

ESWATINI Observer

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MONDAY DECEMBER 2, 2019

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DAY FIVE: His Majesty King Mswati III with the regiment sings and dances during the ongoing Little Incwala day five at Ngabezweni Royal Residence yesterday. (Pic: Maphepheni Simelane) MORE ON PAGE 9

INTERSTATE BOSS ARRESTED, CHARGED

STORY
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- Four days later police make breakthrough in Jomo's murder
- Suspect to appear at Manzini Magistrate's Court today

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Very hot weather, but cools later in the week

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

WEATHER forecasts issued by Accu Weather Services show that the week will begin with extremely hot temperatures.

As the week progresses thunderstorms and rain showers are expected and temperatures will be very low.

Today it will be sunny and hot becoming extremely hot in the Lowveld; caution advised if outside for extended periods of time. Temperatures are expected to reach 38 Degrees Celsius. Tomorrow will be sunny to partly

cloudy and very hot to extremely hot in the Lowveld. A touch of rain in the evening is expected, otherwise cloudy. Temperatures will reach 41 Degrees Celsius.

Wednesday, it will be cloudy and cool with a couple of showers and a heavy thunderstorm. Temperatures are expected to drastically drop as they

Today	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big-bend
Mbabane 18/33	19/34	21/36	20/35	21/37	22/38
Tomorrow	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big-bend
Mbabane 12/36	13/37	15/39	14/38	16/40	17/41
Wednesday	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big-bend
Mbabane 9/13	10/14	12/16	13/15	14/18	15/19
Thursday	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big-bend
Mbabane 11/15	12/16	14/18	13/17	15/20	16/21

will start from 9 Degrees Celsius and rise to 19 Degrees Celsius. Thursday

it will be cool with occasional rain and drizzle, cloudy with a couple of showers.

Need to reduce HIV infections

IN as much as the numbers of people being infected with HIV and AIDS have been reduced, the Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini says the country can still do more.

The premier said enrolling all people who test HIV positive on ART, regardless of their CD4 count, has contributed to the significant reduction of new HIV infections by almost 50 per cent between 2011 and 2017.

He said it has been a worthwhile investment that the government continues to commit to with the knowledge that this life saving endeavour would contribute immensely to the epidemic control in the country.

"It is also important to note that 75 per cent of our population is HIV negative, we collectively need to reduce the number of people who get infected annually by 85 per cent by 2022," he said.

Therefore, the premier said there was need to focus on preventing new infections to ensure that the negative status is maintained.

Communities

He said it could be achieved if people can work together as communities.

Since different dialogues were held in different regions where thoughts and ideas were shared on how the country can intensify the goal towards ending AIDS, he encouraged more people to join the dialogues.

"May I now take this time to honour all those people living with HIV who have taken an HIV test, enrolled and adhered to treatment. Under the theme 'Communities make the difference' I implore you, the community of people living with HIV, to support each other and to adhere to treatment," he said.

He also pleaded with everyone to denounce all HIV related stigma and discrimination which is as devastating as the illness itself because it results in abandonment by a partner or family, failure to access medical services, and gender-based violence.

The premier said the stigma consequences mean that people would be less likely to come for HIV testing, to disclose their HIV status, adopt positive HIV prevention behaviour or access treatment care and support, which retards the progress in the HIV response.

"In our communities, be it at work or in our social groupings, let us embrace and support those who are living with HIV," he said.



PACKED: A section of the guests who also took part in the commemoration. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

PM COMMITS TO ART PROVISION

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Ezulwini

...country on the right path to end AIDS

DESPITE fiscal challenges faced by the country, Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini has assured that the country will not by any chance run out of antiretroviral treatment.

The prime minister was speaking during the commemoration of World AIDS Day yesterday at Swazi Sun Sports Ground in Ezulwini. He was represented by Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku.

The theme for the World AIDS Day commemoration this year is 'Communities make the difference.' It recognises the benefits of working together as different communities to succeed in achieving a common goal.

The premier said the strength of any community is in bringing together ideas, energy and resources so that gaps and weaknesses of each other are overcome.

"The community then becomes a strong and formidable force that can overcome any difficulty," he said. He added that it is crucial for communities to work together as it will effectively accelerate the HIV response towards ending AIDS.

He further indicated that the country is on the

right path towards ending AIDS. He stated that Emaswati will only achieve the target of ending AIDS within the set timeframe, if they all accelerate the uptake of HIV services to further reduce HIV infections among men, adolescents, young women between 15 to 24 years and among key populations at substantive risk of HIV infection.

"There is an urgent need to close the tap. It is worrisome to note that there are still about 7 000 new HIV infections every year," he said.

Assured

The premier assured everyone that government is relentlessly supporting the delivery of HIV programmes, despite the current fiscal challenges.

"For example, government has committed to procure all first line ARVs for citizens to ensure availability and accessibility to all people who test HIV positive. The ingenious adoption of ARVs has allowed people who are living with HIV to live longer and healthier lives," he said.

HIV in Eswatini is no longer a death sentence, therefore, the PM encourages everyone across the country to know their HIV status so they take the necessary action whatever result.

"If you test HIV positive, take ARVs, and if negative, use all the options available for you

to stay so," he said.

He urged young people to delay sex as it is the only way to avoid HIV infection.

He also pleaded with the nation at large to refrain from the abuse of drugs and alcohol as these do not only make one vulnerable to HIV infection, but is a threat to the desired prosperous future.

"Condoms are available for those who have started engaging in sex and ARVs are available for pregnant women who are HIV positive for them to give birth to uninfected babies," the premier said. He added that voluntary medical male circumcision is available for men to reduce chances of being infected with HIV.

Expressed

He also expressed profound gratitude to Their Majesties whose personal commitment and wise leadership in the HIV and AIDS response has created an enabling environment for all the positive progress made thus far.

He said the successes that the country has made in the response is a result of concerted efforts by the different communities ranging from collaborating partners, the donor community internal and external, civil society, churches, public and private sectors and *imiphakatsi*.

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INTERSTATE BOSS ARRESTED, CHARGED FOR JOMO'S MURDER

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

ALTHOUGH it may not bring back their family member, the Khumalo family may have some form of closure as two suspects have been arrested and charged for the murder of businessman Jomo Khumalo.

Eswatini Interstate Association Secretary General Maxwell Nkambule and Fanaleni Sithole were yesterday charged for the murder of Khumalo.

The two suspects were said to have been involved in the plot to murder Khumalo over what was allegedly a feud regarding cross-border permits.

Khumalo was gunned down on Wednesday around Manzini traffic circle in the presence of his wife and two children.

Judging by the number of shots fired at the late businessman, his family was lucky to escape the attack as Khumalo was reportedly shot seven times.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that the two suspects were charged with murder and will make their court appearance

...police threaten more arrests

today at the Manzini Magistrate's Court.

Vilakati added that the two suspects also faced two other charges; being three attempted murders as well as contravening the arms and ammunition legislation.

She said the two suspects have been in police custody assisting them with their investigation and were yesterday formally charged.

She said police were continuing with their investigations and the number of suspects could rise depending on information gathered by the police.

Charging

The charging of the secretary general has confirmed suspicions that Khumalo's death was a result of a long standing disagreement between the businessman and Eswatini Interstate Association which resulted in Khumalo obtaining a court order allowing him to continue transporting his customers who were mainly hawkers.

A number of questions remained unanswered with most people after Khumalo even went to the extent of reporting to the police about possible hired hands that were threatening his life.

In August, one of Khumalo's drivers and cus-

tomers had a run-in with at least seven armed South African men believed to be hired hitmen (*tinkabi*).

The men reportedly threatened with death the driver of a 16-seater Mercedes Benz Sprinter styled 'Mahle Emantungwa' and his passengers, who were 16 hawkers from the country that buy their wares in Johannesburg, South Africa.

This was before detaining them for over an hour at a filling station while occasionally dangling their guns and issuing the endless threats to kill all of them. Eswatini Interstate Association Chairperson Bambumuti Sithole expressed his doubts that the shooting incident had anything to do with the misunderstanding that Khumalo had with the interstate association.

Sithole said Khumalo had even withdrawn his matter in court and added that they were set to meet in a round table to discuss the matter and find an amicable solution.

When contacted for comment yesterday, his mobile phone rang unanswered.

In a brief statement on Saturday, Public Works and Transport Minister Chief Ndululhaza



MURDERED: The late businessman Jomo Khumalo.

Ndwandwe condemned the senseless murder of Khumalo.

"The ministry of public works and transport expresses shock and dismay at the news of the brutal killing of Jomo Khumalo, a member of the public transport sector. The ministry wishes to convey its sincere condolences to the Khumalo family at this difficult time of pain and senseless deprivation of a father, husband and member of our business community. The ministry further wishes to convey condolences to all stakeholders in the public transport sector for the tragic loss of one of their members and citizens. We call for calm and holding together to work and overcome such acts of violence in the industry that is so vital in economic and social development. We are confident that law enforcement agencies will address such criminality for continued social cohesion," the minister stated.

Domestic electricity to hike significantly

STORIES BY NOMTHANAZO NKAMBULE
Pigg's Peak

WITH most commodity costs hiking sporadically, consumers should brace themselves to pay more for electricity, especially domestic users as there will be a significant hike of power going forward.

Though this might not happen sooner, Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA) Regulation Manager Simphiwe Khumalo said domestic customers prices (of electricity) had to go up by 60 per cent so as to correct what he termed 'cross subsidisation'.

He explained that the reason electricity for the respective homes is quite reasonable now is because businesses, including the small scale ones like salons, were paying up to 40 per cent because of cross subsidisation.

"Cross subsidisation is the practice of charging higher prices to one type of consumer

so as to artificially lower prices for another group.

The trend in Eswatini now is that businesses pay more for electricity so as to cushion domestic customers. Salon owners, for instance, pay more for electricity, they subsidise domestic customers some of whom are rich. Cross-subsidisation is a challenge for the sustainability of the industry.

Customers

Worth noting is that domestic customers are increasing rapidly, thus cross-subsidisation if not sorted, it will continue to harm businesses. Once it is reviewed, electricity for domestic customers will increase up to 60 per cent," he said during a meeting with editors held at Pigg's Peak Hotel on Friday.

Khumalo said businesses viewed current non-cost reflective tariffs as unsustainable, thus are exploring alternative self-generation options.

He said higher tariffs deterred business people from settling in a country.

Khumalo added that there should be a

rebalance of the tariffs and cross-subsidisation be removed.

"If cross-subsidisation is removed there will be a significant increase in domestic tariffs."

Khumalo said cross-subsidisation came with challenges, one of them being that business customers (especially industrial), were growing at a very slow pace.

He said another challenge was that the migration of business customers off-grid would decrease economies of scale and significantly increase tariffs for remaining customers.

"Excessively high tariffs will make it unaffordable for most of the local population," Khumalo added.

He said they had a subsidy framework which would result to the development of a tariff support mechanism for vulnerable households.

It would also send correct signals to consumers in terms of their consumption levels and behaviour.

DVOKOLWAKO ACTING CHIEF BURIED AMIDST DISPUTE

BY NONCEBO DLAMINI
Manzini

DVOKOLWAKO Acting Chief Mohammed Magagula was finally laid to his final resting place at Mvelo Umphakatsi yesterday, despite an intense dispute amongst the Magagula ruling clan.

Some members of the Magagula clan objected to the norm that their senior members are seen off from the royal kraal (*aphumele endlunkhulu*).

The bone of contention was that Mohammed cannot use *indlunkhulu* because he was not a chief, a point which was disputed by the other members of the Magagula household.

They argued that being a senior member and acting chief, just like their father, who acted before Chief Malamlela took over, he came from the royal kraal and the late chief respected that practice.

So serious was the tension that Manzini Regional Administrator Chef Gija's view was sought on the matter, and he seemed to have concurred with those who objected on the use of the royal kraal.

He is reported to have advised them that only the chief, his wife and children can be buried from the royal kraal (*indlunkhulu*).

A member of the Magagula household told the Observer that finally the acting chief was buried in the usual family burial site, which is within the royal kraal.

"That was not an issue, but the objection was on the body being ushered out from *indlunkhulu*."

Upon interrogation, we finally got the reason behind their objection. It had nothing to do with him not being a chief but the major reason was that the Magagula household is of the view that had he gone past *indlunkhulu* it would have delayed the installation of the new chief. This would have meant that the *umphakatsi* would have had to wait for a long time before it is considered cleansed to host such a ceremony. Mvelo Royal Kraal is the seat of power and any formal installation has to take place there. The other two *umphakatsi* are secondary," the member of the family said. The late Acting Chief Mohammed's body came via his home, which is about two kilometres from the *umphakatsi* to be buried at the family burial site.

He has been holding this position since 2012 after the demise of Chief Malamlela, his brother.

"The letter from the Manzini RA did not look authentic as it did not have a signature and a stamp which proved that it was coming from his office. It looked more like an opinion than an order," he added.

He further stated that after receiving the letter the elders tried reaching out to Manzini RA Chief Gija to get more information on the matter and reasons behind the refusal to use the *umphakatsi*, but they could not get hold of him.

'EEC MUST RESTORE POWER IN 24 HRS'

ELECTRICITY consumers should expect Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) to restore power in just about 24 hours once a power outage happens.

This is according to ESERA Legal Counsel/Board Secretary Felix Matsebula. He said the restoration of power in 24 hours was stipulated in the Electricity Licensing By-Laws which would be implemented in the near future. Matsebula said failure by the power utility to abide to the by-laws, it would be penalised by ESERA. He added that ESERA and government wanted locals to have access to electricity with minimal glitches.

E33m coffers for rural electrification

ABOUT E33 million is sitting with ESERA as money collected when customers buy electricity.

ESERA Legal Counsel/Board Secretary Felix Matsebula said the E33 million had accumulated in the last two years. It is money which is charged when each customer buys units of electricity.

He said this money for now was with ESERA, being kept there as a way was paved for the operationalisation of the Rural Electrification Fund. "The minister of natural resources and energy has

to come up with regulations which will guide how this money will be used," he said, adding that the rural electrification plan was in ESERA's efforts to promote access to electricity.

Electrification

Matsebula said rural electrification was a priority for the power sector policy.

"Government has the task to promote, support and provide rural electrification programmes through public and private sector participation. The minister is mandated to prepare a rural electrification plan," he said.



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Women still denied right to own land in Eswatini

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

SINGLE women are still deprived their right to own land in the country.

The Southern Africa Litigation Centre Research Report has cited Eswatini to be one of the countries in the world that still discriminates women and children in owning land. The report is based on alignment of Eswatini's domestic laws with recommendations of United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms. The land in Eswatini is divided into two categories: Eswatini Nation Land and land owned by freehold or concession, including tenure farms and commercial land. Eswatini Nation Land is further divided into two; land under customary tenure and land which is leased by private companies. Despite Section 21(2) of the Constitution emphasising gender equality, Swazi Law and Custom limits the right to land for cultivation and residence to the male head of a household.

The land is allocated to Emaswati through local chiefs and is based on a patronage system. Therefore, females who wish to own a piece of land under Eswatini Nation Land are deprived by customs. The report also talks on women being forced to be attached to a male counterpart in order to acquire a piece of land. The report recommends that Eswatini should enforce the Constitution even on ENL. This is because the most women deprived these rights are rural women.

Farm dwellers also marginalised

ANOTHER group of people who are constantly deprived fairness when it comes to land rights are farm dwellers.

The report talks more on farm dwellers who are constantly evicted without following what is stipulated in the Constitution. The report states that lack of transparency in the allocation of title deed land and concessions means that communities who lived on the land for many years believing that it is Eswatini Nation Land, can be evicted if such land is subsequently allocated through title deed to others. "Many of the large-scale evictions that have taken place are accordingly at the instance of agricultural and other companies," states the report. The Farm Dwellers Control Act No. 12 of 1982 makes provision for when the tribunal may order the recovery of possession of land occupied by a farm dweller.

The Tribunal is not empowered to make such order without reasonable accommodation or compensation for the farm dweller.

The Act further provides that a person may not be evicted between September of one year and May of the next year, to ensure that crops are not lost. Subsistence farmers who live on title deed land are only protected under the Farm Dwellers Act if they have a formal agreement with the owner of the land. The Vagrancy Act No. 39 of 1963 has further been used against people who are homeless. The Act defines a vagrant as a person who: "Having neither lawful employment nor lawful means of subsistence which provide him regularly with the necessities for his maintenance; or having no fixed abode and not giving a satisfactory account of himself; or wandering abroad and placing himself in a public place, to beg or gather alms, or procuring or encouraging a child or children to do so; or living or lodging in a place of area which the minister has declared by notice in the Gazette to be unfit for living in."

The Act allows the police to arrest without a warrant any person who appears to be a vagrant. The court can then order such person to be detained in a place of detention or to leave the area, leave the country, or order the person to return home.

The Manzini, Matsapha and Mbabane prisons have been declared places of detention under the Act. The Act continues to be enforced and has led to the detention of homeless persons in prison, despite not having committed a criminal offence.

'GO TO INCWALA'

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

POLITICAL activist Maxwell Dlamini has raised a debate amongst his ideological equals, urging members of progressives to take part in this year's Incwala.

Incwala is regarded by some traditionalists as a 'national prayer' through which the nation thanks God for His guidance.

It is open for every Liswati to attend.

This is an event which some individuals have opted to shun due to either their religious or political beliefs. It is a general knowledge that members of some political formations have over the years elected to stay away from the event.

A suggestion by one of the most vocal political activists calling for progressives to take part in the event has over the past five days been a topic for discussion on social media.

Maxwell Dlamini, one of the youthful political activists who have spent time behind bars for their political ideology last week posted on Facebook, urging members of political formations to take part in this

...Maxwell tells progressives

year's Incwala.

In his post, Dlamini acknowledged that Incwala was a Nguni culture which had been inherited from the forefathers, hence it was culture which was open for every Liswati to partake in despite political affiliation. "This year we must attend the Incwala Ceremony as the progressives led by the PPA (Political Parties Assembly (PPA))", reads part of Dlamini's post, drawing hundreds of comments from other users of the Facebook platform.

"We, as the Insika regiments, must put on the traditional regalia and have the President Mlungisi Makhanya lead us", he continued.

It was gathered that 'Insika' refers to members of the proscribed People's United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO).

Dlamini is known as a member of the formation, even though at some instances, he was reported to have resigned from the group.

His post drew both support and criticism from users of the Facebook platform, with some labelling Dlamini as misinformed.

Even though they acknowledged that Incwala was an African culture, some of the Facebook users stated that it would not be proper for progressives to take part in the event.

However, renowned political activist, Mbho Shongwe supported Dlamini's idea, saying members of political formations were free to take part in the event.

In his reactions, Dlamini also stated that taking part in the event would indicate that progressives were not against culture.

Meanwhile, it is also recalled that sometime last year, Dlamini also indicated his interest to partake in the national elections. When reached for comment, Acting Ludzidzini Indvuna Lusendvo Fakudze first highlighted that Incwala was a national prayer whereby all Emaswati convene a prayer using the traditional way. Fakudze said it was however difficult to ascertain the motives of individuals who elect to take part in this event. He said it would be difficult therefore to prevent members of progressives from

taking part in the event.

"The problem is that we may not be sure whether those individuals are coming with a clean heart or they just want to cause trouble," he said.

Fakudze said however, traditional leaders from which those individuals come from may assist in finding the motives behind them wanting to take part in the event.

"We have had instances where some alleged progressives attempt to cause trouble in this event in the past, hence we may need to be sure about the motives in this case," Fakudze said. He said however, people who have repented were allowed to join the libutfo.

We, as the Insika regiments, must put on the traditional regalia and have the President Mlungisi Makhanya lead us

Mentally challenged man hacks two at Manzana

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

TWO people from Manzana have been admitted in hospital after they were hacked by an alleged mentally challenged man from the same area.

The man is said to have acted strangely over the past few days, where he is reported to have attacked people whenever he came across them.

Ndleleni Sihlongonyane is said to have hacked a nine-year-old child with a bush-knife injuring her on the cheek.

According to the residents found at the scene, Sihlongonyane hacked the child and then went back to his house where he stayed, not knowing that he was being tailed by the relatives of the child he hacked.

When the relatives of the child arrived at Sihlongonyane's house they knocked and asked him to come out and he refused.

It is then that they decided to use force and Sihlongonyane is said to have come out carrying the same bush-knife in an attempt to defend himself.

Upon realising that, the gang escaped but one was left behind and Sihlongonyane is said to have hacked him with the bush-



DANGEROUS MAN: Ndleleni Sihlongonyane after he was beaten by Manzana residents yesterday. (Pic: Bongumusa Simelane)

knife.

It is said he hacked the second victim in the head and he sustained serious head injuries.

When narrating the ordeal, Manzana Zonal Leader Dan Mavuso said the others then came

back and beat up Sihlongonyane. He said they beat him until he was unconscious and some elders intervened and asked that he be left alone as he was not fighting back anymore.

Mavuso said Sihlongonyane has been a menace in the area as he had numerous cases where he was reported to be beating people for no reason. He said they even called the police to come and arrest him but the police did not which angered the residents.

Promised

"He even harassed the other tenants from where he stays and his landlord has tried to talk to him but he did not cooperate," he added.

He pointed out that he even took it upon himself to report the matter to the police but all his efforts were in vain as they promised to come but never did.

"As residents of Manzana we are very disappointed in the police service.

We have contacted them on numerous occasions to come and arrest Sihlongonyane but they did nothing until now that he has hurt innocent people," Mavuso said.

Sihlongonyane's landlord Thomas Dlamini when reached for comment said he had tried

to talk to him about the allegations levelled against him but he did listen not to him.

Dlamini said he even called Sihlongonyane's brother to inform him about the said behaviour.

He said Sihlongonyane was staying in his rented flats because his brother had asked that he be allowed to stay there and Dlamini obliged because he knew him as someone who grew up in the area, not knowing that he would eventually develop such unbearable behaviour.

Among those he assaulted is Thulani Mdluli from Manzana whom he attacked using a metal. When police came yesterday to fetch him after the latest incidents, he said he was angry because people did not see that he wanted to be a royal guard.

He said a powerful spirit protected him and thus he wanted to be a royal guard.

"I am a soldier and I know that I can make a good bodyguard," Sihlongonyane said.

Information gathered pointed out that Sihlongonyane was once admitted at the psychiatric centre a few years ago but was discharged.

However, the residents feel he has been drinking too much alcohol and smoking which might be the result of his actions.

When contacted, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the matter, saying two people had been admitted in hospital after they were injured by a man from Manzana.

16 Days of Activism against GBV:

ANOTHER MAN BEATS HIS WIFE TO DEATH

BY BONCIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

A crime of passion reared its ugly head again when yet another man killed his wife.

In an incident that happened around the wee hours of Saturday, Sicelo Magagula (31) at Mahhomu, near Mliba is said to have assaulted his wife Ntobeko Shongwe (29) with the sacred shrub (Lusekwane) all over the body until she sustained fatal wounds.

The bone of contention is said to be that Shongwe was found by her husband standing with another man outside the Magagula premises at around 3am on Saturday.

Worth noting is that this happened five days into the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence; an international campaign for the elim-

ination of violence against women. Information gathered from impeccable sources was that there was a night vigil at the Magagula homestead and a funeral was scheduled for the Saturday morning.

Unidentified

At around 3am, it is said Magagula went out of the homestead only to find Shongwe standing with an unidentified man, who upon seeing Magagula, took to his heels.

Out of curiosity, Magagula is said to have asked Shongwe what she was doing outside the home because it was dark.

In her response, Shongwe is said to have told her husband that she had gone to relieve herself.

This, apparently, did not satisfy Magagula as he kept asking her why she had gone all the way out of the premises when there was a toilet within the home.

Sources close to the matter further alleged that Magagula then ordered Shongwe to take him to where she had relieved herself as proof.

It is said the couple went around in circles as Shongwe failed to point out the exact location.

This is said to have angered Magagula and a verbal altercation ensued.

Just when the couple was engaged in the heated argument, a source said Shongwe's phone rang and when she answered, Magagula heard a man's voice on the other end of the line.

Dragged

This aggravated Magagula to boiling point and he allegedly dragged Shongwe to a nearby forest, where he assaulted her all over the body with the sacred shrub until she was unconscious.

When all this happened, somehow, not a single soul is said to have wit-

nessed the fight.

"The cause for all this seems to be trust issues.

We cannot be sure of the cause of this though," said a source who preferred anonymity.

When he noticed that she was unresponsive, Magagula allegedly called a relative and told him that he had killed his wife.

The relative is said to have proceeded to call a community police to report the matter.

When the community police arrived at the scene, Magagula is said to have relayed the events leading to him brutally killing his wife.

It was further gathered that Shongwe was badly injured as her arms were broken and she had gaping wounds in most parts of her body.

When quizzed on the matter, a member of the community police, identified as David Ndwandwe, con-

firmed that he was notified about the matter.

He said he had a chance to talk to Magagula, willingly told him that he was angered by the fact that the man who left as soon as he saw him with his wife.

"I cannot say much about the matter because what I know is only one side of the story.

However, I can confirm that he did not run away after committing the crime," Ndwandwe said.

Confirmed

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident and that Magagula faced a murder charge.

This is the second incident to happen since the beginning of this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence as on the first day of the campaign, a 30-year-old woman of Thulwane was murdered by her husband with a Langa brick.

This is the second shocking incident to happen since the start of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.

The first happened last Monday when a man killed his lover with a brick. He has since been arrested and charged with murder.



BRIEFING: DPM Themba Masuku in a conversation with UN Resident Coordinator Dr Nathalie Ndongo se and John Moyer from the US Embassy. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

STOP EXPLOITING YOUNG GIRLS – US EMBASSY

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Ezulwini

AMERICAN Embassy representative John Moyer says it is high time men reject the idea of exploiting young women to consent for sex as it is the main reason new HIV infections remain high amongst young women.

Moyer was speaking during the World AIDS Day Commemoration at Royal Swazi Spa sports ground yesterday.

He added that this assertion was proven by statistics which showed a high increase of HIV infections amongst young girls between the ages of 15 to 19.

He added that young women in the country faced an unacceptable high risk of being a victim of sexual assault.

"Until that epidemic is addressed, girls will continue to suffer dual



AMBASSADOR: NERCHA's Deputy Chairperson Gcebile Ndlovu making her statement.

burden of sexual violence and HIV and AIDS," he said.

He also emphasised on empowering young women so that they share the same social, political and

economic quality with men

Moyer added that the President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) which is run by the US Embassy understands the differ-

ence that can be made by communities in eradicating HIV, thus they work a lot with rural communities.

He said this is because 70 per cent of the country's population lives in rural areas therefore PEPFAR works hand in hand with traditional structures. The local communities develop their own plans for providing health services.

Moyer said in 25 Constituencies in the country across all four regions PEPFAR has supported 135 chiefdoms in taking ownership of plans, policies, and health service provision in their communities. "PEPFAR's work in Eswatini is also firmly focused on the populations that data shows are being left behind," he said.

He added that this year PEPFAR launched a programme to work in close collaboration with traditional communities to address key gaps in achieving HIV epidemic control to ensuring justice for children.

Key populations left behind in AIDS fight

AS the world is working towards eradicating HIV and AIDS key populations seem to be left behind in most programmes.

Patrick Kunene, who was representing the key populations which include sex workers, drivers and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex communities (LGBTI), said they still encountered challenges when accessing healthcare in the country.

Kunene, who was speaking during the commemoration of World AIDS day, said some healthcare professionals discriminate key populations whenever they visit healthcare centres. As a result, Kunene said the work put in by government and stakeholders to eradicate HIV will not be truthful as key populations are crucial in the epidemic.

He added that they were not only discriminated by healthcare professionals but also communities and families.

He said he believed key populations also added to the 95 per cent of people needed to eradicate the epidemic and if left behind all the work would be for nothing.

Kunene suggested that a ministry for key populations was needed as it would focus on them. He also said with key populations the rate of unemployment was very high.

Meanwhile, Ezulwini town Mayor Bongile Mbingo said Ezulwini town has dedicated itself to have healthcare centres that can be used by everyone and eliminate discrimination.

She added that the town has programmes that give people the opportunity to unite.

"The municipality has worked hard to promote equal rights," she said.

She added that they have even opted to distribute condoms in schools because they understand that adolescents engage in sexual activities.

She added that they realised that there were key populations therefore they also have programmes that incorporate them as well.

114 GRADUATE AT BIRCHCOOPER

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

THE 2019 Birchcooper Graduate Institute class has been implored to take a lead in the shaping of the economic landscape of the country.

This was during the institution's

fifth graduation since 2004 held at Esibayeni Lodge on Saturday.

The institution saw over 114 students graduating with Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas and Bachelor's Degrees in various courses which include but not limited to Accounting and Finance, Business Management and Administration, Human Resources Management and Development,

Occupational Health and Safety and Social Work and Community Development.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony, Minister of Education and Training Lady Howard-Mabuza, who was represented by the ministry's Director of Education Dr. Ntombenhle Dlamini, said business was changing at the speed of light and so was education.

She said it was for that reason that the graduates needed to uphold the skills they have acquired at Birchcooper to ensure that they positively impact their communities, for the advancement of the socio-economic goals of the nation.

Intelligence

The minister also mentioned that exponential technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning are creating new disruptive business models almost overnight.

"In this new world, one where McKinsey predicted that 45 per cent of jobs will be automated in the next 20 years, you and your colleagues must leverage on your creativity, critical thinking, initiative taking and problem solving to cope with the complexity and change in today's societies," she said.

In addition, the minister highlighted the lives of the graduates will never be the same again as they will now have to be in the forefront of eco-

nomic development through the various expertise that they will render in their communities.

She emphasised that the students should not seek only for employment but also be job creators to help the country fight the scourge of unemployment.

Competent

She also encouraged the institution to ensure that it continues to produce highly productive and competent graduates who are industry ready.

Mabuza said as education systems in the world are undergoing educational transformation there is a need

for Birchcooper to also stay relevant by adapting to the changing environment.

"Eswatini is no exception to this transformation and currently the ministry is rolling out a new competency based curriculum in schools and the expectation is to have adaptable teachers to teach this curriculum," she added.

She also urged the graduating class to bear in mind that when they are in positions of authority as it is a responsibility of everyone to ensure that the developing world exploits its full potential.

GUEST: Dr Ntombenhle Dlamini, the Director of Education in the Ministry of Education makes her remarks during the Birchcooper Graduate Institute graduation ceremony which was held at Esibayeni Lodge on Saturday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngometulu)



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ESWATINI GOVERNMENT

Ministry of Education and Training

Public Notice

Verification of Foreign Qualifications

- The Ministry of Education and Training, through the Eswatini Higher Education Council (ESHEC), has the responsibility to verify the authenticity of qualifications acquired outside the country.
- ESHEC was established in 2015 in terms of the Higher Education Act of 2013 to, among other responsibilities, develop and implement a system of quality assurance for higher education in the country; ensuring that there is adequate and sustainable generation of nationally and internationally competitive skilled workforce capable of spearheading the country's production and knowledge based growth.
- In line with its mandate and in conformity with Part IV of the Higher Education Regulations of 2016, ESHEC verifies foreign qualifications to ensure that only credible and trustworthy qualifications and credentials are in circulation in the country. Verification is done to establish:
 - The status of the institution that issued the qualification in the country of origin;
 - The accreditation status of the qualification in the country of origin;
 - The reliability of the qualification documents;
 - The genuineness of the award;
 - If the person presenting the qualification is indeed the person who obtained the qualification;
 - The local equivalence.
- The Public is reminded that seeking verification of qualifications in organisations outside the country establishes the qualification parity in those countries, but not locally.

Honorary Degrees

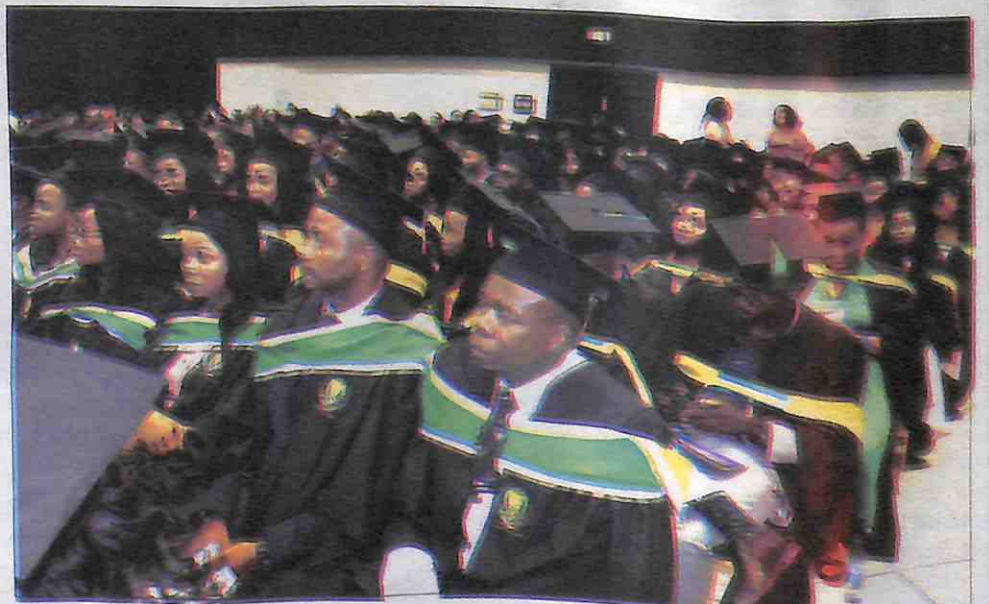
- Members of the Public who intend to accept honorary degrees from any institution or entity are reminded to seek approval with ESHEC, in line with Part V of the Higher Education Regulations of 2016. Approval is only granted for awards that have met the requirements as encapsulated in Higher Education Regulation 51.

Bertram B. Stewart
Principal Secretary
Ministry of Education and Training

DOC.20773



JOYFUL: Some of the graduates dancing to music rendered by Royal Eswatini Police Jazz Band.

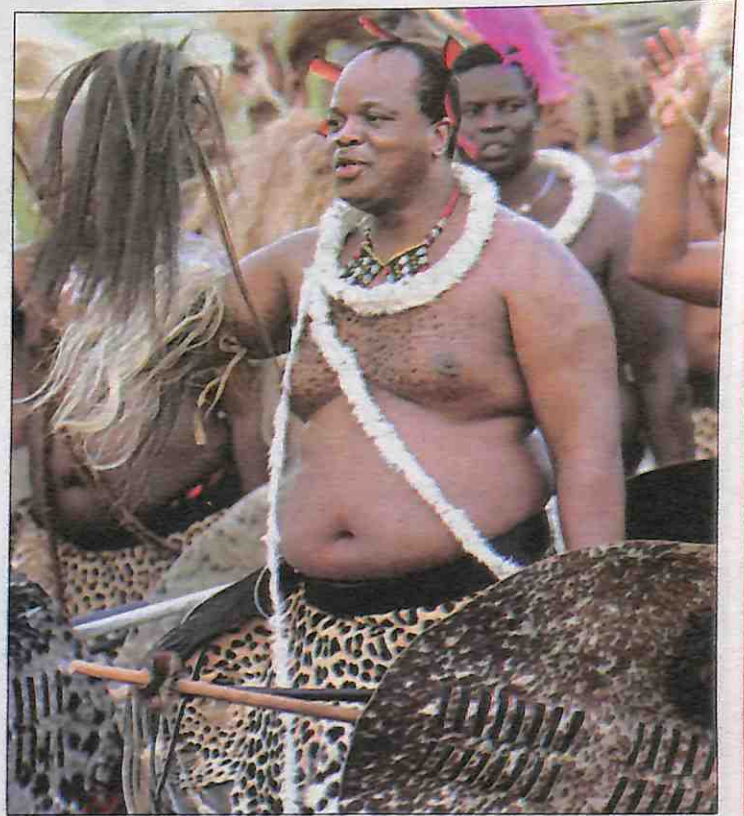


HARDWORK REWARDS: A section of the 2019 Birchcooper graduating class following proceedings during the graduation ceremony.

LITTLE INCWALA DAY FIVE



WENA WAPHA KATHI: His Majesty King Mswati III arrives at the dancing arena during the ongoing Little Incwala day five at Ngabezweni Royal Residence yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Maphepheni Simelane)



BAYETHE! His Majesty leads the hundreds of warriors in song and dance.



SIGODLO: Emakhosikati LaNgangaza, LaMagongo, LaMahlangu, LaNkambule and LaMashwama in song and dance.



ASAMBE MNGANAMI: Mcambi Dlamini and Tibusiso Tsela on their way to the dancing arena.



SECURITY FORCES CHIEFS: Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force General Army Commander Jeffrey Tshabalala, Royal Eswatini Police Service National Commissioner William Dlamini and His Majesty's Correctional Services Deputy Commissioner General Raymond Nkambule at the event.



IN SONG: Imbali also took part in the ongoing Little Incwala dance.



VIKA JAHA: Umbutfo Mazinyo and Giyakancane having fun.



ME AND THE YOUNG BOYS: Mshesha Gwebu with Giyakancane, Mazinyo and Moto who also participated.



IN SONG: Some of Libutfo from Ngabezweni Royal Residence doing kuhlehla at the dancing arena.



IN NUMBERS: Warriors came in numbers for the event.



IN DANCE: Jose Lopez from Spain joins Libutfo in dancing.



FOCUS on DD cases

Unlicensed drunk driver gets away with E200 fine

STORIES BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Manzini

A driver who was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol was lucky after he received a slap on the wrist from the magistrate yesterday.

Zamokuhle Dlamini was arrested by the police at Nkoseluhla Street in the wee hours of yesterday morning. He was arrested after he was caught driving the opposite direction on a single lane road. When asked to produce a licence, the accused person failed to do so.

Police then conducted a breathalyser test on him and his breath specimen read 0.40mg/l, which was slightly above the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

Dlamini was then slapped with three charges. These were driving while under the influence of alcohol, failing to produce a driver's licence and negligent driving. The accused made his court appearance before Magistrate Xolsile Nxumalo.

He pleaded guilty to all the charges.

In mitigation, he informed the

court that he last drank beer on Friday and did not know directions in town hence someone was assisting him and directed him towards the wrong lane. The accused also informed the court that he has revenue papers showing that he is waiting for his driver's licence.

The magistrate sentenced Dlamini to a month imprisonment with a fine option of E200 for driving while under the influence.

On the other charges, he was cautioned and discharged.

Worth noting is that drivers who drive while intoxicated are usually fined a minimum of E1 000 and a maximum of E5 000.



Police then conducted a breathalyser test on him and his breath specimen read 0.40mg/l, which was slightly above the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

91 ARRESTED FOR DRINK-DRIVING

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

A total of 91 motorists were arrested for driving while under the influence over the past weekend.

The figures were announced by the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) yesterday. They are slightly lower compared to last week's 103.

In fact, they are the lowest figures compared even to the previous weekend, which had 98 motorists charged for drink-driving.

In total, the past three weekends have seen 292 motorists charged for contravening Section 91 (1) of the Road Traffic Act of 2007. The Act stipulates 0.38 milligrams per litre (mg/l) as the legal alcohol content for motorists. Meanwhile, the first weekend of November saw 95 motorists nabbed for driving under the influence of narcotic drugs and alcohol while the fol-

URGES: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati



lowing week was 87.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati urged motorists to avoid driving while under the influence of alcohol. She condemned the habit of driving while under the influence of alcohol and narcotic drugs. She said alcohol reduces

driving ability thus putting other motorists and everyone that uses the road at risk. She said traffic police officers were all over the country's roads ensuring safety of the people as they are using the road. She explained that these motorists have made appearances before different magistrates in all corners of the country.

Tourist apologises for driving while drunk

A tourist who had come into the country for fun over the weekend ended up being arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Simon Guleya appeared before Magistrate Xolsile Nxumalo he was charged with driving while intoxicated. The accused pleaded guilty to the charges.

In mitigation, he started by apologising to the court and the nation at large for committing such an offence. The accused's

Some of the offenders who appeared in court yesterday:

Phumlile Zwane	0.76mg/l	E1 300/10 months imprisonment
Simon Guleya	0.64mg/l	E1 300/10 months imprisonment
Tsela Tengetile	0.52mg/l	E300/1 month imprisonment
Sifiso Vilakati	1.26mg/l	E1 500/13 months imprisonment
Herald Dlamini	1.08mg/l	E1 600/10 months imprisonment
Thobelani Masuku	0.60mg/l	E1 200/10 months imprisonment

alcohol reading was 0.64mg/l, which is above the legal limit of 0.38mg/l. Guleya

was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment with a fine option E1 300.

Kushayana kwalakhaya - abusive baby daddy

STORIES BY DELISA THWALA
Mbabane

THE man who has been accused by his baby mama of abuse has fired back, saying abuse is the order of the day in their relationship.

Last Wednesday, this newspaper reported that *Phindile though she has had enough of the abuse, she cannot leave the father of her two children.

When interviewed after the revelation by his baby mama, the woman's lover said; "kushayana kwakhona. If she claims

I beat her up, why can't she leave or call the police on me? It is because she knows that in this home we are always exchanging blows and the children can confirm it," asked the man who sounded angry.

Temper

"I'm not an abuser," he said, adding that there had been instances where he might have lost his temper.

The man had first declined to be interviewed, but he finally agreed as he said he wanted to share his side of the story.

"Uhambile wagubha umgodzi nyalo sototjela mine kutsi kayanuka," the man said.

He added that that like any couple, they would fight now and then because of misunderstandings, but now it had been blown out of proportion.

"People saw your article on Wednesday, I have been getting calls on the day from people who pieced together the information and made it out to be me," fumes the father of two.

He claims that Phindile decided to reveal what suited her.

"Tell me what is abuse, if it is hitting a person, then we are both guilty. I have given as much blows as I have gotten," he said.

Estranged hubby loses appeal for

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
Supreme Court

HIS wife bought a car through a loan from Nedbank, however, after they were estranged, the wife sold the vehicle.

The husband wanted the car to be repossessed from the buyer but he has since lost an appeal to have the car back. This, after the Supreme Court handed down judgment where it dismissed the appeal application by the husband with no order as to costs.

The appellant Simanga Gina (husband) had filed the application at the Supreme Court where he wanted and order to the effect that the car be repossessed from the buyer and brought to his (Gina) possession.

This was an appeal from a ruling of Judge Sipho Nkosi wherein the judge ordered that the motor vehicle forming the subject matter of dispute between Gina and his wife Gcebile Dlamini, should be returned to the buyer Clement Simelane cited as the respondent in the appeal.

Handing down judgment, acting Supreme Court Judge Sabelo Matsebula who was sitting with the Chief Justice (CJ) Bheki Maphalala and acting Judge Judith Marry Currie, stated that justice was not done in this case. He cited that it was unfortunate that the Supreme Court cannot order any remedial action as both counsel informed the court that the case has been overtaken by events. He noted that the parties indicated during hearing of the matter that they were no longer pursuing the appeal.

"Accordingly the court makes the following orders, the appeal is struck off the roll and may not be reinstated without leave of court being sought and granted. There is no order as to costs," Judge Matsebula said.

The court noted that from the papers filed before it, it was clear that the appellant (Simanga) is married to Gcebile under Siswati Customary law and that although Gcebile is not party to the proceedings, she is the genesis of the dispute and was party at the Magistrate's Court as an applicant.

The court observed that Gcebile applied and was granted a personal

MEN NEED TO STOP - DPM

MEANWHILE, Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku, launching the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence on Monday; November 25, said men need to stop with the abuse.

Instead they should join hands and fight it. "Men need to stop doing this to their women, sisters and daughters, they need to take care of them as they take care of their body. We need to come

together as men and stop this whole thing," said Masuku.

He said after the Incwala ceremony, he would appoint a group of men who would advocate for a stop to gender based violence across the country.

"Something big is coming, and as soon we finish Incwala ceremony we will be working on something that will involve men and eradicating abuse once for all," said DPM.



STOP IT: DPM Themba Masuku.

Woman arrested for occupying driver's seat while intoxicated

A night out partying ended on a sour note for a woman who was being arrested for occupying the driver's seat while intoxicated.

Tengetile Tsela was arrested in the early hours of yesterday morning near Mhlaleni. Information gathered is that when police arrived they found the accused occupying the driver's seat as the car had developed a tyre puncture.

When a breath specimen was taken from Tsela, it read 0.52mg/l.

The accused pleaded for a lenient sentence, saying she did not know that it was an offence to do so. She was sentenced to a month's imprisonment with a fine option of E300.

Drunk driver causes accident

A driver who was heavily intoxicated ended up causing an accident as he rammed from behind a BMW vehicle.

Sifiso Vilakati appeared before Manzini Magistrate Xolile Nxumalo. He was charged with two counts; the first being that of driving while intoxicated and that of negligent driving.

Guilty

The accused pleaded guilty to both counts.

In mitigation, Vilakati apologised for committing such an offence and pleaded for the court to be lenient. He promised to pay for the vehicle which was damaged during the accident.

ownership of wife's car

loan at Nedbank and purchased a car being an Isuzu KB 250 LDV which is the subject matter in the present appeal application. She did not use the car as she had another vehicle and her husband used it for his errands, however, when they became estranged, as husband and wife, Gcebile sought a court order from the Siteki Magistrate's Court to take possession of the vehicle as its owner. There was an interim and final order issued by the Magistrate's Court and she was granted possession of the car which she later sold and transferred ownership to the buyer Simelane (respondent) after having received the full purchase price.

Returned

However, on the return date of the first nisi, the Magistrate's Court returned possession of the car to her husband and when this order was issued, the car was already in Simelane's ownership and the deputy sheriff for that region forcefully took the car from Simelane on behalf of Gina. Gcebile then approached the High Court which found that the proceedings at the Magistrate's Court were flawed, the attachment of the car from Simelane was unlawful noting that Simelane's was an innocent bona fide purchaser and finally ordered that the car be returned to his (Simelane's) possession. The appellant (Gina) being dissatisfied with the order of the High Court then approached the Supreme Court on grounds that the court on a quo erred or misdirected itself in making the ruling primarily on points which were never a ground for Simelane's application.

Church member defrauds ACM's Pastor Kim E90 000

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

A member of the Africa Continent Mission stands accused of defrauding Pastor Chong-Yang Kim of E90 000.

Thando Magongo had a date with the High Court where his trial resumed before Judge Mzwandile Fakudze.

When committing the offence, he is alleged to have deposited the money in a bank account of Gilt-Ndo Investments, where he was a co-director with one of the crown's witnesses Gilbert Ndokuzempi Masilela.

Masilela's charges were withdrawn against him after investigations had been concluded by members of the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) and had already paid bail fixed at E10 000.

According to the indictment, Magongo and the company are guilty of theft by false pretences in that while at Mbabane and in furtherance of a common purpose, did unlawfully and with intent to defraud and steal, misrepresented to Pastor Kim, of Mahwalala Africa Continent Mission (ACM) that they were going to facilitate the supply of 50 cattle to the mission and did by means of the said misrepresentation obtain from the pastor payment

● He allegedly misrepresented to Pastor Kim that he would purchase 50 cattle for mission

by cheque in the total amount of E89 653.00.

Alternatively, they are charged with fraud in that they defrauded Pastor Kim of the said amount of money, by claiming that the company will facilitate the purchase of the cattle and induced the pastor to his actual loss and prejudice to pay Gilt-Ndo Investments the money by cheque well knowing that the company was not carrying out the business of supplying cattle.

In his evidence, Pastor Kim stated that he entered into an agreement for the supply of cattle with Magongo, who was known to him as a member of the church.

The accused person, according to the pastor, claimed he knew cattle farmers who would supply the cattle and that an upfront payment was needed to facilitate the supply and indeed Pastor Kim gave him the cheque to the said amount.

Subsequently, no cattle were supplied and the accused did not pay back the money despite several attempts to have him pay and investigations revealed that he was a director at Gilt-Ndo, where the cheque was discovered to have been deposited. Taking to the witness stand was His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) senior officer

Nhlanhla Mbingo who informed the court in his evidence that he has known Pastor Kim since the year 2000 and that this witness told him about a fraud case committed by the accused person.

He told the court that this witness had made arrangements with the accused person that he will pay back the money through a lawyer but Magongo at some point failed to pay back the money.

Also giving evidence was Masilela who told the court that his arrest which was perpetrated by his co-director (Magongo) adversely affected him such that when he made a court appearance at the Magistrate's Court, the media captured him and his wife eventually dumped him after accusing him of squandering the money.

Masilela also told the court that he did not benefit from the money deposited to the company account but tried to assist Magongo in repaying same but Magongo ended up failing to pay back the money to Pastor Kim.

The trial continues before Justice Fakudze as more witnesses are to be paraded by the crown represented by Brian Magagula. Magongo is represented by senior attorney Ben J Simelane in the matter.

Businessman loses E140 000 bid for refund

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

A businessman has lost a bid to have his E140 000 refunded to him following the purchase of a caterpillar tractor he found not in a good condition.

This, after the High Court of Eswatini dismissed his application for a summary judgment to compel the seller to pay him back the E140 000.

Mfanawenkho Sihlongonyane cited as the plaintiff in the matter had taken the seller Gilberto Pereira of Welcome Transport (Pty) Ltd to court, where he was demanding the refund of the said amount after he allegedly discovered that the tractor was not in good condition as promised by the defendant (Pereira).

Observed

High Court Judge Mzwandile Fakudze, when handing down judgment, observed that the defendant raised triable issues in the matter in resisting the summary judgment. He had raised an issue pertaining the sale agreement between the parties both oral and in writing as he argued that the written agreement was signed by Louis Pereira as opposed to him (Gilberto).

The second triable issue as observed by the

...He had bought caterpillar tractor from the company only to find that it was not in good condition, now wants refund

court pertains to who the contracting parties were in the agreement as the plaintiff alleged that he entered into the agreement with Gilberto whereas the first defendant (Gilberto) alleges that he does not remember anything about the agreement as the person who entered into and signed the agreement was Louis.

"The first defendant evidences this by a purported agreement signed by the said Louis as the seller. This issue is therefore triable, oral evidence can assist in determining it. In light of all that has been said, the application for summary judgment is dismissed with costs," Justice Fakudze ordered. The background of the matter is that the plaintiff (Sihlongonyane) instituted summary judgment proceedings against the defendants Gilberto as the first and Welcome Transport as the second following issuance of combined summons for payment of the E140 000 in respect of a caterpillar tractor that was bought by the plaintiff. The plaintiff alleges that there was an agreement between him and the first defendant to the effect that the defendant would sell to him the caterpillar and he would pay the full amount as the tractor was in good condition yet he alleged-

ly knew that it was not.

The plaintiff contended that he made full payment of the purchase price by depositing the money into the defendant's company account as per the instructions of the first defendant.

Inspected

After payment, the plaintiff averred that he inspected the tractor only to find out that it was not in a good condition as promised by the defendant and, therefore, sought a refund from the defendants.

Meanwhile, on the other hand, the defendant denied any dealings with the plaintiff and raised the non-joinder of Louis as he is the one who dealt with the plaintiff in as far as the purchase of the tractor is concerned.

The first defendant put it in no uncertain terms that he never at any point in time sold a tractor to the plaintiff but Louis did. He further alleged that the plaintiff's particulars of claim stated that the agreement between the parties was oral.

Representing the plaintiff in the matter was lawyer Sanele Mabila and the defendant was represented by Mbabane based attorney Sifiso Maseko.

PHATHWAKAHLE MOBBED BY HER FANS...

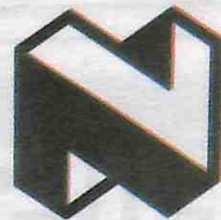


FAVOURITE:
Gospel singer
Phathwakahle
was by her fans
after performing
at the National
Commemoration
of the World
AIDS Day held
in Ezulwini yes-
terday. (Pic:
Mduduzi
Mngomezulu)

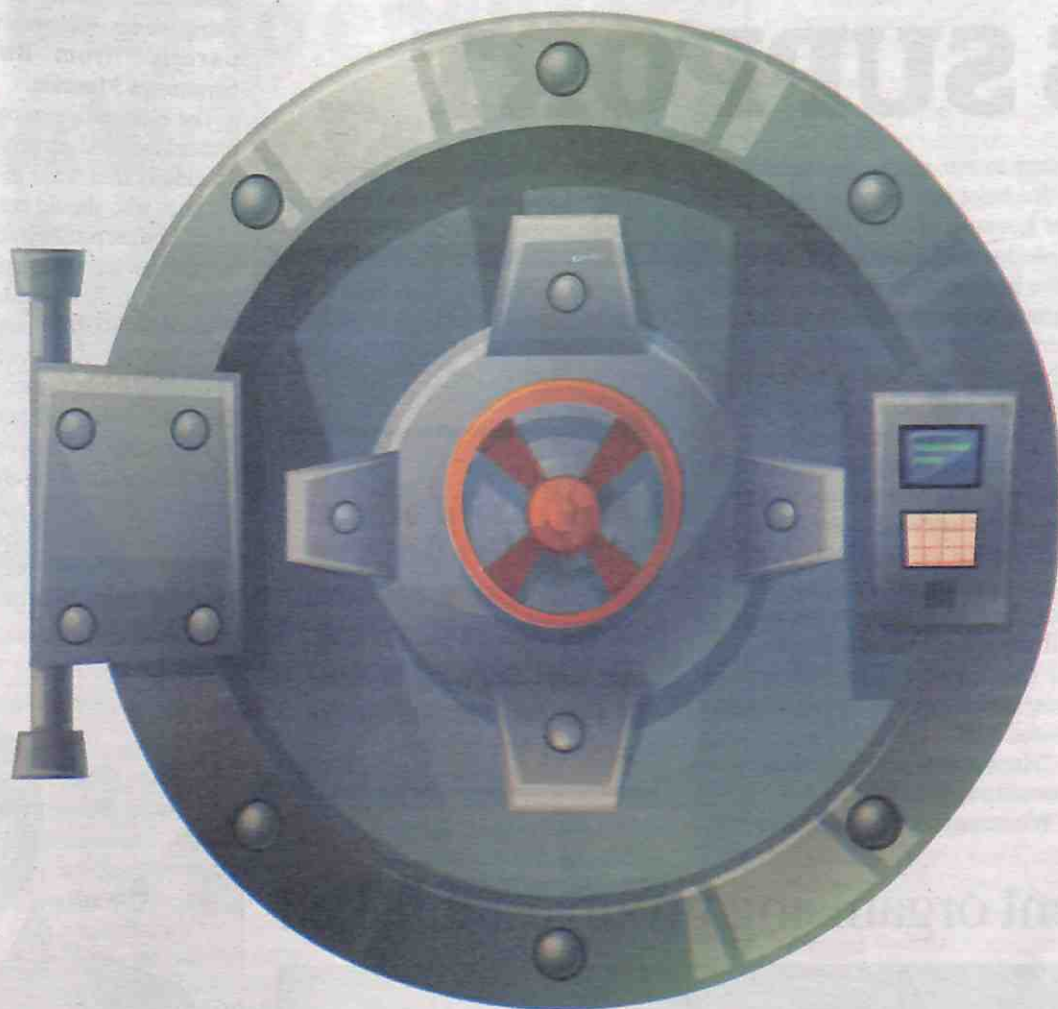
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WORKS		
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	RTUs Replacement Project	16-12-2019 12:00pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Upgrade Of The Malkens Revenue Office	03-01-2020 15:00pm
Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE)	Topographical Survey Check for the Construction of the Main Conveyance System and Related Structures for the Matata Block	04-12-2019 14:10pm
Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE)	Construction Of Feeder Canal Crossing And Access Road For Sibuko Semphumakudze Piggery Project	17-01-2020 14:00pm
Ezulwini Municipality	Upgrading Of Lonyoni Road In Ezulwini	24-01-2020 12:00pm
Municipal Council of Mbabane	Replacement of Mbabane Sanitary Landfill Leachate Pond Liner and Repairs to the Landfill Base Liner	13-12-2019 12:00pm
Piggs Peak Town Council	Construction of Landfill Cell	13-12-2019 12:00pm
Services		
Eswatini Civil Aviation Authority (ESWACAA)	Request for Proposals (RFPs) for The Provision of Printing Services at Eswatini Civil Aviation Authority.	27-01-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM)	Skills Audit & Identification Of Human Resources Requirements In The Communications Sector	06-12-2019 12:00pm
Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM)	Telecommunications Pricing Benchmark Study	13-12-2019 12:00pm
Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA)	Consultancy to Develop Ringfencing and Cost-allocation Guidelines for The Eswatini Electricity Supply Industry (SESI)	22-01-2020 11:00am
Eswatini National Petroleum Company (ENPC)	Company Strategy Development Consultancy Services	30-01-2020 15:30pm
Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC)	Debt Collection Services	13-12-2019 12:00pm
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply of Security Services	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply of Staff Transport	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Maintenance Of Airconditioners	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Request for Proposal Provision of External Audit Services	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Request for Proposal Provision of Internal Audit Services	03-12-2019 08:30am
Matsapha Town Council	Request For Proposals (RFP) For The Landfill Heavy Plant Equipment Hire	20-12-2019 10:00am
Ministry of Home Affairs	Catering Services for Incwala & Buganu (Buhleni & Hlane) Ceremonies: Breakfast, Lunch And Supper.	06-12-2019 09:00am
National Agricultural Marketing Board (NAMBOARD)	Request for Proposal for Consultancy Services to Review Strategic Plan for NAMBOARD	06-12-2019 12:00pm
Supplies		
Commission for Mediation, Arbitration and Conciliation (CNAC)	Supply of Corporate Ladies Uniform	05-12-2019 12:00pm
Eswatini Civil Aviation Authority (ESWACAA)	The Supply and Installation of Mobile Offices for Eswacaa Staff	11-12-2019 12:00pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	RTU Batteries & Chargers	05-12-2019 12:00pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Supply Of Card Printing Machines For EEC Service Centres	20-12-2019 12:00pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Supply of Substation Remote Controlled Auto-Reclosers	20-12-2019 14:00pm
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Video Conferencing Supply and Installation - Multiple Sites	10-01-2020 12:00pm
Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE)	Supply and Delivery of Building Material For Ferro Cement Tanks	02-12-2019 10:00am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply of Card Boxes (Cartons)	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply of Bulk Printing Stationery	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply of Specialised Envelopes	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply of Printing Chemicals	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply of Courier Services	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply of IT Hardware and Software	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply of Computer consumables	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply Of Specialized Stationery	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply Of Office Stationery	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply of Cleaning Materials	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply of Meeting Refreshments	03-12-2019 08:30am
Examinations Council of Eswatini	Supply of Pre-Printed Stationery	03-12-2019 08:30am
Expression of Interest		
Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC)	Supply of a Mobile Office Trailer	13-12-2019 10:00am
Eswatini National Provident Fund (ENPF)	ENPF Diamubeka Building Renovations	20-12-2019 16:30pm
Public Service Pension Fund (PSPF)	Supplier Database Registration for Various Products and Services	02-12-2019 10:00am

The Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA) hereby invites suitably qualified and registered suppliers, eligible to participate in public procurement to submit tenders to the above listed Government departments, local Governments and state owned enterprises. Visit www.sppra.co.sz to view or download latest tenders.

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...With

Starsky Mkhonta



MASKANDI GROUP HUMBLED BY MP'S SUPPORT

HOSEA Member of Parliament (MP) Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza has contributed E3 000 to Umfana We-Bhejisa Maskandi group.

The money that the lawmaker who is also a businessman has contributed to the Maskandi group, will assist it in promoting the album it released this year.

The title of the album is 'Sekusele Kancane Ngwenyama'.

Leader and founder of the group Thabiso Dlamini said the MP was always willing to assist anyone in the constituency and stated that the MP was amongst those that have contributed a lot to their success and what they have achieved.

The MP owns Baceth Hardware chain of stores spread across the Kingdom.

"MP Mabuza is of great help to us as this is not the first time he has

come to our rescue financially.

We have managed to make it this far because of his support.

He does not hesitate to assist whenever he sees the need and we are fortunate to have benefitted from his generosity.

Not long ago, Mabuza donated E1 200 for producing copies for the album released this year.

There are many instances where Mabuza has assisted us," Dlamini explained to Shiselweni News.

Dlamini said since the MP has remained the group's major sponsor they were now working on an album titled 'Njenga-Baceth'.

"This album will be released next year and is to show our appreciation to the MP."

"He wants to see any talent in the constituency promoted."

We remain indebted to our MP,"

Dlamini told Shiselweni News.

Dlamini said the MP gives his group a slot in any activity he (MP) organises.

Just recently, the MP held a get together and Umfana We-Bhejisa were there to entertain attendants.

MP Mabuza is of great help to us as this is not the first time he has come to our rescue financially. We have managed to make it this far because of the support

Elderly to receive food parcels from Bucopho

ELDERLY from Masibini, a community under Maseyisini constituency will receive food parcels from Bucopho Siyabonga Masuku.

The Bucopho is expected to present the food parcels to over 15 elderly that were picked as the ones who should benefit.

The 15 were picked by the rural health motivators (*Bagcugcuteli*) according to their needs.

"It's already Christmas, a time of giving.

I decided to do something for the elderly who will not afford buy christmas goodies especially because others look after their grandchildren," said Masuku.

He said he wished he could assist all elderly but because of limited funds he had managed to cater for the few.



GIVES BACK: Masibini Bucopho Siyabonga Masuku.

"Next time, more elderly will benefit. This is just the beginning," Masuku told Shiselweni News.

New entertainment organising group established

A NEW entertainment stable in Nhlangano has been formed and has already hosted two successful events.

Phindile Dlamini and Mefika Mdluli are the directors of the entertainment stable known as Galaza which was formed almost two months ago.

The two shows were held at the Southern Eswatini Country Club in Nhlangano.

Mdluli who is a musician known as 'Black L Nation' said they took the decision to form their own entertainment stable after realising that it was costly for the region's people to travel to other places outside the region in search of entertainment.

He said they would not only focus on music but venture into other entertainment activities.

"Entertainment is not only about music but it is broad as it covers even other activities which bring people together. Music can be a draw card, but we will cater to everyone as others will want to see comedians or soccer games," said Mdluli.

Mdluli said they would also promote talented youth and make sure the youth is busy to avoid seeing them engaging in ungodly activities.

Mdluli said with the King Sobhuza II Stadium now in good condition to



POSE: Founders of Galaza Entertainment Phindile Dlamini, Mefika Mdluli also known as 'Black L. Nation,' with Tema Dlamini.

host events, some of their activities would be staged there.

"What we need right now are sponsorships.

Inviting some of the performers requires a lot of money. Other artists agree to be part of an event if they are paid in advance and others want to be paid the appearance fee first. So for us to succeed in all what Galaza

Entertainment is all about, we need companies and organisations to sponsor us.

We want to bring entertainment to the doorsteps of the people of the region.

Travelling to Mbabane or Manzini for entertainment, sometimes can be risky in particular during the night," Mdluli told Shiselweni News.



DONATE: EswatiniBank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele.

EswatiniBank MD presents E15 000 to Ngwane Practising Primary

ZAKHELE Lukhele, the EswatiniBank Managing Director (MD) presented E15 000 to Ngwane Practising Primary.

The MD, according to the school's administration was a guest speaker during a farewell function of the Grade Seven class and speech and prize ceremony.

The school is known as one of the best performing schools not only in the region, but in the country. In all the years, it has been recording a 100 per cent pass rate.

Principal Ephraem Dlamini told Shiselweni News that as a school, they were thankful to the MD. He said as a school they were not expecting anything as honouring their invitation was enough. "The MD's speech was motivational to all of us who were part of the function. On top of the E15 000, the MD awarded all topping pupils from all the classes," said Dlamini.

Dlamini said the MD understood challenges faced by the school and it was encouraging for the MD to be part of the event.



WERE ARE HERE: Craig Rosewarne from Wolf Pack SA making his presentation during the closing ceremony of the ESCCOM Cyber Security Awareness Month held at the Royal Villas on Thursday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



CLOSING: A section of attendees follow the proceedings.

ICT ministry to ensure cyber security in Eswatini

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

THE Computer Crime and Cyber Crime Bill of 2017 is now at an advanced stage.

Minister of Information, Communication and Technology Princess Sikhanyiso said the Bill was one of the many means of ensuring cyber security in Eswatini.

She said working together with a majority of stakeholders, her ministry with the support of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) developed the national cyber security strategy in 2107 which describes the coherent national approach for protecting Eswatini data, systems and networks from cyber threats.

The minister was speaking during the Eswatini Cyber Security Awareness Month closing ceremony which was held at the Royal Villas on Thursday. She was represented by Director of Computer Services Sipho Vilakati.

"The strategy will also provide guidance to all relevant stakeholders on their specific roles and responsibilities for cyber security by setting the national vision and strategic objectives with respect to cyber security in the country," she added.

She said new threats and a new era strategic competition demanded a cyber-strategy that responds to new realities, reduces vulnerabilities, and safeguards opportunities for the people of the Kingdom of Eswatini to thrive.

"Securing cyber space is fundamental to our strategy and requires

technical advancements and administrative efficiency across government and the private sector," she said.

She said consumer awareness and capacity building were important elements and first steps necessary in dealing with cyber threats.

The minister said she was happy that the campaign had made consumer education centre and consumer knowledge as it is paramount to cyber security.

She added that there was need that the public is kept up to date with such matters to promote a cyber-hygienic society.

Awareness

Meanwhile, Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) CEO Mvilawemphi Dlamini said the cyber security awareness month had provided them with an opportunity to reflect on their role as a communications regulator.

Dlamini said the commission's broad competencies in the ICT sector and

the expertise in ICT networks and infrastructure had naturally positioned the commission as a key player in the field of cyber security.

"It is clear then that the commission has to ensure that our communication infrastructure is secure for it is this infrastructure that is at the heart of all online activities," he said.

He said the fight against cybercrime called for multi-stakeholder approach and collaboration. He was happy to report that during the campaign, an unprecedented convergence and collaboration of partners committed to the cause was experienced.

Some of the stakeholders of the campaign are the DPM's office, ministry of ICT, ministry of education and training, the Central Bank of Eswatini, Financial Services Regulatory Authority and UNESWA.

There were also schools that were visited under the initiative and they included Timphisini, Nyetane, Nyamane and Nyatsini High.

these crimes on the same day around Malindza. On the first count, the accused person was said to have wrongfully and unlawfully broken into a house belonging to Hlaleleni Sifundza and stole items valued at E4 762.

The items included a cellphone



and money in cash. He faced a similar charge on the second count, in that he wrongfully and unlawfully broke into a house belonging to Mduduzi Tsabedze and stole items which were valued at E7 250. The accused person conducted his own defence in the matter.

When the charge sheet was read to

him, Mkhathshwa pleaded guilty to the charge. Due to the seriousness of the charges, the crown elected to call witnesses to prove commission of the offence.

The first complainant told the court that her house was broken into while she was inside asleep.

She only realised in the morning that her house had been broken into.

The second complainant said he

Glimmer of hope for Buhleni residents

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

COMMUNITY members around Buhleni are aiming to take advantage of the recently declared and rapidly developing town.

The ministry of housing and urban development has declared Buhleni a town.

This was announced by Minister Prince Simelane during the debate of the ministry's second quarter performance report in the Senate last Wednesday.

Micah Dlamini from Mayiwane encouraged residents from chiefdoms around the area to combine resources in a bid to establish a shopping mall or plaza in the town.

He said he was encouraged by the development taking place at Buhleni town and aimed to engage other community members to get a piece of the pie.

"It is my prayer that people of Mayiwane Inkhundla respond to the invitation as it will help them in future.

The aim is to get at least 15 members per chiefdom to come together and merge resources," he said.

He said the next step would be to acquire a commercial plot at Buhleni from the ministry of housing in order to construct the Mayiwane community mall or plaza that would be owned solely by community members.

He said they would ask the ministry of housing and urban development to give them a plot free of charge as a sign of recognising the people living under the six chiefdoms under Mayiwane Inkhundla. The chiefdoms are Herefords, Mkhuzweni, Mkhweni, Mfasini, Mavula and Buhleni Royal Residence. He said Buhleni Royal Residence was an integral part of the area and would welcome 15 interested mem-

bers from the Royal Residence to be part of their idea.

Dlamini urged all interested members to come together and make a difference in their communities.

Dlamini stated that the establishment would not only benefit them as members but also assist future generations and the nation at large.

"Let us come together and make a difference in our lives. Being rich normally begins this way, through investing for the future.

I am aware that our youth are unemployed. In this regard I encourage them to make some means to be part of this opportunity," he said.

He said they would also inform the various chiefdoms about the vision and hoped they would also welcome and support the idea.

He stated the idea was to have at least 90 Emaswati from the six chiefdoms.

He proposed that each person makes a contribution of between E35 000 or E40 000.

He said the total amount of contributions would be between E3 150 000 and E3 600 000 and encouraged the members from the chiefdoms to register so that they meet and discuss a way forward as well as pledge contributions.

Dlamini stated that all interested members should be cognisant that the initiative was a lifetime investment which would benefit their children and family members as well as future generations.

"We want to reach 2022 with such good vision intact and people must note that the joining fee or contributions shall be paid from a date that will be announced and all interested Emaswati will have enough time to pay," he added.

He said all those interested should contact him on his number (7966 7461) or alternatively contact him on the following email: micahtlamini@gmail.com.



BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

IN the wake of house breaking cases which are reportedly on the rise in the Lubombo region, a man was on Thursday sentenced to six years imprisonment after he was found guilty on two such cases.

The accused person, Mcolisi Mkhathshwa faced two counts of house breaking with intent to steal and theft. He was alleged to have committed

MAN GETS SIX YEARS FOR HOUSE BREAKING

was away when the break-in took place. Police linked the accused person with the two break-ins after he was found in possession of some of the stolen items.

Mkhathshwa did not object to any of the evidence which was presented before court.

He was accordingly found guilty. The court sentenced him to three years in a correctional facility with an option to pay E5 000 fine on each count. The sentences were ordered to run separately.

CHURCH BUILDS HOUSE FOR WIDOW

BY DELISA THWALA
Mankayane

INDVUMISO Christian Church in Zion under the Efilphi Christian Church in Zion has built a three-room house valued at E70 000 for a widow at Mankayane.

The house was handed over to Thoko Dlamini at Makayane who used to live in a one room stick and mud house with her children.

She lost her husband 27 years ago, leaving her with two children.

Sharing her gratitude with the media she said she was thankful to her church members and arch bishops for their kindness and help.

"My belief in God helped me make it this far and to receive help from my church members, this house is big enough for everyone. I love it and thank you to everyone for the help," said Dlamini.

Helping fund the project were Dominic Mayiga from Print Pak, Sipho Mbetse, Dan Maseko,



BLESSING: The broader view of the house.

Nomsa Ndzimandze, Simphiwe Ndzimandze, Ben Yiga, Pastor Dumsile Dlamini, Sinaye Dlamini, Busi Sibanyoni, Zinhle Ndzimandze, Vusi Simelane, and the entire members of Indvumiso Christian Church.

Worth noting is that some financially con-

tributed whilst others helped provide labour.

When handing over the house keys Arch Bishop Jameson Gadzi Mncina read **James 1:27** which speaks about being pure.

Community members said they were happy with the house and that she had received the



THANKFUL: Thoko Dlamini listening to a sermon before cutting the ribbon to her new house.

help she needed.

"What a wonderful thing the community has done for Dlamini; we are thankful and happy that the summer rains will not find her in that old house. She now has a whole three room house," said a community member Thabile Maphosa.

On that note; arch bishop Jameson said they were led by God to help the widow.

"What you see today is the work of God, and good Christians, we would also like to thank everyone who made it possible for this house to be built.

"Thanks a lot for the money and helping build the house," said the Bishop.

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DOC20763

Children squabble leads to mothers fierce fight

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

TWO women of Ngcina engaged in a fierce fight after their children had also exchanged a few blows after a quarrel.

The women who are said to be neighbours went on and opened cases of assault against each other, pushing their relationship into the deepest pit.

Each of them made an appearance before the Eswatini National Court to face a charge of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. Cebsile Maziya was first to appear before the said court.

The charge sheet indicated that the accused person wrongfully and unlawfully assaulted Ncobile Matsenjwa by thrashing her several times on the body.

When the charge sheet was read to her, the accused person pleaded guilty.

During the presentation of evidence, Matsenjwa told the court that the accused person attacked her after her attempt to intervene in a minor fight between her child and that of the accused person.

She stated that the accused person was her neighbour at the tiny lowveld community. The court was told that the two have been having differences over the past few months.

Meanwhile, Maziya also presented her evidence in the matter where she stood as a complainant.

Her side of the story was that Matsenjwa whipped her child instead of separating the children who were fighting on the street.

She further admitted before the court that their relationship as neighbours was not a good one. Each of the accused persons was found guilty.

The court advised them to fix their relationship as they were to remain neighbours for the next many years. They were accordingly sentenced to five months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E500 each.

ESWATINI INCORPORATED: 2022 & BEYOND

MOVING FROM RHETORIC TO ACTION

ISSUE NO. 106

RE-THINKING URBAN DEVELOPMENT

LET me start with a disclaimer today.

This article is not aimed at the Minister of Housing and Urban Development Prince Simelane or his officials, but my view of how things have moved since we attained independence.

But at the same time, let me be clear, I am not happy with the progress we are making as a country, nor am I happy with the quality of our councillors and the leadership provided by the ministry.

It would seem the kind of development we have enjoyed, in particular in both our major cities, Manzini and Mbabane has been accidental than a deliberate programme of the two cities.

Not even the development taking place at Ezulwini can be credited to the council, but private investors who fell in love with the locality than it being a plan of either government or the council.

A lot of what has happened in the country has been through the vision of His Majesty King Mswati III, but it has received poor support from local authorities to ride on those new initiatives.

The King has pronounced his vision for a futuristic city to be known as Swazi City, and I am sure with the country's name change, it will now be known as Eswatini City.

The plans around that idea have been on the cards for about 10 years now.

In Manzini in the early 2000s, the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development built and completed around 2004 the Mavuso Exhibition and Trade Centre accompanied by the Sports Centre.

Despite that this remains a government project, you ask yourself what has the local authority of Manzini done to leverage on that development? Any ideas about leasing the structure from government to keep it alive for the entire year except for the weddings, gospel shows, gigs, church services and the annual trade fair which comes once a year?

Contributed

Other than the Eswatini National Provident Fund which has contributed immensely, in terms of property development, what else do we have other than shops in Manzini?

It is not about Manzini, Mbabane, which remains the country's capital by virtue of hosting government offices, has lagged behind in terms of its clarity of vision.

A lot of what is happening in the capital has been thanks to the Public Service Pension Fund, FINCORP, Tibiyo TakaNgwane whose developments have really improved the capital's skyline.

Again, such projects have very little to do with the municipality, but projects of public enterprises looking on how they can plough back into society and in the process develop the country.

His Majesty the King's thinking of developing a Swazi city should have stimulated the two major cities into thinking outside the box and ensure that by the time such a city comes,

...Our local authorities are not engineered or wired to bring about transformation. They exist to maintain the status quo.



they don't become irrelevant.

I don't want believe that we have too much of a problem with the management of those two cities. Our biggest challenge in the development of our municipalities rests with the law and lack of transformation and new thinking within government.

The central government needs to realise that it cannot provide solutions for everything. But at the same time it needs to be ahead of us in terms of strategic thinking and implementation of programmes.

There is a great need that we interrogate the whole idea behind the ministry of housing and urban development. The mandate needs to align with our vision for a First World country. Such should not be left to individual corporations to decide what they need to establish and where?

We need to tell these organisations, if we have a clear vision of what we need to do and where that sorry your idea of a project does not talk to our development as a municipality, can you try it somewhere else?

Urban development needs to balance. We cannot keep on developing shopping malls in every small space we get. We need housing, proper offices and recreational facilities including stadia.

Then my proposal is that we relook the Urban Act of 1963 and try to sort the way in which we get councillors into their positions. Some of these people who find themselves in these positions don't have the capacity to think strategic hence our towns will remain a shame.

This has resulted in the tensions between the

management and councillors. The ministry of housing too has not been helpful as well because it has a narrow view of how things have to go.

We need the people who are behind the existence of these municipalities to be in council. The current law would only achieve to bring in residents and not property owners into council.

Unfortunately their area of interests remains in who gets what tender and what trips. In fact, they are self serving than focusing on the broader issues development.

Poverty

They cannot think beyond the development of their zones or wards. Yet, a proper and sound municipality can draw many communities out of poverty.

My message to the Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini and the rest of Cabinet is to rethink urban development and be at the centre of the Strategic Roadmap.

We need to develop our cities to talk to the First World we aspire to achieve by 2022. We cannot achieve it within the current set-up. We need to start now to properly align our municipalities.

This will start with amending the Urban Government Act to get the right caliber of people into council.

Prince Simelane must assist Cabinet here as well, if he looks into 2022 what does he see? If he can't envision properly, run and developed cities, then he needs to ask for some help.

Urbanisation alone can draw thousands out of poverty and we need to start now planning for the future.

We don't need these petty squabbles within our municipalities as that only achieves in us losing a lot of precious time and energy, focusing on wrong things. We need to develop proper systems that will deal with inefficiencies in our council management.

American born Senegalese musician, Akon is building a city in Senegal and is determined to finish it within 10 years.

President Cyril Ramaphosa recently in his Parliament address after re-election also spoke about the need to develop a new city. His Majesty the King has spoken about a Swazi City. We need our existing municipalities to align themselves properly to transform into world class cities.

An aggressive government would reform the current Urban Act to give us people who can transform the urban space. As things are, we will not reach the promised land.

A lot of what has happened in the country has been through the vision of His Majesty King Mswati III, but it has received poor support from local authorities to ride on those new initiatives.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 2

1804 - Napoleon was crowned emperor of France at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris.

1816 - The first savings bank in the US, the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, opened for business.

1823 - US President James Monroe outlined his doctrine opposing European expansion in the Western Hemisphere.

1901 - Gillette patented the KC Gillette Razor. It was first razor to feature a permanent handle and disposable double-edge razor blades.

1917 - During World War I, hostilities were suspended on the eastern front.

1927 - The Ford Motor Company unveiled the Model A automobile. It was the successor to the Model T.

1939 - New York's La Guardia Airport began operations as an airliner from Chicago landed at 12:01 am.

1942 - A self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated by Dr. Enrico Fermi and his staff at the University of Chicago.

1954 - The US Senate voted to condemn Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy for what it called "conduct that tends to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute." The censure was related to McCarthy's controversial investigation of suspected communists in the US government, military and civilian society.

1961 - Cuban leader Fidel Castro declared in a nationally broadcast speech that he was a Marxist-Leninist and that he was going to lead Cuba to communism.

1969 - The Boeing 747 jumbo jet got its first public preview as 191 people flew from Seattle, WA, to New York City, NY. Most of the passengers were reporters and photographers.

1970 - The Environmental Protection Agency began operations.

1980 - The Central Committee of Poland's Communist Party announced major Politburo changes. The changes were aimed at coping with labor unrest.

1982 - Doctors at the University of Utah implanted a permanent artificial heart in the chest of retired dentist Barney Clark. He lived 112 days with the device. The operation was the first of its kind.

1988 - Benazir Bhutto was sworn in as prime minister of Pakistan.

1989 - VP Singh was sworn in as prime minister of India.

1990 - Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition won the first free all-German elections since 1932.

1990 - The Midwest section of the US prepared for a massive earthquake predicted by Iben Browning. The earthquakes did not occur.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Charlie Puth (Pop Singer) December 2, 1991 (28 years old)



Britney Spears (Movie Actor) December 2, 1981 (38 years old)



WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Utsini umtsetfo

THE REFUGEES ACT 2018



ASSIGN: Minister of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe.

National Refugee Appeals Board

6. (1) There is established a National Refugee Appeals Board.

(2) The Board shall consist of three members appointed by the Minister, in writing, with due regard to the suitability of a person to serve as a member by virtue of the experience, qualifications and expertise of that person.

(3) At least one member of the Board shall be a person who qualifies to be appointed as a principal magistrate, and shall be the Chairperson of the Board.

(4) The functions of the Board are to receive and determine appeals referred to it in terms of section 5(6).

(5) The appellant shall be invited to appear before the Refugee Appeals Board.

(6) The appeals board may consider new evidence submitted by the appellant when determining the appeal.

(7) The Board shall be independent in the discharge of the functions assigned to it under this Act.

Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner for Refugees

7. (1) There shall be a Commissioner and a Deputy Commissioner for Refugees both of whom shall be appointed by the Civil Service Commission.

(2) The Commissioner shall be responsible for all issues pertaining to refugees and, in particular, shall -

(a) formulate and implement policies and programs on refugees; and

(b) generally safeguard the welfare of refugees in the country.

(3) The Deputy Commissioner for Refugees shall assist the Commissioner in the performance of the duties of the Commissioner under this Act.

(4) There shall be Refugee Status Determination Officers who shall interview and prepare recommendations on asylum applications for consideration by the National Refugee Advisory Committee.

Illegal entry and presence

8. (1) Without conflicting anything contained in the immigration laws of the land, a person claiming to be a refugee, who has illegally entered or is illegally present in Swaziland (Eswatini), shall not be declared a prohibited immigrant, detained, imprisoned or penalised in any other way merely by reason of the illegal entry or presence of that person, pending a determination of the application of that person for recognition as a refugee.

(2) A person to whom subsection (1) applies shall personally appear before the nearest authorised officer without delay, after the entry into Swaziland (Eswatini) and the authorised officer shall refer that person to the office of the Commissioner for Refugees.

Procedure for Applying for Refugee Status

9. (1) A request for protection made to an authorised officer, either at the border or within the territory of Swaziland, shall be considered an asylum application and may be made verbally or in writing.

(2) The Commissioner for Refugees shall issue to the person who makes an application under subsection (1) a document in the prescribed form showing that the person has made an application to be recognised as a refugee and that document shall remain valid until the person is granted or refused refugee status.

(3) The application referred to in subsection (1) shall be submitted to the Commissioner for Refugees and the applicant shall be invited to appear before a Refugee Status Determination Officer for an interview.

(4) Where an applicant who appears before the Refugee Status Determination Officer cannot understand the language used during the interview, the Commissioner for Refugees shall provide that applicant with an interpreter.

(5) The office of the Commissioner shall ensure that, during the interview, adequate arrangements are made for asylum applicants with special needs.

(6) A person who is invited to appear before the Refugee Status Determination Officer, who without a valid reason, fails to appear at two consecutive interviews shall become subject to the immigration laws.

(7) The Office of the Commissioner for Refugees shall refer the recommendation of the National Refugee Status Determination Officer to the National Refugee Advisory Committee for consideration.

(8) The Committee shall consider the recommendation submitted by the Refugee Status Determination Officer and make a final determination on the merits of the asylum claim within 180 days from the date the application is lodged with the authorised officer.

(9) The Committee shall, through the Commissioner, inform each person whose application has been successful of that fact, and shall issue to that person an identity card attesting to the status of that person.

(10) Where the Committee decides not to grant the application for refugee status, it shall inform the applicant of that decision and the reasons thereof through the office of the Commissioner for Refugees.

(11) An applicant who is aggrieved by a decision of the Committee may, within 21 days of notification of the decision, appeal to the National Refugee Appeals Board.

(12) Pending the conclusion of the appeal under subsection (11), the applicant shall be permitted to remain in the country under the provisions of this Act.

(13) If the Appeals Board rejects the appeal, the Appeals Board shall give notice to the Minister who shall give the applicant notice to leave Swaziland (Eswatini) in accordance with the provisions of the immigration laws or seek redress with the High Court.

Members of family

10. (1) Where a person recognised as a refugee is the head of a family, that person's dependents shall be granted refugee status in accordance with the principles of family unity.

(2) Where, subsequent to the recognition of the head of a family as a refugee, there is a change in

the family status or ties resulting from marriage, divorce, legal separation, or death of the head of the family or attainment of the age of majority by a dependent, the members of that family shall continue to be recognised as refugees under this Act.

(3) Where a person is recognized as a refugee, the Commissioner shall, in accordance with the principle of family unity, facilitate entry into the country for members of the family of that refugee.

Non-refoulement

11. A person shall not be refused entry into the country, be expelled, extradited or returned to any other country or be subject to any similar measure, if as a result of such refusal, expulsion, extradition, return or measure, such person is compelled to return to or remain in a country where -

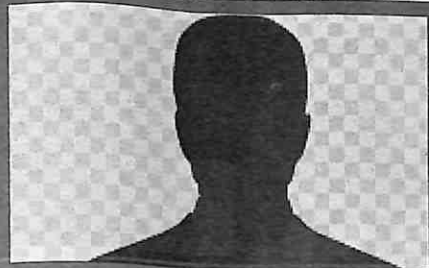
(a) that person may be subjected to persecution on account of the race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion of that person; or

(b) the life, physical safety or freedom of that person would be threatened on account of external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in a part or the whole of that country.

“

Without conflicting anything contained in the immigration laws of the land, a person claiming to be a refugee, who has illegally entered or is illegally present in Swaziland (Eswatini), shall not be declared a prohibited immigrant, detained, imprisoned or penalised in any other way merely by reason of the illegal entry or presence of that person, pending a determination of the application of that person for recognition as a refugee

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BYJON SCHUBERT

ANGOLANS FEEL LET DOWN

...two years into new presidency



DIFFICULT COURSE: Angola President Joao Lourenço.

DISAPPOINTMENT

When the price of crude oil on world markets dropped, in late 2014, from about \$110 to under \$50, the country was plunged into a deep economic crisis from which it has yet to recover.

The crisis revealed how fragile and unsustainable Angola's miracle growth of the preceding decade had been.

While oil prices have gradually recuperated this year, the situation continues to be dire. The cost of living has soared. And the national currency, the kwanza, continues to consistently lose value. Despite the spectacle of high-profile dismissals that followed immediately after Lourenço took power, it appears that entrenched economic interests are prevailing.

Some even claim that rather than truly clearing out the stables, he is simply replacing one network of elites with a new one, albeit with some significant overlaps with the previous one.

Doubts about his commitment to rooting out corruption have been voiced in light of his handling of former vice-president Manuel Vicente, who faced corruption charges in Portugal. Lourenço negotiated with the Portuguese judicial authorities that he be tried in Angola, under his country's laws. But, once the case was transferred to Angola, the country's attorney general declared that as a former vice-president, Vicente enjoyed immunity from prosecution. Vicente went on to become Lourenço's advisor for the oil sector, a low-profile but highly influential position.

Similarly, in a major corruption case involving the Sovereign Wealth Funds, the former president's son, José Filomeno "Zénú" dos Santos, and his partner Jean-Claude Bastos were set free.

This was after the alleged recovery of the embezzled assets, raising questions about impunity for the political elites.

Finally, while international attention is largely focused on the economy, the militarised

crackdown on any demands for greater political and economic autonomy in the oil-rich province of Cabinda continues.

AUSTERITY THE WRONG REMEDY

The approval of an extended fund facility from the International Monetary Fund has been hailed as one of Lourenço's great successes. But Angolan economists are skeptical about its impact. They say that orthodox economic recipes such as austerity measures and the introduction of value added tax would hit the population hard.

More importantly, the facility failed to address the structural problems of the economy, which are a consequence of years of corruption and inefficient, wasteful spending.

The real issue to Angolans remains why their former leaders have been allowed get away with stashing the country's wealth offshore for so long.

“

The crisis revealed how fragile and unsustainable Angola's miracle growth of the preceding decade had been. While oil prices have gradually recuperated this year, the situation continues to be dire. The cost of living has soared and the national currency, the kwanza, continues to consistently lose value

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● "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."
— **Mahatma Gandhi**

● "I have never let my schooling interfere with my education."
— **Mark Twain**

● "You can never be overdressed or overeducated."
— **Oscar Wilde**

● "You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation."
— **Brigham Young**

● "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."
— **St. Augustine**

● "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
— **Nelson Mandela**

● "I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better."
— **Maya Angelou**

● "Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."
— **Walter Cronkite**

● "Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence."
— **Robert Frost**

● "The past has no power over the present moment."
— **Eckhart Tolle**

● "Children must be taught how to think, not what to think."
— **Margaret Mead**

● "It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."
— **Confucius**

● "The mind once enlightened cannot again become dark."
— **Thomas Paine**

● "Education: the path from cocky ignorance to miserable uncertainty."
— **Mark Twain**

● "Only a generation of readers will spawn a generation of writers."
— **Steven Spielberg**

● "If you want to get laid, go to college. If you want an education, go to the library."
— **Frank Zappa**

● "Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."
— **Martin Luther King Jr.**

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

● "Marriage can wait, education cannot."
— **Khaled Hosseini**

● "Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each."
— **Plato**

● "I am not a teacher, but an awakener."
— **Robert Frost**

● "The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts."
— **C.S. Lewis**

TWO years into his presidency, Angolan leader João Lourenço is treading a difficult course between continuity and radical reform.

Faced with a persistent economic crisis, the new president needs to take bold action to open up the economy to competition and renewed foreign investment, and reduce the country's dependency on oil.

To do so, he has to loosen the stranglehold of the country's elites on key sectors of the economy.

These are competing networks of interests within the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the security forces that the previous president, José Eduardo dos Santos, had carefully cultivated in his 38 years in power, by using the country's vast oil revenues.

This political dispensation resulted in, among other things, wasteful spending, inefficiency, the establishment of politically connected monopolies and large-scale embezzlement.

But to loosen that stranglehold, Lourenço relies on continued support from the MPLA, and so he cannot openly antagonise all these different interests at once but rather has to advance very cautiously.

The initial euphoria that accompanied Lourenço's new presidency has ebbed away. Angolans are faced with the stark realities of a profoundly dysfunctional political economy that has proved more resistant to change than they had hoped for.

Yet things started out so well. Lourenço entered the 2017 electoral contest as the MPLA's lead candidate to succeed dos Santos. He campaigned under the motto improve what is good, change what is bad.

Seen as a dos Santos loyalist and a man of continuity, he at first failed to ignite much enthusiasm.

The MPLA won the elections with 61 per cent of the vote – a result that was contested by the opposition. Still, the outcome reflected a reduced dominance for the party, which has governed the country since it gained independence from Portugal in 1975.

But Lourenço stands accused of dithering and being indecisive. And the promises of change he made when he took over have yet to translate into improvements in the living conditions of a majority of Angolans.

PROMISING START

Shortly after his swearing in, Lourenço surprised everyone, including his critics, when he started using the almost absolute constitutional powers of the president to unleash a dizzying flurry of dismissals that swept away many old dos Santos allies. Most prominently, he removed dos Santos' children from most of their positions of economic influence. He even allowed criminal investigations into their dealings to be launched.

Lourenço also opened up state media to more diverse and critical voices, and invited dissidents, jailed and persecuted under dos Santos, to the presidential palace.

He even recently decorated two prominent human rights activists with a medal of national merit.

These actions were truly noteworthy in the context of a country in which open expression of political dissent had been curtailed by a pervasive "culture of fear" and active repression.

But it's the failure to improve peoples' lives that has led to disappointment.

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	1.6%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	10%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	6.5%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E13.65 per litre
Replacement	E13.70 per litre
Diesel	E13.65 per litre
Paraffin	E 9.15 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 29 NOV 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.7254	14.7754
British Pound/SZL	19.0171	19.0817
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.4171	7.4341
Swiss Franc/SZL	14.7505	14.7946
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3488	1.3623
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.9765	10.0118
Canadian Dollar/SZL	11.0826	11.1177
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	16.2134	16.2685
Gold	1,458.0555	
Oil	66.29	

For more information contact:
Standard Bank Global Markets Department
Direct Lines: +268 2404 1543 / 1544
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Standard Bank



'Agencies face challenges in utilities budget allocation'

BY BAHLE GAMA

The ministry of finance is aware that spending agencies continue to face challenges when it comes to budget allocations for their utilities.

This is according to a budget call circular memorandum from the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Finance Sizakele Dlamini to all controlling officers.

It states that all ministries and agencies should endeavour to develop evidence-based estimated expenditures for utilities (water, telephone and electricity).

Realistic

The utilities estimated to be not paid up to March 2020 and in arrears due to lack of sufficient budgets should be incorporated in the budget of 2020/21 to achieve realistic estimates. To complement this, efforts to reduce spending on this item should continue in order to realise the intended savings.

It further urges that all government offices

must switch off all electrical appliances such as computers and heaters when not in use, especially during the night and weekends.

Spending

"Every spending agency should provide relevant information on the number of vehicles on the ground by directorate/department/section, and by type, boarded vehicles, new ones acquired in the past one year by workplace/workstation/school.

This information should be updated and submitted to CTA for their analysis and recommendations," the memorandum says.

It further states that all ministries should provide a separate statement of estimated receipt and expenditure under each operational trading account under its jurisdiction. Warrants under the trading accounts for FY 2020-21 will be issued as per the estimates.

"Trading accounts which are not budgeted for FY 2020/21 will be closed. All extra-budgetary expenditures should also be estimated and included in the budget estimates," it states.

BUDGET ALLOCATION: Ministry of Finance PS Sizakele Dlamini.



Women unacceptably underrated in business - Hou

BY BAHLE GAMA

CHAIRPERSON of the Women's Wing at Business Eswatini Tokky Hou says women are unacceptably underrated in business.

She said this during a meeting she had with different women from all over the country who were interested in the textile industry at Far East Textiles.

The meeting was mainly to have an interface with the 45 women in attendance so as to introduce them into the functions of the industry and help them understand the importance of industry standards and how the departments feed into each other.

"Women are unacceptably under-represented in business and now is the time to give them the confidence that they are more than just mothers, cleaners, sewers.

"They are capable of running businesses of their own and it all starts with one woman telling another, that this is possible," she said.

Assistance

She further taught, coached and motivated the women to be business owners, adding that she would provide the necessary assistance along the way with the backing of Business Eswatini.

Meanwhile, Business Eswatini CEO E. Nathi Dlamini said as an organisation, it was important that all the opportunities be made available to women who have been ignored for much too long.

"Let's make 2020 a year of the woman, and the year after; and the year after that," he said.

He further stated that Business Eswatini was taking the first baby steps towards ensuring that the full might of women's potential is fully unleashed.

ABOUT TOKKY HOU

She has hit the ground running after being elected Chairperson of the women's wing of Business Eswatini only last month.

In her new role as chairperson, she will be responsible for driving Business Eswatini's programmes designed for the upliftment of women both in towns and rural areas.

She is a savvy businesswoman who has made her name in a male-dominated industry in textiles and apparel.

She is said to be tough as nails but extremely humble and passionate about matters of empowering women.



NOTED: Women's Wing at Business Eswatini Chairperson Tokky Hou. (Pic: Bahle Gama)

RENAC AWARDS OVER E8m WORTH CONTRACTS

BY BAHLE GAMA

ROYAL Eswatini National Airways Corporation (RENAC) has awarded over E8 million worth of contracts to two Swati companies.

These are ZMCK Consultants PTY (LTD) and PSSN Investments.

ZMCK was awarded E6 906 900 whilst PSSN was awarded E1 469 021.99, both giving a sum of E8 365 921.99.

This information is according to Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (ESPPRA) in terms of Section 45 of the Public Procurement Act No.7 of 2011 following a competitive bidding process.

ZMCK has been tasked with project management services for the



development of the RENAC lifestyle housing village.

They bided against Project Managers of Choice, a Swati company and won with an evaluation score of

92.46 per cent.

Meanwhile, PSSN has been tasked with the refurbishment of RENAC's new marketing wing office.

Three other companies were bid-

ding for the contract, namely Matola Construction, Previc Investment Services and Mphohlo Investment.

PSSN won with an evaluation score of 79 per cent.

NAME	NAME OF TENDER	PROPOSED CONTRACT PRICE	TOTAL EVALUATION SCORE
ZMCK Consultants PTY (LTD)	Project management services for the development of the RENAC lifestyle housing village.	E6 906 900	92.46 per cent
PSSN Investments	Refurbishment of RENAC's new marketing wing office	E1 469 021.99	79 per cent

Eswatini leather artisans now produce handbags, wallets, belts

BY BAHLE GAMA

FOLLOWING the successful production of Eswatini's first leather footwear last month, the Kingdom's leather artisans are now producing leather handbags, wallets and belts.

A total of 36 leather artisans graduated from the National Handicraft Training Centre following two weeks of intensive training on leather production on Friday.

The leather project has been made possible through the technical assistance of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa's Regional Integration Support Mechanism (COMESA-RISM). Previously, the ministry trained the leather artisans on leather tanning as well as footwear and design.

This project is a culmination of the Leather Value Chain Strategy 2016-2025. Eswatini loses an estimated USD 72 million (E938 million) due to the exportation of raw hides and skins whereas the demand for footwear is estimated at 1.4 million pairs per annum, which is currently being serviced with imports. This, therefore, warrants the need to ensure that national programmes on value addition are put in place. Speaking during the graduation ceremony, Acting Principal Secretary Sizwe Ntshangase said the current leather Value Chain Strategy fitted well with the country's vision by supporting value addition of hides and skins and promoting the growth of Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the leather value chain.

"Such strategic interventions resonate with the National Strategic Roadmap aimed at economic recovery anchored on past national policy directives mainly the National Development Strategy," Ntshangase said.

Among the trained artisans were



POSE: The graduands display some of the finished leather products. (Courtesy pics)



YOURS: Project Manager Portia Dlamini receives a leather handbag from Moses.



WELL DONE: Wiseman Ginindza receives his certificate from Acting PS Sizwe Ntshangase while ALLPI facilitator Mr. Nasir Mahmoud Talab looks on.

leather crafters, leather processors, private sector stakeholders, government officials and academia. At least 10 of the artisans were women and people living with disabilities; in line with Strategic Pillar No. 7 of the MSME Draft National Policy; which calls for the development and improvement of the position of MSMEs owned by women, the youth and other disadvantaged groups. The MSME Policy recognises that women, the youth and people living with disabilities continue to be disadvantaged in virtual-

ly every economic dimension, and that government has not yet been adequately equipped to deal with their specific needs, hence the reason we are targeting them through this project.

Response

These trainings are a direct response to a feasibility study that the MSME Unit, under the ministry, conducted with the support of the Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) which revealed that the kingdom currently has about 0.6 million bovine

herds, with an estimated hides and skins production capacity of 220 000, and annual average earnings of E5 million. The leather footwear, handbags, wallets and belts are currently available at the NHTC for demonstration purposes. However, Emaswati can also start placing orders from the leather artisans through our MSME Unit. We are currently targeting the local market as we continue to equip the leather artisans for the export market, in line with our export-driven approach.

FNB sees record increase in Black Friday transaction volumes

CAPE TOWN - Between midnight and 2pm on Friday, the total number of transactions processed through First National Bank's (FNB's) Merchant Acquiring Systems were 7.4 million compared to 5.6 million in 2018, the lender said in a statement on Friday.

This represents a 40 per cent increase in transaction volumes compared to the same period last year. Transactions processed through the bank's Merchant Acquiring Systems peaked at an average of 306 transactions per second.

The Chief Executive of FNB Merchant Services, Thokozani Dlamini said while transactional volumes were expected to normalise later in the day, last minute shopping was anticipated to lead to intermittent spikes in volumes until retailers close their doors. "Online merchants have the luxury of opening until midnight while traditional retailers may consider opening for longer than usual to accommodate the after-hours rush," said Dlamini. Online merchants like Takealot, Zando and eBucks Shop were among the top online retailers where FNB customers bought discounted goods and services. Cilliers Kriel, the Chief Executive of FNB Credit Card said overall, the lender expected card present transactions to make up the majority of card spend by close of business, however, there was a firm indication that South Africa's consumers were growing accustomed to shopping online.

Business Report

JSE share prices looking gloomy for 2020

JOHANNESBURG - JSE share prices are likely to present another year of "abysmal returns" in 2020 as forecasts of weak global and local economic growth translate into lower earnings growth for locally listed companies, market analysts said on Friday.

On Friday the JSE All Share index was up 7.17 per cent, while the FTSE Top 40 Index, where most of the constituent companies have globally focussed operations, was up only 10.13 per cent. This follows an 11 per cent decline in the JSE All Share Index in 2018.

Citadel Investment Portfolio Manager Nishlen Govender said South African focused-listed companies were likely to continue to struggle in 2020.

"Retailers are battling to grow revenue, and especially selling price inflation, and so, too, the financial sector. Both segments have tried to maintain margins by trimming costs. This has been earnings supportive, but I see little of this left," he said.

"In South Africa, low confidence and sentiment is associated with weak fiscal figures, leading to the continued threat of a credit downgrade. Continued uncertainty means business spending has remained weak and, with little in the way of room for government to assist, this has placed additional pressure on consumers. Monetary policy is also constrained," he said.

Business Report



OMBUDSMAN
OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Umlamuli wetindzaba tetimali

OMBUDSDAY

**FREE
FAIR
FOR ALL**

FOR many people, the festive season is a time for family.

An important function of the Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services (Ombudsman) is to serve the people of Eswatini, many of whom are connected to families in one way or another. For instance, we may interact with a person who wants to lodge a complaint against a non-bank Financial Services Provider (FSP) regarding a financial matter that affects their children or spouse. We may also interact with FSP 'A' who has a complaint against FSP 'B' relating to a financial services product that does not seem to be yielding the expected returns, therefore threatening the atmosphere of unity or family amongst the employees of FSP 'A'. Given these types of complaints, the Ombudsman is committed to resolving disputes in a quick manner with minimal formality, to uphold good practice in the non-bank financial services industry. By extension, we are committed to contributing to financial stability in families, whether on the community or corporate level.

To reaffirm this commitment, the Office of the Ombudsman continues in its efforts to make the public aware of how we can assist with resolving non-bank financial services complaints against FSPs that are licenced by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA). We are excited for you to learn a bit more about our family – the Ombudsman team – and find out what family and the festive season means to us. The Officers are presented here in no particular order.

Case officer

The Case Officer (CO) assesses and registers complaints that the Ombudsman receives. Where suitable, the CO may then step in to guide a discussion about a dispute settlement between a complainant and an FSP for example, and possibly also begin investigating the matter should the complainant and FSP not agree on a settlement. The CO is instrumental in making sure we handle complaints in a way that is fair, reasonable and easy to understand.

Ombudsman

The Ombudsman oversees all functions as the Head of the Office. This includes assignments at business strategy level, providing legal oversight as well as being involved in consumer education and stakeholder management events. Another key function of the Ombudsman is to issue and sign off determinations or decisions that are made about complaints after investigation. The vision and values of the office are exemplified by the Ombudsman who inspires the team to do the same.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE OMBUDS FAMILY



Administrative assistant

The Administrative Assistant (AA) manages the running of the office. In addition to coordinating internal and external procurement, the AA ensures that all records about clients and any other important information is captured. Receiving questions from and educating the public about the Office of the Ombudsman is another function of this role. Good customer service is central to how we serve at Ombudsman and the AA is at the forefront of this mandate.

Lead adjudicator

The Lead Adjudicator (LA) works with the Ombudsman to make sure the operations of our complaints resolution process run well. Some of the day-to-day responsibilities of the LA can include meeting with complainants to discuss their matters, reaching out to FSPs to ensure communication lines are maintained, and drafting decisions on complaints received. The LA uses the rule of

law and our goal to serve the public to uphold our commitment to being fair and for all.

Research and communications officer

The Research and Communications officer (RCO) collects, evaluates and presents information about the Office or the people and organisations that we work with. The trends from this research can be useful for informing the office's approach to educating the general public and how we interact with different groups in the Eswatini economy. The RCO contributes to making our services accessible and easy to understand.

The most important thing about Christmas holiday is...

"The most important thing about the Christmas holidays is that it is a period where people can have extended time with family and friends, celebrate their faith and reach out to others who are less fortunate in the fes-

● **The most important thing about the Christmas holidays is that it is a period where people can have extended time with family and friends, celebrate their faith and reach out to others who are less fortunate in the festive spirit of giving.**

tive spirit of giving. In the non-bank financial services community, there may be an exchange of gifts of good practice between financial services providers and their clients/customers in terms of due regard for their con-

tractual obligations. As the new year draws near, we look forward to seeing more EmaSwati experience financial freedom through increased awareness of their financial rights and responsibilities. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season. God bless!"

N.B Ombudsday is a monthly consumer education column compiled by the Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services in the country. Kindly note that our Office will be temporarily closed over the festive season. However, do not miss the next column which will be published in this newspaper next month. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

For more information, contact the office of the Ombudsman at:
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Facebook: Ombudsman of Financial Services.

Focus on World News

Global News

PROTESTERS MARCH TO UP PRESSURE

HONG KONG - Pro-democracy protesters renewed pressure on the Hong Kong government yesterday with three separate marches, appealing to President Donald Trump for help and demanding that police stop using tear gas.

A group dressed in black and wearing masks carried American flags as it headed to the US Consulate to express gratitude for legislation aimed at protecting human rights in Hong Kong that Trump signed into law last week.

Some held banners reading "President Trump, please liberate Hong Kong" and "Let's make Hong Kong great again" — a riff on his 2016 campaign pledge to make America great again. One showed him standing atop a tank with "Trump" emblazoned on the front and side. The marches came one week after pro-democracy candidates won a landslide victory in district-level elections. Hong Kong's protests have been relatively peaceful for the two weeks around the election but could turn violent again if the government doesn't bend to demands for more democracy and an investigation into police use of force against



the protesters.

A peaceful crowd of about 200 adults and young children marched to government headquarters in the morning and chanted "No more tear gas."

Entrance

They leaned a pole with an American flag that flapped in the wind over a high metal gate, while the Chinese and Hong Kong flags flew on tall poles in front of the entrance.

"A lot of parents are worried that their children are affected, because their children are coughing, breaking out in rashes and so forth," said march organiser Leo Kong, a 40-year-old social worker. A third march was called for late afternoon in the Tsim Sha Tsui district near Polytechnic University, the site of the last fierce clashes with police two weeks ago.

AP

Iranian opposition leader compares supreme leader to toppled Shah

GENEVA - Iranian opposition leader Mirhossein Mousavi has compared Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to the Shah, the monarch deposed in a 1979 revolution, following the government's crackdown on protests this month.

The unrest began on November 15 after the government of the Islamic Republic, one of OPEC's biggest oil producers, announced gasoline price hikes. But the protests quickly turned political, with demonstrators demanding the removal of top leaders.

Khamenei has described the violence as the work of a "very dangerous conspiracy". The Tehran government has blamed "thugs" linked to its opponents in exile and the country's main foreign foes, namely the United States, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Iran has given no official death toll, but Amnesty International has said that at least 161 people have been killed. Tehran has rejected this figure.

Mousavi's comments about Khamenei, the highest authority in the Islamic Republic, were posted in a statement on the opposition

Kaleme website. He made a reference to an infamous 1978 massacre which rallied public support and led to the toppling of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

"The killers of the year 1978 were the representatives of a non-religious regime and the agents and shooters of November 2019 are the representatives of a religious government," he said. "Then the commander in chief was the Shah and today, here, the supreme leader with absolute authority."

He called on the government to "pay attention to the repercussions of the Jaleh square killings" of 1978.

Lost

Mousavi and Mehdi Karubi ran in a presidential election in June 2009 but lost out to hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The two men became figureheads for Iranians who staged mass protests after the vote, which they said was rigged.

Karubi, Mousavi and Mousavi's wife Zahra Rahnavard have been under house arrest in Tehran since 2011 after the opposition leaders called on supporters to rally in solidarity with pro-democracy uprisings in Arab countries.

Reuters

Ukrainian officials discussing ways to improve standing with Trump

KYIV - Ukrainian officials are discussing ways to improve their country's standing with President Donald Trump amid the continuing fallout from the impeachment inquiry, two sources told CNN.

Those sources, who recently met with Ukrainian officials, said that the Ukrainian government could still announce new investigations which could be seen as politically beneficial to the US President. However, it is unclear what exactly those potential investigations would cover or when they would be announced. One source told CNN that Ukrainian officials recognised that any potential

investigations would need to look into current issues and not just those of the past.

The Ukrainian Embassy in Washington did not reply to a request for comment.

Trump's request for Ukrainians to investigate their country's interference in the 2016 election — a debunked theory — and former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden, is a cornerstone of the House Democrats' impeachment investigation. Whether that request was tied to a White House meeting and the withholding of military aid to Ukraine is at the crux of the impeachment inquiry. *CNN*

London Bridge attack sparks terrorists' jail release review

LONDON - An urgent review of the licence conditions of people jailed for terror offences has been launched by the ministry of justice following Friday's London Bridge attack.

Two people were killed and three were injured by Usman Khan, 28, a convicted terrorist who served half of his time.

PM Boris Johnson claimed scrapping early release would have stopped him.

As many as 70 convicted terrorists released from prison could be the focus of the government review.

Khan, 28, who was shot by police on Friday after carrying out the attack,

was jailed over a plot to bomb the London Stock Exchange in 2012.

He was sentenced to indeterminate detention for "public protection" with a minimum jail term of eight years.

This sentence would have allowed him to be kept in prison beyond the minimum term.

Prison

But in 2013, the Court of Appeal quashed the sentence, replacing it with a 16-year-fixed term of which Khan should serve half in prison. He was released on licence in December 2018 - subject to an "extensive list of licence conditions", Met Police Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu said.

"To the best of my knowledge, he was complying with those conditions," he added.

As part of his release conditions, Khan was obliged to take part in the government's desistance and disengagement programme, which aims to rehabilitate people who have been involved in terrorism.

Khan was living in Stafford and wearing a GPS police tag when he launched his attack inside Fishmongers' Hall, where he was attending a conference hosted by Learning Together, a prisoners' rehabilitation programme.

The attack then continued onto London Bridge itself.

BBC

BRIEFS

'Russia and US must avoid hot war'

MOSCOW - Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev may be remembered as the man who presided over the collapse of an empire: The recent anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 saw major celebrations to mark the collapse of Communism in eastern Europe and the reunification of Germany.

Less well remembered was a meeting that followed just a few weeks later between Gorbachev and US President George HW Bush off the Mediterranean island of Malta, where the two leaders tried to come to grips with how quickly history had changed.

"Look at how nervous we are," Gorbachev told Bush, according to a Soviet transcript. *CNN*

Thousands march against far-right

FLORENCE - Tens of thousands rallied in Florence in Italy on Saturday against the far-right League party, the latest in a series of demonstrations called by the new, youth-driven 'Sardine Movement'. The Sardine has become a symbol of protest against the far-right firebrand leader Matteo Salvini, who served as interior minister and deputy prime minister in the previous coalition government with the Five Star Movement. Students, young professionals and families with children joined the march, where the carrying of political banners was discouraged. Demonstrators gathered in the city's Piazza della Repubblica sang the anti-fascist song "Bella Ciao" and shouted "Every Sardine has the right to exist!" *AFP*

Malta PM to step down

VALLETTA - Malta's Prime Minister Joseph Muscat will step down on January 18, party sources told AFP Saturday, following mounting criticism of his response to the murder of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia. The announcement came as the main suspect in the 2017 car bomb killing, tycoon Yorgen Fenech, 38, was charged with complicity in the murder. The court also ordered Fenech's assets to be frozen and he was returned to custody. Party insiders said Muscat would step down once those behind the killing have been charged and his Labour Party has chosen a new leader.

"He always said that he will be leaving soon and he feels that now is the time to go," said one party source. *AFP*

At least 14 killed in gunfight

MEXICO CITY - 10 suspected cartel gunmen and four police were killed during a shootout on Saturday in a Mexican town near the US border, days after US President Donald Trump raised bilateral tensions by saying he would designate the gangs as terrorists. The government of the northern state of Coahuila said state police clashed at midday with a group of heavily armed gunmen riding in pickup trucks in the small town of Villa Union, about 40 miles (65 km) southwest of the border city of Piedras Negras. Standing outside the Villa Union mayor's bullet-ridden offices, Coahuila Governor Miguel Angel Riquelme told reporters the state had acted "decisively" to tackle the cartel henchmen. *Reuters*

Focus on

Africa News

Continental News

SUDAN'S NCP PARTY REACTS TO GOV'T BAN

KHARTOUM - Sudan's National Congress Party (NCP) on Friday condemned the government's decision to dissolve it, and confiscate its assets, insisting that its 'ideas will prevail'.

The NCP, which is ousted president Omar al-Bashir's party, accused the new "illegal government" of trying to confiscate its properties to help tackle Sudan's economic crisis.

"To rely on the assets of the party, if there are any, is nothing more than a moral scandal, an act of intellectual bankruptcy and a total failure on the part of the illegal government," the Islamist NCP said on its Facebook page.

"The party is not bothered by any law or decision issued against it as the NCP is a strong party and its ideas will prevail."

The authorities late Thursday approved a law ordering the NCP to be dissolved, its assets confiscated and the



REACTS: Former president Omar al-Bashir.

regime dismantled as demanded by the protest movement that led to the veteran leader's fall in April.

They also slapped a ban on any "symbols" of the former regime from taking part in political activities for 10

years.

Bashir was ousted on April 11 in a palace coup after a nationwide protest movement against his iron-fisted rule of three decades.

AFP

Complacency a concern as AIDS treatment improves in Africa

KAMPALA - AIDS has no cure.

HIV is still here. But some people are forgetting that.

Those are some of the bold messages Uganda's leader is emphasising as health officials try to stem stubbornly high infection rates among young people in this East African country that years ago won praise as a global leader in fighting the epidemic. In many parts of sub-Saharan Africa, the region most affected, fewer people are dying from AIDS as treatment is more widely available and patients live normally. Yet some officials and activists worry that success may be encouraging a sense of complacency. The head of HIV prevention at Uganda's AIDS agency, Dr. Daniel Byamukama, recently asked leaders of a popular church that organises a retreat for young people to give him 20 minutes to make a presentation about AIDS. They turned him down, saying "AIDS is common sense" these days. Many young people believe "HIV is gone," he told The Associated Press. In Uganda and neighbouring Kenya,

countries with two of the world's highest AIDS rates, campaigners point to lower-than-satisfactory HIV testing rates among adult men, early sexual experiences among many adolescents, inadequate knowledge of HIV and reproductive health and even what UNAIDS calls "a crippling fear of buying condoms" among many Ugandans.

Focused

Now Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, who earned praise in the 1980s for his government's openness in public campaigns against HIV, believes officials have focused too much on treatment in recent years and wants them to speak simply to young people with messages noting that "HIV is here with us."

An estimated 500 Ugandans die weekly from AIDS-related illnesses.

"Why are you in a hurry to have sex at 16, at 18, at 20 and then you die, or you start having problems which you may live with all your life? Why don't you wait, hold on, you study, finish your degree and then look for a partner at the right time?" **AP**

President Hage Geingob wins re-election

WINDHOEK - Namibia's President Hage Geingob has been re-elected for a second term, the country's electoral commission says.

Mr Geingob polled 56.3 per cent in Wednesday's election, well ahead of his nearest rival Panduleni Itula with 29.4 per cent.

However, Mr Geingob's tally was well down from the 87 per cent with which he won his first term in 2014.

He went on social media to thank Namibians for returning him to office, promising to bring tangible improvements to their lives.

His Swapo party has ruled Namibia for nearly three decades since it gained independence from South Africa.

The sparsely-populated country has suffered from economic recession, hit by serious drought and low prices for its main mineral exports, diamonds and uranium. The Bank of Namibia

is predicting a third year of recession, with the economy due to shrink by 1.7 per cent in 2019. Swapo has also been hit by a fisheries scandal, with two former ministers under arrest for allegedly taking bribes to give licences to the Icelandic fishing firm Samherji.

Former Justice Minister Sakeus Shanghala and former Fisheries Minister Bernard Esau have been charged with money laundering and fraud.

"I am just a proud Namibian that we could have free and fair elections, no fighting, no attacking each other, free movement was allowed," said President Geingob after the result was announced.

His main rival Itula is also a Swapo member, but stood as an independent. The official opposition candidate - McHenry Venaani of the Popular Democratic Movement (PDM) - finished third with 5.3 per cent.

BBC

An anti-corruption drive or political witch-hunt?

LIBREVILLE - Authorities in Gabon this week arrested eight people who are suspected of theft and money-laundering in what is seen as follow-up to Operation Mamba, an anti-corruption campaign launched in 2017 by President Ali Bongo, who has been battling serious illness.

The revived anti-graft drive has seen a string of top-level arrests in the central African country, as accusations that millions of euros have disappeared from state coffers swirl around top officials.

"Eight people have been placed in preventive detention," Gabon's prosecutor Andre Patrick Roponat said on Thursday, adding that they were accused of "siphoning off public funds and money-laundering."

The group appeared before a judge

on Wednesday along with eight others who were released on bail, Roponat said. Pro-government newspaper L'Union reported this week that more than 85 billion CFA francs (\$142 million) have "evaporated" over the past two years from the funds of the Gabon Oil Company.

60-year-old Bongo said last month he was "fiercely determined" to push ahead with the campaign against graft.

Political witch-hunt?

One high-profile political figure embroiled in the affair is Brice Laccruche Alihanga, Bongo's former Cabinet director who took the lead and spoke for the president after he suffered a stroke in 2018.

Laccruche had held his Cabinet post for more than two years but was

dismissed on November 7, at the start of a wave of arrests.

He has announced on social media that he will undertake a new mission for "the president and for Gabon".

Earlier this week, lawyers told AFP that presidential spokesman Ike Ngouoni and a dozen others were arrested and questioned over their ties to Alihanga.

The lawyers also insist that "there is a political vendetta" in the current process, a claim the country's prime minister refutes.

During his months-long absence abroad for treatment, speculation over Bongo's fitness surged and the army quashed a brief attempted coup.

Bongo has ruled Gabon since 2009, following the death of his father Omar Bongo, who was in power from 1967.

AFP

BRIEFS

Protesters march in favour of govt

ALGIERS - Algerian citizens in support of the government have taken to the streets in demonstrations in several cities across the North African country to show their support for next month's elections. The December 12 poll has been decried by members of a long-running nationwide protest movement who've been protesting each Friday since mid-February against the status quo and forced president Abdelaziz Bouteflika out of power in April. Saturday's protests, with some several thousand participants, are the largest pro-government demonstrations of their kind seen in Algeria. They were organised by the General Union of Algerian Workers, or UGTA.

AP

Armed forces kill extremist leader

OUAGADOUGOU - Burkina Faso's armed forces say soldiers have killed an extremist leader and five supporters in Nahouri Province in an operation to dismantle the group operating in the country's south-central region. The statement Friday by the armed forces' chief of staff said forces also seized a large cache of weapons. It identified the leader as Abdoul Hadi, who is known to have helped extremist group Ansarul Islam establish a presence in the area. Extremist groups have been increasing attacks in the West African nation in recent months, forcing nearly a half-million people to flee their homes.

AP

Outtara will stand in 2020 election if...

KATIOLA - Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara said on Saturday he would run for a third term if his predecessors decided to compete in the 2020 election, a vote seen as a major test of stability for the country after two civil wars this century. The election already looks highly unpredictable. Ouattara's main coalition partner defected last year, and his bitter rival, former president Laurent Gbagbo, could return after being acquitted of crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Ouattara has said he intends to hand power to a younger generation but he has also argued that a constitutional change in 2016 has canceled previous term limits, enabling him to stand again. **Reuters**

Protests after man sets himself alight

TUNIS - Tunisian police used tear gas to disperse dozens of protesters who blocked roads in the southern town of Jelma on Saturday following the death of a young man who burned himself to death, witnesses said. Abdelwahed Hablani, 25, set himself on fire and died in hospital on Friday in protest at poverty and poor living conditions, echoing the 2010 self-immolation of Mohammed Bouazizi, whose death triggered the Arab Spring. The protesters on Saturday afternoon burnt tires before police intervened to reopen roads, firing tear gas canisters, the witnesses said, but the demonstrations were continuing late into Saturday evening. **Reuters**

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

ANC INTEGRITY COMMISSION TELLS BONGO TO 'STEP ASIDE'

CAPE TOWN - The ANC's Integrity Commission, chaired by party veteran George Mashamba, has called on former State Security Minister Bongani Bongo to step aside from all party positions and activities, pending the finalisation of his criminal case.

Bongo was arrested by the Hawks in Cape Town and was released on bail of R5 000. He is due back in court in January.

The charges relate to the alleged bribery of the former evidence leader of the Eskom inquiry in Parliament.

Bongo declined to comment on Saturday after the call by the integrity commission. Commission Chairperson Mashamba said Bongo should step aside. The ANC's National Executive Committee must take a lead in this by restoring public confidence in the party, said Mashamba.

"The integrity commission recommends that the NEC take swift and decisive action to restore the confidence of the public in the ANC's stat-



STEP ASIDE: Former State Security Minister Bongani Bongo.

ed position of zero tolerance against corruption. To that end comrade Bongo should be instructed to step aside with immediate effect from all positions and activities of the ANC, including

his deployment into public office by the organisation until his name has been cleared of the criminal charges levelled against him," said Mashamba.

Politics Bureau

'White people must acknowledge they are land thieves'

DURBAN - Black First Land First (BLF) leader Andile Mngxitama has called on his party's special policy conference to systematically succumb to the pressure of AfriForum and Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) by removing a racist clause from its constitution.

Mngxitama was addressing about 100 delegates who attended the one-day conference in Durban on Saturday, which was called in reaction to the IEC deregistering the BLF from participating in the country's elections.

The IEC deregistered BLF following complaints from AfriForum that the party was racist since its policies did not allow white people to be members. The Equality Court would this week rule on the case against the IEC's decision, which was launched by the BLF.

Despite the call to amend its constitution, Mngxitama and other members of his party kept chanting "one settler, one bullet", the slogan that could be interpreted as a call for an attack on white people.

He said the party should amend its constitution only to meet the IEC's requirements, but he said white people would have to prove beyond reasonable doubt that they subscribed to the BLF's pro-African people ideology.

"It is just a very fair condition as white people are beneficiaries of land theft, therefore they should demonstrate if they say they support a pro-black movement like ours," he said.

He said it would be "a tough luck" for those white people who would fail to meet the BLF's stringent conditions.

"That means that they are not serious about joining the black struggle, then they must not," said Mngxitama.

He said the conference would make a declaration, which would retain the BLF's blackness objectives.

"We are a black liberation movement and that cannot be compromised, otherwise we have no reason to exist. *Politics Bureau*



IT'S ON: Johannesburg Council Chambers.

ANC confident it will unseat DA ahead of JHB mayoral election

JOHANNESBURG - The ANC's negotiations with other parties remain a closely guarded secret ahead of the Johannesburg mayoral elections on Wednesday but the ruling party says it's confident it will unseat the DA.

Senior ANC officials were unnerved when speaker Vasco da Gama postponed the election and even threatened to take legal action.

They accused him of buying time for the DA at the expense of service delivery.

If no winner emerges from the first round of mayoral elections, the candidate with the lowest votes will be eliminated, and a runoff will decide the winner between the remaining two candidates.

The point of disagreement is should that winner just have more numbers or have at least a majority of 50 per cent plus one?

Da Gama is seeking legal clarity on this matter especially with the high likelihood that it will be a tight race.

But ANC Gauteng spokesperson Bones Modise sees no need to worry.

"The ANC commands the numbers followed by the da and eff - so if all of us are fielding candidates it tells you that the ANC will emerge victorious."

The ANC has the highest number of councillors but its 50 per cent plus one so what work is the party doing to ensure it win the runoff should it happen?

"The main concentration will be to make sure we have all our 121 councillors seated, anything beyond that we will engage as and when the situation arises." Meanwhile, parties are now waiting for the speaker to pronounce what majority means based on the legal advice that he postponed the election to seek. *EWN*

EFF could hold the key to winning Joburg mayoral race

JOHANNESBURG - With the postponement of the Johannesburg mayoral council sitting on Thursday, the EFF could hold a strong hand going into this week's negotiations with the ANC and DA.

This, despite the failure of its no-confidence motion against embattled Tshwane Mayor Stevens Mokgalapa.

The three major parties have been in a wrestling match over control of Gauteng's two biggest metropolises in recent weeks.

The cities of Johannesburg and Tshwane both have hung councils, with no party winning a 50 per cent plus one majority in either metro in

the 2016 local government elections.

This forced the DA in both councils to enter into coalitions or voting agreements to secure two of the most powerful mayoral positions.

Herman Mashaba's surprise resignation from the DA last month, as well as Mokgalapa's recent sex tape scandal, have paved the way for a power grab between the EFF, ANC and DA.

While the EFF is the third biggest party in both the Johannesburg and Tshwane councils, it could use its blocks of seats to convince the DA or ANC to back it for mayor in either of the metros, in return for the sup-

port of the red berets in other municipalities.

Last week, EFF leader Julius Malema said it was the DA's turn to support his party as the EFF had backed the DA in the past.

At the time, he said the EFF would consider a trade-off in Tshwane.

The ANC, for its part, has been tirelessly exploring every avenue to regain power in Johannesburg ever since it lost the city in 2016.

Mashaba's sudden resignation allowed the national governing party room to explore and woo DA coalition partners in a bid to regain control of the council. *News24*

Embattled DA politician resigns from Tshwane city council

TSHWANE - Transport MMC for Tshwane Metro Municipality and PR councillor Sheila Senkubuge has resigned, the party confirmed to News24 on Saturday morning.

"I can confirm that we have received her resignation letter," provincial leader John Moody said.

According to Moody, a private citizen had also laid charges against Senkubuge, questioning whether she was eligible to hold a council seat, claiming she initially held permanent residency before becoming a naturalised citizen.

When asked if her resignation was linked to an alleged leaked sex recording scandal, Moody said: "It is up to her at the end of the day, she needs to face whatever action she needs to face." Senkubuge has been embroiled



RESIGNS: Transport MMC for Tshwane Metro Municipality and PR Councillor Sheila Senkubuge.

in a scandal at the municipality after a recording allegedly revealed a relationship between herself and Tshwane Mayor Stevens Mokgalapa, who took special leave on Thursday.

In her resignation letter, which News24 has a copy of, Senkubuge said that despite her work successes, there were efforts to personally drag her name. *News24*

ESWATINI Observer ENTERTAINMENT

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LUNGELO DELIVERS AS PROMISED

BY PHETSILE MAMBA



LUNGELO Matse recorded a full house at Zakhele Free Evangelical Assemblies Church last Friday at his first album launch where he delivered an unforgettable performance.

Matse delivered a great show as promised. The singer performed for an hour and made sure everyone was up on their feet throughout. The crowd would come by the stage as he was performing to dance and sing along to songs he rendered.

As he was performing, he would from time to time stop and thank everyone who supported him. He thanked his brother Nduduzo, artists who performed and everyone who was there to support him.

The crowd seemed to be enjoying itself at the show. They showed how much they loved and supported Lungelo.

The show also saw performances from Fakazi Samuel, Linda M, Londiwe, Banele and more who also kept the crowd dancing and singing along to every song.

Lungelo said he was overwhelmed by



IN WORSHIP: The crowd reacts as Matse belted it out during the show.



SINGING: Lungelo Matse's back-up singers singing along as he was performing.

the love he received from his fans. "The support was amazing and the response I received was just too heartwarming. I pray that fans maintain this spirit and always attend my

shows. I thank the artists who came to support, that was just amazing," Matse said.

Relaying words of encouragement to his brother was gospel maestro



SINGING: Nduduzo Matse performing at his brother Lungelo Matse's album launch.

Nduduzo Matse who said he was proud of Lungelo on his journey and his accomplishments.

"I am proud of my brother, an album launch is no child's play and I am willing to take his hand and guide him every step of the way," said Matse.

Other words of support came from performing artists of the night who included Fakazi and Linda M. They all shared the same sentiments about Lungelo being a force to be reckoned with in the industry. One of Lungelo's followers from social media Siphesihle Maziya said she has been looking forward to this day because she has been following Lungelo's journey. "I am so proud of him and the amazing music he sings. Lungelo heals through his singing and ministers to the soul in like measure," Maziya said.

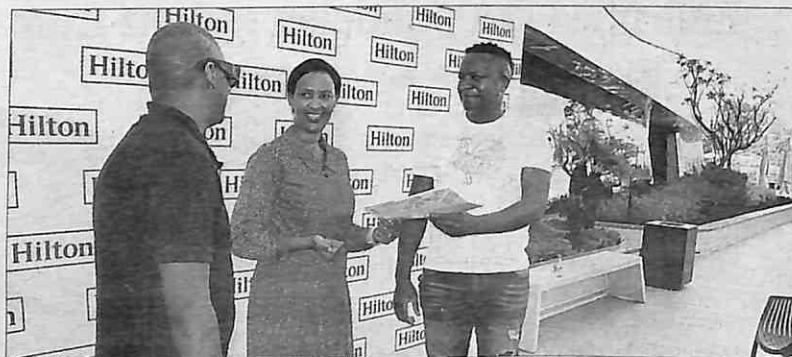
Hilton Garden Inn partners with 'Kingdom Lockdown'

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

THE Hilton Garden Hotel has partnered with Cliff Mixwell Experience, for the 'Kingdom Lockdown' party scheduled for Friday until Sunday.

The hotel's General Manager Christina Ndlovu handed over the contract to the co-founder of Lockdown Events Clifford Masina alongside Fistaz Mixwell on Monday during the launch. Ndlovu said they were creating a relationship that would be long lasting. "The Hilton Garden Hotel presents the 'Kingdom Lockdown' that will be hosted here every year," Ndlovu shared.

The show is one of the first entertainment events to be held at the hotel. The show would attract tourists as Eswatini is known to be one of the best countries to visit with beautiful



HANDING OVER: The Hilton Garden Hotel General Manager Christina Ndlovu handing over the contract to the 'Kingdom Lockdown' Co-founder Clifford Masina.

tourist attractions.

The 'Kingdom Lockdown' show is originally from South Africa and is a concept conceived by Clifford Masina and South African deejay Fistaz Mixwell.

During the launch, they explained that the concept was conceived three years ago with a group of friends gathering for a birthday party for one of their own.

They resolved to host the lockdown



SPEAKS: The 'Kingdom Lockdown' co-founder Clifford Masina briefing the media about the upcoming show.

with the first event at Maputo, which was a very successful one.

People then requested that a similar show be held in Eswatini.

Masina said their events were all about lifestyle and having fun. "Eswatini is one of the tourist destinations so what we want to do is bring that vibe again through the Cliff Mixwell," Masina said.

South African DJ Fistaz Mixwell, who is also a founder of the show, said they would like to see people from other countries finding a common spot to enjoy themselves even if it was just for the weekend. They would be bringing renowned artists whose identities will be revealed soon. They hope people will come in numbers and enjoy themselves.

TICKET PRICES WERE TOO STEEP - MREERAYO

STORIES BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

THE First Lake Festival which was held by the Luphohlo Dam on Saturday did not go as planned as it was poorly attended.

According to event organiser MreeRayo, the event had less people attending because of the high ticket prices.

He said he thought more revellers would have attended if they were a bit cheaper than the initial price.

He further stated that it did not stop him though from bringing what he had promised to the people who were the artists who he had said would come and perform as they did.

"I want to extend my sincere appreciating to those who came out and supported the event. I know the outcome in terms of the attendees was not pleasing but as this was the first, I am happy with how things turned out," he said.

MreeRayo then promised to deliver more on the next coming show and try make the ticket prices affordable.

The event's after party began at 2100 with Pressure who gave a great performance for the few in attendance.



MOBI: Mobei Dixon enjoys his set during the Lake Festival which was held at the Luphohlo Dam on Saturday evening. (Pics: Setsabile Nkambule)

As time went by, people began leaving the event. The energy from the event began picking up during a performance from the Shepard Brothers at 2330 as they were the crowd's favourite. Shepard Brothers kept the crowd dancing to their songs which

included songs like 'Gendza' and many more. They did their famous fire tricks which they are known for.

Following the Shepard Brother's performance was South African DJ Milo who kept the few dancing to his hip-hop mix.



DEEP HOUSE: Deep house lovers enjoying !Sooks's set.



LOST IN MUSIC: Fans taken by Pressure's delivery.



FIRE: Shepard Brothers bought their A game.



CHEESE: Pressure chilling with his friends after his performance



YEBOO: Fun lovers sweating it out.

... Mobei Dixon enjoys performance

THE much anticipated DJ Mobei Dixon rendered his set at two in the morning. He played for two hours.

In an interview with this publication, the spinner thanked the people who had attended for the love and support they showed. He stated that it was his fifth time in the kingdom and was happy

that every time he was here, Emaswati welcomed him with warm and open hands.

"I liked the energy my fans gave when I performed. This shows that they loved what I had to render. Eswatini has the most amazing people and I would really want to come back and have fun

with my Eswatini fans," he said.

The event ended around 4am before Bizizi and Kaygee arrived. According to MreeRayo, they came around 5am and performed for the very few people who were there. He said initially they had to be there at midnight as that was the agreed time.



WOLF: !Sooks gave a stellar performance.



A DASH OF HIP HOP: Rapper Pressure during his performance.



THE FUTURE: Little Miss Eswatini finalists pose with some of the books before the handover.

Little Miss Eswatini finalists donate over 100 books

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

LITTLE Miss Eswatini finalists visited Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital on Saturday where they donated over 100 books to the children currently admitted there.

According to Little Miss Eswatini founder, Nokuphila Masangane, the 10 finalists donated over 100 reading books to the children.

"We arrived at RFM in the morning. The children and the mothers were so touched by what these kids (finalists) did, and the kids themselves were honoured to be part of such a great initiative.

Not only did they give to the children but also their mums. They mingled with the children and made friends there,"



READ HERE: Shakira Mamba hands a book to one of the children at the hospital.

she said.

Masangane said the pageant was all about building confidence. "The pur-

pose of the whole pageantry is to boost the children's confidence and also promote the spirit of unity and helping each other for a better tomorrow. Hence, it is not just about beauty," Masangane said.

Winners are expected to get free tablets, book hampers and vouchers from Spur, Game Drive and bicycles.

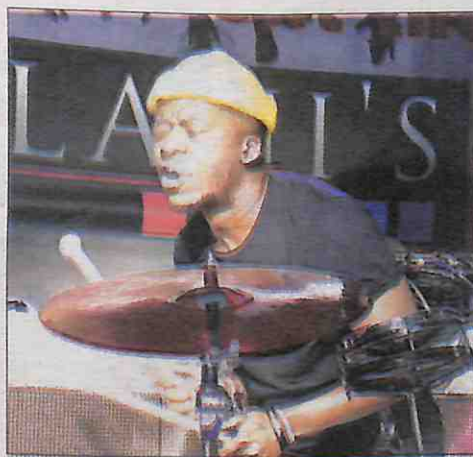
"We would also like to plead with the nation to support this pageant with more prizes," she said.

The top 10 finalists are Hlelokuhle Zwane, Landokuhle Makhanya, Malaika Mukungu, Lelihle Dlamini, Tanzile Mamba, Sinethemba Sifundza, Sandziwe Mabuza, Simphiwe Mthembu, Sazikazi Ginindza and Shakira Mamba.

Little Miss Eswatini will be crowned on Thursday at Manzini Club. Tickets cost E50 per person.



FEELING IT: Fun lovers taken by the music served on the night. (Pics: Nokwanda Sibandze)



DRUMS: Black Motion's Thabo 'Smol' Mabogwane on the drums and percussion.



IT'S HOW YOU MAKE ME FEEL: A patron puts a heart out for the duo on stage.

SOLANI'S DELIVERS WHAT PATRONS WANT

● In sold out show

STORIES BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

SOLANI'S Shisanyama keeps delivering exactly what its patrons want.

On Friday evening, the entertainment hub hosted South African duo Black Motion and fans could not be more happier.

Hosting the birthdays of three of their resident deejays, Culolam, Sgitha and Rhythmic Soul, the place was filled with music lovers who came to celebrate with the three.

Duo Black Motion was just the cherry on top as they gave party lovers a memorable performance. Taking to the stage at 3am, the group shut the place down with their afro house sound.

Screaming

With the groups Robert 'DJ Murda' Mahosana on the decks and percussionist Thabo 'Smol' Mabogwane doing what he knows best on the percussion and drums, the crowd could not have enough as they kept screaming for the group to perform more songs.

The crowd reacted everytime the duo played their hit songs such as 'Joy Joy', 'Imali', 'It's You' and 'The Journey'.

Speaking to percussionist Mabogwane after their performance, he mentioned that Solani's was their second home.

"This is where we started performing in the country and for us whenever we come to Solani's we feel at home. Coming to Eswatini for the second time this year is an honour and the crowd is always amazing," he said.

The duo last performed in the country back in May during the MTN Bushfire Festival where they also brought their best.

Delighted

Speaking to one of the birthday boys, hip-hop DJ Culolam, he said he was delighted to have hosted so many people during his show.

"The show was about Solani's fans, they are the ones that chose Black Motion on our social media pages so we wanted to give the patrons what they wanted," he said.

He also spoke highly of Solani's Entertainment Manager Thandukwazi Hadebe saying he knew exactly what the fans wanted and made sure he delivered. "He must be given credit for the good work because we also tell him what we want and he sees to it that it is delivered, so the show is a success also because of the hard work that he put in," he added.

The highlight of the show was when the crowd sang the birthday song for DJs Culolam, Sgitha and Rhythmic Soul.

They were also presented with a cake to celebrate their day.

Taking it a step further was MC Nicky when she presented her boyfriend Sgitha with a cake



JOY, JOY: Black Motion performs during the All White party held at Solani's Shisanyama on Friday evening.

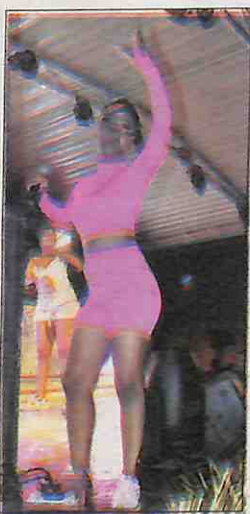


ON THE DECKS: Black Motion DJ Robert 'DJ Murda' Mahosana on top of the decks as he dishes music.

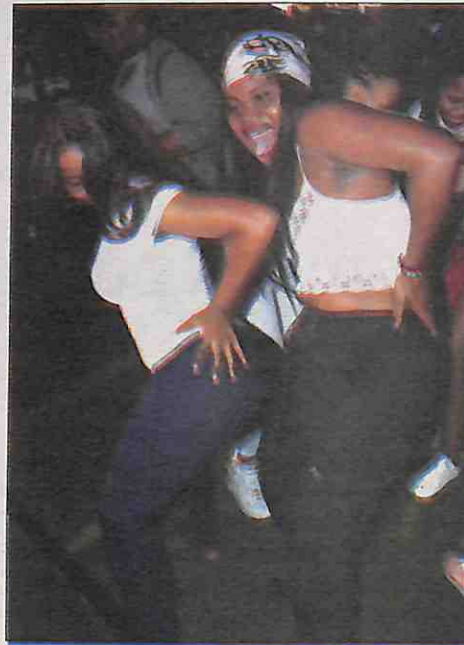
in front of the thousands of patrons and declaring her love for the spinner.

Hundreds of fun lovers packed the entertainment hub to enjoy themselves such that the show was sold out. According to Culolam, they sold out all tickets at outlets and at the gate.

"While the duo was performing people were still outside wanting to get in, unfortunately we ran out of tickets but we are happy with the turnout," he said.



HANDS UP: MC Nicky dances.



YIBAMBE INTFO YAKHO: The ladies having the time of their lives on the dancefloor.



OVER THE MOON: This reveller had so much fun she was even dancing for one of the security guards.



ON THE TURNTABLES: DJ Supa CDQ served the hottest hip-hop tracks.

Zulu D, Supa CDQ continue

to serve the best

MEGASOUND DJs Supa CDQ and Zulu D continue to prove why they are amongst the best in the country.

Hip-hop spinner Supa CDQ gave the crowd a reason to dance from the beginning of his set to the very last moment.

Dishing out old and new skool hip-hop hits, patrons moved closer to the stage when he started playing.

Speaking to some of the revellers, they mentioned how they loved the way he mixed different types of songs for his sets.

"He is one of the DJs I look forward to seeing when I go out. As young as he is, he is able to cater for different age groups in the audience," said Nokukhanya Malinga.

Known as 'Mr Four Hours', Zulu D was also one of the DJs that pulled the crowd closer to the stage during his set.

Serving nothing but the latest gqom and amapiano tracks, the spinner kept the crowd dancing its heels off.

Giving his set a spin, he also played struggle songs such as 'Asambe Nono' and dished out a few gospel songs that sent the crowd into a spiritual mood.

According to Culolam, the place would continue to serve the people with their favourite local and international artists with the next event on December 28 which will be a house music versus hip-hop show.

MBALENHLE HIGH SCHOOL GLAM PROM



BEAUTY: Simphiwe Mkhabela looks stunning in her E4 000 outfit.



LOVELY: Sisekelo Khumalo in a black lace and sneakers.



SILK: Lungelo Mkhwanazi wore a E1 600 silky dusty pink dress.



NAIL ART: The ladies show off their nails.



ON POINT: Timisele Ndlangamandla wore a nice E3 000 dress.



SHOE GAME: Ladies in their shoes.



FIT FOR THE OCCASION: The ladies show their clutch bags.



BLACK AND RED: Mngqobi Dlamini in his E3 000 suit.



LADY IN A SUIT: Mokgadi Masipa looks good in her E1 500 suit.



BEAUTIFUL: Simphiwe in a E1 200 black dress.



IN STYLE: Edward Lubisi looks great in his E870 suit.

RIGHT - CLASSIC MAN: Mncobi Nkambule looks dapper in his E7 000 outfit.



FLAWLESS: Sanelisiwe Dlamini looks beautiful in her E1 700 dress.



SHOES: The guys showing off their shoes.

GLOWING: Aphiwe Kunene looks great in her E1 500 silk dress.

Glam is the best word to describe Mbalenhle Christian Academy prom night as the pupils looked lovely in their dresses and tuxedos. They were all dressed for the night joined by their teachers who also dressed to the nines. The gents were well suited-up with most of them wearing three piece suits which seemed to be the biggest trend of the night. The pupils enjoyed their night as they were ushered into a night filled with good music and food. It was a bitter-sweet moment when the teachers started sharing their emotional speeches with the pupils saying they would miss them.

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE



Celebville

International Celebrity News



Moonchild back after malaria scare

JOHANNESBURG: Moonchild Sanelly thinks she cheated death after she was hospitalised with debilitating symptoms of malaria.

She contracted the life-threatening disease in Malawi where she had gone to perform at Lake of Stars international festival last month.

Despite her near-death experience during her four-day hospitalisation, Moonchild still sees the funny side out of the whole ordeal.

"I did see Jesus and His eyes are squint," she joked, albeit with a nervous giggle.

Before she was hospitalised, the 32-year-old born Sanelisiwe Twisha had travelled to Los Angeles and Austria unaware she had contracted malaria.

"It was scary. I remember telling myself there is no way this is going to come out and [have people] say, 'rest in peace Moonchild'," she recalled.

"I was in and out of consciousness. I was so weak and we initially thought it was just jet lag. So, I was travelling and didn't know that I had malaria in my system.

"Apparently when they called the ambulance I was so delirious that I pushed my friend. It was crazy I got so lucky. Every doctor kept saying your timing was so vital."

Sowetan

'If I had retaliated, I'd have been called a hooligan'

JOHANNESBURG - Four years after an alleged altercation between rivals Cassper Nyovest and AKA made headlines, Cass has opened up about the incident and the bullying he got from it.

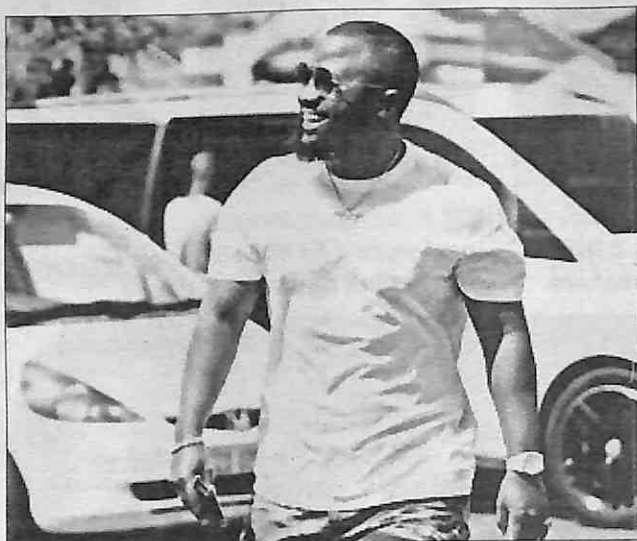
Cassper nearly shut down the Twitter trends list in August 2105 when he took to Twitter to claim AKA had slapped him at a club. The couple were in the midst of a fierce rivalry at the time which had threatened to turn physical at several points.

AKA denied the claims, simply saying it wasn't true.

The pair have moved on from the incident, with only the occasional shade being thrown at each other.

However, Cassper dug up the old bone when he recounted the experience to Drum magazine recently and explained that he was called "all sorts of names" for not fighting back.

"I work hard for the things I have. People who don't like me will never see the good in me - I've accepted it. Even back when I was at a club and that dude whose name I don't like mentioning (AKA) came and slapped me and I made a choice not to slap back, critics



called me all sorts of names."

He said he would have faced harsh criticism if he had fought back.

"Had I retaliated, I would've been called a hooligan."

The rapper admitted that he had many industry friends who are no longer in his life, but said he was grateful for his bestie Carpo who was always at his side. Speaking about the slapping incident in an interview on 'Real Talk', Cassper detailed what happened.

"At that moment I wanted to fight back. I wanted to smash

him. People got between us. And as I looked into the situation I said, 'this is not me.' I don't want to be known for this. Cassper Nyovest is a brand I respect. Kids will do anything I do. So if they hear about me fighting then they will fight."

The pair later called a ceasefire, hugging at a packed club after Cassper's #FillUpTheDome show.

However, speaking to fans on social media last year, Cassper said that hip-hop needed to unite but he and AKA would never reconcile. *Times Live*

Minnie spreads some love on social media

JOHANNESBURG - TV personality Minnie Dlamini-Jones is using the time she has to remind her followers that she still loves them.

Since losing her brother Khosini in September, Minnie opened up about how badly she has been missing him.

Feeling vulnerable to her loneliness and the stresses of losing her brother, she opened up on Twitter, telling her followers not to forget to tell their loved ones how much they love them.

She then added that she also loved her followers.

"Don't forget to tell your people you love them. I love you guys."

Minnie has been open about her journey of healing after the death of Khosini, as earlier this week she talked about how much she missed him.

"My favourite and best 30 Seconds partner died ... We never lost a game. I'm in my feels."



Minnie doesn't know who she should call, now that her brother is gone.

Minnie has been open about her journey of healing after the death of her younger brother, Khosini.

Khosini died in September after suffering from a brain aneurysm that saw him spend a lengthy period in ICU.

Letting fans in on her emotional state last Monday, Minnie said she was "sad" and didn't

know who to call now that Khosini was dead.

Last month, Minnie told fans she was still struggling with everything that was going on and asked that journalists give her some time.

"I get it journalists have a job to do, but it's my first time out since his passing. I don't want to talk about it, but also it's too soon. My job is to show up and I will, but I'm still hurting."

Times Live

Rihanna bumps into McCartney

HOLLYWOOD - Rihanna and Paul McCartney just proved they truly are two peas in a pod but in this case, they were two passengers in a plane.

The singers bumped into each other on Friday while on a commercial flight to London in which they were both riding first class, of course. RiRi documented the whole run-in and it's a sweet moment. Must've also been pretty awesome for the other passengers on board.

In her vids, Rihanna says she's about to put Paul on blast and then jokingly asks out loud how is it possible he's on her plane. PM played along, pretending not to know her. Rihanna calls herself a peasant, and Paul ribs her by backing that up (all in jest, mind you). Check it out they clearly have a ton of fun together, and it's all love between 'em. Later on, they were seen arriving at the same airport, London's Heathrow all smiles. As you might be aware, Paul and Rihanna are certainly no strangers to each other. Outside of being some of the biggest names in music, they actually collab'd on a song in 2015. The track's called 'FourFiveSeconds' and it's a pretty folksy type of tune right up Paul's alley, and RiRi and Ye's too as it turned out. And, on that note, take it away y'all! *Times Live*

DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



Watch Mrekza on 'Generations the Legacy' tonight.



Judas covers his tracks against Fezile and Blade gets closer to the truth, inkabi style. S'kheleni prompts Ntandane to do something special for Nkosazana.



While Wendy recovers in hospital, Simon returns. Olivia destabilises Claudette with a double whammy. Sibiya is ready to become joint CEO of the Zamdela empire.



Qalabosha is falling apart and James can't help but watch. KK is enjoying every minute of James's demise. Rendani makes a choice between her two suitors.



Mrekza overhears a conversation which gets him thinking... Lesedi's off-hand comment unwittingly plants a seed. Nontle is shocked to hear her mom has a boyfriend.



Harriet tries to stop Zodwa from following through with her plan to frame Mmabatho. Schumacher makes a big move to try and get Gracious back.



Nkunzi's plan backfires in the worst way possible. Gabisile is shocked by Khehla's decision, and Fikile's ambition almost gets her killed.



Fear and concern abound when Chumani receives news of a message from beyond the grave. Yvonne is surprised to hear about a fraudulent action. Kgosi feels trapped in a world he doesn't want to be in.

In my childhood if the owner of the ball got angry, the game was over



MEME
MZANSI
MEMES

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Today will be lighthearted - and just in time, too. Life was getting serious there for a while. Smile and try to go outside your normal routine. What's the point of working so hard if you only reward yourself by slumping in a chair at home? Go for a ride in the country for an hour or two instead. It would do you good.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

It's true that you aren't ten anymore, but who's to say you can't go back to your childhood now and again? Without going so far as to play hopscotch in the street or instigate a food fight in your favorite restaurant, go see some friends for some laughs. You've been working hard for a long time now and deserve a bit of fun. Don't hesitate.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

You may be feeling way too serious at the moment. Whether you know it or not, you're in dire need of cheering up. If someone invites you to a comedy club, go. It may take you a while to get into it, but you'll end the evening laughing. It will be the best night of your month. If you can, stop second-guessing yourself.



Aries March 21 – April 19

New winds will begin to blow away the black clouds that have been hovering over you lately. What more could you want? Today will seem like a walk in the park compared to days past! You'll breathe better and come home feeling rested. Try to interact more with the people around you. They will appreciate it if you express genuine interest in their opinions.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

Drop the conclusions you've reached concerning your work at the moment. Like it or not, life is going to throw you a curveball. Normally, you wouldn't consider the sorts of propositions that people will make to you now. The ideas may seem crazy and out of line with who you are. They may be crazy, yes, but they aren't out of the question!



Gemini May 21 – June 21

It looks like you're making headway again. Now that you're planning for the future, you could enroll in an educational programme or take a trip. Don't be so dazzled by today's bright outlook that you forget the business at hand. Accept this day for what it is - a brief respite amid the chaos. Tomorrow you'll return to your work refreshed.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

You can look forward to a bright day. What a relief it will be after the tension of the past several days. This would be a good time to confide in a close friend. It will help relieve some of the pressure you've been feeling inside. Be careful not to relax completely. If you do, you may not be able to get out of bed!



Leo July 23 – August 22

It's a relief when the hostilities subside, isn't it? It has seemed like people have repeatedly slammed doors in your face. But today a visit or encounter will unlock some mysteries for you. Will your problems finally be solved? If you're committed to unEarthing your originality, you'll be fulfilled.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

There's something blossoming inside you today. The heavy pressure of the past several days has ebbed, and you're able to go about your business with a lighter heart. It would be a good idea to pay more attention to your body. Try to schedule more aerobic exercise and cut down on fats and sugars. Start some healthier habits.



Libra September 23 – October 23

The last several days have been a bit of an ordeal, so you could be surprised by the brightness of the day ahead. Although you may not be trying to assert yourself any more than usual, you'll receive compliments and congratulations from many sources. Baffling, isn't it? Take advantage of the joys ahead without subjecting them to too much scrutiny.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

You'll enjoy the gentleness and relaxation today offers. You'll be more talkative than usual. This interlude will give you an opportunity to refresh yourself by spending some quality time with family. You have strong intuition. Listen to it, as it will advise you wisely.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

This may be a laid-back day for you, but a period of calm will do you a lot of good. You could lounge around in a park and let your imagination go. Today's astral configuration will make you dream and remember your childhood. Rather than stressing about all that isn't getting done, why not go with the flow for a change?



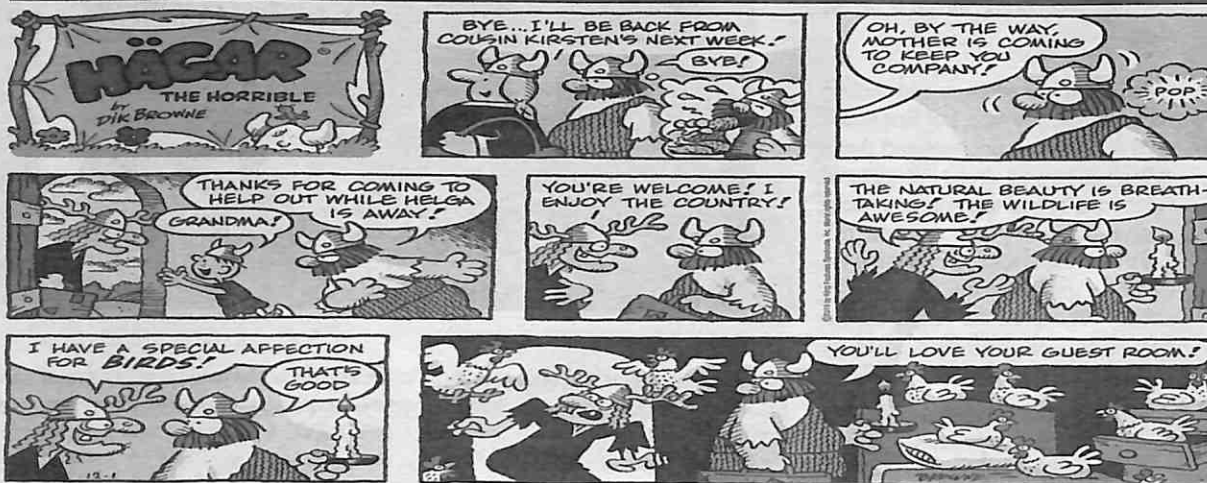
BABY BLUES



BUCKLES

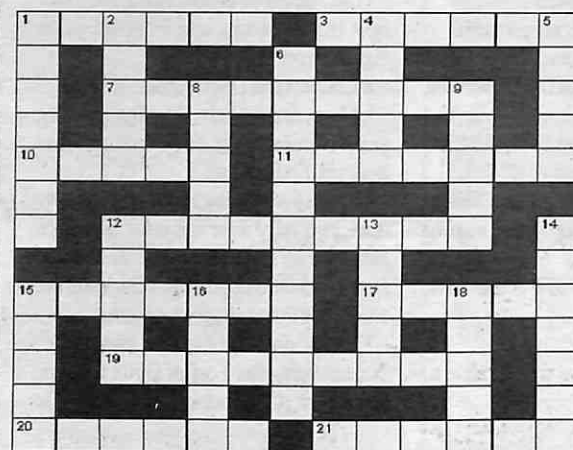


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PUZZLE CHOICE

CRYPTIC 10



ACROSS

- Pattern in suedes ignored (6)
- Beer keg in snack bar relocated (6)
- Gritty tabloid is abrasive (9)
- Frantic rider is not so wet (5)
- Recurring sport? (7)
- Release spear, it's independent (9)
- Atmospheric vessel, floats in the sky (7)
- Saw a bird halfway through Sahara venture (5)
- Heard tins (filled) when mixed (9)
- Meandering inlets join up (6)
- Located cadet our alternative way (6)

DOWN

- Makes a decision about a month in short,

part of the Roman calendar (7)

- Confusion between his, us is fishy (5)
- Found something was pickled in it (5)
- Prone to prevarication? (5)
- Shattered icy cap a plot for ultimate doom (11)
- Inner veracity shows courage (5)
- More money gives you a lift (5)
- Premier trees end product (5)
- Governor then finds the only way is up (5)
- Ravine garden contains something sour (7)
- Put fruit in a heap please (5)
- Dwells on past instruments (5)
- I dove into picture broadcast (5)

LOL

Laughing at Loud

MY FIRST JOB

I got my first full-time job, but I could have sworn I was making more money in college, working for my parents as their daughter.

DID YOU KNOW

- Dolphins have their own names, and their names are spoken by a whistle.
- Women have been found to blink more often than men.
- Scientists accidentally killed the world's oldest animal while trying to do research on it.
- Camels have three eyelids to help protect themselves from sand blowing in their eyes.
- The verb form of the word "run" has been calculated to have almost 650 different meanings.

MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The MOVIE QUIZ

FRIDAY'S QUIZ

Star of Con Air, and Face/Off, as well as the title role in Captain Corelli's Mandolin.

Answers:

A. Nicholas Cage

TODAY'S QUIZ

1. Where does 10 Things I Hate About You take place?

ANSWERS:

A. Washington
B. Texas



DStv
Feel every moment

NEWS



DStv puts the power in your hands to crown your favourite Mzansi talent.

We're sure you're ready to hit the vote lines to ensure your favourite wins but pause for a second. First, you'll need to register and get familiar with some of the changes we've made so you're all set.

Voting for the DStvMVCA is now available via five official platforms meaning you have more options than ever before.

1. Mobile Site – 100 votes
2. Website – 100 votes
3. DStv App (all DStv subscribers) – 100 votes
4. SMS – 100 votes
5. USSD – 100 votes

100 ADDITIONAL votes are exclusive to all DStv subscribers! This means that if you are a DStv subscriber you will have 500 votes to make sure your favourite takes home the prize on the night.

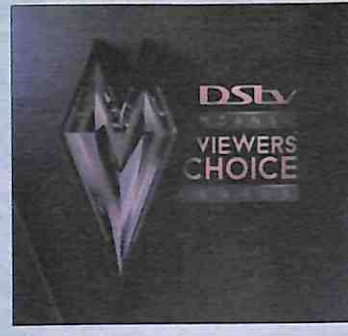
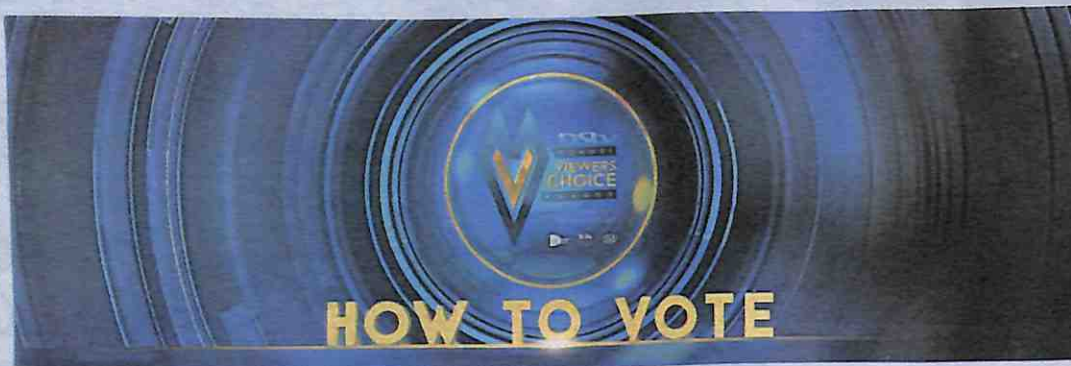
Voting on our website and mobile site is completely free, but first you'll need to create an account and that's only if you haven't already. Registered voters, don't need to re-register and if you've forgotten your password, follow the prompts to reset it. Voting via the DStv App is also free and if you're already registered for voting on our site, all you need to do is log in to the app. Here are the complete details:

Registering on the website, mobile site and the DStv App

A guide to registering on the mzansimagic.tv/dstvmvca website (laptop and desktop users)

- You can register to vote on the DStv Mzansi Viewers' Choice website – mzansimagic.tv/dstvmvca
- Click on the VOTE menu item.
- Click on Register and enter your Name, Surname, Year of Birth, Gender, Location, Cellphone Number in the international format e.g. +27731234567 and your Preferred password.
- NB: Please make sure to pick something you'll remember when voting opens!
- You will receive an OTP (One Time Pin) via SMS.
- Enter your OTP.
- Once registered, you will be able to vote.
- You do not have to register again if

HOW TO VOTE ON THE DStv MZANSI VIEWERS' CHOICE AWARDS



you have already voted on a previous DStvMVCA edition or any Mzansi voting production.

- Website votes are free.
- Data costs apply.

A guide to registering on the mzansimagic.tv/dstvmvca mobile site (smartphone and tablet users)

- You can register to vote on the DStv Mzansi Viewers' Choice website – mzansimagic.tv/dstvmvca
- Click on the VOTE menu item.
- Click on Register and enter your Name, Surname, Year of Birth, Gender, Location, Cellphone Number in the international format e.g. +27731234567 and your Preferred password.
- NB: Please make sure to pick something you'll remember when voting opens!
- You will receive an OTP (One Time Pin) via SMS.
- Enter your OTP.
- Once registered, you will be able to vote.

- You do not have to register again if you have already voted on a previous DStvMVCA edition or any Mzansi voting production.
- Website votes are free.
- Data costs apply.

A guide on registering via the DStv App

- Note this is only available to South African subscribers only.
- Get started by downloading the DStv app from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.
- Launch the DStv App.
- Next, log into the app by entering your email address or mobile number and your password.
- Once you've logged into the DStv app, you may vote for your favourite nominee by clicking on the "Vote" banner inside the app. This will load the DStvMVCA voting webpage.
- Click on Register and enter your Name, Surname, Year of Birth, Gender, Location, Cellphone Number in the

international format e.g. +27731234567 and your Preferred Password.

NB: Please make sure to pick something you'll remember when voting opens!

2. Voting on the website, mobile site, DStv App, USSD and SMS

Voting on the mzansimagic.tv website (laptop and desktop) if you're a registered voter:

- You may vote for your favourite nominee(s) via the mzansimagic.tv/dstvmvca website.
- Click on the VOTE menu item.
- Click on Sign in and enter your cell phone number in the international format e.g. +27731234567.
- Enter your chosen password.
- Select your favourite nominee(s).
- Enter your number of votes and cast your vote by clicking vote.
- Votes on the mobile site are limited to 100 votes per user.
- Website votes are free.

• Data costs apply.

Voting on the mzansimagic.tv mobile site (smartphone and tablet) if you're a registered voter:

- You may vote for your favourite nominee(s) via mzansimagic.tv/dstvmvca mobile site.
- Click on the Vote menu item.
- Click on Sign in and enter your cell phone number in the international format e.g. +27731234567.
- Enter your chosen password.
- Select your favourite nominee(s).
- Enter your number of votes and cast your vote by clicking vote.
- Votes on the mobile site are limited to 100 votes per user.
- Mobile site votes are free.
- Data costs apply.

Voting on the DStv App if you're a registered voter:

- You may vote for your favourite nominee(s) by clicking on the vote now banner inside the dstv app.
- click on sign in and enter your cell phone number in the international format e.g. +2731234567.
- Enter your chosen password.
- Select your favourite nominee(s).
- Enter your number of votes and cast your vote by clicking vote.
- Votes on the DStv App are limited to 100 votes per user.
- DStv App votes are free.
- Data costs apply.

A guide to voting via USSD:

- To vote for your favourite nominee(s), dial *120*33033#
- Follow the menu prompts.
- USSD voting is limited to 100 votes per user.
- USSD is charged at 50c per 20 seconds.
- USSD is only available in South Africa.
- Free minutes do not apply.
- A guide to voting via SMS:
- To vote for your favourite nominee(s), SMS your favourite nominee(s) code to 39201
- SMS voting is limited to 100 votes per user.
- All SMSs are charged at R1 50.
- SMS voting is only available in South Africa.
- Free SMSs do not apply.
- Join the conversation by following us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using #DStvMVCA.

Eva Marcille buys a new home - RHOA

EVA is in a good space.

Eva Marcille is ending the year on a high note. The media personality, who stars on the hit reality TV show The Real Housewives of Atlanta, recently purchased a new house. She took to Instagram to share a picture of her new home with the caption: "When God

says Yes! #Blessed #TheSterlings #WeAintGotIt."

The star received a lot of congratulatory messages from fans and celebrity friends. Her RHOA co-star, Cynthia Bailey, wrote: "Congrats and I can't wait to come over."

It's great to see Eva celebrating, especially after the rough year she has had. The model has been very open about being abused by her ex-boyfriend, Kevin McCall. The abuse happened a few years ago when they were still in a relationship. She's also mentioned that she's had to move from home to home because she was

scared he'd find her.

However, it looks like she's now in a great space. During an interview on The Real, Eva shared: "I'm good. My husband is definitely my rock and he helps me keep it together. But I can say that – and for a lot of women

that suffer through depression and are trying to figure it out – for me, working helps. Like, going to work helps..." You can watch Eva on The Real Housewives of Atlanta every Saturday at 20:00 on VUZU, DStv channel 116.



CLASSIFIEDS

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Any person objecting to the account may lodge his or her objection in writing with the executor and with the Master of the High Court at any time before expiry of the said period.

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EXPECTED: Lionel Messi and Megan Rapinoe.

Messi and Rapinoe expected to take Ballon d'Or honours

PARIS - The biggest names in world football will descend on Paris today for the 2019 Ballon d'Or ceremony, with Lionel Messi and USA women's World Cup superstar Megan Rapinoe tipped to leave with the honours.

It would be an enormous shock if Rapinoe did not depart the Chatelet Theatre with the women's prize as she returns to the country where she was the driving force on and off the field for the United States as they retained their title.

The suspense surrounds the identity of the men's winner, 12 months after Croatia's Luka Modric claimed the crown thanks to his exploits in dragging his country to the World Cup final and winning the Champions League with Real Madrid.

That ended a decade in which Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo had won the Ballon d'Or five times each, but the smart money now is on the Barcelona man claiming number six.

There are 30 nominees in total for the prize, organised by France Football magazine and voted for by 180 journalists from around the world. Among the names is Ronaldo, as well as several of the stars of the Liverpool side who won the Champions League, chief among them Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk.

At one point he looked like the favourite, but Messi already pipped him to FIFA's The Best title in September.

AFP

Hamilton stunned by 'first Ferrari compliment in 13 years'

ABU DHABI - Lewis Hamilton said on Saturday that Mattia Binotto's glowing comments about him represented the first time in 13 years that anyone from Ferrari had paid him a compliment.

Asked if he would be interested in Hamilton's availability on the driver market in 2021, the Ferrari team chief had praised him as a driver and said "knowing he's available in 2021 can only make us happy".

The six-time world champion, who grabbed his 88th pole position by topping qualifying for Sunday's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, said: "I think that's the first compliment I've had from Ferrari in these 13 years."

"I honestly don't remember them ever mentioning me, ever. So, thank you, and I'll take it. It doesn't really mean anything. It's all talk, but it's nice that, finally, it's taken all

these years for them to recognise me, but I'm grateful."

The 34-year-old Briton has been linked with a possible move to Ferrari when his current deal with Mercedes ends next year.

Respect

He said Ferrari were "a team that I've always appreciated over the years, so to earn respect from someone from there, that's obviously very high up, is not a bad thing."

He dismissed suggestions that he was looking for a move to Maranello whose drivers this season are former world champion Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc.

"I think they've got two great drivers as it is. Who knows what the driver market's going to be doing over the next year, but, if I'm really honest, I'm not really focused on that right this second."

AFP

WORLD CHAMPION FRANCE DRAWN IN 'GROUP OF DEATH'

BUCHAREST - Every tournament needs a "group of death," and the draw for next year's European Championship has produced an eye-watering prospect.

Europe's top nations discovered their fate in Saturday's draw in Bucharest, and all eyes now will be on Group F, where reigning champion Portugal was drawn against World Cup winner France and three-time European champion Germany.

The respective managers of the three big teams couldn't help but laugh -- perhaps nervously -- as the draw was made, with the final position in the group still not decided.

It means the likes of Portuguese captain Cristiano Ronaldo will



face French superstar Kylian Mbappe in the early stages of the competition.

Repeat

Elsewhere, we now know Italy will open the tournament when it faces Turkey in Rome on June 12. And there also will be a repeat of the 2018 World Cup semifinal as England faces Croatia in its first group game of the tournament.

FULL EURO 2020 DRAW

Group A: Turkey, Italy, Wales, Switzerland

Group B: Denmark, Finland, Belgium, Russia

Group C: Holland, Ukraine, Austria, play-off winner D

Group D: England, Croatia, Czech Republic, play-off winner C

Group E: Spain, Sweden, Poland, play-off winner B

Group F: Portugal, France, Germany, play-off winner A

In a break to tradition, many of the group positions were decided before the draw took place.

Due to the unique nature of next year's tournament (it will be hosted in 12 countries), qual-

ified hosts had been allocated to a group prior to the event.

To confuse matters further, there are 16 teams still looking to book their place in the tournament, and they will compete in separate playoff paths for the four final positions up for grabs.

The groups can therefore not be confirmed in concrete until all qualifying is over on March 31.

The draw has attracted criticism due to its confusing nature. Belgium, for example, knew three of its opponents ahead of the draw.

The European Championship final will be at Wembley Stadium in London on July 12.

CNN

Low happy to see Germany in 'group of death'

BUCHAREST - Germany coach Joachim Low had no doubt that Group F was the 'group of death' after Saturday's Euro 2020 draw, but was surprisingly happy about his side's draw.

Low was excited about getting the opportunity to play against France and Portugal, along with the winner of Path A in the play-off round, which contains Iceland, Romania, Bulgaria, and Hungary.

"At first I feel joy because these are highlight games against France and Portugal. We play against the reigning world champions and European champions," the Germany coach said.

"I think the players are also looking forward to these games. Of course it's a group of death. Everyone in this group has to go to the limit if they want to get ahead."

"But I think that these games will be football festivals. Then we also play in Germany."



DRAW: The Germans were drawn into Group F alongside reigning World Cup champions France and defending European champions Portugal.

I'm looking forward to it."

France Manager Didier Deschamps accepted that his side will face a huge test in Group F, which will be played in Budapest and

Munich.

"It's a difficult group, but I think that Joachim Low and Portugal head coach [Fernando Santos] think the same thing. It's the hardest group, but we have to accept it," Deschamps said.

"We will need to be ready at the beginning of the competition because our first game will be against Germany in Munich. They will play at home."

"On paper, it's a tough group. These two teams have many qualities and they recently had good results."

France's first match will be against Germany at the Allianz Arena on June 16 before playing two games in Budapest.

Deschamps said: "It could be better, but what can we do? Germany and Portugal are in our group. We know when we will play and where."

Goal

Warner hits 335, Smith shatters record as Pakistan suffer

ADELAIDE - An irrepressible David Warner smashed an unbeaten 335 on Saturday while Steve Smith became the fastest man to 7 000 Test runs as Australia took control of the day-night second Test against Pakistan.

Skipper Tim Paine waved his players back into the pavilion at 589 for three ahead of the second day's dinner break with Warner on the 10th highest Test score ever, also a personal best.

The decision to declare deprived him of a crack at Brian Lara's all-time high 400 not out, but it proved to be the right one with the Australian bowlers quickly tearing through Pakistan's hapless top order under the Adelaide Oval lights.

They finished in deep trouble at 96 for six with Mitchell Starc grabbing four of them.

Babar Azam was not out 43 and Yasir Shah was on four.

"It's just sunk in to me that it is very rare that you get these opportunities... I'll cherish this moment for the rest of my life, definitely," said Warner on making such a big score.

"More importantly, the partnerships we put on. It just showed how much pride we have as a batting unit running



YES! David Warner.

between the wickets.

"If I'm doing my job well and putting the team in the best position, we're going to win a lot of games," he added.

The visitors, who have lost 13 consecutive Tests in Australia, enjoyed little success in a long day in the field as they look to avoid a 2-0 series defeat.

But they did remove Marnus Labuschagne for 162 in the opening session and also bagged Smith, caught behind by Mohammad Rizwan off Shaheen Afridi for 36.

In making his runs, Smith shattered a record that had stood since 1946.

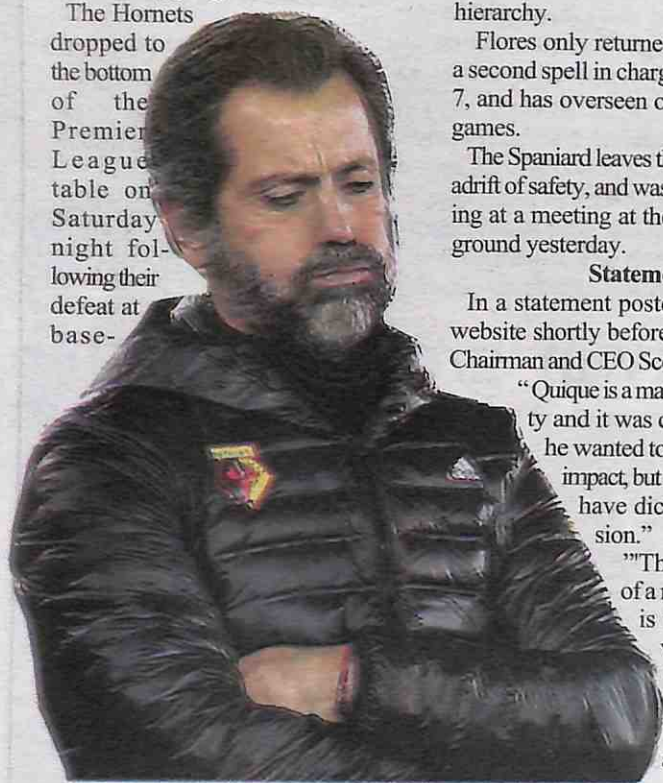
Sport24



SANCHEZ FLORES SACKED AGAIN

LONDON - Watford have wielded the axe on their second manager of the season, sacking Quique Sanchez Flores just 85 days after his return to the struggling club.

The Hornets dropped to the bottom of the Premier League table on Saturday night following their defeat at base-



SACKED: Quique Sanchez Flores has been sacked by Watford for a second time after their latest defeat.

...by Watford following defeat against Southampton just 85 days after taking charge of club for a second time

ment boys Southampton, and that has proved to be the final straw for the club's hierarchy.

Flores only returned to the club for a second spell in charge on September 7, and has overseen one win from 10 games.

The Spaniard leaves the club six points adrift of safety, and was told of his sacking at a meeting at the club's training ground yesterday.

Statement

In a statement posted to the club's website shortly before 1pm, Watford Chairman and CEO Scott Duxbury said "Quique is a man of great integrity and it was clear how much he wanted to have a positive impact, but ultimately results have dictated our decision."

"The appointment of a new head coach is imminent, and with nearly two-thirds of the season remaining, we will provide all the support

necessary to make the coming months successful."

Sanchez Flores was afforded the chance to say goodbye to his players, who were also at the training ground for their usual session yesterday.

The dressing room has soured towards Sanchez Flores in recent weeks, with some players unhappy at certain tactical decisions.

He opted to bring on Andre Gray instead of Troy Deeney in defeat against Saints despite the team feeling a hold-up player was needed.

Job

Former Brighton boss Chris Hughton is a strong contender to take over the top job at Vicarage Road, and has plenty of admirers at the club.

Sanchez Flores previously led Watford between June 2015 and May 2016 before the club decided to dispense with his services.

He was then returned to the manager's office when previous boss Javi Gracia paid the price for a poor start to the season.

Watford took a first-half lead through Ismaila Sarr at St Mary's on Saturday night, but Danny Ings and James Ward-Prowse secured a vital three points for relegation rivals Southampton.

Daily Mail



RIVALRY: Jose Mourinho and Zinedine Zidane.

Mourinho was offered £12m by Real Madrid

MADRID - Tottenham boss Jose Mourinho was reportedly offered £12million by Real Madrid to reject a top job in football and instead wait for Zinedine Zidane to depart.

The Portuguese manager took over the hotseat in north London after the club sacked Mauricio Pochettino, but the 56-year-old had been linked with a return to Los Blancos, with the Spanish giants initially suffering a shaky start in La Liga.

Zidane ended up staying put after overseeing a turnaround in form, while Mourinho opted to join Spurs despite a host of interest in his services from a host of clubs.

The likes of Borussia Dortmund, AC Milan, Lyon and Chinese Super League outfits were all rumoured to be willing to offer him a route back into the game after taking a year out

following his sacking by Manchester United in 2018.

But according to the Sun, Madrid would have spent big just to guarantee that the two-time Champions League winner would remain a free agent and take over if they decided to dispense with Zidane.

However, it is believed Mourinho had been eyeing up the Spurs job for some time, and once the possibility of a vacancy opened up, the Portuguese knew it was the role he wanted and was prepared to turn down his other options.

It had been reported that he had begun discussions with Daniel Levy weeks before Pochettino was eventually relieved of his duties on November 21, with his agent Pini Zahavi quickly wrapping up a deal with Daniel Levy. *Daily Mail*

'Great honour to lead Arsenal after Unai Emery exit'

LONDON - Arsenal caretaker Freddie Ljungberg says it is a "great honour" to lead the club following Unai Emery's departure - but has played down talk of taking the job on a permanent basis.

Ljungberg, who was Emery's assistant, was put in interim charge of the Gunners on Friday morning after the Spaniard was sacked in the aftermath of the club's worst run of results since 1992.

Speaking exclusively to Sky Sports ahead of the Gunners' trip to Norwich on Super Sunday, Ljungberg, who won two Premier League titles and three FA Cups at Arsenal, said: "It is a great, great honour, that is how I feel. I have this energy inside me and it is special. "There is sadness obviously with what has happened with the club, but excitement too with what is coming up and the chance to play. "It is just a great honour and that is what I told the players - you guys have to do the job, I can help and support, but for me, it is a great, great honour. "I was proud, honoured that they trusted me to do it and deliver that. I felt excited because I feel we have some very good football players here and it is a great club. I felt excitement at such a big thing." The search for Emery's full-time replacement has begun, with Max Allegri and Brendan Rodgers on the Gunners' shortlist. *Sky Sports*

Spurs fans don't love me, they accept me - Mourinho

LONDON - Jose Mourinho says Tottenham supporters do not love him yet, but he hopes a run of three successive wins to open his reign in north London has him heading in the right direction.

Spurs turned to the Portuguese after taking the decision to move on from Mauricio Pochettino after five-and-a-half years.

Mourinho's glittering CV attracted him to Tottenham, with a side longing for tangible success turning to a proven winner for inspiration.

Impact

An immediate impact has been made by the new boss, with six points claimed from two Premier League games and a come-from-behind success enjoyed over Olympiacos in the Champions League.

Spurs' latest triumph saw them survive a fightback from Bournemouth to prevail 3-2 on home soil, with Mourinho stating afterwards that he hopes to earn the affection of the club's loyal fan base. He told BBC Sport:

"The fans love the club, I'm not saying they love me but they accept me as a top professional who wants to give everything for the club.

"People have more reasons to love me if they like my work, but the fans

are behind the team and they see us working hard to get to a position in the table that is more suitable to the talent of this squad."

Spurs, who slumped to 14th under Pochettino, have clambered back into fifth spot in the Premier League table.

A return to form for Dele Alli has helped to make them upwardly mobile once more, with the England international bagging a brace against Bournemouth.

Mourinho added on a player who had looked a little out of sorts prior to his arrival: "He plays in a position where he feels happy and comfortable, we also give him space for his creativity which he always has.

"I think he played three phenomenal matches since I arrived."

While Mourinho has Tottenham ticking over as an attacking force, he is still waiting on a first clean sheet.

The hope is that defensive solidity will return in time, with Spurs very much a work in progress under a different set of eyes.

Goal

Madrid offer £70 million, Rodriguez to lure Aubameyang

LONDON - Real Madrid are set to offer James Rodriguez and a staggering £70 million in a bid to lure Pierre-Emerick

Aubameyang to the Bernabeu, according to El Desmarque in Spain.

The Colombian midfielder was a huge hit at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and finished as the top scorer with a succession of beautiful strikes. But since his move to Real Madrid he has failed to perform and hasn't been fancied under several managers. He was loaned to Bayern Munich last season and now Zinedine Zidane is keen to use him in a player-plus-cash deal to bag Arsenal's new captain.

The 30-year-old was signed by Arsene Wenger in 2018 and has scored 40 Premier League goals in just 55 starts, including 10 goals in just 16 appearances this term despite Arsenal misfiring. Reports suggest he is keen to move on in the summer despite being handed the armband at the Emirates after Granit Xhaka's well-documented indiscretions last month saw him stripped of the honour.

Daily Mail



DONE DEAL: Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang could be on his way to Real Madrid in a player-plus-cash deal.

South African SOCCER

SuperSport, Stellenbosch share spoils in Pretoria

CAPE TOWN - SuperSport United stretched their unbeaten run in the ABSA Premiership to four games after playing to a 1-1 draw with Stellenbosch in Pretoria on Saturday night.

After a goalless first period, Matsatsantsa drew first blood through Kudakwashe Mahachi at the start of the second half, only for Waseem Isaacs to secure a point for Stellies following a 60th-minute equaliser.

Stellenbosch created the first real chance of note in the seventh minute and really should have opened the scoring when Ryan Moon broke through on goal with only the keeper to beat. Moon dallied far too long on the ball, though, allowing the SuperSport defence to recover and snuff out the danger.

SuperSport earned a free-kick just outside the area two minutes later, but the chance came to nothing as Dutch keeper Boy De Jong tipped Teboho Mokoena's shot over the crossbar.

However, SuperSport's best chance of the half came in the 21st minute, when Mahachi latched onto a through pass from Mbule before smashing a left-footed shot against the post.

The hosts continued to create chances as the half wore on, but later efforts from Aubrey Modiba, Thamsanqa Gabuza and Mahachi failed to hit the target.

They weren't to be dined after the half-time break, though, as Mahachi made amends for his earlier miss just two minutes in, latching onto a poor Stellenbosch defensive clearance before lashing a powerful effort into the bottom-right corner from the edge of the box.

Sport24

SUNDOWNS FLEX MUSCLES IN CAF CL

JOHANNESBURG - Title-holders Esperance and former winners TP Mazembe and Mamelodi Sundowns flexed their muscles on Saturday with convincing CAF Champions League match-day one victories.

Anice Badri and Ibrahim Ouattara scored within the first 15 minutes for Esperance of Tunisia away to Raja Casablanca of Morocco, and they then pulled down the shutters for a 2-0 triumph.

Jackson Muleka punished woe-ful marking to nod two goals as Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo overpowered Zamalek of Egypt 3-0 in central Africa.

Uruguayan Mauricio Affonso took advantage of a rare start for Sundowns by scoring within seven minutes of the kick-off to set up a 3-0 romp



Mamelodi Sundowns players celebrate one of their goals.

over Petro Luanda of Angola in Luanda, ended in a 1-1 draws.

The other matches, between USM Alger of Algeria and Wydad Casablanca of Morocco in Blida and Primeiro Agosto of Angola and Zesco United of Zambia in

On Friday, there were home wins for Etoile Sahel of Tunisia, Al Hilal of Sudan and JS Kabylie of Algeria over Al Ahly of Egypt, Platinum of Zimbabwe and V

Club of DR Congo, respectively. Esperance have battled lately on international stages, struggling to edge Elect-Sport of Chad in a Champions League qualifier and unexpectedly losing an Arab Club Champions Cup tie. AFP

Leopards rally back to sink Golden Arrows

JOHANNESBURG - Black Leopards got back to winning ways in the ABSA Premiership with a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Golden Arrows on Saturday night.

Leopards recalled Andrianarimanana and Thuso Phala from the loss to Chippa United, but Seth Parusnath and Danny Phiri went straight into the line-up for Arrows after returning from suspension. The KwaZulu Natal-based side pushed for early momentum after a fine run of results had seen the side picked up 10 points in their last four league matches prior.

The visitors received a free-kick at the midway stage after a foul on Lindokhule Mtshali. Phiri stepped up and fired on target, but goalkeeper Jose Mendes smothered the Zambian international.

'Abafana Besthende' made use of their momentum as Knox Mutizwa netted from the penalty spot five minutes to half-



time after Parusnath was brought down in the area.

Lidoda Duvha introduced the game's first change straight after halftime, with Robert Ngambi coming in for Andrianarimanana.

Leopards found just their rewards when Lesedi Kapinga connected with a cross to steer past Arrows goalkeeper Edmore Sibanda 69 minutes gone.

Lekoelea's advice for Lepasa and Company

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates legend Steve Lekoelea believes youngsters like Zakhele Lepasa need to put in more hard work if they want to keep their place at the club.

A lot was expected from the 22-year-old striker when the Soweto giants recalled him from GladAfrica Championship side TS Galaxy, but so far he has managed only one appearance. Lekoelea, who started playing for the Buccaneers at a very young age and immediately fitted in like a glove, believes Lepasa's lack of game time might be due to a lack of hard work.

"It's because they are too excited that they have arrived at

Pirates," Lekoelea tells KickOff.com. "Just look at them from [Bloemfontein] Celtic, once they get to Pirates these boys they are not performing because that's all they want, all they want is 'hey I want to play for a big team' only. Once he gets that chance to play for a big team now he starts dreaming, he is not working, he just dreams, 'Yoh I've been looking for this thing, now I got it', he must perform.

"If you were playing for Celtic and you hear that now Pirates want you... you must be ready from there at Celtic. You know Pirates have a lot of supporters, you must adjust and on the other hand it's a big team you understand? The boy must just be ready, nothing else, he must be strong. I remember that boy, he is a good player.

"Now for them to not give him a chance... you know Pirates is a big

team, you are not supposed to rush things because there are many players there at Pirates. So I think they will give him a chance and if he gets it he must make use of it. If he fails to use it he is out. "Pirates need a player that is ready not one who come to Pirates to get experience you see. You must perform and you know how Pirates supporters are. They don't have patience, if you don't perform you are out.

"He is a good player actually, I think once they give him a chance... they must play him because they recalled him from TS Galaxy, they have to give him a chance, because he is a good player.

"I think the situation there at Pirates is that there are too many players. That's why I'm saying if a player gets a chance he must make use of that chance because this is a big team."

'NEYMAR SH*TS ON PSG, THEIR FANS'

PARIS - Former Barcelona midfielder Emmanuel Petit has accused Neymar of disrespecting Paris Saint-Germain and their fans.

Petit believes the Brazilian has been selfish during his time at the French champions, having attempted to force a move away from Paris earlier this year.

The former France international argued that Neymar does not have the ability needed to back up such an arrogant approach to the game.

"When I played with [Zinedine] Zidane or [Youri] Djorkaeff, I knew they were able to decide a game on their own, so we accepted their defensive neglect," Petit told RMC Sport.

"We accepted it and did our job because we knew they could win with a flash of genius.

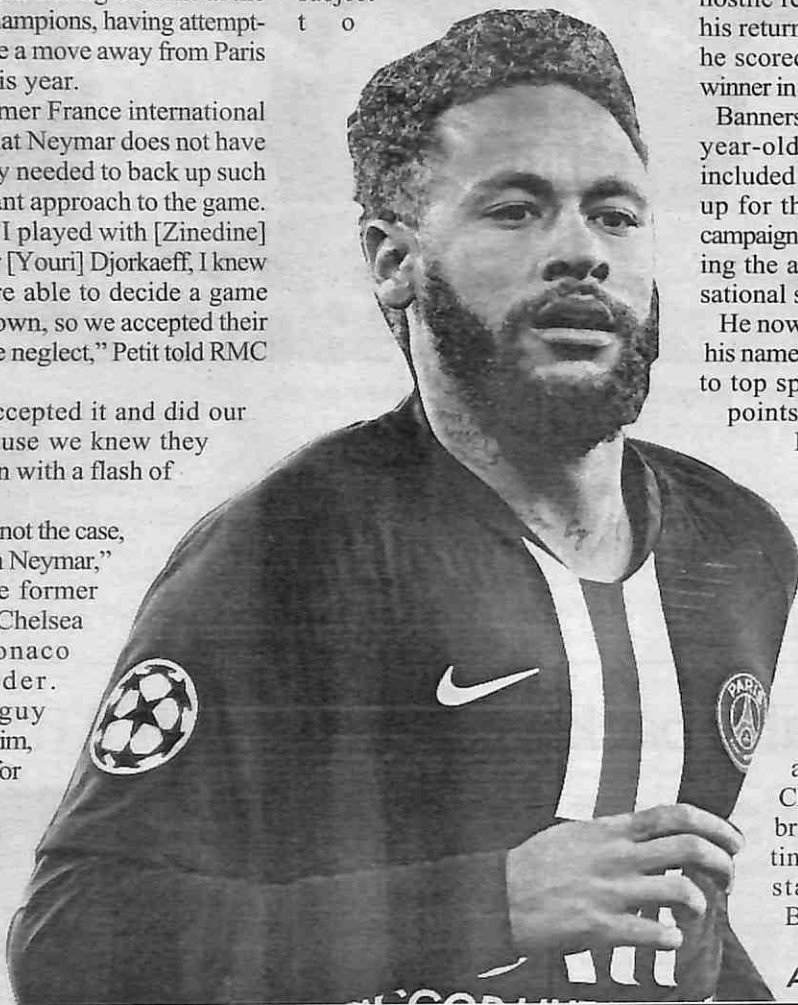
"This is not the case, at all, with Neymar," added the former Arsenal, Chelsea and Monaco midfielder.

"This guy plays for him, and only for him.

"Put yourself in the place of the

boys in the place of the PSG dressing room, who live for months with the whims of this guy who sh*ts on the club and their supporters; he has no respect."

Neymar was subject to



ACCUSED: Neymar.

heavy debate surrounding his future in the summer, where he tried to manoeuvre a move to either Real Madrid or former club Barca, which eventually faded away.

The Brazilian was then given a hostile reception by PSG fans on his return to action, during which he scored a stunning last-minute winner in a 1-0 win over Strasbourg.

Banners and jeers greeted the 27-year-old when Thomas Tuchel included him in the starting lineup for the first time of the new campaign, with Neymar soon changing the atmosphere with his sensational strike.

He now has four league goals to his name this season, helping PSG to top spot after 14 games, five points ahead of second-place Marseille.

Neymar was fighting a race to be fit for yesterday's meeting with Monaco at Stade Louis II, with boss Tuchel hopeful that his star forward will be ready for the game.

The German eased Neymar back to European action in Tuesday's Champions League draw, bringing him on as a half-time substitute in the 2-2 stalemate at Santiago Bernabeu. *Goal*



BANNED: Mpho Makola.

SAFPU weighs in on Makola's lengthy ban

CAPE TOWN - The South African Football Players Union weighed in on the lengthy ban handed to Mpho Makola, saying that it could set a bad precedent.

Two weeks ago, Makola was handed a six-month ban from football by the Premier Soccer League after he was found guilty of assaulting match referee Abongile Tom, during Cape Town City's match with Kaizer Chiefs in October.

The Citizens have been angered by the judgement handed to the 33-year-old, and have vowed to appeal the decision.

Makola was shown only a yellow

card for the incident on the day, though he was later handed a lengthy ban after appearing before the PSL's Disciplinary Committee.

According to SAFPU, Makola's incident "has the potential to set a wrong precedence," if it is left as it is. "After receiving the report and engaging both the player and manager, our view is that this matter has the potential to set a wrong precedence if not appealed. Furthermore, we are convinced that legally there are higher prospects of success in the matter & justice must be pursued," SAFPU weighed in on Twitter.

Soccer Laduma

Despite Root, Burns tons England 'disappointed'

HAMILTON - Despite centuries to Joe Root and Rory Burns England expressed disappointment at stumps on day three of the second Test against New Zealand after losing late wickets in Hamilton yesterday.

England captain Root ended his run drought with an unbeaten 114 while Burns rode his luck to post 101.

But after they took England to 201 for two, the tourists were 269 for five at stumps and still trailing New Zealand by 106.

"I enjoyed the fact I got it (hundred) but at the same time disappointed me and Rooty couldn't stretch our partnership and get us deeper into the game," Burns said.

"We're disappointed to lose a couple of wickets at the back end as well."

With only five wickets remaining and 16 overs washed out by rain in the final session, England's vision of building a healthy lead was rapidly fading.

The tempo swung away from England when Burns was run out and New Zealand followed up

with the quick wickets of Ben Stokes and Zak Crawley.

"The run out got us going," said Tim Southee who accounted for Stokes, adding that New Zealand never gave up hope despite the 63 overs it took to break the Root-Burns partnership.

"We hung in there for long enough and we were able to get those rewards late in the day for all the toil we put in.

"If things aren't happening you keep on trying."

With Root and Burns putting on 177 for the third wicket, England found the "bat-long" partnership they had been searching for in their attempt to follow the same recipe New Zealand used to win the first Test.

But following the dismissal of Burns, Ben Stokes was gone for 26 while Zak Crawley made one on debut.

Root was under added pressure to not only guide England to a position of strength but also to end his own run dearth amid suggestions the pressure of captaincy was affecting his form.

AFP

Ferguson confirmed for UFC lightweight showdown

NEW YORK - UFC lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov will defend his belt in a mouthwatering tie against long-standing rival Tony Ferguson in Brooklyn on April 18.

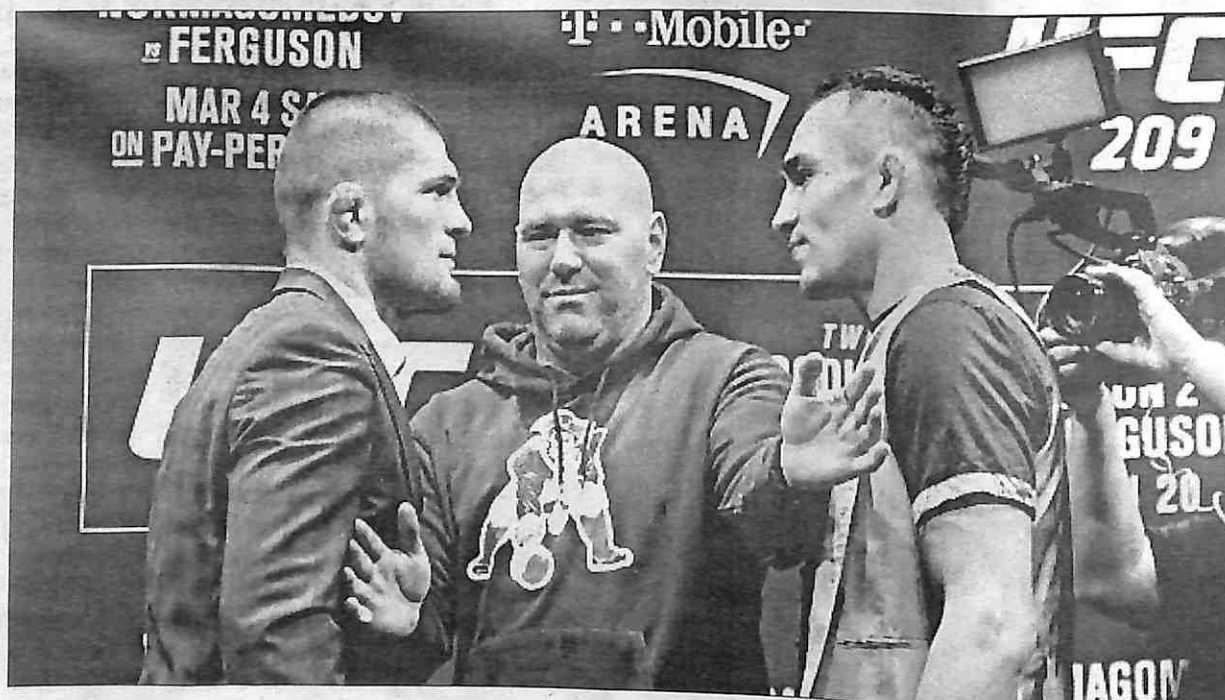
Ferguson and his representatives met with UFC executives on Friday in Las Vegas to formally agree to the 155-pound title fight after

Nurmagomedov signed earlier this week.

The tie between the rivals will be the main event of a UFC pay-per-view at the Barclays Centre in Brooklyn, New York. The showdown is a long time in the making after the pair were originally due to fight four years ago, only for Nurmagomedov to pull out through injury.

Since then they have signed up to fight a further three times with Ferguson having to withdraw due to injury in 2016 and 2018, with Nurmagomedov again withdrawing in 2017.

Nurmagomedov boasts a flawless record in the octagon with 28 wins and zero losses, while Ferguson has won 18 of his last 19 bouts for a 25-3 record. *Daily Mail*



NOT NOW: Khabib Nurmagomedov and Tony Ferguson will fight in Brooklyn on April 18.

More misery piled on struggling Man Utd

MANCHESTER - The disappointing results continue to roll in for Manchester United, who could only manage a 2-2 draw with newly promoted Aston Villa at Old Trafford.

After the youngsters featured in the Europa League on Thursday, the first team regulars returned to side, which David De Gea, Marcus Rashford, Daniel James and Anthony Martial, while Juan Mata also earned a start.

Jack Grealish stunned the Red Devils when he sold Andreas Pereira to the right to curl into the top corner, beyond the reach of De Gea in the first 10 minutes.

The home side's last defeat at home to the Clarets happened as far back as December 2009 when the Villians bagged a 1-0 win on that occasion.

Villa had a second before the half-hour mark when Mahmoud Trezeguet bundled home a loose ball from a goal-mouth



scramble, but the goal was disallowed for offside by the Video Assistant Referee.

A short corner three minutes to half-time from Pereira picked out Rashford who headed in off the left-hand post after finding space at the back post.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side were out firing straight after half-time and with that, regained advantage when Victor Lindelof headed in from the back post following a cross from Fred 64 minutes gone.

The lead lasted a few seconds as Tyrone Ming barged into the area to volley home Matt Targett's second delivery following a short corner from the right.

A substitution finally came within the last 10 minutes, and it was United who threw the first dice as Jesse Lingard came on for Juan Mata.

The Red Devils - looking to climb near the top six pushed for the winner but level pegging was the final outcome

Daily Mail

Baroka deny Chippa 3rd straight victory

PORT ELIZABETH - Chippa United remain rooted to the foot of the ABSA Premiership standings after being denied a third successive victory by Baroka yesterday afternoon.

The Chilli Boys coach Norman Mapeza did not tamper with the side that thumped Black Leopards in midweek, trusting the likes of William Twala, Thabo Rakhale and Nigerian forward Chidi Kwem to produce fireworks upfront.

Meanwhile, Bakgaga made four changes to the side that narrowly lost to Golden Arrows, as Matome Kgoetyane, Denwin Farmer, Matome Mabeba and Mduduzi Mdantsane boosted the side with their return. Chippa came to the game chasing their third straight victory after two

back-to-back wins over AmaZulu and Black Leopards revived their chances of getting out of the relegation zone.

On the other hand, Baroka lost their sixth game of the campaign after conceding a last-gasp winner against Abafana Bes'thende that dragged them back closer to the relegation places.

The only chance in the first stanza fell to the home side in the quarter of an hour after goalkeeper Elvis Chipezeze spilled a corner kick in the path of Twala inside the box but he was saved the blushes by an alert defence that quickly cleared the danger and there were no further clear openings as the first stanza ended without goals.

Wedson Nyirenda made a quick change

in the second stanza, bringing on trusted striker Richard Mbulu in place of Matome Mabeba but the visitors could not find clear openings.

Mapeza refreshed his side with Boikanyo Komane taking the place of Silas Maziya just after the hour-mark, while Kurt Lentjes came on for Meshack Maphangule a few minutes later but they too could not produce the final product.

Without the finishing touches coming to the fore in the latter stages, the sides settled for the share of the spoils, with Chippa remaining bottom of the table with 11 points, two points from safety, while Baroka moved slightly up to 12th with 13 points.

Soccer Laduma



Hamilton cruises to victory

ABU DHABI - Lewis Hamilton finished his sixth world championship-winning season with a commanding victory at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

Fireworks lit the night sky as the Briton crossed the line after a race he totally dominated from pole position.

It was his 11th win of the season, his 84th in total, just seven short of the record 91 victories held by Michael Schumacher. There was never a moment's doubt about the identity of the winner throughout the twilight-to-night race, the concluding instalment of a 21-round season.

Hamilton, 34, was off cleanly at the start and soon established a comfortable lead over Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who had passed Max Verstappen on the first lap.

However, it was Verstappen who finished second, passing the Monegasque impressively halfway through the evening's action. He piled down the inside

of the Ferrari and poked himself ahead into Turn 8, pushing Leclerc aside.

Leclerc fought back and the two touched wheels soon afterwards but there was no way past Verstappen, who claimed third place in the drivers' championship behind the two Mercedes.

Banged

But Hamilton, in a golden crash helmet, was miles down the road, winning by 17 sec, lapping all but the top handful. He also banged in the fastest lap late on. Leclerc finished third to confirm his mastery over his Ferrari team-mate Sebastian Vettel this year.

However, Leclerc faces a post-race investigation into a possible fuel irregularity.

Speaking of Ferrari, there was no let-up in their ability to shoot themselves in the foot. They botched Vettel's pit stop. It took them nearly seven seconds to reboot him as both left tyres proved hard to fit.

Daily Mail

Wasteful Maritzburg drop points

DURBAN - With both KwaZulu-Natal sides fresh from midweek losses, AmaZulu hosted Maritzburg United at King Zwelithini Stadium yesterday afternoon in the KZN derby and were locked in a 0-0 draw.

The hosts were on the losing side in their away encounter to the reigning Premier Soccer League (PSL) champions, Mamelodi Sundowns in Tshwane and were gunning for a win in front of their home crowds.

On the part of the Team of Choice, Eric Tinkler was looking to guide his troops to a victory as they saw their winning run halted by SuperSport United last week. Coach Jozef Vukusic's men were without goalkeeper Siyabonga Mbatha who remains sidelined after sustaining an injury against Sundowns on Tuesday night.

As early as the third minute, the visitors had a good start when Keagan Buchanan delivered a cross in search of Bongokuhle Hlongwane, but his header went wide failing to trouble Neil Boshoff on the near post.

It was an evenly contested game between the KZN giants as both sides have had chances but the score remained deadlocked after 20 minutes of action.

Eight minutes later, Siyethemba Sithube unleashed a rocket from the edge of the penalty area but it went wide of the right Richard Ofori's post.

Although the two sides fought harder for an early goal in the opening stanza, the scores remained deadlocked at the interval.

Fouls

Upon their resumption from the tunnel, the two outfits could not create clear cut chances in front of the goal where they both exchanged fouls in the heart of the park resulting from Sithube receiving a caution in the 48th minute. Just after the hour mark, the visitors had a glorious opportunity, Deon Mekoa picked up Thabiso Kutumela but the striker's control let him down as his effort was blocked.

As they were running against time, Judas Moseamedi controlled the ball in a good area but failed to beat Boshoff who collected easily in the final eight minutes.

In the wake of the draw, the 2019/20 Telkom Knockout Cup finalists are placed at number 10 with 14 points and Usuthu occupies 15th spot with 12 points from 13 games.

Kick-Off

Aubameyang helps Ljungberg collect point

LONDON - Freddie Ljungberg's first game in temporary charge of Arsenal ended in a 2-2 draw against Norwich City at Carrow Road yesterday thanks to a brace from Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Teemu Pukki put Norwich ahead via a deflected effort before Aubameyang equalised with a retaken penalty kick, having seen his initial effort from the spot saved.

Todd Cantwell restored Norwich's advantage with a smart finish before Aubameyang levelled for a second time from a corner.

Ljungberg, who played for Arsenal between 1998 and 2007, was promoted from a coaching role to interim boss after Unai Emery was sacked on Friday.

He made five changes from Emery's final game against Eintracht Frankfurt and

retained Granit Xhaka for a first Premier League start since he was stripped of the Arsenal captaincy in October.

Norwich took the lead when Pukki latched on to a clever pass from Kenny McLean and, afforded time by the backpedalling Arsenal defence, saw his shot deflect off Shkodran Mustafi's legs past the dive of Bernd Leno.

Penalty

Arsenal were awarded a penalty when Mesut Ozil's free-kick caught the arm of Norwich defender Christoph Zimmermann, who protested he was pushed but did not earn a VAR reprieve.

Norwich goalkeeper Tim Krul's histrionics on the line appeared to unsettle Aubameyang and his spot-kick was saved by the Dutchman - who pointed in the direction he wanted the Gunners striker to shoot.

However, VAR determined there was encroachment in the penalty box before the rebound was cleared and Aubameyang regained his composure to emphatically dispatch the retake.

Daily Mail



IN CELEBRATION: Freddie Ljungberg celebrates after scoring.



MTN Premier League 2019/20

PICTURES


IT'S A GOAL: Milling Hotspurs goalkeeper lies on the ground after Moneni Pirates scored their equalising goal during the MTN Premier League match at Mavuso Sports Centre on Saturday. The game ended in a 1-all draw. (Pics: Lucky Simeiane)

Moneni Pirates vs Milling Hot Spurs



HEADER: Lwazi Bhembe and Njabulo Shongwe in a heading duel.



BALL CONTROL: Sifiso Mdluli controls the ball while Bandile Shongwe closes in.



MY BALL: Pirates' Njabulo Shongwe challenged by Hotspurs' Mancoba Maseko.



SUPPORT: Pirates followers cheering the players on.



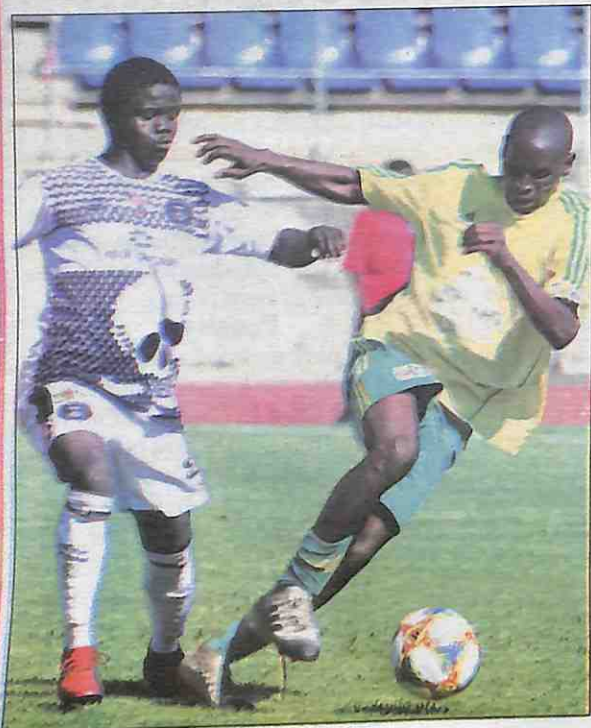
INCENTIVE: Pirates supporters make some donations to the players after the game.



YES: Milling Hotspurs players celebrate their goal against Pirates.



THAT'S WHAT I HAVE: Swallows supporter Gugu Tsabedze donates sweets to Pirates players.



FROM BEHIND: Pirates' Lizwe Zwane loses the ball to Sikhumbuzo Ndwandwe.



UP THE BUCS: Moneni Pirates players celebrate their equalising goal.



CHALLENGE: Fabrice Mopina challenges his opponent.



MTN Premier League 2019/20

PICTURES

SEA BIRDS 2-1 BLACK SWALLOWS



FLYING HIGH: Manzini Sea Birds duo Muzi Tsabedze and Sandumuzi Zwane celebrate after the team scored its second goal of the match during their MTN Premier League match against Pigg's Peak Black Swallows at Killarney Stadium yesterday. Sea Birds won the match 2-1. (Pics: Jongile Xuba)



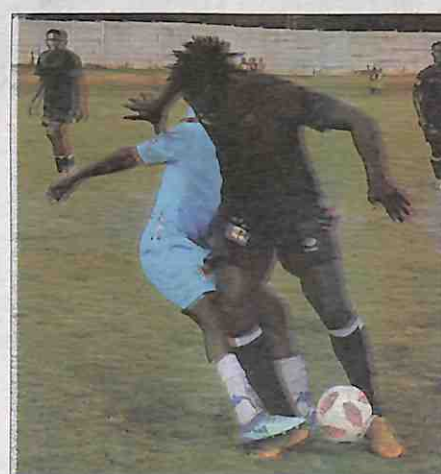
SAVE: Black Swallows keeper Friday Lukhele palms the ball away from danger in one of his saves in the match.



JOVIAL: Sea Birds players celebrate their second goal against Black Swallows.



STEP OVER: Sea Birds' Sifiso Maziya attempts to get past Thulani Dlamini.



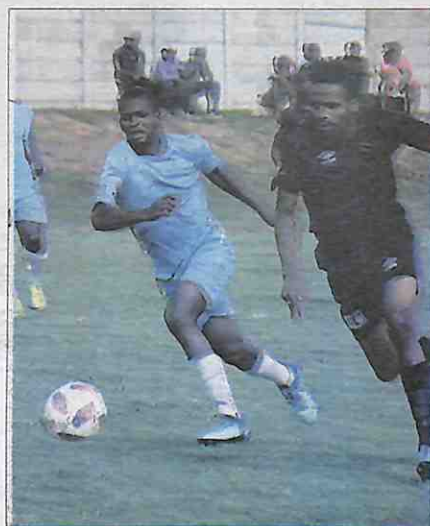
SHIELDING: Black Swallows' Jonathan Badfo shields the ball from Sea Birds' Ndamiso Shongwe's challenge as he protects the ball.



DESTROYER: Mbuso Diadla clears the ball away from his defensive area.



BACK OF THE NET: Sea Birds keeper Lindani Mtsetfwa looks on as the ball goes into the back of the net from Mbuso Mabuza's strike.



BEATEN: Black Swallows frontman Allen Mabuza and Sea Birds' Ndamiso Shongwe chase down the ball.



ALL SMILES: Pigg's Peak Black Swallows players celebrate after scoring the opening goal.



CLEAR: Manzini Sea Birds defender Siphelele Diadla heads the ball away as he defends a cross into his box.



■ Former Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino, linked with Manchester United and Arsenal, would have to repay his £12.5m pay-off if he takes another Premier League job this season. (*Sunday Express*)

■ Jose Mourinho was offered £12m by Real Madrid to not take another managerial job and wait for Zinedine Zidane to be sacked before he joined Tottenham. (*Sun on Sunday*)



■ Real Madrid are planning a £70m bid for Arsenal's Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, 30, with Colombia midfielder James Rodriguez, 28, included as part of the deal. (*Eldesmarque, via Star*)

■ Chelsea are keeping tabs on Zaha and Borussia Dortmund's England winger Jadon Sancho, 19, as they initiate plans to bolster their wing options. (*Sunday Express*)

■ Spain's 31-year-old striker Diego Costa, who joined Atletico Madrid from Chelsea in 2018, will join Flamengo in a £25m deal. (*Mundo Deportivo - in Spanish*)

■ Liverpool and Tottenham are ready to battle to sign Lyon and Holland midfielder Memphis Depay, 25. (*Sunday Express*)

■ Paris St-Germain have yet to offer a new contract to France forward Kylian Mbappe, 20. (*Le10Sport - in French*)

■ Manchester City are targeting Leicester and Turkey defender Caglar Soyuncu, 23. (*Sunday Times - subscription required*)

■ England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, 25, insists the Everton players are right behind Manager Marco Silva and do not want to see him sacked. (*Observer*)

■ Former Manchester United and West Ham striker Javier Hernandez would be open to a move to the MLS. The 31-year-old Mexico international joined Sevilla in September. (*LA Times*)

■ Sheffield United will move for former England goalkeeper Ben Foster, 36, if Watford are relegated at the end of the season. (*Sun on Sunday*)



■ Aston Villa are ready to sell Ivorian striker Jonathan Kodjia, 30, in January. (*Football Insider*)

■ Inter are preparing to make a move for Atalanta's Swedish midfielder Dejan Kulusevski, who is on loan at Parma this season. The 19-year-old has been linked with Manchester United and Arsenal. (*Inside Futbol*)

Wandile trains with World's 3rd best in S. Korea

BY SPORTS REPORTER

TAEKWANDO – IN readiness for the COSATA Games to be hosted by the country, fighter Wandile Maziya trained with the world's third best taekwondo artist Lee Dae-Hoon in Seoul, South Korea.

Eswatini will host the Confederation of Southern Africa Taekwondo Association (COSATA) Games next Saturday at Mavuso Sports Centre and Maziya who is part of the squad in the senior male category has gotten the best possible sharpening up in South Korea.

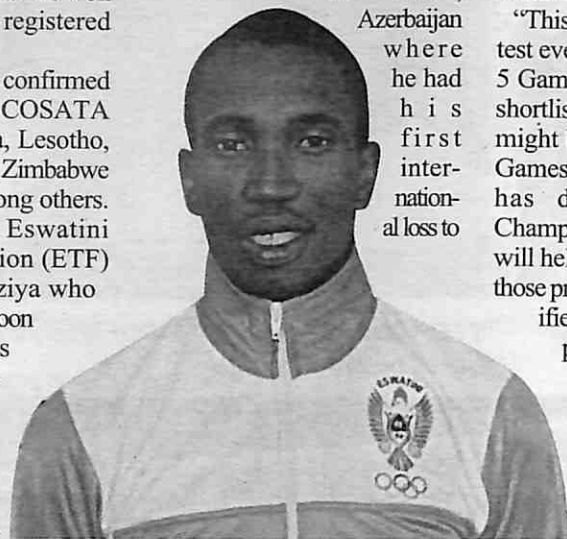
Lee Dae-Hoon is the third best fighter in the world and has won 123 of his total 139 registered fights.

Countries that have confirmed participation for the COSATA Games are Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe and South Africa among others. In a caption on the Eswatini Taekwondo Federation (ETF) Facebook page, Maziya who was posing with Dae-Hoon in one of the sessions said, "It has always been my wish to train with you. Finally my dream came true.

Most notably, Lee Dae-Hoon won the

Bronze medal in the 2016 Summer Olympics and a Silver in the 2012 Summer Olympics. Lee grew up practicing martial art at his father's taekwondo academy from age five. He won gold medal at the 2010 Asian Games and repeated his success at the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon. Originally a bantamweight (under 63 kg), Lee temporarily went down in weight to flyweight (under 58 kg) after the 2011 World Championships in order to compete in the 2012 Olympics, where there were only four weight classes.

According to Wikipedia, Lee made his international flyweight debut at the 2011 World Taekwondo Olympic Qualification Tournament in Baku, Azerbaijan where he had his first international loss to



TRAINS: Fighter Wandile Maziya.

2008 Olympic silver medalist Gabriel Mercedes 14-12 in the semifinals. In May 2012, however, he captured his first flyweight gold medal at the 2012 Asian Taekwondo Championships, beating reigning Asian flyweight champion Pen-Ek Karaket 8-4 in the final bout.

In 2016 Summer Olympics Lee captured bronze medal beating Jaouad Achab from Belgium 11-7 and in 2016 WTF World Taekwondo Grand-Prix, Lee won gold against Konstantin Minin. According to ETF Secretary General Ndo Sibandze, in readiness for the COSATA Games-the local squad is currently training together every Saturday at Palaistra, Manzini.

"This Championship will be a test event for the AUCS Region 5 Games. Taekwondo has been shortlisted among the sports that might be included in Region 5 Games next year, so COSATA has decided to use this Championship as a test event. It will help our athletes, especially those preparing for Olympic qualifiers, African Seniors championships and World Junior Championship 2020 to be at par," Sibandze said.

LEE DAE-HOON STATISTICS

139 registered fights, fighter won 123 out of them. That's a rate of 88.5% 2127 hitpoints distributed and 989 collected during fights. Won 9 golden point(s) and lost 1. Participated at 41 tournaments, 41 with international and 0 with national valuation

ESWATINI SQUAD FOR COSATA GAMES

Cadets (12-14years) FEMALES

- Sivunolesihle Dlamini
- Aphwe Kuye Dlamini
- Hlelo Vilakati
- Kimberly Dlamini

MALES

- Phwayinkosi Sifiso Dlamini
- Sihlelewe Matsebula
- Gcinumuzi Nxumalo

JUNIORS FEMALES

- Nonhle Maduma
- Lungelolake Nkumanane
- Nomfundo Magagula

MALES

- Velile Gwebu
- Mthokozisi Sihlongonyane
- Samkelo Manyatsi
- Mncobi Mathabela

SENIORS: MALES

- Saneliso Masuku
- Wandile Maziya
- Mfanawekhaya Dube
- Melusi Sihlongonyane
- Melusi Lukhele
- Gcinangaye Dlamini
- Qinisio Maziya
- Peter Mkhwanazi
- Thandolwethu Ndzinisa
- Thabiso Mdluli
- Sibusiso Ngubane

FEMALES

- Sikhulile Mahlalela
- Carlota Munave
- Nobile Ginindza
- Fakazile Nxumalo
- Winile Zondo
- Nhlakanipho Gwebu

EFA VALUES SCARA THINDWA FOUNDATION

STORIES BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER – ESWATINI Football Association Vice President Comfort Shongwe applauded the establishment of the Scara Thindwa Foundation as it assists in the development of football in the country.

Shongwe said this during the coach's symposium workshop at Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre yesterday.

He was speaking on behalf of EFA President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa.

He said it should be highlighted that the youth football development was key to creating a virtuous future of footballers for their excellence sporting performance.

Shongwe said football was now a business and a viable economic source of lively hood.

Empowerment

"With this, I would like to refer to the training and empowerment of sports teachers, to obtain and assimilate the appropriate knowledge and training methodologies to impart to our youth.

In fact, Michael Jordan, a basketball player, when trying to summarise doing things right said, "If you practise shooting at a basket eight hours a day, every year, what you achieve is perfect shooting at the basket the wrong way," he said.

'EFA is happy with programme'

SOCCER – ESWATINI Football Association Vice President Comfort Shongwe says they are happy with the youth developments and the work done by expert and facilitators to impart the appropriate knowledge to the educators.

"Our educators are henceforth implored to spread this knowledge to our future stars, which have been tasked under their sporting responsibility.

"At this point we would like to express our profound thankfulness to KFC for their investment in this noble cause.

Financial resources are a limiting factor to the realisation of goals, hence such an investment is greatly appreciated and will remain ingrained as one of the catalysts of football development in the country."

He said the ministry of sports, culture and youth affairs was responsible for sports in the country and the Eswatini National

Sports and Recreation Council created an enabling environment for sports to thrive in the country.

Meanwhile, Innocent Gumede, who was speaking on behalf of the coaches, thanked the Scara Thindwa Foundation for the vision and working with them.

He said they would make sure that the work of the foundation was practical and achievable through the involvement of the teachers.

Request

"We also thank the sponsor for welcoming the request of the foundation and making sure that the symposium is a success.

We believe this is not the last gathering but we hope our sponsor will next time allow us to have practical sessions."

He then thanked the EFA for finding allies to help in making sporting activities a success in schools, and for investing in sports development.

He said by this he was saying that it was not only about training the youth but imparting the appropriate methods. He stated that what was important was to train and equip

those tasked to oversee the development of the youth, with the appropriate expertise and competence to impart to the youth and this was what would make the future stars.

Correctional maintain perfect start in SBS Elite Netball League

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

NETBALL – CORRECTIONAL maintained their perfect start in the Swaziland Building Society (SBS) Elite Netball after beating Fashion 109 – 32 at Zakhele Courts yesterday.

Teams were playing in the second round of games where the Correctional Services side ensured that they remain at top of the standings.

This was their third win of the season against the league rookies.

Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (USDF) made light work of Olympia Africa, beating them 58-32 in what was a one-sided encounter.

Raiders were at their best on the day as the beat RSSC 70– 29 win.

REPS also got the better of Vixens, winning 79– 33. Men's netball also took centre stage at the same venue as Correctional beat Phoenix 84-16.

RESULTS:

Ladies		
Correctional	109-32	Fashions
UEDF	58-32	Olympiafrica
REPS	9-33	Vixens
Raiders	70-29	RSSC

Men		
Correctional Men	84-16	Phoenix

Eswatini stands to benefit from FIFA's US\$1 billion

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER – ESWATINI stands to benefit after the world governing body FIFA announced their plans to raise US\$1 billion to build at least one stadium meeting FIFA standards in each of the African countries.

Mavuso Sports Centre is the only stadium in the country that meets CAF standards.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino was speaking in Lumbashi last week Wednesday during the 80th anniversary celebrations of DR Congo side TP Mazembe.

Refereeing

The president insisted that FIFA wanted African football to shine and they would work with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and other stakeholders to improve refereeing, infrastructure and competitions in the continent.



US\$ 1 BILLION PROJECT: FIFA President Gianni Infantino speaking in Lumbashi.

He said FIFA would mobilise companies and entrepreneurs to raise US\$1 billion with the objective of building at least one stadium

that complies with the international standards in each African country.

"We want to take Africa to the

highest of heights and show the world the outstanding talent and amazingly gifted players your continent possesses," he said.

Infantino said to do this they, they needed to develop a three pillars approach that would help the 54-member associations across Africa and other stakeholders.

Potential

"I am positive we can make African football reach the top level where it should be because the quality and potential is definitely there," he said.

Meanwhile, Eswatini Football Association Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe said this could be a good thing for the country.

"I read about this online. However, we haven't received any official statement from the mother body. On our side this can be a good thing for infrastructural development," he said.

Felix transports Mbombela to Nedbank Cup last 32

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER – ESWATINI forward Felix 'Fela' Badenhorst became the joint top goal scorer after scoring for Mbombela United in their Nedbank Cup preliminary match played at Kanyamazane Stadium on Saturday.

The goal guided his side to victory as they beat JDR FC 1-0 to make it to the last 32 of the Nedbank Cup.

JDR FC are sitting at the top of the GladAfrica Champions League log table.

Badenhorst netted in the 25th minute to guide his team to victory.

The other two international players in Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa and Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu were in the starting XI while Justice Figureido was introduced in the second half.

"Figureido is back in action and performed exceptionally well in the match. He created a number of chances which they failed to utilise," said a source, who watched the match.

Figureido has been out of action due to an ankle injury.

Occupying

Meanwhile, Mbombela United are occupying the 10th position in the GladAfrica Championships log table.

The team needs to work hard in their remaining four games of the first round in order to get back to the top four. Mbombela will take on Galaxy, Real King, Cape Umoya and Moroka Swallows in their last four matches before the play-offs.

"I believe Mbombela are on the right track as they have been joined by Simon Ngomane as the team's head coach. This would mean Siyabonga Bhembe will remain the team's physical trainer," said the source.

TOP GOAL-SCORER: Felix 'Fela' Badenhorst.



COSAFA U-20 tournament to be live streamed

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER – FOOTBALL lovers will be happy to learn that the COSAFA Under-20 tournament will be live streamed.

Live stream means to transmit or receive live video and audio coverage via the internet.

According to COSAFA website, the matches will be live streamed globally on COSAFA TV.

Matches will be played on the city of Nkoloma and Sunset Stadium in what is a 10-day football festival.

Action gets underway on Wednesday with the host Zambia taking on Botswana in a Group A clash at Nkoloma Stadium.

Kick-off time is 3:30 pm.

On Thursday, Eswatini will face-off with Mozambique at Sunset Stadium.

Kick-off time is 10 am.

The local side will then play Mauritius on Sunday before taking on Angola at Nkoloma Stadium on Monday.

Meanwhile, Eswatini Under-20 will leave the country tomorrow for the regional tournament.

Under-20 coach Dominic Kunene

GROUP C FIXTURE				
Thursday at Sunset Stadium				
Mozambique	vs	Eswatini	10am	
Sunday at Sunset Stadium				
Mauritius	vs	Eswatini	12:45 pm	
December 9 at Nkoloma Stadium				
Angola	vs	Eswatini	12:45 pm	

said they would make history in the 2019 COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships.

He said he believed the squad could go far in the competition.

"The players are soldiers of the country and I believe I have a

good team," said Kunene.

He stated that they were ready for the games where they wanted to represent the country well.

He thanked Eswatini Football Association (EFA) and the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) for their support and further assured Eswatini that they would do their best to win the competition.

It was not an easy match - Janza

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER – CAPITAL city giants Mbabane Swallows head coach Honour Janza says their match against Royal Leopard was tough.

The red and white glamour side won the match 2-1, courtesy of Sizolwethu Shabalala and Kingu Pemba goals.

The victory saw Swallows tied with Young Buffaloes on 26 points.

Speaking during a post-match interview, the former Chipolopolo coach congratulated his players for the victory and said their opponents were tactically good.

"We played well, especially in the first half. However, in the second half, our opponents came back strong. It was not an easy match but I am happy we won at the end," he said.

Janza said they would take it one game at a time and try not to lose focus.



KILLER SHOT: Royal Leopard goalkeeper Ncamiso Dlamini fails to block this shot from Swallows' Sizolwethu Shabalala.

Team captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze said they knew that it won't be easy and congratulated his teammates for the gallant performance.

Meanwhile, Royal Leopard coach Edwin Matsebula said they created better chances which they, however, failed to utilise.

"We didn't start well as we lost concentration after they scored their quick two goals.

"However, we regrouped in the second half and created chances which we failed to utilise. It was not our day and I would like to congratulate our opponents for the win," he said.

Team captain Barry Stenkaamp said after a poor first half, they came back strong in the second half but failed to convert their chances.

He, however, said they would bounce back.

Linda shines in Stanlib Oyama Champ of Champs

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

KARATE – FORMER Mr Eswatini and karate artist Linda Dlamini is the winner of the Stanlib Oyama Champ of Champs open division.

This was the biggest and last tournament in the 2019 karate calendar where over 150 artists took part.

Stanlib Eswatini injected E30 000 into the tournament held at Matsapha Correctional Services yesterday.

Oyama Karate Eswatini President Mfanafuthi Vilakati said this year's tournament was bigger and better.

He said they were happy to see more juniors taking part in this year's edition of the tournament.

"Youth sports are a fun way to increase a child's physical activity level and develop lifelong habits for good health. This sport helps the kids to develop self-control, persistence, and accountability," he said.

Vilakati also said it was encouraging to see new talent in the sport, adding that they wished to see children grow into future karate stars.

He said they had made great strides in Eswatini karate since the inception of the Stanlib tournament in 2007.

Competing

"It has been a production inferno of 12 years and I must say that we have made huge progress since we do not just participate but compete for world standards. We have made a name for Oyama Karate Eswatini in the international stage."

Despite inadequate playing resources which is a major setback in the development of the sport; the president said they were ready to compete in international tournaments.

He further appealed for more sponsorships as they wanted to get more exposure since they competed with individuals who have adequate training facilities.

RESULTS

Green Mamba	1-0	Young Buffaloes
Royal Leopard	1-2	Mbabane Swallows
M. Peacemakers	2-0	Manzini Wanderers
Moneni Pirates	1-1	Milling Hotspurs
Malanti Chiefs	2-0	Tambuti
Mbabane Highlanders	0-0	Denver Sundowns
Black Swallows	1-2	Sea Birds

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE LOG:

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Buffaloes	11	8	2	1	26	7	19	26
Swallows	11	8	2	1	22	6	16	26
Pirates	11	6	3	2	16	8	8	21
Leopard	11	6	3	2	15	8	7	21
Green Mamba	11	5	2	4	16	8	8	17
Highlanders	11	3	6	2	8	7	1	15
Wanderers	11	4	3	4	12	15	-3	15
Tambuti	11	2	6	3	13	22	-9	12
Peacemakers	11	3	2	6	12	15	-3	11
Sea Birds	11	3	2	6	10	19	-9	11
Hotspurs	11	2	4	5	7	14	-7	10
Sundowns	11	2	4	5	10	17	-7	10
Black Swallows	11	3	1	7	12	21	-9	10
Malanti Chiefs	11	2	0	9	5	16	-11	6

Wanderers players threaten to boycott training

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER – MORE trouble is looming at Manzini Wanderers as players have reportedly threatened to boycott training if they do not receive their salaries for November by today.

This comes after the players received half pay for the month of October.

The players are said to have conveyed the message to Management Committee Chairman Bongani 'Bhanyaza' Mdluli, Manager Berger Nxumalo and Treasury Girl 'Diana' Johnson after their MTN Premier League match against Mhlume Peacemakers at Mayaluka Stadium where they lost 0-2.

A source close to the matter alleged the players made it clear that they would not resume training until they were paid their salaries in full.

The source said all this happened after the players came out of the dressing room after the match against Peacemakers.

"The players gathered next to their bus after the match and told the officials that they wanted their salaries paid as soon as possible."

He said they made it clear that they would not take part in any of the team's activities if they were not paid their salaries.

"The situation was bad after the match as the players vowed not to return to training on Tuesday until they receive their salaries. They feel that they are being neglected by the team after encountering same last month where they received half their pay very late," the source said.

The players are said to have made it clear that they would even boycott the next match if they don't get in-contacts.

The source said the three officials tried to manage the situation as they promised the players that they would be paid eventually.

"The players just want their money. They threatened not to continue with training unless they are given what is due to them," he said.

Manzini Wanderers Public Relations Officer Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini said he was not aware of the matter when contacted yesterday.

"I did not attend the match on Saturday as I had some personal issues to attend to, therefore, I can't say much on the matter you are talking about."

I will probably get reports about the Saturday match and then I will be better positioned to answer you," he said.

Meanwhile, the team is believed to be looking for someone to take over after their executive Director Mehluli Nhlengethwa unceremoniously disappeared from the club.

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Your Dedicated Sports Feed

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'MAGIYANE' TIPPED FOR SIHLANGU

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER – MONENI Pirates head coach Gcina 'Magiyane' Dlamini is reportedly tipped for the national team hot seat position.

The coaching position has been left vacant after the EFA released a statement announcing that Kostadin Papis will be leaving his role as head coach, since his contract expires at the end of the month (December).

"The EFA wishes to announce that in view of its capacity to meet the demands of the head coach of the senior national team Sihlangu Kostadin Papis, the contract of engagement will not be renewed."

"At this instance, the EFA would like to express its sincere appreciation to the work and commitment by Papis and his entire technical team over the period towards creating a foundation for good performance of the national team. The EFA will at a later stage make some pronouncements on the future of the national team," reads part of the statement.

Rumors are now flying back and forth in the football corridors that the former Mhlambanyatsi Rovers mentor will replace Papis in the national team.

A source close to the matter revealed that the mother body had already written a letter to Moneni Pirates asking for the services of the coach.

"The letter was emailed to Moneni Football Club yesterday morning. The team is yet to sit down and discuss the latest developments," said the source.

If 'Magiyane' finally joins the senior national team as head coach, he will be following on the footsteps of Harries 'Madze' Bulunga who is now the Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs and Anthony Mdluli, among others.

'Magiyane' has done a sterling job in the 'Sea Robbers' within a short space of time. The Moneni based outfit is playing entertaining football and currently sitting on position three in the MTN Premier League log table.

The former Mhlambanyatsi Rovers mentor is also the Under-17 national team coach.

Efforts to get a comment from 'Magiyane' proved futile as his phone rang unanswered when tried several times yesterday. Moneni Pirates Public Relations Officer, Mlungisi 'Puma' Simelane said the letter from the EFA hasn't reached his office.

"We haven't received such a letter, maybe it's still coming," he said. The EFA Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe said they would soon make pronouncements on the future of the national team.

Meanwhile, the nation's pride will return to action next year May for the AFCON and CHAN 2022 Qualifiers. In their last match, they were beaten 4-1 by the star-studded Senegal national team.

Sea Birds come back from behind to pip Black Swallows

BY JONGILE XUBA

Black Swallows..... (1)1
Sea Birds..... (1)2

SOCCER - MANZINI Sea Birds came from behind to beat Pigg's Peak Black Swallows 2-1 in their MTN Premier League clash played at Killarney Sports Ground yesterday.

Sea Birds secured victory with goals from Muzi Tsabedze and Khaya Dlamini while Black Swallows' only goal was scored by Mbuso Mabuza.

With home ground advantage, Black Swallows took the initiative as they created early scoring opportunities. Skipper Mbuso Mabuza finally broke the deadlock with a brilliant piece of solo play. He burst into the box and scored past the goalkeeper in the 27th minute. Their lead was short-lived, however, as Sea



Birds responded 12 minutes later.

Danger man Muzi Tsabedze received a defence splitting pass from Sifiso Maziya to make it 1-1 in the 39th minute.

The goal sparked Sea Birds' revival as they almost got another with Tsabedze's shot going narrowly wide. The match went to the break with the teams locked at 1-1.

The second stanza saw Sea Birds continuing where they left off as

Black Swallows goalkeeper Friday Lukhele was the busiest between the poles. He was bombarded with an array of shots. His best save came after he denied Mthokozisi Gwebu a goal from a brilliantly struck 35 yard set piece.

Lukhele could not keep all the attempts out as they eventually conceded the second goal in the dying minutes of the match. Sea Birds' Khaya Dlamini reacted quickest in

the box to toe poke the ball into the net. The match ended 2-1 in favour of Sea Birds.

Teams:

Black Swallows - Friday, Linda, Mpilo, Amos, Siyabonga, Mbuso, Luaba, Allen, Jonathan, Themba, Thulani

Sea Birds - Lindani, Ndumiso, Mfundo, Siphelele, Sibusiso, Xolani, Muzi, Colani, Sandumuzi, Wandile, Sifiso