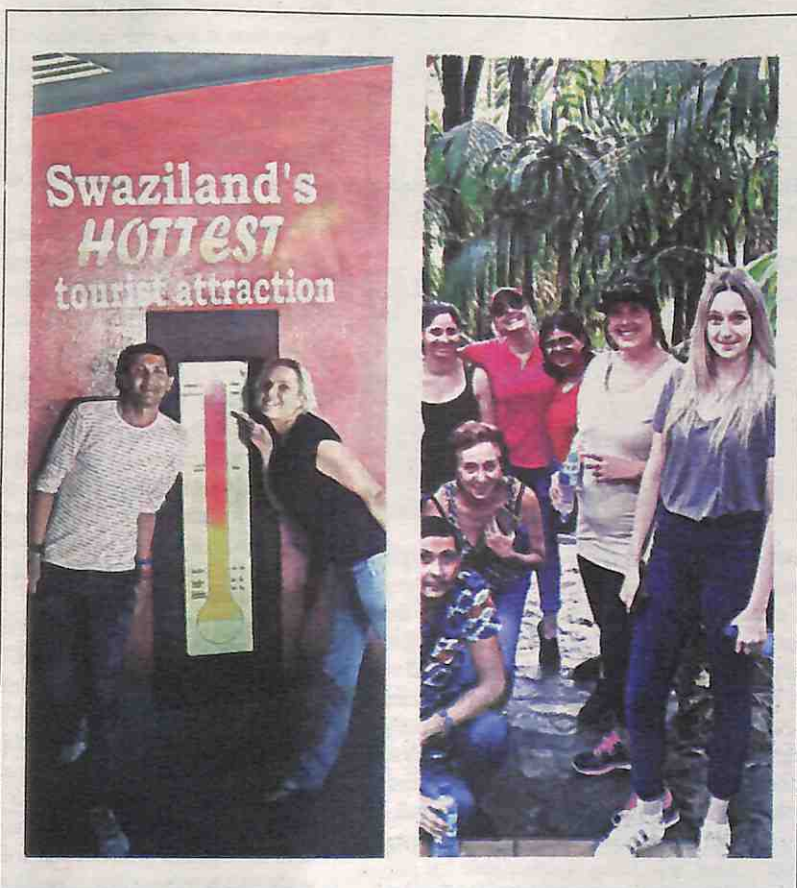


SPLENDID REVIEWS FROM SA TOUR OPERATORS

Never before, in the history of FAM trips organised and hosted by the Swaziland Tourism Authority (STA) for international trade or travel media, had the organisation seen a farewell as emotional as one experienced last Saturday at Malandela's in Malkerns.

STA had just hosted in the country a group of nine top notch and highly innovative tour operators, who collectively boast of thousands of international and South African clients. While they had been relatively unacquainted to each other prior to their six-day destination familiarisation (FAM) tour to Swaziland, the bond that was created among them was almost tangible. They, in unison, echoed how Swaziland had been their greatest revelation in years and vowed to prominently feature the kingdom in their tour packages going forward.

Now, to hear such was quite gratifying to the STA as the organisation ticked off the principal objective behind FAM trip as successful. From time to time, STA hosts tourism trade and travel media in the country, in a bid to expose them to realities surrounding Swaziland's tourism and hospitality offering. The four main pillars that drive tourism in the country are adventure, culture, wildlife, and natural beauty. In drawing up itineraries for these esteemed guests, who by and large become Swaziland tourism ambassadors when they return to their places of usual abode, STA does



attempt to include at least one activity from all the aforesaid pillars. The South African tour operators group which left last Sunday, for instance, were immediately whisked away to the north, where they appreciated the country's land-

scape and scenery. They met their first adventure activity at Malolotja Nature Reserve: the Tree Top Canopy Tour, which gave them a shot of the much needed adrenalin in preparation of the next five days that were to come. The



While the Hlane game drive was enjoyable, it turned out that the Mkhaya Game Reserve became the major highlight for most. They couldn't stop exclaiming how unprecedented that experience had been for them, with a few going further to proclaim it as their best-ever. Well, Mkhaya Game Reserve is home to some of the endangered species, including both the white and black rhino. While seeing rhinos at close range is almost guaranteed, it is the sleeping in windowless and partially open huts that adds the real thrill. For the uninitiated, it comes across as scary yet it is totally priceless once experienced.

A visit to the Swazi Candles factory in Malkerns almost saw Sharleen Ramcharan going on a shopping spree. Who can resist those colourful and creative candles, she asked. Juarnette exposed her creative side when she got an opportunity to make a candle, and made a beautiful giraffe. Everyone in the group, so they said, gasped seeing her creation. Perhaps Swazi Candles should consider hiring her. Well, what STA knows for certain is that she is already recommending the establishment to throngs of her clients and social media followers.

Winding off the trip at Malandela's restaurant for lunch on Saturday, and at Foresters Arms Hotel in Mhlambanyatsi for dinner was a well-deserved delight following an exhilarating, and perhaps highly physical week.

They were taken by the serenity of both places, and described them as both enchanting and addictive. Just exactly what STA had intended! So, there is every reason for them to bring more South African and international visitors to Swaziland, for a true royal experience.

oldest in the group, Angie Mendes (60+), braved the challenge and became one of the senior persons to ever conquer the Malolotja zip-line. She was quite upbeat over such a feat and promised to bring more people from South Africa for the same experience.

The natural beauty pillar was served justice, they said, by the pristine Phophonyane Eco Lodge in Piggs Peak. They all described the place as heavenly and vowed to include the establishments in their itineraries for the packages they will be developing on destination Swaziland. They also liked Piggs Peak Hotel & Casino, as much as they did Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary. It is in Mlilwane that they said they met a chef who deserves international recognition. However, listening closely, it turned out they actually enjoyed all the dishes served at other establishments they visited as well. For instance, Lisa Hood expressed how amused they were to find out that food served at Hlane Royal National Park was top class – something atypical of the wild.

Questionnaires are useful but experience shows teams can work well without them

of them I think of two men: Paul Flowers and Sir Ernest Shackleton.

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Mr Flowers, the disgraced ex-chairman of the UK's Co-operative Bank, was hired despite an uninspiring banking career after scoring well in

psychometric tests. Unhappily, the former church minister turned out to have a fondness for illegal drugs and will be forever known as the Crystal Methodist.

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<https://www.ft.com/content/8680e8e6-01e3-11e8-9650-9c0ad2d7c5b5>

Sir Ernest picked the crew for his voyage to Antarctica more than a century ago and comparing today's corporate world to that era is fraught. Yet I find his recruitment methods compelling.

"If he liked the look of a man, he was accepted. If he didn't, the matter was closed," wrote the journalist Alfred Lansing in his book about the voyage, *Endurance*.

There is no record of any interview lasting much more than five minutes. Sir Ernest chose a meteorologist with almost no qualifications for the post, plus a tactless, rough-edged second officer and a physicist he took a shine to after asking the man if he

could sing. All made it back alive after drifting on ice floes in the most savage conditions when their ship was trapped and crushed by pack ice. Gut instinct can obviously be flawed, especially if recruiters have never done the job themselves or are inclined to hire those of their own ilk, and perhaps testing helps in some cases. But the industry's expansion is a problem. The more it has grown, the more information there is online about how to beat tests, as a quick bit of googling shows. Test publishers are actually struggling in an "escalating arms race" against a shrewder generation of savvy applicants, says Andrew Munro, a Chartered Psychologist at the UK's Am Azure corporate talent management group. He still thinks tests can help, but are better at sifting out bad hires than predicting stars, and there is no recent evidence to show their predictive power has improved much in the past 30 years.

Yet on they go. One place the tests have failed to penetrate so far happens to be another polar outfit, the British Antarctic Survey research group. It sends a new crop of workers down to its remote icy stations each winter, when evacuation is risky, so smart recruitment is vital. It is done by a panel of polar experts and seems to work. The failure rate is small. Managers there say they are always looking to improve and once took part in a six-year study to see if psychological testing would help. The research showed some types of testing would boost the odds of picking suitable people.

But it also suggested that if certain criteria had been used, at least four candidates would have been rejected who were eventually rated as "exceptionally well adapted" by their station leader. It was decided the cost of testing outweighed the benefits. Shackleton would definitely approve.

By Pilita Clark

THE CALL I COULD NOT IGNORE

By Wilton Mamba



I have many years under my belt as a socio-political commentator.

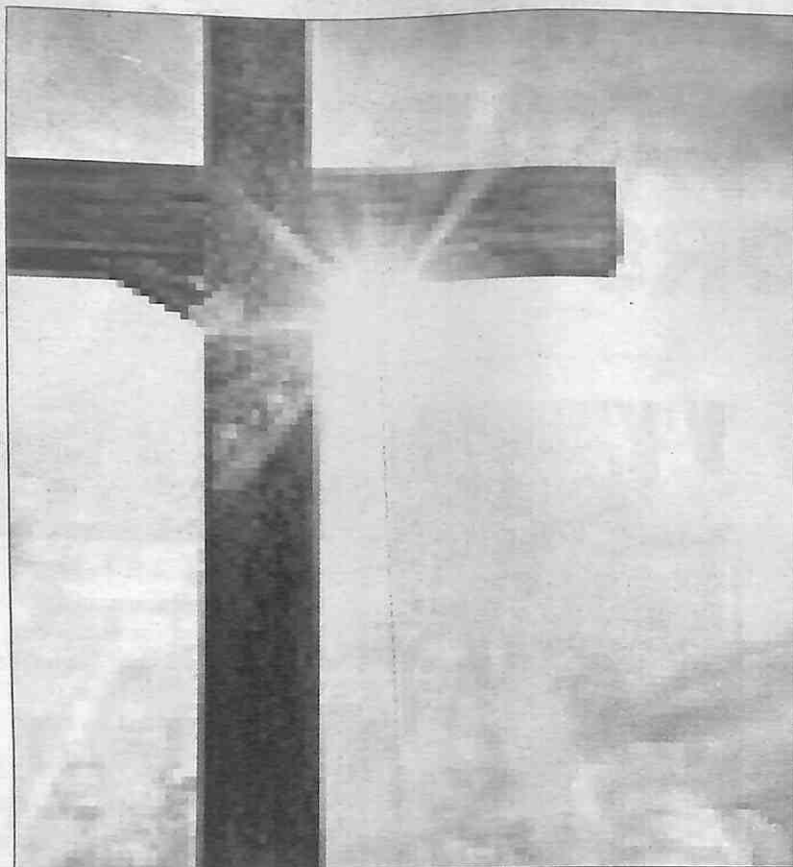
My footprint can be traced back to this newspaper, stable and others. And given this past experience, I should perhaps be writing about politics. After all, it is politics that I am more conversant with from a carnal point of view, and not spiritual matters for which many others are better qualified.

Well, experiences of the last eight years or so have proven to me that one needs no 'scholarly' qualification to 'lift the load with Jesus'.

I take comfort in the example of the Great High Priest Himself, a carpenter, born and bred, who had no education in the Law of Moses whatsoever – how He called to service men of little stature and education, if at all, to save lives from the lake of fire.

One July 10, I woke up from a dream, where specific instruction was given to me to read from **Zechariah 3**; a book I was previously not accustomed to reading. It was after the revelation and instruction given to me in the book of Zechariah that I started to research about both the author and Joshua, the subject of **Zechariah 3**. Zechariah was called to prophecy as a very young man, a member of the Great Synagogue that collected and preserved the canon of revealed scripture. You could call him a 'baby boomer', as he was among the first returnees to Palestine from Babylonian exile in the company of his grandfather, Iddo, under Zerubbabel and Joshua, the high priest. For some 50 years between 520 – 470 BC, Zechariah wrote and prophesied to encourage the Israelites as they recovered from Babylonian captivity, as well as inspire energy, identity, and vision during the rebuilding of the temple.

Zechariah's writing is apocalypse, like the Book of Revelations. Apocalypse means 'uncovering or unveiling, expressing the idea that God has made known to men



truths and realities, which men could not discover for themselves. This is opposed to 'general revelation', which refers to that which is given to all men, in nature and history, and in the nature of man himself (**Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:19**). It is due to its apocalyptic nature that God chose to communicate with me through this book. In **Zechariah 3**, I found the portion in our Father's Will that spoke to my case as he revealed Christ to Joshua, the high priest. And I received it! I quote from the AMP: **Zechariah 3**: 1. 'Then the guiding angel showed me Joshua the high priest (representing disobedient, sinful Israel), standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at Joshua's right hand to be his adversary and to accuse him'. This image is similar to that in Job 1, where Satan stands before the Lord, making accusations against the Lord's people. 2 'And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! Even

the Lord, who (now and ever) has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is this not a log snatched and rescued from the fire?' 3. 'Now Joshua was clothed with filthy (nauseatingly vile) garments and was standing before the Angel (of the Lord)'. The high priest represented the people of Israel before God, who like myself, were unclean as a result of their many sins – which had led to the captivity by Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon for 70 years. God held Satan accountable for this. 4 'He spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And He said to Joshua, "See, I have caused your wickedness to be taken away from you, and I will clothe and beautify you with rich robes (of forgiveness)'.

In an earlier vision, as I slept half-awake, wind blew inside the room and literally blew off the vest I wore, and upon waking up the cloth was in my hands. When the Angel told Joshua that God had for-



given his sins, I knew the kingdom had come for me (**Mark 9:1**); that defeat and failure were things of the past. I came to reckon that indeed Jesus took the punishment for me for all the evil things I ever did. I knew that it was only a matter of tarrying in Jerusalem, and God's full bouquet of Gifts of the Spirit would be following. Even then I knew that the forgiveness of sins meant healing for the salvation of my soul.

I knew this was no coincidence; the message was directed to me today as much as it was directed to Joshua, the high priest and Israel in ancient times.

I gave the passage to the person closest to me, my wife, not to seek her opinion but rather to have her bear witness to my day of redemption. As I kept reading, I knew there was no turning back: the call had been made, after so many years of seeking the Lord's face without success.

5. 'And I (Zechariah) said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head". So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with rich (garments). And the Angel of the Lord stood by. 6 'And the Angel of the Lord (solemnly and earnestly) admonished Joshua, saying, 7 "Thus says the Lord of hosts, "If you will walk in My Ways (that is remain faithful) and perform My service, then you will also govern My house and have charge of My courts, and I will give you free access (to My presence) among these who are standing here. 8. 'Now listen, Joshua, the high priest, you and your colleagues who are sitting in front of you – indeed they are men who are a symbol (of what is to come) – for behold, I am going to bring in My

servant the Branch (in Messianic glory). 9 'For behold, the stone which I have set before Joshua; on that one stone are seven eyes (symbolising infinite intelligence, omniscience). Behold, I will engrave an inscription on it,' declares the Lord of hosts, 'and I will remove the wickedness and guilt of this land in a single day (**2 Chronicles 16:19; Jeremiah 50:20; Zechariah 4:10**). 10 'In that day,' declares the Lord of hosts, 'everyone of you will invite his neighbour to sit under his vine and his fig tree (enjoying peace and prosperity in the kingdom).'" (**Micah 4:1-4**).

Now every message that purports to be from God must be examined in the light of God's word to see if indeed it is the will of God. When He saw the dispirited and distressed crowd, looking like sheep without a shepherd, Jesus said to His disciples, "The harvest is (indeed) plentiful, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest. (**Matthew 9:37-38**). That is the will of God – that we may be as many workers in his fields as much as there is work to be done.

Wilton Mamba is a student of servitude, a motivational speaker, writer, football coach and businessman. If you have been blessed by reading this article or seek clarification on some of the issues raised here, contact Wilton Mamba on 7677 9312 or 7977 0952 or 2404 5284. You can send an email at mambaw@multimediaintl.co.sz or m a m b a w - ilton.multimedia@gmail.com. Do not miss Mamba's 'Khulula Umphefumulo Kuchume Tinfo' motivational talk on SBS1 'The Breakfast Show'.

A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE



A report in the Sunday Observer of 21 January regarding cancer diagnosis was of grave concern.

A doctor lamented the fact that many cancer patients only sought medical attention when it was too late.

"We find patients coming to the hospitals after having endured pain and discomfort for months, if not years, because whatever ails them has debilitated them to the point of being bedridden," he said. The doctor went on to highlight that if cervical cancer was detected, they are able to operate locally, but once it was

past the first stage, patients would need to be taken to South Africa. Not only does this avoidable scenario turn out to be a much bigger expense, but it is also difficult for the patient to be taken away from home and go where family support is minimal or non-existent at a time they need it most.

People procrastinate seeking medical attention mostly out of genuine fear of pumping out money. However, we end up paying much more when we allow diseases to progress while we sit at home self-medicating. United General Insurance (UGI), a subsidiary of United Holdings, has a product that can ensure that you are able to access medical attention as and when you need it.

United Holdings is an associate of Dups Holdings.

United Health is a medical product designed to cater for the health needs of your family. While medical insurance usually sees people break into a cold

sweat because of the steep monthly contributions, United Health's medical services are affordable based on each person's preference. The premiums vary by product and by benefit, but there is sufficient support for varying health needs. It is our responsibility then, to ensure we are able to access medical assistance when we fall ill, get injured or have some concerns we would need medical advice on.

United Health allows us to attend to ailments that sneak up on us, but would be nipped in the bud if we went for regular check-ups. These include hypertension and diabetes. Then there are also those little niggles and aches that people experience and dismiss as insignificant when they are actually precursors to major health problems that are only discovered when it is too late, like cancer.

When you do not have medical insurance, you are likely to neglect your health

and your family's, by ignoring these little signs of your health being compromised.

United Health offers you cover on all the above and more. There are many advantages of getting the medical cover. Apart from the convenience of having a widespread branch network represented in all major towns and centres, allowing for ease of access for our clients the medical services are not just confined to Swaziland but can be obtained in South Africa as well. That means you can access medication from all reputable pharmacies in the two countries using your United Health membership card. United Health also has highly experienced and dedicated staff to ensure you are always getting a great service experience.

The conditions for service include: A one month general waiting period, and a 12 month waiting period on maternity. For optometry and dentures, there

is a six-month waiting period, while pre-existing conditions have a 12-month waiting period. To register for this medical cover, you need the following documentation: ID of the policy holder, ID of dependants (spouse, children, parents/parents-in-law), and proof of relationships to policyholder (birth certificates/marriage certificate). All copies of originals must be certified.

United Health covers the main policyholder, his or her spouse, up to four biological, adopted and stepchildren who are not older than 18 years. Parents, parents-in-law, additional spouse(s) and/or children can be added to the scheme at an additional premium.

Please give us a call on 2508 6000 or 2404 7676 to find out about United Health and how it can benefit you and your family.

You can also send queries to uquiries@dupsgroup.com, www.facebook.com/unitedhdsd or on Twitter @unitedhdsd or pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlanguano, Mbabane, Piggs Peak and Siteki.

MIND THAT
ERROR

ADIDI UYO



PM REVEALS WHAT ATTRACTS HIM TO A WOMAN is the headline of a news story in the Swazi News of December 16, 2017.

The rider reads: "Opens up about his love life, Jane in his book." Of interest to us in the story is Paragraph 9, and that is because the sentence therein contains the special item that we want to treat you to today, to wit, STOME.

In case you are not a regular reader Of MIND THAT ERROR, STOME is a denizen of this column: It is a lexical creature that was born here a couple of years ago, and it is still alive and kicking, here. The letters stand for Sentence with Two Or More Errors.

The aforementioned paragraph reads as follows: "He is not even timid to disclose even the most romantic thing he has ever done and the worst pickup line as he has written about those in his upcoming book." We can spot at least two errors in this sentence.

The first error is a very obvious one: redundancy. As you can see, the word, "even," is repeated in the sentence. But this is a lighter error than the second one. In terms of structure, what we have in Paragraph 9 is a simple sentence, but the predicate is not simple because of the way its elements have been mixed up.

For one thing, what does the phrase, "the worst pickup line," mean? It is not clear to this reader, particularly, because it is not separated from the construction which follows it. If we put a comma after the phrase, that may bring more clarity to the sentence as a whole. Definitely, the sentence suffers from an error of comma omission.

Talking still about clarity in the predicate, there is that pronoun, "those." What does it refer to? This is rather vague. Perhaps, if this pronoun is changed to "them," that may direct us to the two elements in this very sentence, viz., "the most romantic thing he has ever done" and "the worst pickup line," assuming we now know what the latter means!

Besides, we have the word, "upcoming." This is a clear error of faulty diction. The correct word is "forthcoming." The best that can be said of the two words is that they have "coming" in common. But they are not synonymous.

Considering all the foregoing observations, we may revise the sentence, thus: "He is not timid to disclose even the most romantic thing he has ever done and the worst pickup line HE HAS EVER DARED, BECAUSE he has written about THEM in his forthcoming book."

Before we move on to another STOME, let us look closely at the rider of the PM story, which reads, "Opens up about his love life, Jane in his book." Can you see any error here? There it is staring at you: comma omission. After the name, "Jane," as it here, there should be a comma. The rider should read, "Opens up about his love life, Jane, in his book." Alternatively, we may revise the rider, thus: "Opens up about his love life and Jane in his book." If you ask me, I'd say: "Go for the alternative revision."

The piece in a regular column of the Observer On Saturday, December 9, 2017, had a rather penetrating title: A GIRLFRIEND'S AFFAIR IS EPHEMERAL YOUR WIFE IS INDISPENSABLE. Lo, a comma after "ephemeral" would be in order. But I digress!

The second sentence in the second paragraph of the article is a STOME. It reads, thus: "Men themselves would have dated several girlfriends, impregnated many before they finally settle with this one he calls his wife." There are at least two

A TREAT OF STOME



errors in this sentence.

The first error in the sentence is that of comma omission. After "impregnated many," there should have been a comma. Better still, there should have been a coordinating conjunction, "and." Second error: Many would agree that the verbal phrase, "settle with," should be, "settle down with."

Pronoun

The third error is the gravest. It is that of faulty pronoun antecedent. The sentence begins with the plural noun, "men," but it ends with the singular pronouns, "he" and "his." We may revise the sentence, thus: "Men themselves would have dated several girlfriends, AND impregnated many before they finally settle DOWN with the one THEY call THEIR wife."

Let's see if we can find any STOME in this story with the headline, "Correctional secretive promotions exposed," Swazi Observer, February 1, 2018. Hmm, I think we can find one in the fourth paragraph! It reads: "The promotions were never shared with the media as per the norm because previously the media questioned the promotion of a particular officer, who is also said to be on the current list of officers promoted."

The sentence is laden with one or two presumptions which journalists are not supposed to make with regards to the relationship between them and the organisa-

tions that they cover, but that is not before us, since our sole concern here is grammar. Our first concern is the verbal phrase, "were never shared with." Methinks the more appropriate phrase is, "had not been previously shared with."

Then, there is the phrase that follows, to wit, "as per the norm." At best, this is a solecism, and at worst, journalese. A third problem with the sentence is the absence commas before and after the adverb, "previously." And yet another problem one can finger in the sentence is the comma after the word, "officer." The construction that follows the comma is a restrictive clause, and, as such, it should not be separated from the noun it is describing. This is an error of comma slice.

All said, the sentence may be revised, thus: "The promotions had not been previously shared with the media, as the case used to be, because, previously, the media questioned the promotion of a particular officer who is also said to be on the current list of officers promoted."

"COULD THEY BE HIT MEN...?" This question is the kicker of a headline that reads, 2 SA MEN FOUND WITH GUNS, 35 BULLETS. And it is the top story in the Swaziland Observer of February 2, 2018. The following is the sixth paragraph of the story.

"It is not clear what the South Africans were going to do with the weapons in the country, however

worth noting is that such incidence come at a time when the Royal Swaziland Police is searching for two South Africans who are believed to be involved in the public assassination of Victor Gamedze."

Errors

Say, how many errors can you spot in that sentence? Let me count how many I can spot: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6! Phew, the sentence has six errors, more than enough to make it belong to the family of STOME! Of the six mistakes in the sentence, perhaps No. 6 is the most interesting, even though it might not be the gravest. Do you want to know why?

Error #6 has to do with the word, "assassination." Here are two definitions of the word, "assassinate." One: "to murder (esp. a POLITICALLY important or prominent person) by surprise attack, usually for payment or from zealous belief." Two: "to murder an important or famous person, especially for POLITICAL reasons."

The words, POLITICALLY and POLITICAL, have been capitalised for purposes of emphasis: the word, "assassination," is not one that should be used lightly. Important and beloved as BUSINESSMAN Victor Gamedze is, he is not known for his politics or as a politician. That makes it wrong to use the word assassination for the killing that has roiled the land.

The special word for the murder of an important businessman is not

within my ken. So I cannot suggest such a term. But, surely, to use "assassination" for the murder of Victor Gamedze is an error of faulty diction. The beloved one will not be angry if we use the plain word, "murder," to refer to his brutal killing.

Error #1 in the sentence is that of comma splice. A comma has been used to join the first independent clause of the sentence to the second one. The correct punctuation mark here is either a full stop or a semicolon.

Error #2 is that of comma omission. After the conjunctive adverb, "however," there should be a comma. And Error #3 is a mistake of omission, as well: omission of an obligatory word. The phrase, "worth noting is that," if we must use it, should read, "worth noting is THE FACT that."

I really do not know whether Error #4 is just one mistake or two mistakes, but let me treat the problem with the phrase, "such incidence come," together as one. First, here, again, we have another of omission. The phrase needs the article, "an," – call it a determiner, if you are not a traditional grammarian – before the noun, "incidence." And one might argue that the word "incidence" should be "incident," instead. Furthermore, the plural verb, "come," coming after the singular noun, "incidence," is an error of subject verb disagreement. You can see that what we have as Error #4 is quite a handful.

Error #5 is that of redundancy, and it pertains to the word, "public," which qualifies the noun, "assassination." Tell me, can any assassination be described as "private"? Hey, wait a minute! I just took another look at that word, "going," as in the phrase, "were going to do with the weapons in the country." Should the proper word not be "coming"? I strongly believe that "coming" makes more sense than "going."

So, all things considered, we may revise the sentence, thus: "It is not clear what the South Africans were COMING to do with the weapons in the country. However, worth noting is THE FACT that such AN INCIDENT IS COMING at a time when the Royal Swaziland Police is searching for two OTHER South Africans who are believed to be involved in the MURDER of Victor Gamedze."

Focus on SA scene

JACOB ZUMA MUST EXIT - MASHATILE

JOHANNESBURG - ANC Treasurer-general Paul Mashatile says President Jacob Zuma must step down, to avoid creating two centres of power in the country.

"Our view is that there should be a change of guard," Mashatile told CNBC Africa's Political Capital.

"You need to transfer power, you can't have two centres of power. We want to see a situation where there is one centre with no tension and the best possible way is if the state president exits," he said.

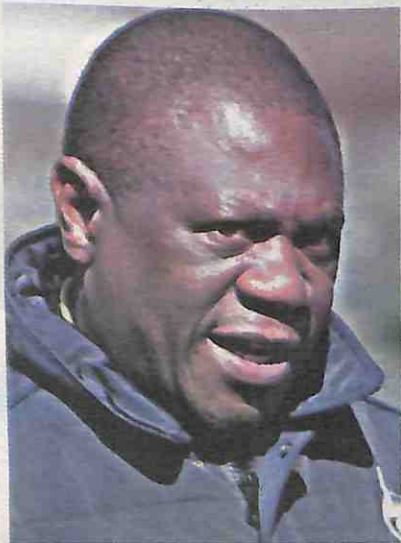
Mashatile's comments come as the ANC top six, led by Party President Cyril Ramaphosa, are due to meet with Zuma this weekend to ask him to resign.

Mashatile gave the strongest indication yet that the leadership is under pressure, following the National Working Committee [NWC] meeting earlier this week.

News24 reported earlier this week that members of the NWC demanded the top six "confront" Zuma, while others insisted that he should step down before the State of the Nation Address due on Thursday.

A source said the NWC demanded that the top six report back to them on the outcome of their engagement with Zuma.

There was also a call for an emergency



ANC Treasurer-General Paul Mashatile.

National Executive Committee meeting, should Zuma dig his heels in and refuse to step down.

In the interview, Mashatile said they had promised the NWC feedback on the matter.

He added that the best way to handle it was to engage with Zuma in order to show

him they were not "booting him out".

Zuma's job has been on the line since the December elective conference that saw Ramaphosa beating rival Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and being named as the party's new leader. However, Zuma still has support within the top six with Secretary General Ace Magashule and his deputy Jessie Duarte defending his continued stay at Union Buildings.

Ramaphosa, Mashatile, Chairperson Gwede Mantashe and Deputy President David Mabuza want him to step down.

However some senior members have pushed for him to go in order to "avoid two centres" of power with Zuma as head of state and Ramaphosa as party president. They also fear his continued stay could cost the party in the upcoming 2019 general elections. Mashatile told the broadcaster that the party's leadership wanted Zuma's exit to be handled internally. This was to avoid him facing a motion of no confidence in Parliament, brought forward by the Economic Freedom Fighters, on February 22 as well as possible impeachment, the rules of which are set to be finalised before the joint rules committee's last house sitting for the term on March 15. *News24*

Parties demand JZ exit, pledge to have him removed

JOHANNESBURG - The ANC top six meet tomorrow to finally decide his fate.

As a defiant President Jacob Zuma prepared to meet the ANC's top six this weekend to discuss his future, the opposition parties united as they called for his early exit and demanded that he should not be allowed to deliver his State of the Nation address (SONA) on Thursday.

The parties pledged to go ahead with their plan to have the president removed, accusing the ANC of being unwilling to get rid of Zuma despite him being a moral liability to the country.

They were recently mandated to negotiate for Zuma to step down voluntarily.

So far their attempts have failed, and instead the leadership is divided on whether he should go now or wait until the end of his term in 2019.

Secretary-general Ace Magashule and Jessie Duarte have campaigned for his stay. Yesterday, a group of Zuma supporters told a press briefing Zuma must be left alone to finish his term, but across Gauteng in Kempton Park, the leaders of the UDM, EFF, ACDM, Cope and IFP were adamant that Zuma must go

- and not be allowed to deliver the SONA.

"Should President Zuma deliver the SONA, it will confirm the ANC's inability, or unwillingness, to do what is right for South Africa. It will confirm that the ANC is unfit to govern," UDM leader Bantu Holomisa said.

The leaders agreed to write a formal letter to Speaker Baleka Mbete to express concern about allowing Zuma to deliver his speech on February 8.

The opposition leaders, except the DA's Mmusi Maimane, who asked to be excused due to commitment in the Nelson Mandela Bay metro, met to discuss their game plan regarding SONA and a motion of no-confidence submitted by EFF against Zuma.

"The ANC's continued foolhardy inability to remove President Zuma clearly indicates that the ANC can not be trusted and cannot be relied upon to bring about the changes promised by its newly elected leadership," said Holomisa.

"The ANC installed Zuma as president in the full knowledge of the enormous legal and ethical and moral liabilities attaching to him."

Citizen

Counter march to defend Ramaphosa against Hands Off Zuma campaigners

JOHANNESBURG - A counter march, to "defend" the ANC's headquarters and newly elected Party President Cyril Ramaphosa is being planned for tomorrow.

The march is to be held to counter a Hands Off Zuma planned protest by Black First Land First (BLF) and other organisations, defending President Jacob Zuma's continued stay as head of state.

A group, claiming to be made up of ANC members from across South Africa, told News24 that they will be at Luthuli House tomorrow. "President Zuma is a head of state and deployed by the ANC. So, if they want to display their support to him, they must take their march to the Union Buildings. "Why are they marching to Luthuli



ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa.

house?" Lele Sekete, convenor of the counter march, told News24. "Be worried when an enemy celebrates with you"

On Friday, several organisations including BLF, said they would be leading a Hands Off Zuma march,

claiming that his job is on the line because of his stance on radical economic transformation and land expropriation without compensation.

The group said it was marching to protect Zuma and not the ANC. But Sekete said they were worried that

BLF, which is a political party, was celebrating "Zuma as a good president". "BLF is a registered political party which is an opposition to the ANC. So, can you imagine marching to BLF offices, asking Andile Mngxitama to step down? We are advising them to deal with their president and we will deal with ours," Sekete said.

"In life, you must be worried when an enemy celebrates with you. So, in this case we [are] worried that an opposition party is dictating to the ANC that President Zuma is the right president.

We get very worried. It's very scary," Sekete said. The protests come as the top six, led by Ramaphosa, is expected to meet with Zuma to urge him to step down. They are under renewed pressure from the party's national working committee that met on Monday, with some members demanding that Zuma steps down before the State of the Nation Address on Thursday. *News24*



Minister Bathabile Dlamini.

SASSA inquiry to hear closing arguments in March

JOHANNESBURG - The inquiry into whether Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini should be held personally liable for the grant distribution crisis at the SA Social Security Agency (SASSA) will resume on March 19 for closing arguments.

The Constitutional Court appointed Judge Bernard Ngoepe to head the inquiry to investigate whether Dlamini should be held personally liable for the costs incurred during the SASSA payment crisis. Dlamini appeared before the inquiry last week, where she denied establishing work streams that would undermine the work at SASSA. She also denied that work streams reported directly to her and that she was warned by former SASSA director general Zane Dangor and former CEO Thokozani Magwaza that the work streams were running parallel to SASSA. During her three days of testimony, Dlamini was often defiant, causing Ngoepe to reprimand her and demand that she answer questions during cross-examination.

The minister had elected to testify in Zulu but, on several occasions, she promptly corrected her interpreter, choosing to address the question herself in English. *News24*

DA growing in Kwazulu Natal, but must not lose focus - Maimane

DURBAN - The Democratic Alliance has grown steadily in KwaZulu Natal, but must not lose focus of its core values.

This was the message from DA leader Mmusi Maimane at the DA's KwaZulu Natal provincial congress yesterday morning.

"This province has defined our national political trends over the last decade, and it is the province

where so much of our party's future fortunes will be decided."

"Looking out at this Congress today, I see a party that is truly alive and growing - bigger than it has ever been, the official opposition in this province," he said.

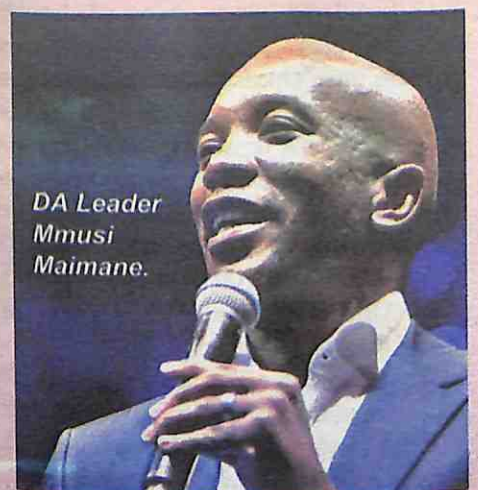
Changing

Maimane said it was vital that the party realise the political landscape was changing.

"As I look out from this stage,

18 months after that triumphant August of 2016, the view ahead is filled with danger and risk," he said.

"No longer can we satisfy ourselves by merely taking on the man from Nkandla, who has so harmed our country this past decade, and who gave us an easy target to aim at," he said. DA led government not always up to standard. *News24*



DA Leader Mmusi Maimane.



SUNDAY OBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday



Ousted Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont.

Catalan separatists divided over leadership

BARCELONA - Catalonia's separatist parties have to decide in the coming days whether to set their differences aside and back ousted, exiled leader Carles Puigdemont or seek an alternative.

Unlike other major independence movements in Scotland and Quebec, concentrated in one party, three different groupings make up Catalonia's separatist camp, united in their will to break with Spain but often at odds with each other.

These quarrels burst into the open on Tuesday, when the Catalan Parliament's speaker Roger Torrent, a separatist, postponed a vote meant to reinstate ousted Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont.

Alternative candidates are now emerging in the press, even if Puigdemont's Together for Catalonia grouping insists he must make a comeback from self-exile in Belgium after winning big in December elections.

Torrent said he had delayed the crunch parliamentary session to ensure it later went ahead in an "effective" manner after the Constitutional Court imposed restrictions to try and stop the reappointment of Puigdemont, who is wanted for his role in Catalonia's independence drive.

But what really came to light were divergences between the three separatist groupings -- Together for Catalonia, Torrent's Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC) and the smaller far-left CUP party. They are torn over how to go forward after the failure of a unilateral declaration of independence in October, which saw Madrid sack the Catalan government, dissolve its Parliament and call snap elections.

ERC wants to calm things down, get an effective regional government in place and try and increase the separatist camp's support base, which is still under 50 per cent of Catalans.

Together for Catalonia, though, insist Puigdemont lead the region again after the election results, which saw his grouping come first out of the three separatist parties. **AFP**

TRUMP SLAMS OWN JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, FBI

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump on Friday attacked leaders of his own Justice Department and the FBI as politically biased in favour of Democrats.

"The top Leadership and Investigators of the FBI and the Justice Department have politicised the sacred investigative process in favour of Democrats and against Republicans," Trump tweeted in the latest example of open conflict with the two bodies.

The message came as Trump was expected to approve the release of a confidential Republican-drafted memo alleging abuse of authority in the FBI's probe of his election campaign and its ties to Russia.

Democrats and critics in the



US President Donald Trump.

intelligence community say the release is a stunt, using very selective information that cannot be countered publicly without revealing more secrets about government counter-intelligence operations.

They say the ultimate goal of the memo, with Trump's

support, is to undermine special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia, which has edged closer to the president himself, and possible obstruction of justice.

AFP

N Korea earned \$200m from banned exports - UN

NEW YORK - North Korea violated United Nations sanctions to earn nearly \$200-million in 2017 from banned commodity exports, according to a confidential report by independent UN monitors, who also accused Pyongyang of supplying weapons to Syria and Myanmar.

The report to a UN Security Council sanctions committee, seen by Reuters on Friday, said North Korea had shipped coal to ports, including in Russia, China, South Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam, mainly using false paperwork that showed countries such as Russia and China as the coal origin, instead of North Korea. The 15-member council



North Korea Leader Kim.

has unanimously boosted sanctions on North Korea since 2006 in a bid to choke funding for Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, banning

exports including coal, iron, lead, textiles and seafood, and capping imports of crude oil and refined petroleum products.

Reuters

Britain welcomes Mnangagwa's 'fair' land reform

HARARE - Zimbabwe should press on with transparent and fair land reform, Britain said on Friday, as Harare's new leaders look to overhaul policies that evicted thousands of white farmers without compensation.

Under former president Robert Mugabe, authorities carried out often violent seizures of white-owned farms in a bid to address what they called injustices during British colonial rule.

But new president Emmerson Mnangagwa - keen to boost the economy and mend ties with countries that imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe - has said he wants to end discrimination between black and white farmers and is working to compensate those who lost their properties.

Britain's Minister of State for Africa, Harriet Baldwin, said she discussed the land issue and welcomed the fact that

Reuters

BRIEFS

Russian ex-governor gets 8-year prison sentence

MOSCOW - A court in Moscow has convicted a former provincial governor of taking a \$500,000 bribe and sentenced him to eight years in prison. Lawyers for former Kirov regional Gov. Nikita Belykh said they would appeal the verdict delivered late on Thursday. Belykh has been in custody since he was arrested in June 2016 while accepting the money at a Moscow restaurant. He rejected the charges as provocation. Belykh's case was among a series of arrests of regional and federal officials intended to showcase Kremlin efforts to combat corruption. **AP**

Ex-consultant to Iran's UN mission gets three months in prison

NEW YORK - A former consultant to Iran's mission to the United Nations was sentenced to three months in prison for evading taxes by concealing his income and helping family and friends make money transfers that violated US sanctions against Iran. Ahmad Sheikhzadeh, an Iran-born US citizen, made the unusual decision to take the witness stand at his sentencing hearing before US District Judge Pamela Chen in Brooklyn. He strongly denied accusations made by prosecutors in a court filing last year that he acted improperly by arranging contacts between a nuclear scientist and Iranian officials while Iran was negotiating a treaty with the United States over its nuclear program. **Reuters**

Mexico should beware Russia poll meddling - Tillerson

MEXICO CITY - US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned Mexico on Friday to be wary that Russia does not interfere when it elects its next president in July. Russian agents have been accused of using online propaganda and computer hacking to undermine democratic processes in the United States and several European countries. The Kremlin dismisses such allegations, but a probe into whether US President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign colluded with Russia has triggered a bitter political crisis in the US. Reports this week suggested Washington fears that Mexico will also see such interference in July when voters will choose a successor to President Enrique Pena Nieto. **AFP**

Venezuela's Maduro confirmed by party as candidate for re-election

CARACAS - Venezuela's ruling Socialist Party confirmed that President Nicolas Maduro is its official candidate in a snap election due before the end of April. "Approved by acclamation. You are officially the candidate of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela," the party's Deputy Leader, Diosdado Cabello, told Maduro during a party congress. The party's nomination was expected. In January, a super-legislature stacked with Maduro loyalists announced that the presidential election, originally scheduled for December, was being brought forward by months. **AFP**

FBI chief tells staff he stands with them after memo made public

WASHINGTON - FBI Director Christopher Wray sent a statement to the agency's employees on Friday saying he stands with them after a document written by congressional Republicans alleging bias against President Donald Trump at the FBI and the Justice Department in the Russia investigation was made public. "I stand by our shared determination to do our work independently and by the book," Wray said in a statement to FBI staff, excerpts of which were seen by Reuters. **Reuters**

China accuses US of disrespect after Latin America comments

BEIJING - China accused the United States of disrespecting Latin America after US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned countries in the region against excessive reliance on economic ties with China.

Tillerson, in a speech ahead of a visit to Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Colombia and Jamaica, said China was getting a foothold in Latin America, using economic statecraft to pull the region into its orbit.

In a statement released late on Friday responding to Tillerson, China's

Foreign Ministry said cooperation between China and Latin America is based on common interests and mutual needs. "What the United States said is entirely against the truth and displayed disrespect to the vast number of Latin American countries," the ministry said.

Wang Yi visited Chile last month for a summit with Latin American and Caribbean countries, where he invited them to join China's massive Belt and Road infrastructure programme.

Reuters



Michy Batshuayi showed Chelsea what they were missing with a debut double for new side Borussia Dortmund following his deadline day loan move. And it was the Chelsea show throughout the game as all three of Dortmund's goals came from former Blues - Andre Schurrle scoring to win it for the away side late on. (Daily Mail)

BATSHUAYI NETS TWICE ON DORTMUND DEBUT

COLOGNE - Michy Batshuayi scored twice on his Borussia Dortmund debut in Friday's 3-2 Bundesliga win at bottom side Cologne - just two days after signing on loan from Chelsea.

Head coach Peter Stoeger, who was sacked by Cologne in December, threw the Belgian striker in at the deep end to replace Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Dortmund sold their top-scorer to Arsenal for £56 million, then signed Batshuayi hours later as cover until May.

"I am very happy, but the most important thing was the win," Batshuayi told Eurosport. "It's my first match, it was always going to be difficult, so I am really happy we got the three points."

Cross

Having already scored 12 goals for Chelsea this season, Batshuayi scored 35 minutes into his Bundesliga debut when he fired home a cross.

Cologne equalised with an hour gone, but the 24-year-old Batshuayi showed ice-cool finishing to restore the lead less than two minutes later.

He could have finished with a hat-trick having put the ball in the net just before the break, but the video assistant referee (VAR) spotted he was off-side. Cologne levelled for the second time when Jorge Mere headed home, but Batshuayi provided the final pass for Andre Schurrle to hit the winner.

The win broke Dortmund's run of three draws. It lifts them to second in the table, level on 34 points with Bayer Leverkusen and Schalke who play on Saturday, behind leaders Bayern Munich. **AFP**



Novak Djokovic.

Djokovic has 'small medical intervention' on elbow

PARIS - Former world number one Novak Djokovic revealed on Friday that he has undergone "a small medical intervention" in an attempt to cure his long-standing right elbow injury.

The 12-time Grand Slam title winner admitted that he had been deluged with conflicting medical advice but opted for the procedure after rest and recuperation failed to solve the problem.

"Truth be told, there were many different opinions, different diagnoses, different suggestions," the 30-year-old wrote on his official website, novakdjokovic.com.

"It was not easy for me to choose which way to go and what to do. I took six months off last season hoping to come back fully recovered, but unfortunately I still felt pain."

"I really missed competing, it's in my blood and I had to give it a try at the Australian Open. Anyhow, I agreed with my team that I would try different methods after I finish in Australia and a few days ago I accepted to do a small medical intervention on my elbow."

Surgery

Djokovic, who was believed to have travelled to the Czech Republic for the surgery, was still bothered by his elbow problem as he crashed out in the fourth round of the Australian Open last month to South Korea's Chung Hyeon.

"It seems like I am on the good road now to full recovery. It's quite a journey this one, I have to say," added Djokovic, who did not reveal when he planned to return to the tour. **AFP**

Tokyo Sexwale has 'agreed in principle' to run for SAFA presidency

JOHANNESBURG - Senior member of the National Football Consultative Forum (NFCF) Chief Mweliso Nonkonyana has revealed that politician turned business tycoon Tokyo Sexwale has agreed in principle to be their candidate for the SAFA elections on March 24.

This development paves the way for a possible showdown between incumbent Danny Jordaan and Sexwale, who tried unsuccessfully to become FIFA president last year. Nonkonyana told TimesLIVE yesterday morning that he met Sexwale on Friday to inform him that the results of a public poll by the NFCF showed that he was an overwhelming favourite of the people to lead SAFA going forward.

"I met him on Friday to brief him

about the results of the survey that we conducted and he has agreed in principle to run for the position of SAFA presidency," Nonkonyana said.

Humbled

"He said he was humbled by the vote of confidence shown in him by the people but as an envoy of CAF and FIFA he wanted to consult first. I am happy that he has listened and has given us positive feedback and we expect him to make an announcement soon."

Other NFCF members who ranked highly on the forum's poll are former FIFA referee Ace Nkobo, former Bafana Bafana captain Lucas Radebe, Mandla "Shoes" Mazibuko and Nonkonyana, who have all indicated they will support Sexwale on the campaign trail. **Timeslive**

Kalra ton seals U-19 World Cup for India

MOUNT MAUNGANUI - Opener Manjot Kalra smacked an unbeaten 101 in even time as India easily disposed of Australia at Mount Maunganui today to win the Under-19 World Cup for a fourth time.

With Kalra scoring freely, India won by eight wickets as they chased down Australia's 216 all out with more than 11 overs to spare.

The opener's century included eight fours and three sixes, and he was well supported by wicketkeeper Harvik Desai, who was 47 not out when he fin-

ished the match with a boundary.

The pair put on 89 for the third wicket, while Prithvi Shaw scored 29 at the top of the innings and Shubman Gill added 31.

Express

"I really can't express what I'm feeling now," said captain Shaw.

"It was the final, a very crucial hundred from Manjot. Gill was batting really well. And the two pacers, Mavi and Kamlesh, (have) been excellent throughout the tournament."

AFP

JONES BACKS 'BIG BEN' TO BASH ITALY

ROME - England coach Eddie Jones wants Ben Te'o to lead a "brutal and absolutely ruthless" effort when his side launch their Six Nations title defence against Italy in Rome today.

England may have won all 23 of their previous tests against Italy but Jones has urged them to leave nothing to chance. Te'o will be making his first England appearance in nearly a year after being selected at outside centre. British and Irish Lions midfielder Te'o, a powerful ball-carrier, has displaced Jonathan Joseph, more of a traditional 'running' centre, after recovering from a severe ankle injury that ruled him out of England's November series.

The match will be the first time Te'o has played since October, with the New Zealand-born rugby league con-



Eddie Jones.

vert partnering Owen Farrell in midfield.

Good

"Ben will add a different dimension at 13 for us," Jones told reporters after announcing his side on Friday. "We want him to hit the line hard, that's what he's good at. For a big

man he's got footwork. So hit the line hard."

The former Australian and Japan coach, bidding for a 23rd win in 24 Tests as England boss, added: "That's how we want to play against Italy - a really physical game and set the tone for the tournament. **AFP**

ADIDAS REVEAL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL BALL

KIEV - Adidas have unveiled the match ball that will be used for the final of the Champions League.

The competition returns this month for the knockout stages, with the first game to take place on February 13. And in what has become a tradition for Adidas, the ball will be used for all the post-group stage action. The Champions League final itself will take place in Kiev, Ukraine on May

26. And, as a result, adidas have decided to give the ball a design that is inspired by the host city for the final.

There are the usual Champions League stars that have become synonymous with the competition since they were first introduced as part of the branding in 2000.

But they have been dashed with a

smattering of blue and yellow - the two colours used in the Ukrainian flag, along with silver codas that

seemingly surround some-

thing akin to a sunburst.

The final will be held at the NSK Olimpiyskiy Stadium, which was also the site for the 2012 European Championship final, won by



Spain.
Daily Mail



ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



CITY MADE TO PAY FOR STERLING SITTER

BURNLEY - An extraordinary miss by Raheem Sterling proved the turning point as Burnley recovered to snatch a draw against runaway Premier League leaders Manchester City 1-1 at Turf Moor yesterday. Pep Guardiola's team, leading from Danilo's first half goal, looked well in control but Sterling's huge error 20 minutes from time offered a lifeline and renewed belief to the home side.

After 82 minutes, Matt Lowton's deep cross from the right allowed Johann Berg Gudmundsson to ghost past the City backline and score with a left-foot volley from six yards.

It is just the fourth time City have dropped points in the Premier League this season, but they still enjoy a commanding 16-point lead over Manchester United.

Burnley showed great character



Raheem Sterling squandered a remarkable opportunity with a candidate for miss of the season in the second half.

and organisation in their defending from the start but, when they made an error, City punished it clinically.

A quickly-taken 22nd minute

Kevin De Bruyne corner found Bernardo Silva who, in turn, moved the ball on to Danilo, who had been left in far too much space outside the Burnley area.

The full-back carried the ball to the edge of the area before curling an unstoppable 20-yard, right-foot shot into the far corner.

AFP



Antonio Conte.

CONTE KEEN TO SEE OUT CONTRACT

LONDON - Antonio Conte dismissed speculation surrounding his future at Premier League champions Chelsea, saying that he plans to see out his contract and is focused on his job.

Conte, who guided Chelsea to the league title in his first season, has struggled to extract the same level of ruthlessness from the London club in his second campaign in charge.

Chelsea are fourth in the table with 50 points, 18 points behind leaders Manchester City, and the Italian Manager admitted the club were in danger of missing out on a Champions League place next season after a 3-0 defeat by Bournemouth in midweek.

"The only thing I can tell you now is that I have 18 months left on my contract at Chelsea and my will and my desire is to stay here and continue my work," Conte said ahead of tomorrow's league clash at 11th-placed Watford.

The Italian has suggested this season that his squad is too small to be playing Premier League, Cup and Champions League competitions and that he has little control over signing new players in the transfer window.

British media reports have said Conte's relationship with team owner Roman Abramovich has become strained, particularly over reinforcements to the squad but the manager said he was not interested in talk of him being sacked.

"From the start of the season, and since the defeat against Bournemouth, there's been a lot of speculation about me being sacked," Conte added.

"But I'm not interested in this. I'm only focused on working with my team and trying my best for the team. **Reuters**

Man U plot summer move for Vidal

MANCHESTER - Manchester United are plotting a summer move for Bayern Munich's Chilean midfielder Arturo Vidal.

Jose Mourinho is concerned about his lack of options in the centre of the pitch and has lined up Vidal to bolster his resources, according to Manchester Evening News.

Vidal's contract with the Bavarian club runs until 2019 but the Old Trafford club are confident they can prise him away, particularly given that the German champions have signed Leon Goretzka.

There is potential for a revamp of the midfield next season for Mourinho with a number of players facing uncertain futures.

Michael Carrick has suffered with a heart condition, Marouane Fellaini has not signed a new deal and Ander Herrera has also been linked with a move away.

With Mourinho spending £89million on Paul Pogba and £40m on Nemanja Matic, Vidal would be another high profile addition.

At 30-years-old Vidal is unlikely to command an astronomical fee and no doubt compatriot Alexis Sanchez would welcome him with open arms.

Bayern Manager Jupp Heynckes said Vidal's future will be decided in the summer.

Mourinho is looking for players with proven experience and Vidal would certainly fit the bill having starred for Juventus, Bayern and his national team.

Daily Mail

West Ham sack Henry after he sparked a race row

LONDON - West Ham fired Director of recruitment Tony Henry on Friday night following an investigation into his comments about signing African footballers.

As revealed by

Sportsmail this week, Henry sent at least one email stating West Ham did not want any more African players.

He followed that by explaining it was 'nothing racist' and said: "It's just sometimes they can have a bad attitude. We find that when they are not in the team they cause mayhem."

West Ham suspended Henry on Thursday and dismissed him on Friday.

In a statement, they said: "West Ham United have today terminated the contract of Director of Player

Recruitment, Tony Henry, with immediate effect following his unacceptable comments that were widely reported in the press.

"Our action follows a full and thorough investigation.

"West Ham United will not tolerate any type of discrimination.

"The West Ham United family is an inclusive one where, regardless of gender, age, ability, race, religion or sexual orientation, everybody feels welcome and included."

Daily Mail

KLOPP COUNTING ON HOME ADVANTAGE V SPURS

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp has termed today's Premier League meeting with Tottenham Hotspur as a 'six-point' clash but believes his team hold the advantage with the game being played at Anfield.

In-form Liverpool are unbeaten in 14 league games but face a tough challenge against a Tottenham team high on confidence after their dominant 2-0 win over second-placed Manchester United in midweek. "These are 'six-point' games and the only advantage one team can have in a situation like this is to play at home, at Anfield in this case," Klopp said.

"That's really good and I'm looking forward to it."

Liverpool are third in the league with 50 points and ahead of champions Chelsea on goal difference while Tottenham are two points behind as they target a Champions League spot.

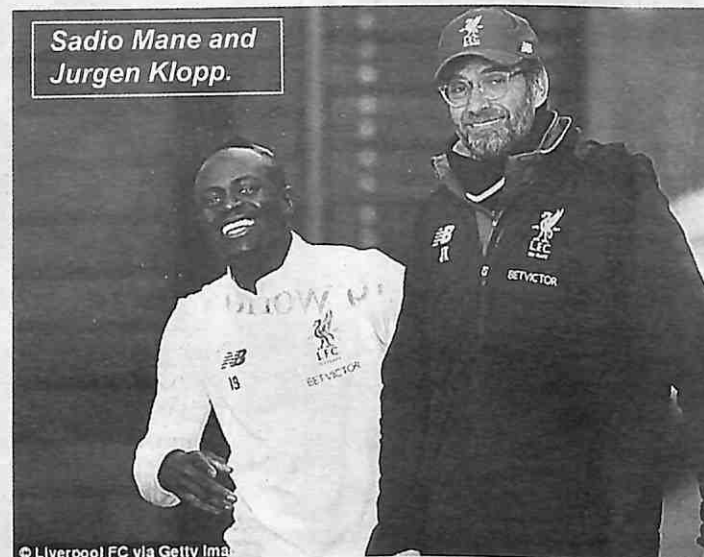
"With the situation in the table, our targets and what we want to do and where we want to finish the season, it is clear it is a very important game," Klopp said.

Asked about winger Sadio Mane, who has scored two goals in his last four league games but missed chances in the 3-0 victory over Huddersfield Town, Klopp said, "Even if Sadio is not at his best, he is still a threat for the other team."

"Mane had the two biggest chances in Huddersfield and didn't score. No problem when you win 3-0. You need to carry on.

"You have to go through. You have to build on the good things and work on the not-so-good things.

Sadio Mane and Jurgen Klopp.



Sadio on an average day is still a fantastic player, that's the good news," Klopp said he was pleased with new signing Virgil van Dijk's progress in his first month at Merseyside.

"We will all see Van Dijk at his best after the summer but we don't have the time to wait until then, why should we? He can bring a lot of things in already and that's good." **Reuters**

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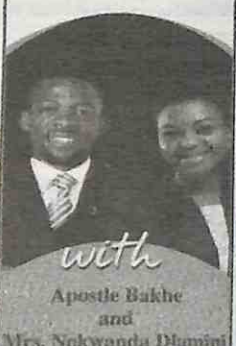
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SUPERSPORT BACK TO WINNING WAYS

JOHANNESBURG - SuperSport United bounced back to winning ways in emphatic fashion after beating Bloemfontein Celtic 4-1 in an ABSA Premiership match at the Lucas Moripe Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Celtic started positively and had the first decent shot on goal in the seventh minute, but Menzi Masuku was superbly denied by goalkeeper Reynad Pieterse.

The visitors continued to push forward and found the opening goal in the 18th minute when Jacky Motshegwa drove into the box after beating one defender and made no mistake with just the keeper to beat, 1-0.

SuperSport managed to equalise on the half hour mark when a loose ball inside the box fell to Mogakolodi Ngele and he coolly slotted past Patrick Tignyemb, 1-1.

Mistake

In the 39th minute SuperSport took the lead after a wayward pass in defence by Celtic allowed Evans Rusike to pick up the loose ball and he made no mistake with just the keeper to beat, 2-1.

Celtic tried to find and equalise, but were unable to do so before the half-time break.

The away team came out with a determined attitude at the start of the second half, but like the first half their final pass kept letting them down.

Nonetheless, Celtic did find an equaliser on the hour mark after another mistake in defence, this time by SuperSport, allowed Ndumiso Mabena to latch onto a poor clearance and fire it home, 2-2.



Thuso Phala of SuperSport United moves away with the ball during the ABSA Premiership match against Bloemfontein Celtic.

Celtic's joy, though, was short-lived as SuperSport took the lead for the second time in the 74th minute when substitute Teboho Mokoena played the perfect pass to Aubrey Modiba and he produced a fine finish from just inside the box, 3-2.

The match was over as a contest in the 83rd minute after a swift passing movement from SuperSport concluded with Mokoena slotting the ball past the Celtic keeper from 16-yards out, 4-2.

Backpage TXT

TEAMS:

SuperSport United: Pieterse, Kekana, Daniels, Farmer, Bhasera, Furman, Letsholonyane, Phala (Nkhatha 67'), Modiba, Ngele (Mokoena 62'), Rusike (Mbule 77').
Bloemfontein Celtic: Tignyemb, Maruping, Rikhotso, Motshegwa (Mabaso 77'), Lubisi, Mabena, Gordinho, Baloyi, Hotto, Masuku (Nemukondeni 74'), Letsoalo (Nyundu 85').

CAPE TOWN CITY CONCEDE TITLE RACE

CAPE TOWN - According to Cape Town City assistant coach Vasili Manousakis, Friday's defeat to Mamelodi Sundowns has ended the Citizens' title charge.

Following some brilliant work by Percy Tau, Khama Billiat scored a superb goal two minutes after half time at the Athlone Stadium to earn Sundowns a 1-0 win which took them seven points clear of second-placed City.

Manousakis, who was filling in for the suspended Benni McCarthy, felt the Cape team should have gotten more out of the encounter.

"It's unbelievable how we lost this game, it was one-way traffic in the first half. We absolutely murdered Sundowns. They looked very average, a lapse in concentration in the second half they gone in and scored," he said.

"Other than that Sage Stephens hasn't had to make a save the entire match. Absolutely bizarre. That's football for you.

"Not converting the chances, not scoring goals it becomes the problem when you dictate play like that and when you have all the possession it means nothing unless

you stick the ball in the back of the net."

The City camp were also incensed that Sundowns goalkeeper Denis Onyango was given only a yellow card after he clattered into Thabo Nodada outside the area.

"I'm afraid the referee stole the show tonight. Tonight was a Victor Gomes show," said Manousakis.

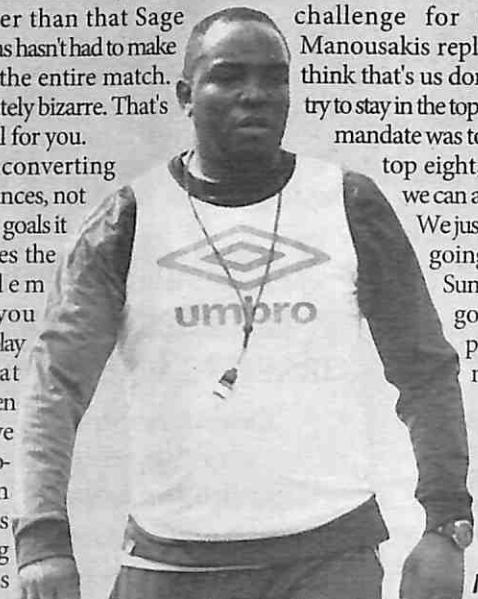
Destroyed

"How the goalkeeper was not sent off it baffles all of us.

"Thabo Nodada ended up with 20-odd stitches on the back of his leg, he's absolutely destroyed him, and his (Gomes) gone to send off Robyn Johannes for something soft and bizarre, but anyway it doesn't matter we're disappointed that we should have got something out of the game."

Asked if the Citizens can still challenge for the title, Manousakis replied: "No I think that's us done. We will try to stay in the top five. Benni's mandate was to stay in the top eight, hopefully we can achieve that. We just got to keep going, credit to Sundowns they got the three points tonight."

Sport24



Benni McCarthy.

Milutin Sredojevic says Orlando Pirates will miss Riyaad Norodien

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates coach Milutin Sredojevic says the club will miss Riyaad Norodien following his loan move to Platinum Stars, while insisting Abbubaker Mobara is still part of his plans.

Winger Norodien, who had made just two starts under 'Micho' so far this term, secured a deadline day loan move to Dikwena, reuniting with former Ajax Cape Town coach Roger de Sa at the struggling ABSA Premiership side.

Sredojevic says the young speedster will be missed in Mayfair, but backs him to return a stronger and better player.



Riyaad Norodien.

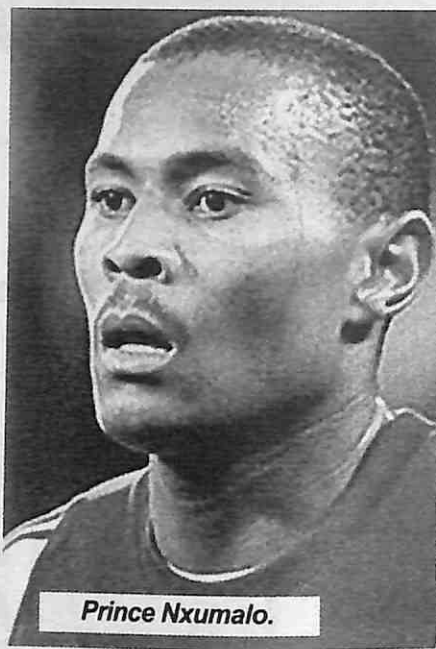
"Norodien, going there (to Stars), we shall miss him for these six months because he has been a master in creating the atmosphere and spirit in the team," the Pirates head coach said. "But coming back after his long lay-off through injury, I think it will help him over the next few months to get some playing time and come back stronger."

Meanwhile, utility man Mobara has been absent for Bucs' last two encounters, with speculation mounting over the coach's plans for the former Ajax defender. Yet Micho insists his vice-captain was only missing through injury.

"Mobara is our deputy captain, a player who always gives his best," Sredojevic said. "Unfortunately his injury kept him out of the match [against former club Ajax], but we fully count on him from when he will again be ready, from a medical aspect."

"Both Norodien and Mobara are great members of our team. We love them as part of our team."

Kickoff



Prince Nxumalo.

NXUMALO STILL AWOL - ERTUGRAL

CAPE TOWN - Despite opening the door for Prince Nxumalo to return to Ajax Cape Town, the striker remains absent without leave says coach Muhsin Ertugral.

Nxumalo had gone missing under the watch of previous Ajax coach Stanley Menzo and last played in November.

On his arrival at Ikamva, Ertugral implied that he would be happy to give the player a fresh start if he showed the right attitude and returned to training.

But that has not transpired, and with the January transfer window now over, Nxumalo's future remains very much in doubt.

"Our chairman had a meeting with

him," Ertugral told KickOff. "From my side, he just needs to come and speak to me. I'm waiting. Suddenly he was gone."

"I came in as the new coach, but I have not seen him. I don't know, we have not done anything wrong, so I think he should come and see me. But I don't know where he is."

"The chairman is still paying his wages," he added.

With Tashrique Morris as well as new signings Yannick Zakri, Tendai Ndoro, Samuel Julies and Fagrie Lakay all fighting for places up front, it would not be easy for the 27-year-old Nxumalo to force his way back into the team.

Kickoff

'We didn't expect Cape Town City to come at Sundowns'

CAPE TOWN - Mamelodi Sundowns finally overcame their Cape Town City hoodoo as they left the Athlone Stadium with all three points in the bag, thanks to Khama Billiat's second half strike.

The win was Masandawana's first over the Cape Town-based outfit, but while Sundowns put on an impressive display of percentage football, much of the game was marred by controversial refereeing decisions.

Referee Victor Gomes was once again in the spotlight as Sundowns

coach Pitso Mosimane was sent to the stands to join his opposite number Benni McCarthy early in the first half, before eventually sending off City captain Robyn Johannes for a second bookable offence just before the end.

Nonetheless, following the encounter, assistant coach Manqoba Mngqithi admitted that Sundowns were surprised at how the home side took the fight to the Tshwane giants.

"I think it was a very good match," Mngqithi told SuperSport TV after

the game.

"We never anticipated that Cape Town City would be so emotional and come at us," he continued.

"That had an effect on how we started because we had to adjust and solidify our midfield, but it was unfortunate to lose the coach in the first half because to be honest I don't think there was any reason for that, but we accept the decisions of the referee because it was a foul on our player and we complained about that," he added. **Goal**

Mousset fires Bournemouth to victory

LONDON - Substitute Lys Mousset came off the bench to score his first Premier League goal for Bournemouth as they came back from a goal down to beat Stoke City 2-1 in a pulsating Premier League clash at the Vitality Stadium yesterday.

Swiss international Xherdan Shaqiri, who had seen a shot cleared off the line by Steve Cook moments earlier, put visitors Stoke in front in the fifth minute, the diminutive winger heading home unmarked from Badou Ndiaye's cross.

Bournemouth, who hammered Chelsea 3-0 on Wednesday, upped the tempo in the second half and had plenty of chances to score, but it took until the 70th minute for Joshua King to put them back on level terms with a thumping right-foot strike.

Sensing that Stoke's resistance was wilting after King's goal, Bournemouth continued to attack and nine minutes later Mousset nodded home Jordon Ibe's free kick for the simplest of finishes to take all three points. **Reuters**

SANCHEZ RECORDS GOAL FOR UNITED

MANCHESTER - For 54 minutes he had done nothing. No shots, no high intensity sprinting, no unselfish play to bring others into the game.

Given how Jose Mourinho had reacted to a similarly indifferent performance from Paul Pogba at Wembley, when hooking him from the action, Romelu Lukaku must have been in danger of having his afternoon ended early, given he had offered so little.

But then, in a flash, he was the saviour, the man who bust the dam. One flash of Lukaku's left boot, connecting with a precise cross from Juan Mata, changed the course of a game and ensured the poignant 60th anniversary of the Munich air disaster could be celebrated with a victory.

Huddersfield, who had shocked United back in October, crossed the Pennines with a plan to stifle and frustrate and they were on



Lukaku celebrates with Jesse Lingard and Alexis Sanchez after giving United the lead with his 19th goal of the season.

course to do precisely that until Lukaku came off the periphery and did what a £90million striker should: one chance, one goal. Lukaku, as it turned out, did not get to finish the game but by the

time he made way for Antony Martial, the contest had been wrapped up with Alexis Sanchez crowning his home debut with the goal his energetic efforts deserved. It was, from the start, an emotionally charged afternoon and the haunting 'Flowers of Manchester' song, written about that tragic day, was played just before an impeccably observed minute's silence. Mourinho's link with this club may only be brief but his programme notes struck the right tone. Those who perished, he said, would never be forgotten.

The expectation, however, that United would open up and mark the occasion with a display befitting the club's heritage was misplaced, as Huddersfield arrived breathing defiance. They needed to, given how wretched their performance was against Liverpool four days earlier. **Daily Mail**

FRANK RIBERY AMONG SCORERS AS BAYERN MARCH ON

MUNICH - Franck Ribery netted a rare Bundesliga goal as Bayern Munich eased to an eighth consecutive league victory with a 2-0 win over Mainz yesterday.

After a sluggish first half-hour, the veteran Frenchman put Bayern ahead on 33 minutes. Picking up a poorly cleared corner at the edge of the box, he released a fizzing half-volley to score only his second league goal of the season. James Rodriguez then doubled the lead just before halftime, elegantly bringing the ball down on his chest before volleying it past Robin Zentner.

The win saw Bayern extend their lead at the top of the table to 18 points after second-placed Bayer Leverkusen were held to a 0-0 draw in Freiburg.



Bayern's Franck Ribery celebrates his side's opening goal.

Lucas Alario hit the post for Leverkusen early in the game, but there were more yellow cards than chances, as seven players were

booked and Freiburg once again frustrated a top team. Leverkusen, though, remain in second after Schalke once again

dropped points. Both teams profited from goalkeeping errors in Gelsenkirchen, as a late goal saw Werder Bremen snatch a surprise 2-1 victory.

A catastrophic mistake from Jiri Pavlenka gifted Schalke the lead on 24 minutes. Yevhen Konoplyanka's speculative effort flew straight at the Bremen goalkeeper, who allowed the ball to slip through his fingers.

With 11 minutes to go there was more farcical goalkeeping as Ralf Faehrmann allowed Max Kruse to equalise for Bremen.

After Matija Nastasic was sent off for a second bookable offence, Faehrmann fumbled the resulting free-kick, allowing the ball to bounce out of his hands and into the path of Kruse. **Reuters**

West Brom at rock bottom after home defeat

LONDON - West Bromwich Albion were left stuck at the bottom of the Premier League after losing 3-2 to Southampton yesterday, despite having made a fine start to the match.

It was an emotional day at the Hawthorns where there was a minute's applause before the game for their former striker Cyrille Regis, who died last month.

Egyptian defender Ahmed Hegazi headed Albion into an early lead from a corner by set-piece specialist Chris Brunt but Southampton hit back with two goals in three minutes before halftime. Gabon's Mario Lemina drove in from 20 metres and defender Jack Stephens scored his third goal in three games.

A direct free kick by James Ward-Prowse made it 3-1 and Saints held on for a first League victory in 13 games despite Salomon Rondon's 72nd-minute headed goal for the home side

Reuters

Neymar and Lo Celso stunners wrap up victory for Ligue 1 leaders

PARIS - Paris Saint-Germain won 3-0 at Lille to move 11 points clear in Ligue 1, thanks to goals from Yuri Berchiche, Neymar and Giovanni Lo Celso.

Neymar and Giovanni Lo Celso scored superb late goals as Paris Saint-Germain restored their 11-point lead at the top of Ligue 1 with a 3-0 victory at Lille yesterday.

Marseille's 6-3 thumping of Metz on Friday had cut PSG's advantage, but Unai Emery's men - without Kylian Mbappe due to suspension - finished strongly to make sure of three points at Stade Pierre-Mauroy. Yuri Berchiche scored the opener in first-half stoppage time, the defender firing in a low drive, although Lille felt the goal should have been disallowed for an offside in the build-up.

Neymar effectively ended any hopes



Neymar celebrating one of PSG goals against Lille.

of a home fightback with 13 minutes to play, hammering a free-kick into the top-left corner from the edge of

the penalty area for his 18th Ligue 1 goal of the season.

Yet PSG were not finished there,

Lo Celso sending a glorious chip over the head of goalkeeper Mike Maignan from 20 yards to extend his team's unbeaten run against Lille to 15 games in all competitions.

PSG survived a second-half injury scare for captain Thiago Silva, ahead of their upcoming Champions League clash with Real Madrid, and the leaders have now won their last 19 league matches in which they have scored first.

Neymar drove inside off the left flank and whipped a curler just over the crossbar in the ninth minute, the Brazilian then appealing for a penalty when challenged by Kouadio Dabyla, although referee Johan Hamel rightly ruled the defender won the ball.

Alphonse Areola made a good save low to his right to keep out Hamza Mendyl's drive after Anwar El Ghazi's

dangerous low cross flashed through the penalty area.

Former PSG goalkeeper Maignan then tipped away Angel Di Maria's deflected drive before in-demand Lille captain Ibrahim Amadou bent a 20-yard effort narrowly wide.

Dani Alves volleyed off target but PSG should have struck after 39 minutes, Edinson Cavani driving wildly off-target when Neymar was unmarked and ready to tap home.

The opener finally arrived on the stroke of half-time, Yuri hammering a low drive out of Maignan's reach after Junior Alonso had headed the ball straight to the left-back.

El Ghazi's 30-yard free-kick required alert goalkeeping from Areola shortly after the restart, while Maignan was called into action at the other end, blocking a Neymar effort after a dazzling solo run from the Brazilian.

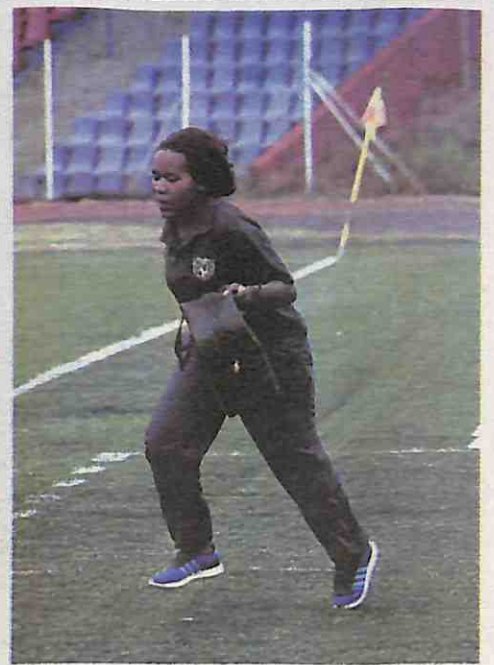
Goal



Tinyosi's Timothy Mathonsi performs a bicycle kick in his side's MTN National first Division match against Tabankulu Callies at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday afternoon. The two sides drew 2-2. (Pics: Sibongiseni Zondi)

TINYOSI**2-2****CALLIES**

Tinyosi's Mzwandile Mhlanga passes the ball while Callies striker Ayanda Mayeyane closes in.



Tabankulu Callies team doctor Sincedzile Mkhathshwa dashes to assist an injured player.



Tinyosi's Bongumenzi Dlamini dashes away from Callies' Jabulani Mpimbili.



Callies striker Ayanda Mayeyane in between Tinyosi's Isaac Mwanza and Ntando Gule.



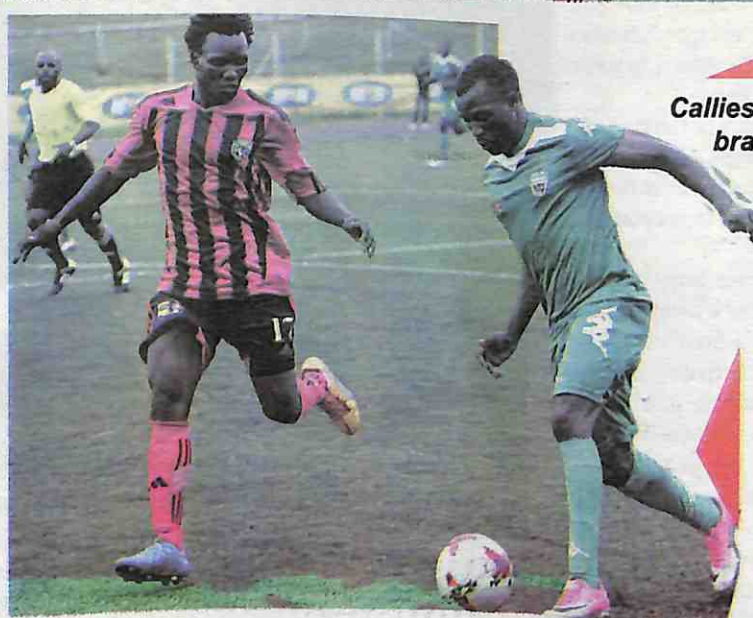
The Callies bench reacts after conceding a late equaliser.



Callies players celebrate their second goal scored by Ayanda Mayeyane.



Callies striker Sandile Mbingo controls the ball while Tinyosi defender Mbuso Magongo closes in.



Tinyosi's Simanga Ndzinisa tries to go past Tabankulu Callies' Simphiwe Gamedze.



Businesswoman Nonhlanhla Sigwane leading the pack in the 20km run from Mpaka to KMI International Airport.

Over 60 turn up for TZD fun run

BY OONDILE NTIWANE

ATHLETICS – Over 60 athletes turned up for the fun run organised by TZD Athletics Club yesterday.

The run which included 14km and 21km races started at the Mpaka Filling Station and ended at the KMI International Airport.

Interviewed yesterday, TZD Director Zakhele Dlamini said they were happy with the attendance recorded on the day.

He said the main aim was bringing the people of Siteki and surrounding areas for networking and socialising purposes.

"We started this run with people from Siteki last weekend and were in Mpaka this weekend. The numbers are very impressive and show that people here are interested in exercising and keeping fit."

"The plan is to have such runs

every weekend with the minimum distance being 14km and 20km for those who fitness levels are high. We will also be heading to Big Bend because some athletes there have also shown interest in being part of this initiative," he said.

Dlamini however stated that their next stop would be the Wafa Race slated for the St Georges Barracks in Matsapha next weekend, where both the young and old athletes will attend.

He also expressed gratitude to the Royal Swaziland Police for partnering with them and educating the athletes on what is expected from them while on the road.

"The police gave a lecture on how athletes need to conduct themselves and how they should dress up when going on the road. They also educated them on crime issues and how they can protect themselves from it," he said.



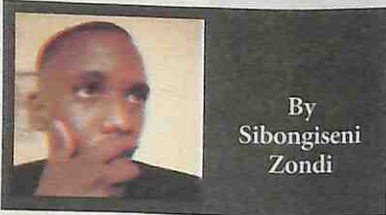
These ladies enjoyed themselves during the fun run.



Retired police officer Isaac Sihlongonyane, Tevangeli Dlamini and Nonhlanhla in action.

SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2017/18

'BIRDS' ON COURSE TO MAKE IT THREE IN A ROW



By
Sibongiseni
Zondi

TEAMS: Mbabane Citizens vs Mbabane Swallows
TIME: 1.30pm
VENUE: Somhlolo National Stadium

SOCCKER. Mbabane Swallows will be looking to make it three consecutive SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup final appearances when they take on National First Division (NFD) side Mbabane Citizens in the semifinals of the tournament today.

The 'Birds' have won the first two editions of the richest competition in the land and go into the capital city derby as clear favourites. Their last match in the competition was a 1-0 win over rivals Manzini Wanderers in the quarter-finals on January 14, a result that was later overshadowed by the brutal murder of Swallows boss Victor 'Maradona' Gamedze on the evening of the same day.

Despite fears from their fans, Swallows have recovered well from that tragedy, beating Royal Leopard in the League last Sunday and then drawing with Wanderers in midweek. They will also welcome back Njabulo



Mbabane Swallows will play Mbabane Citizens.

'D4D' Ndlovu into the team today after the industrious midfielder sat out Wednesday's draw with Wanderers due to suspension.

Citizens themselves are not to be taken lightly.

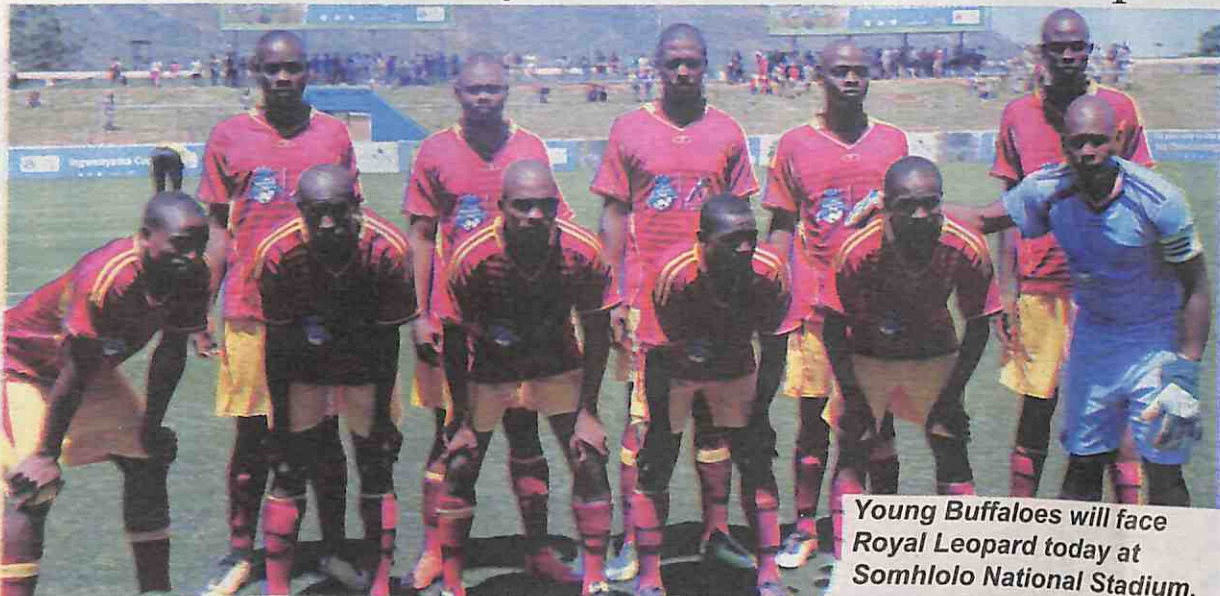
The NFD pacesetters have claimed their own big scalps in the competition to date including knocking out Premier League side Red Lions in the last 16 stage.

They went on to eliminate giant killers Milling Hotspurs in the quar-

ter-finals, convincingly beating them 2-0. Milling had knocked out Matsapha United and Mbabane Highlanders but Citizens made light-work of them. Citizens are also the first NFD side to reach the semi-finals of the Ingwenyama Cup.

They will be banking on the know-how of Baimba Kamara and Senzo Dlamini, two players with vast Premier League experience. It is a match that has all the ingredients to be a thriller.

Armed forces derby as 'Buffs' take on Leopard



Young Buffaloes will face Royal Leopard today at Somhlolo National Stadium.

TEAMS: Young Buffaloes vs Royal Leopard
TIME: 3.30pm
VENUE: Somhlolo National Stadium

Young Buffaloes will be looking to reach the final of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup for the second successive season when they face rivals Royal Leopard today.

Buffaloes were beaten by Mbabane Swallows in last season's final but the army side has a chance for another bite at the cherry with just Leopard standing between them and another final appearance.

Buffaloes have been solid this season

but they had a demoralising and shocking defeat in the League on Tuesday night, losing 0-1 to Moneni Pirates.

That result, coupled with leaders' Swallows draw with Wanderers the following day, saw Buffaloes fall four points behind the leaders with just six games to go in the League.

Task

That makes the Ingwenyama Cup a much more important task for Buffaloes with the League seemingly out of reach. The army side has missed striker Ndoda Mtsetfwa who has been out with injury since December but the forward returned in that midweek defeat and will be key today as Buffaloes try to break down a

revived Leopard.

Leopard had a disappointing first half of the season but they have been resurrecting their season of late, bar that defeat to Swallows a week ago.

Strike

Leopard won their midweek League clash, beating Malanti Chiefs 1-0 thanks to a strike by speedster Bonginkhosi 'Manyovu' Dlamini.

Dlamini has been in good form since returning from a long injury layoff towards the end of December and will be key as Leopard look to make it to the final for the second time, having reached the showpiece match in the inaugural edition back in 2016.

'SWAZI BOLT' SETS NEW 400 M NATIONAL RECORD

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

ATHLETICS - Swaziland's finest Sibusiso 'Swazi bolt' Matsenjwa has set a new national record in 400m during the Athletics Gauteng North (AGN) race held yesterday at the Tuks Stadium in Tshwane, South Africa.

The Royal Swaziland Police sprinter clocked 46.79s to beat national record of 46.99s previously held by Correctional star Thandaza Zwane which was clocked in Botswana last year.

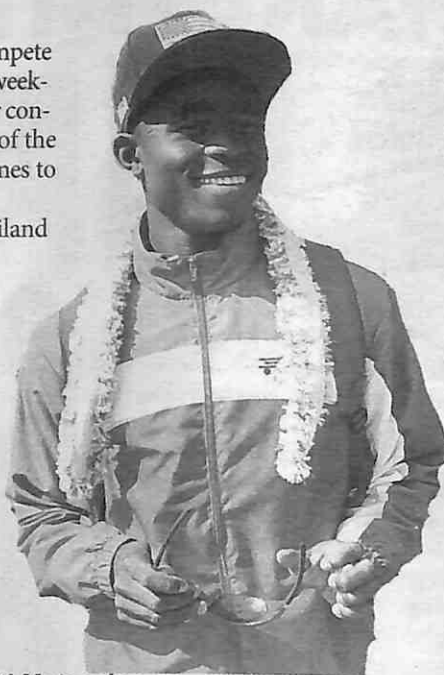
The Commonwealth Games bound Matsenjwa finished top ahead of South Africans Andrew Barnes and Yato Stephanie, who came second and third respectively.

parts.

The two athletes will now compete in the AGN race to be held next weekend at the same venue as the pair continues with their preparations of the upcoming Commonwealth Games to be held in August in Australia.

Athletics Association of Swaziland (AAS) Secretary Thoba Mazibuko said they were happy with the progress of the local athletes.

"We are quite pleased with the performance of our athletes in South Africa where they are showing good progress in their performances. We hope they will continue working hard in the upcoming races," he said.



Sibusiso 'Swazi bolt' Matsenjwa.

Trophy for biggest local club in 'Wafa Wafa'

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

ATHLETICS - In a bid to promote local talent in athletics, the Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Athletics club will award a trophy to a local club that will have the most participants during the third edition of the Wafa Wafa race.

The edition is slated for next Sunday at the St Georges Barracks in Matsapha.

The good news was announced by the tournament's Public Relations Officer Zweli Ngwenya who encouraged local clubs to register for the upcoming race in great numbers.

"The local club with most participants will receive a trophy as we are trying to promote local talent. We have also lined up prizes for the

other categories such as the juniors and veterans where the winners will take home E500 respectively," he said.

Ngwenya also stated that they were expecting international participants to honour the race.

"Mozambican and South African athletes promised to come and grace the event and we will have a final update during the registration deadline on February 10," he also said. USDF stars Melusi Sihlongonyane and Nomvula Dlamini won the 21km category during last years installment in the males and females category.

Some of the local clubs set to honour the race are Golden Foot, Zithande, TZD, Striders, Correctional and RSP among others.

TZD ATHLETICS CLUB SPREADS ITS WINGS

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

SOCCER - TZD Athletics Club has spread their wings and now accommodates senior athletes in the club.

The athletics club has in the last few months concentrated from school going athletes from Siteki and surrounding areas.

Interviewed yesterday TZD Director Zakhele Dlamini said their objective was to encourage healthy living amongst members of the public hence starting the club for senior athletes.

"When we started, the main goal was to equip athletes from the different schools in the country. We have decided to go big and form a club that will accommodate

everyone interested in a healthy lifestyle." "We also want to be in line with His Majesty's vision of ensuring that the nation exercises and leads healthy lifestyle," he said.

He said the club includes employees from Swaziland Revenue Authority, Swaziland Electricity Company, Swaziland Railway, Siteki Magistrate's Court as well as teachers from the School Of The Deaf were amongst those who took part in the run yesterday.

"Since the club is based at Siteki we want to make sure that we accommodate people from there and surrounding areas including Mpaka, Malindza, and Matsetsa, amongst others. Those interested in joining the club can contact me on 7604 8762," he said

Local stars fights for world junior champs slots

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

TAEKWONDO - Upcoming St Michaels female athlete Nonhle Maduma has put herself in good position to be part of the junior national team to represent the country in the world junior championships to be held next month in Tunisia.

Maduma outclassed her competitor Sikhulile Mahlalela of RSSC by 25-19 during the girl's junior's bout of the national team's selection tournament held at the St Michaels hall yesterday. Maduma is now expected to form

part of the junior squad to represent the country in the world junior show-piece which was due to be announced by the Swaziland Taekwondo Association last night.

The local association is also expected to name the senior national squad to compete in the upcoming African championship to take place during April in Morocco.

Top ranked local athletes such as Carlotta Munave, Thando Dlamini are set to make it through to the squad that will travel to Morocco.

STA Secretary Mbongeni Sibandze

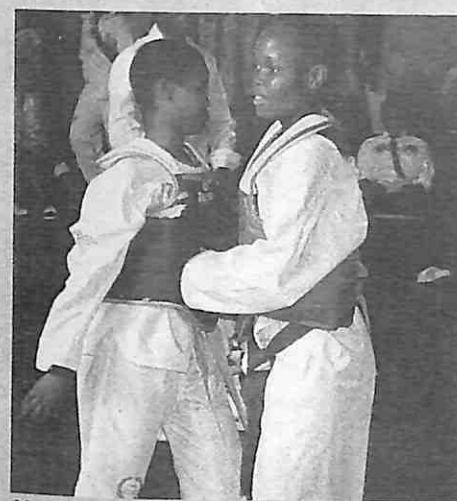
said they were working around the clock to announce the two national squads.

"We will soon release the list of athletes to compete in the two upcoming competitions where we want to assemble the strong teams. We are going to draw the training programmes for the two squads and the travelling logistics," he said.

Yesterday's competition saw the local players being assessed by the top judging panel comprising of Zakhele Dlamini, Sandile Mchunu and Bongani Manyatsi.



RSSC Sikhulile Mahlalela landing a kick on St Michaels Nonhle Maduma during the national team selection held at the St Michaels High School Hall yesterday, Maduma won the bout by 17-9. (Pics: Sibusiso Masilela)



Nonhle Maduma and Sikhulile Mahlalela hugging each other at the end of their bout.



St Michaels star Nonhle posing with her teammates.



National stars Thandolwethu Motsa and Carlotta Munave following proceedings.

Bongani Mvubu returns to Red Lions

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

SOCCER - Former Red Lions captain Bongani Mvubu has returned to the club for the second half of the season.

Mvubu was part of a long list of players, including the likes of Senzo Dlamini and Siphilile Sihlongonyane, who did not return to the club at the beginning of the current season.

The former Red Lions skipper has now returned to the club with his registration completed on deadline day on Friday. According to a well placed source, National First Division side Bad Boys were also interested in the defender who is currently training at the Police College in Matsapha.

"Bad Boys also wanted him and they were close to signing him. But then Red Lions sorted out their business and were able to register him on time.

Mvubu has been itching for a return to the club. He wants to help

them avoid relegation," the source said.

When reached for comment, Red Lions Chairman Elvis Dube confirmed that they had secured the signatures of several players but said their names would be announced tomorrow.

"It's true that we have signed some players.

I cannot comment on Mvubu. All I can say is that we will reveal their names on Monday because we are still ironing out a few details," Dube said yesterday.

Red Lions lost the services of forwards Katlego Piana and Ugochukwu Ohakwe in the January transfer window while fellow forward Sibusiso Mabelesa has also joined Matsapha United on loan.

The Manzini side, currently second bottom in the MTN Premier League standings, recorded only their second League win of the season on Tuesday night beating Tambuti 2-0

FORMER BULL STAR CALLS IT QUILTS

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

SOCCER – It's the end of the road for former Mbabane Highlanders and Manzini Wanderers star Hloniphani Ndebele.

The Zimbabwean born midfielder is said to have called quits on Swaziland and will be returning back home as he now feels he has nothing to offer to local football. Information gathered from online publication B- Metro, the playmaker was expected to back home before the end of February.

It was reported that the player could have been tormented before departure by Manzini Sundowns who seem to have brought down the sun on him after training with them during the entire mid-season window period.

"I have decided its time for me to go back home. Either I will help out with the small teams in Zimbabwe or start coaching courses. The last month I have



Hloniphani Ndebele.

been training with Manzini Sundowns just to keep myself fit.

Having arrived in the country about a decade ago with hugely followed wanderers his first pot of call lasting for two seasons, Ndebele became the household name rising to become one of the best paid players in the country.

He literally swept individual awards and was much sought after player at

one time being subjected to a tug-of-war between Mbababe Highlanders and Sundowns, but however he has turned out a pale shadow in the last two seasons, courting negative publicity.

Efforts to get comment from Ndebele, who has also had a short stint with Midas City, proved futile as his mobile phone was not available when called yesterday.

15 YEAR OLD PHAYO WINS SRIC MONTHLY MUG

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

GOLF – 15 Year old upcoming local golf star Phayo Dhlamini outdid himself by winning the first Swaziland Royal Insurance Corporation (SRIC) monthly mug this year

The Sifundzani pupil scored a nett 65 to beat other golfers including his father Sifiso Dhlamini. This was during the mug played at the Mbabane Golf Club yesterday

The youngster was followed by seasoned amateur golfer Willard Mkhwanazi who recorded the best gross on the day of 74 points while Welcome Mhlanga was third gross 69 points. Speaking after the presentation, Phayo paid tribute to his father for introducing him to the sport of golf. "I would to thank my father for allowing me to follow my passion as well as my coach Vusie Dlamini for guiding me in my career. I will continue working hard in upcoming competitions. I will continue working hard until I become

THE FULL RESULTS

1. Phayo Dhlamini	65 nett
2. Best gross: Willard Mkhwanazi	74 gross
3. Welcome Mhlanga	69 nett
4. Mduduzi Maphalala	70 nett
5. Albert Mavuso	70 nett (on a countback)
6. Mduduzi Mtsetfwa	70 nett
7. Sandile Choncho	70 nett
8. Wandile Nlombini	71 nett
9. Xolani Dlamini	71 nett
Novellies	
Longest drive: Nkosingiphile Mabuza	
Nearest to the pin	
2/11: Zwelisha Dlamini	
8/17: Bafana Hlophe	
9/18: Sandile Choncho	

a pro and compete in top competitions in the United States of America," he said.

Meanwhile SRIC Assistant General Manager Mandla Dlamini thanked the golfers for attending the tournament in great numbers.

"We are happy with the attendance here today and promise to continue supporting the sport even this year. We will be announcing the new package in due course," he said.

Matsapha, Sundowns match cancelled due to Somhlolo power failure

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

SOCCER – Matsapha United's MTN Premier League clash with Manzini Sundowns was cancelled on Friday night after a blackout of the Somhlolo National Stadium floodlights.

The match which was scheduled to kickoff at 7pm was set to be the last of matchday 20 with League games having begun on Tuesday night. Somhlolo had hosted four evening matches this week before Friday's cancelled encounter, starting with Moneni Pirates' win over second placed Young Buffaloes on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday evening, there was a double header involving the big three

clubs of Manzini Wanderers, Mbabane Highlanders and Mbabane Swallows while on Thursday night the stadium hosted Green Mamba's 2-0 victory over Vovovo.

In all those matches, the Somhlolo floodlights worked well but Matsapha and Sundowns were not lucky with the lights failing to switch on. The lights eventually switched on about 30 minutes after the match officials had called the encounter off. When reached for comment yesterday, Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) COO Pat Vilakati said they would announce the date of the rescheduled fixture in due course. "We will get the reports (on the cancelled match) first and we will then take it from there," Vilakati said.

We will be no walk over for Birds-Citizens

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

SOCCER – National First division outfit Mbabane Citizen have warned Mbabane Swallows to come prepared for a fight as they will be no walk over for the Mbabane giants.

The two sides will clash in the much anticipated SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup semi-finals slated for the Somhlolo National Stadium this afternoon.

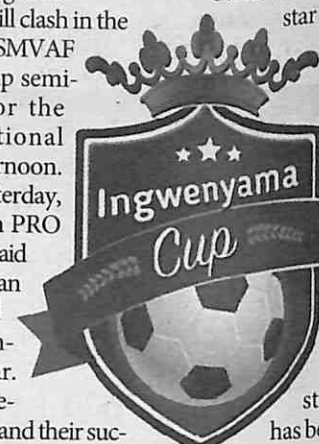
Interviewed yesterday, Mbabane Citizen PRO Sifiso Hlatshwayo said they were more than ready for the red and white ensemble. "It will be war. They may be superior in many ways and their success speaks volumes but even if they do manage by chance to beat us, it will be no walk over.

The PRO stated that they have signed new players ahead of the

game and would be available for selection depending on the coach.

The players include internationals Bruhan Abdulai and Leonardo Aheidekey from Ghana, Brian Vilane formerly with Manzini Wanderers and former Manzini Sundowns and Hub Sundowns star Jean Nguimbous.

He added that they would also welcome their captain Celani Shongwe who has been out of action for the past two weeks due to an injury. "Besides Bhekani Ballotelli Tsabedze who is still side lined and has been for the last few months, we are at full strength and are looking forward to the game. We do invite our supporters to come and rally behind the team," he said.



BUFFALOES MAKE RESERVE LEAGUE HISTORY

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – Two time Premier League of Swaziland reserve League champions Young Buffaloes have written the league's history books by recording the highest score line since inception of the league three seasons ago.

The army junior side thrashed listless Malanti Chiefs 18-0 in a one sided affair played at the Somhlolo National Stadium which also marked the kickoff of the 2017/18 season. Buffaloes coach Mbongwa Dlamini said they are happy with the performance of his players when contacted. "I am really happy with what has been done by the boys today (yesterday) after making the team so proud. We will not relax after this big win but we will continue to work hard until the end of the season," he said. Other opening fixtures saw defending champions Manzini Sundowns suffer to a 2-1 loss to Mbabane Highlanders meanwhile Mbabane Swallows thumped Royal Leopard 4-3. Two matches pitting Red Lions / Green Mamba and Manzini Wanderers/ Vovovo after some of the teams could not get their playing card on time.

OTHER RESULTS

Tambuti	2	Midas City	0
Highlanders	2	Sundowns	1
Pirates	1	Matsapha	0
Leopard	3	Swallows	1
Red Lions	vs	G Mamba	did not play
Manzini Wanderers	vs	Vovovo	did not play

LET'S ADD POSITIVE VALUE TO FOOTBALL- PROS

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

SOCCER – Young Buffaloes PRO Sandile Gwebu has urged his counterparts, other team PROs to work towards adding positive value to local football.

The PRO made the plea during the PROs get together held at the Polar Park at Ezulwini yesterday. He said the main purpose of their alliance was to promote unity amongst their respective clubs.

"One of the reasons my team allowed this partnership was to ensure that we unite Buffaloes and Leopard as there are beliefs that these two sides don't see eye to eye and we have managed to do just that. "As PROs we need to ensure that our conduct is good at all times hence it is not good for us to be seen

fighting each other. He also urged his counterparts to respect the Premier League of Swaziland (PLS).

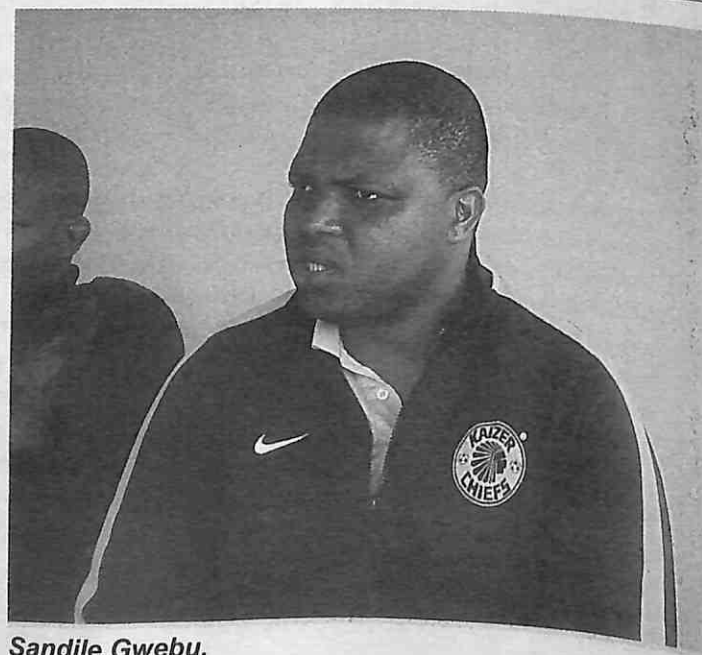
"It is important that we know what the office expects of us. We wouldn't be here if it was not for this office and it is unfortunate that something bad had to happen. We just hope they will find the perfect replacement for Gamedze if that will be possible. The late chairman made us aware of what he wanted from us and it made things easier," he said.

Before the start of the teams' spokespersons observed a moment of silence in memory of the slain PLS Chairman Victor Gamedze. Royal Leopard PRO said, as PROs, they were devastated by what happened to the late chairman as he played a huge role in shaping them to what they have become in the pro-

fession. He also expressed gratitude to the PLS for its contribution towards the success of their event.

"We want to thank the PLS which has always been with us in this journey. The organisation donated a sum of E2000 to ensure that this event is successful," he said. Other spokespersons present during the event included Green Mamba CEO Thamie Phakathi, Manzini Sundowns PRO Muzi Matsenjwa, former Moneni Pirates CEO Thamie Dlamini and Red Lions PRO Comfort Shongwe and National First Division outfit Hlathikulu Tycoons PRO Sandile Masuku.

Also present were National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe and PLS Administrator Ncamsile Mkhonta



Sandile Gwebu.

ABSA PREMIERSHIP

Bidvest Wits	1-1	Kaizer Chiefs
SuperSport United	4-2	Bloemfontein Celtic
Free State Stars	2-0	Baroka FC
Amazulu	2-1	Golden Arrows
Orlando Pirates	2-1	Maritzburg United

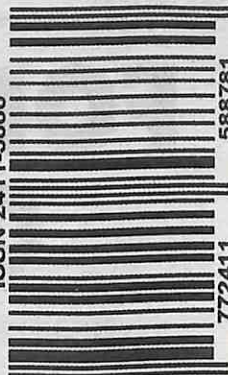
PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal	5-1	Everton
Leicester City	1-1	Swansea City
Brighton & Hove Albion	3-1	West Ham United
West Bromwich Albion	2-3	Southampton
Manchester United	2-0	Huddersfield Town
AFC Bournemouth	2-1	Stoke City
Burnley	1-1	Manchester City

SundayObserver SPORTING

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

ISSN 2411-5886



772411 588781

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IT'S TIME UP FOR HLONIPHANI NDEBELE

MTN NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION LOGS

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Citizens	14	11	2	1	29	10	19	33
Madlenya	14	9	2	3	27	11	16	29
Sea Birds	14	8	3	3	29	16	13	27
Tinyosi	14	6	4	4	26	13	13	22
Milling	14	6	4	4	13	12	1	22
Hub Sundowns	14	6	1	7	12	14	-2	19
Callies	14	5	4	5	15	18	-3	19
Sikhalo	14	4	4	6	14	18	-4	17
Tycoons	14	5	1	8	19	20	-1	16
Bad Boys	14	3	3	8	14	27	-13	12
Mahlalini	14	3	2	9	18	30	-12	11
Amalanda	14	3	1	10	11	22	-11	10

RESULTS

Tycoons	1	Citizens	0
Tinyosi	2	Callies	2
Hub Sundowns	1	Amalanda	0
Sea Birds	3	Mahlalini	1
Madlenya	1	Sikhalo se-Africa	3
Milling Hot Spurs	1	Bad Boys	1



● After almost a decade in Swaziland, the former Manzini Wanderers and Mbabane Highlanders star feels it's time for a fresh start back home

Wits deny Chiefs victory

JOHANNESBURG - Champions Bidvest Wits and Kaizer Chiefs played to a lukewarm 1-1 draw in an ABSA Premiership showdown.

The 'Amakhosi' handed a start to Kgotso Moleko in place of Ramahlwe Mphahlele, with Eric Mathoho returning in the centre of defence to partner Daniel Cardoso.

Siphiwe Tshabalala got the game's first shot on goal three minutes into the game, but it was easy pickings for Darren Keet.

After scoring a stunner last week, Daylon Claassen looked to continue from where he left off and played in Sifiso Myeni to set-up Lehlohonolo Majoro, but the former dilly-dallied

on the ball.

Ghanaian Edwin Gyimah fired in two shots from the edge of the box in quick succession, his first was well dealt with by Itumeleng Khune, while his second flew into the stands.

Change

The 'Students' were forced to an early change after Denis Weidlich was replaced by Thabang Monare 12 minutes before the break.

The 'Amakhosi' went ahead through the head of Ryan Moon who profited from Tshabalala's cross from the left side to head home perfectly.

Buhle Mkhwanazi went searching for an immediate equaliser from a corner, but saw his header going wide



of goal.

Englishman James Keene found himself in acres of space inside the box where he evaded two defenders only to miss the inviting opportunity shortly after the break.

Steve Komphela rang the changes, bringing in Siphelele Ntshangase who

drew a rosy reception from the crowd for the Venezuelan-born Gustavo Paez.

They were however pegged back through Majoro who outjumped Mathoho to finish off Sifiso Hlanti's delivery.

Lucky Ngezana was fortunate not

to have his poor pass punished by Gabadinho Mhango, who like Myeni earlier in the first half, took too much time to pull the trigger.

Regain

The 'Amakhosi' were looking to regain their lead and Moon tried to put them back in front but headed over the top.

Substitute Ntshangase missed the opportunity for his first goal for the club as he shot poorly at Keet. Seconds later Leonardo Castro surged in front of the Students defence, but could not profit.

Khune pulled off a dramatic save in added time to deny Claassen and earn his side a share of the spoils that move them into third place.

KICKOFF