



The Right Place

The Right Sunday



FEBRUARY 3, 2019

PRICE: E7.00 (VAT INCLUSIVE)

His Majesty King Mswati III sharing a light moment with his guest, former SA President Jacob Zuma during the beginning of the year church service at Mandvulo Grand Hall yesterday. They are joined by Her Majesty the Indlovukazi and Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

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LISWATI WHO DIED IN RUSSIA WAS NOT A STUDENT

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...It turns out that Mpendulo Motsa was in fact allegedly not a student at the university he was supposed to enrol in when he left the country in 2015

PULL-OUT



Scene

"Fashion is a language that creates itself in clothes to interpret reality."

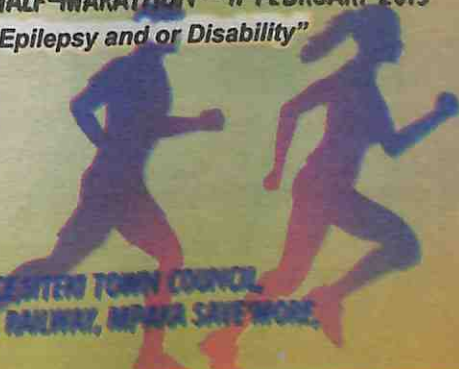


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CLARIFICATIONS

Pastor Sikhumbuzo is cheating, wife tells family

STORIES BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

There seems to be more than meets the eye in the removal of Pastor Sikhumbuzo Shongwe from preaching at Phumlamcashi.

It seems the Divine Healing Ministries, founded by Bishop Nash Shongwe, has not revealed the real reasons behind the demotion of his son as pastor at the Phumlamcashi branch.

The family of Jabulile Nkonyane has revealed that their daughter once complained to them that Bishop Nash's son, Sikhumbuzo, was allegedly having an affair with a praise team member from within the church.

The revelation was made by Sikhumbuzo's in-law, Theminkosi Nkonyane, who is the Managing Director of Corban Build Hardware.

"Kani lontfombatana loyo wena Ndlangamandla nalomntfwana kitsi wake wa-complainer ngaye. Le-complaint nje nayifika kwaba ngulokutsi nakutsiwa Sikhumbuzo umenywe etinkonzweni letitsite, akasali lontfombatana," Theminkosi said verbatim.

Nkonyane is Jabulile's uncle (*Babe Lomncane*).

He said after receiving the reports from Jabulile, he took it upon himself and attended one of the church services at Phumlamcashi to investigate the reports. He said as he was attending the service, he found the brethren singing and he concluded that he too would never leave the lady behind when attending festivals as she was such a talented praise singer. He said he would not say much on the alleged affair but what he noted was that the praise singer was gifted.

Sikhumbuzo's in-laws monitoring abuse claims

The family of Jabulile Nkonyane is keeping a close eye on arising allegations of a rocky marriage of their daughter to Pastor Sikhumbuzo.

Theminkosi Nkonyane, the Managing Director of Corban Build Hardware, said the Nkonyane family had not officially received complaints on reports of physical abuse in the relationship.

"I can say that there is nothing that Jabulile has reported concerning the allegations. Some of the issues that had arisen between the couple are those that the Shongwe family were able to solve.

However, by this I'm not saying it doesn't happen that the couple has problems as all families have their own issues," Nkonyane explained.

Furthermore, he added that Jabulile has not at any point come home with bruises which show that she was being physically abused.

...he is accused of being uncomfortably close with the church's praise singer



Pastor Sikhumbuzo and his wife Jabulile Shongwe.

"If you're a pastor you always go with someone who would uplift your spirit. She is one of the strongest leaders at Divine Healing Ministries.

She has a gift in singing but I won't say anything on the alleged affair because I don't have something tangible. But there was once a complaint that there was more into just singing (*Ngatsi loluchumano lunengi*)," Theminkosi said.

He continued to praise the praise team lady for her gift of singing, also emphasising that there was no proof that the two were in an alleged affair. He mentioned that these reports can be raised by Sikhumbuzo's past life as all eyes were on him as people judged on whether he was really born again or not.

"Ever since they got married I haven't received any shocking reports, the Shongwes had also never called us to a meeting over Sikhumbuzo and Jabulile's issues which were unresolvable," Nkonyane expanded.

He said Jabulile reported the alleged affair through a text that she was unhappy that Sikhumbuzo wher-

ever he was invited he would go with the praise team leader. He added that he also discussed such issues with Sikhumbuzo and he assured him that he would never harm Jabulile.

He said the alleged affair once threatened to destroy the marriage, however, he clarified that apart from that there were no reports that the two had been found in compromising position.

Nkonyane added that even Bishop Nash at some point once said if the two were fighting over affairs, he (Nash) would love to be furnished with evidence so he could deal with the matter as Sikhumbuzo was now a pastor. He stated that Nash said if Sikhumbuzo was in an extra-marital affair, he would be embarrassing the Divine Church Ministries, so he needed the evidence. "Sikhumbuzo is still young and had his previous life, so you know that people chat in a certain way which you may find it would make Jabulile angry and tension will arise between the couple," he said.

He added that Sikhumbuzo's posi-

tion in the church would now make it difficult for him to have an affair in the same church.

Investigations by this publication unearthed that the praise singer is from a Tsabedze family in that area.

According to reports gathered by the publication, the suspicions of a love affair became viral after the girl's family had stopped attending Phumlamcashi Divine Ministries and she remained behind.

The father, who heads a red-gowns Jericho church, said mid-last year he opened a church at his home and took away his family members from Phumlamcashi Divine Church Ministries branch.

However, he said he allowed her daughter to remain at Phumlamcashi because she was with the praise team. He said he and Sikhumbuzo were close and disputed reports that his daughter was in an affair with the man of God.

However, he stated that after he had recalled his family members (except the praise team girl) from Divine Ministries, there was bad blood between some church members which resulted in him having a meeting with Divine's committee. He stated that the aim of the meeting was to sort out their differences.

When contacted on the matter last night, Sikhumbuzo declined to comment, reiterating that he discussed the matter last week so he had nothing more to say.

"Ngacedza kukhuluma lendzabale," he said verbatim.

Meanwhile, last week, Sikhumbuzo, Jabulile as well as Bishop Nash, disputed allegations that Sikhumbuzo's removal from preaching at Phumlamcashi was related to the surfacing allegations.

past history. "Kumumakala nje kutsiwe umumakalile akakake. Akake nje admithwe esibhedlela kutsiwe ushaywe nguSikhumbuzo," Nkonyane said in vernacular.

Moreover, he added that the couple would at times cross paths after Jabulile had gone through her husband's phone. After reading some messages, Nkonyane said Jabulile would then voice out her unhappiness over some chats just like any other married woman.

"Kona kutsi umshayile Sikhumbuzo sisengakake sikutfole loko, kuba nguletingingo nje. Kubanga nje kwakhona kuba nguletingingo kutsi ngitfolo nangu uyakubhalela nawe bewubhalile lana benicoani," he added. He added that he always makes sure that he visits the couple at their house at Tisuka TakaNgwane flats in Moneni twice a week.

Last week, Sikhumbuzo and Jabulile disputed allegations of physical assault in the relationship, saying they were still happily married.

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Uncle to Pastor
Sikhumbuzo's wife
Theminkhosi Nkonyane.

When asked if the Nkonyane family had not received the allegations from other sources, he said in the past few weeks, he received reports from social media that Sikhumbuzo and Jabulile had been fighting.

However, he said when he arrived at their home at Moneni, he found

the two together and they explained to him that they had an argument but it was being exaggerated on social media.

"Sikhumbuzo's parents had also been to my office with Jabulile and we talked. So far, it has not been a bad situation. It's just that Sikhumbuzo always attracts the media, so for that reason whatever happens to them (Sikhumbuzo and Jabulile) it spreads fast just like their (Sikhumbuzo and Jabulile) good news spreads," Theminkosi noted.

He assured that the Nkonyane family would not at any point let their child Jabulile suffer should anything threaten her life. He said he was sure that ever since the two got married, Sikhumbuzo has not physically abused Jabulile.

However, he confessed that the Nkonyane family since way back was always sceptical that Sikhumbuzo might assault Jabulile because of his

RUSSIA BASED 'STUDENT'S' DEATH:

Liswati who died in Russia was not a student

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The mystery surrounding the death of the Liswati 'student' who died in Russia deepens.

It turns out that Mpendulo Motsa was in fact allegedly not a student at the university he was supposed to enrol in when he left the country in 2015.

This is according to preliminary investigations surrounding the circumstances leading to his death which allegedly occurred between January 18 and 19, 2019.

Of note, the investigations are ongoing, and the findings revealed to-date are yet to be declared concrete on completion.

The young man died over two weeks ago in a place situated about 2 000 kilometres away from where he was supposed to ordinarily be, if he was attending classes.

Bridging

Motsa was supposed to be a student at the Kazan State University of Agriculture which is situated in the Volge region, south-west of Moscow, the capital of the Russian Federation.

He was supposed to have been enrolled there from 2016 after he would have ordinarily completed the bridging course known as Preparatory Faculty which is taken by foreign students who wish to enrol in undergraduate, Masters' and PhD's programmes in Russian universities.

Of note, according to several institutions which offer this course, students who do the preparatory course learn Russian along with other modules.

Depending on the institution, the basic training course duration is nine months as it commences in October and ends in June, the tertiary academic year. Those who are on Russian government scholarships do this

...It turns out that Mpendulo Motsa was in fact allegedly not a student at the university he was supposed to enrol in when he left the country in 2015.

course for free.

On graduation, students can then proceed to enrol for their degree programmes of choice.

Seeing as he left the country in 2015, he was supposed to return this June after what would have been his graduation as he was said to be completing his degree associated with Forestry Engineering.

His anticipated return was confirmed by his father, Michael Motsa on Friday.

The father was, however, reluctant to engage this publication as he said there were ongoing investigations surrounding the death of his son and revealing anything could cloud any gains that could be made by the police.

After confirming that the son was found dead thousands of kilometres away from his institution, he was adamant that there was nothing more to reveal outside of that already reported in the print media.

Included

However, this publication has it in authority that the meeting on Tuesday between this country's officials which included Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Principal Human Resources Officer Hlengiwe Njabuliso Manzini, Ministry of Labour's Director National Human Resource Planning and Development Officer Bongiwe Dlamini, Accountant Scholarship Simeon Simelane as well as the local Mozambique High Commission in Maputo as well as Russian officials from the embassy in the neighbouring country's capital city did not go well for the

local group.

Whilst the parents of the young man were said to have been waiting for university authorities to contact them and properly inform them of the young man's death, nothing was forthcoming.

Instead they were informed that there was something awry with the end of year results they submitted as proof that the young man was a student of the Kazan State University of Agriculture. These results are alleged to have been periodically sent to them by Mpendulo as proof that he was doing well in his studies.

Among the questions raised on the documents submitted was the format as well as the stamp appended there.

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Mother last talked to son a few hours before his reported death

What shocks the family of the young man who died in Russia last month is that on the day they received the report on his death, the mother had spoken to him a few hours before.

According to a relative of the young man, the mother, on hearing of reports that her son had passed on was shocked because she had recently talked to him and nothing seemed amiss.

Expensive

The only problem noted over the years was that the young man seemed to complain that the money sent to him was sometimes not enough as life was expensive where he was.

On the other hand, even though his relationship with his mother and other family members was warm, the same could not be said for how he related with his father as it came out that they allegedly hardly talked save for through emails only.

As such, when the father was asked if Mpendulo could be contacted through WhatsApp, he is said to have stated that his son did not have any social media presence.

Liswati sent to Russia on fact finding mission

In order to ascertain the circumstances which led to the death of Mpendulo Motsa, a fact-finding mission has been instituted.

According to Michael Motsa, a decision was made, and representatives of both governments agreed that since investigations were ongoing, all parties will wait for that in order to ascertain the outcome. "Everything will be clarified by the report which will be compiled by the police who have assured that it will be any time soon.

I think government also dispatched an officer who will go to Russia," said Motsa senior.

He said the information they have at present is very scanty; "I don't see what I can add in our current situation."

'RUSSIANS DID NOT KILL LISWATI'

A video of a young woman calling for the truth to be told on the death of Mpendulo Motsa has gone viral.

The video, which looks like a running status taken from WhatsApp, is of a woman who seems to be lazing in a bathtub when judging from the towel protecting her head, as well as the black tiles in the background contrasting with the white behind her back.

In the video, the woman only identified as Nono, says she wants to add her two cents on the reports about the death of a local in Russia.

She first pokes holes in the assertion that the young man was killed in Russia instead of the revelation that it was apparently a suicide. Further, she categorically states that the young man was not a student at the time of his death.

"He hasn't been a student for five years now," she says, further stating that the intention of the video is not to take sides or pit the two countries against each other.

Using strong language, she said it was unfortunate that the incomplete reports on the death of the student seemed to ruin Russia's reputation and give the impression that people are being killed in that



Nono.

the country, she stated that such occurrences are far and few between.

Prior

As such, she stated that her stay in Russia has been incident free for all of seven years, heading for eight; "I have never been ill-treated or whatever and people can tell you how much life has changed here."

Further, she states that she works in the federation as she has a 'cool' job with equally cool people.

Nono calls for reports to come clean about Motsa allegedly hanging himself.

Prior to the reports that the young man had allegedly killed himself, there were concerns from parents of children based in the Russian Federation as they wanted to ascertain their safety.

Of note, there have been two incidents documented by local media of unfortunate occurrences on Emaswati students taking place there. The first occurred in 2013 when a young local man was attacked by a gang of Neo-Nazi skinheads who had a habit of attacking gay immigrants led by gang leader Maxim Martinskevich.

The attack was publicised on the net through a 33-minute video and depicted a

Liswati held against his will in a bathtub.

His head was shaved in a funny manner and dyed green.

He was further smothered with a watermelon and called upon to simulate fellatio on a beer bottle and he was asked if he would like to have coitus with a cat.

The other incident where a Liswati was affected negatively while in Russia was of a totally different nature as a young lady was reportedly persecuted for partaking and ministering through song in a Christian crusade which is allegedly not permitted under the terms of scholarships they receive.

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Prior to the reports that the young man had allegedly killed himself, there were concerns from parents of children based in the Russian Federation as they wanted to ascertain their safety.

God will equip nation to fight ailing

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

His Majesty King Mswati III has assured that there is nothing that God cannot do when it comes to ensuring that Eswatini overcome their challenges.

Speaking yesterday during the National Prayer service held at the Mandvulo Grand Hall in Lozitha, the King called for the nation to put their trust in the Rock of Ages as this will ensure that their convictions are cemented.

He warned that those who have their faith on earthly things were bound to be quickly disappointed, as such trusts can either be stolen by others or fail to reach expectations.

He said he was happy that the theme of the prayer, 'We put our faith in God,' as it was suitable

while the country goes through challenges.

In this regard, he said the country should embrace the stone which was provided to David when he overcame Goliath and in the same manner conquer the economic challenges faced.

"When Goliath was hit, no one knew that a single stone could kill this giant person but because the stone had forces which caused it to be powerful, it did the impossible." He further stated that he had a kinship for people who follow God's council and guidance because they have peace, simply because they personify His being; "When you accept his counsel, guard his grace. Don't take it for granted because as much as He gives, He can take it away again." His Majesty called for the country to go before God and plead that



His Majesty King Mswati III preaching to the congregation at Mandvulo Grand Hall during the beginning of the year church service yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Her Majesty Indlovukazi delivering her God sent message to the congregation.

He guides everyone to be the example He set out the country to be from the very beginning.

"When God changes your life, some-

thing happens because He takes you from an obscure place to where people will see your strength." Quoting the biblical narrative of the man who was demon

possessed, the King said it was through Jesus's assistance that the legion of demons which had possessed him were eradicated. He recalled how the first part



Her Majesty Indlovukazi joined by Emakhosikati and Emazinyane as they listen to one of the preachers of the day.

Country should lose bad habits to succeed – Queen Mother

Her Majesty the Queen Mother has called upon the nation to embrace the Bible and let it counsel to their every day lives.

Reading *II Chronicles 7: 15-16*, she said it was important for the nation to embrace the name with which Christians are called, as they will be able to listen to God.

Further, she said it was disheartening to note that locals have lost their identity as they kill without thinking and this was frightening.

She said it was time to embrace Isaiah 60: 1-4, where the nation was being called upon to embrace God's glory.

"All that the country has to do is lose its bad habits. Some of these people are

here with their bad habits. There are two paths that one has to prepare for in life. For one to enter heaven, they have to go through gates, and one has to prepare a ticket on earth, by removing all obscene things so that God can accept one wholly."

She warned that the devil did not form his own church, but entered in existing ones in the form of the ambitious, taking over using unprecedented means.

"We all do wrong, but God calls for one to remove that which causes them to stumble."

Relating a story of a woman who was gifted with the holy spirit and how she wanted to be stronger, she said the woman approached an *Inyanga* and

was advised to murder her youngest child. After the burial, the woman managed to dig up the grave and put the dead body on her back and went to the *inyanga*.

On arrival, attempts to remove the dead body from her back failed and called for her to go back home as he could not help.

The Queen Mother then questioned if people who said where Christians were following God's ideals.

"What is happening in the house of God? Why are preachers calling for others to leave churches just because they have got supernatural powers? Are we still working for God? Why are people being misled in God's house," she asked.



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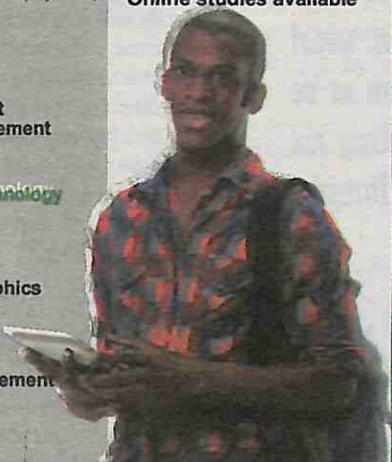
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economy - King

of Luke 8 talked of the storm which nearly sank the boat in which Jesus was travelling on lake Galilee.

"Due to the fact that the demons knew that the King of Kings was on his way to eradicate them, the storm was in an attempt to derail a divine intervention," said His Majesty.

On crossing the lake and reaching the region of the Gerasenes as per the account on Luke 8: 26-39, Jesus was able to reach the demon possessed man who had been reduced to living on graves where he cut himself with stones.

After removing the demons from the man, they found their way to a herd of pigs, which was being tended on the mountain slope. "When he was healed of the demons, the man's language changed, his sense returned."

He said it was in the same manner that for one to be blessed by God, whatever it is that is holding one back has to be removed in order for the blessings to flourish.

"God doesn't leave no matter your circumstances until He has blessed you. Such as the demon possessed man. Because God's eye is like that of an eagle which looks beyond the storm." Warning about the deceptive nature of demons, he said it was disappointing to note that they

attempted to conceal their dangerous characteristics by being strategic in hiding its evil; "Many devils we encounter are those who come to help you as they seek out your problem and offer solutions, whereas they are demons who are afraid to be found out." It is in this regard that the King called for the nation to have its trust in Jesus Christ because he is a miracle maker who is the rock of ages. "A rock cannot be moved or changed despite big rains or storms. It means if your trust in God you cannot change. That is why the rock symbolises God."

Further, the King called for the nation to embrace the rock, which is Christ as did David and then watch as miracles come out. "We are here to pick this rock and now pity those who will be confronted with these rocks. In this life, you will meet giant obstacles."

There are things that bother you but today am giving you this hope. Whatever is there before you, if you throw this rock, you will have miracles," adding, he said, "We are talking of Goliath of the economy, which is not well that there is a Rock of Ages and he will give solutions." He called for the nation to take God and make Him their trust because those who do that prosper. "If you receive God, stay with Him."



A section of the pastors present among the many people who attended.

Tinyanga consultation at more than E3 000

Using supernatural powers to get ahead is a costly affair, as pastors consultations with tinyanga costs E3 000.

This is according to Zakhele Free Evangelical Assemblies' Pastor Shodi Msibi, who warned that the love of money was making Emaswati boldly do things they would ordinarily have been ashamed to partake in.

He said it was disappointing to note that men of God who were supposed to preach and morally guide people were the first in line to consult tinyanga in their bid to get money for themselves and have more members.

"We were given a mandate as Emaswati that when we start things, we call on the name of the Lord to bless it. As per King Somhlolo's vision, that white people would come bearing two things, money and the word; we were called upon to embrace the word of God. Referring to Hebrews 13:5-6 which calls for one to keep free from the love of money and be content with what one has, he emphasised that it was disheartening that pastors love money and now use supernatural powers to get it.

"They now summon worldly spirits. People are now unable to see the pastors because we can't do so without money," he said. He said

this was revealed during a conversation where pastors were discussed.

Further, he alleged that the love of money had disturbed the operations in the country because simple things like finding a place for a child to enrol at a school called for one to have bribe money.

He said it was unfortunate that for one to get supernatural powers, whereby they can overpower another, there is need to see a diviner who will first tell of the weaknesses of the other party before any power can work on them.

Calling on preachers to embrace the teachings of Leviticus, he said it was unfortunate that they were now consulting demonic spirits to get power over congregations.

"A preacher's path to witchdoctors was closed a long time ago and a closed path should remain so, and we should not go where God says we should not go."

Emphasising about the dangers of money, he said a person who loves money is selfish and is never satisfied; "May all those who plan to bewitch this nation when going to their diviners be unable to get far because the only thing seen by them is themselves, because that's what becomes of their mirrors."



A section of the Cabinet ministers who were among the many congregants present on the day.

Zuma says country's system of governance will last a long time

Former South Africa president Jacob Zuma was blessed by Their Majesties yesterday during the country's New Year Thanksgiving Prayer.

Zuma was the King's guest at the prayer service and he in turn said he was pleasantly surprised to learn that the country started the year out on a prayerful tone.

He said he would take the system of New Year prayer to his family, where it would be practised because he was blessed.

Praying

Further, he said such an occurrence, which saw the nation praying together, was one of the ties which will ensure that the country's system of governance lasts for a long time yet, "Emaswati will continue ruling their own way."

Further, he said his questions on how come the country had peace were responded to and it was due to the prayer held regularly.



Former South Africa president Jacob Zuma making his remarks before leading the congregation in song.



Emazinyane were also among the congregants present in the service.

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Revenge porn Limkokwing University lecturer fired

BY SUNDAY OBSERVER REPORTER

The Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (LUCT) lecturer from Botswana, who is alleged to have posted nude photographs of his side-chick after she failed to heed to his call to drink morning after tablets, has been fired.

Morning after tablets are pills taken within 72-hours after a sexual encounter as emergency contraception.

The married lecturer and his girlfriend of over three years are said to have had a heated argument following their coitus encounter on New Year, which necessitated the girl to rush to the Manzini Police Post and report the lecturer for allegedly posting the revenge porn in an alleged fake account created by the lecturer. The lecturer further threatened to expose more pictures of the young woman in a compromising position as he sadistically stated in WhatsApp messages that he would ruin her future prospects of employment for leaving without drinking the emergency contraceptive.

The young woman alleged that the emergency contraceptive was necessitated by the fact that the lecturer allegedly failed to withdraw (*kucencuka*) during their sexual encounter, yet this was their method of contraceptive.

Th two lovebirds had been in a relationship for three years before breaking up when the young Liswati realised that her Motswana beau was married. They are said to have reunited before the incident happened.

● The married lecturer and his girlfriend of over three years are said to have had a heated argument following their coitus encounter on New Year, which necessitated the girl to rush to the Manzini Police Post and report the lecturer for allegedly posting the revenge porn in an alleged fake account created by the lecturer

They had met up at a club to celebrate the New Year and thereafter spent the night together.

As she was leaving for her home area situated in the Lubombo region, the lecturer called her over and asked that she returns to drink morning-after tablets because she should not fall pregnant. He further sent her a picture of the tablets branded Norlevo, which he had in his hands.

Contract

Seeing as she said she could not turn back, he then sent her a screen grab of several posed pictures, where she posed naked and suggestively.

He further sent her other pictures and reminded her that he had them and would use them to ensure she lost chances to become gainfully employed, whereas he could start his life anywhere as his contract was ending soon.

When asked about the pictures when the first article was compiled, the lecturer did not deny the contents of the messages shared by the young woman with this publication.

He, however, stated that the threat was not real as he only used photoshop. He

also said he did not intend to spread the pictures.

However, during the course of investigations, this publication established that some LUCT students had the pictures which were reshared in a WhatsApp group.

According to well-placed sources, the lecturer was called into a meeting by the university's executive, comprising an official from Malaysia and a regional director, who flew into the country on the Friday before the article was flighted by this publication. Meetings were held with the lecturer, as well as officials from the finance department, where a sizeable amount of money was stolen from an office last year.

The lecturer was said to have been given his marching orders which were with immediate effect and he has since left the country. Of note, this publication was alerted by the woman that her boyfriend was fired and attempts to reach him proved futile as his cellular phone has been unavailable for the last three weeks.

The university is yet to respond to any emailed questionnaire sent to it pertaining this matter, as one dated January 9, was only acknowledged and not responded to.

Draft regulations on dagga legalisation on the cards

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The tone of the 11th parliament is different from that of their predecessors, where the legalisation of dagga is concerned.

Even before the opening of the first session of the 11th parliament, a ministerial committee is making concerted efforts to look at the benefits, usefulness as well as disadvantages of dagga legalisation, as well as possible products which can be garnered from the plant.

This is being done with the aim of coming up with draft regulations, which will then be taken to parliament from where the piece of legislation will be created in full.

According to well-placed government officials, the committee is currently only made up of ministers, as it comprises Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo, Minister of Health Lizzie Nkosi, the attorney general, as well as Royal Eswatini Police Service executive members. Without stating the members of the committee, Minister Nkosi confirmed that the committee was looking at draft regulations.

High-ranking officers within the ministry, when probed about the scope within which the committee operates, said they were in the dark as the ministers did not involve them in anything.

"We assume it's a preparatory meeting before parliamentary sittings commence, because we are aware that they have been looking at products, as well as the report by the 10th parliament on the uses of dagga," said a senior official.

Of note, Minister of Commerce Khumalo, during the recent tour of the Pigg's Peak SEDCO offices, might have let the cat out of the bag when he speculated that it could be time to look into legalising dagga in the country.

When asked about the developments surrounding dagga legalisation, former Hhukwini MP Saladin Magagula said the coun-

try was going through an exciting time and he was looking forward to knowing how this would be done.

He was chairperson of the select committee which was tasked to look at the advantages and disadvantages of legalising dagga in the 10th parliament.

"I am happy to note that the current cabinet seems to be embracing dagga legalisation in the same manner in which the princess (now Minister Princess Sikhanyiso) did during Sibaya," he said, adding that he would be happy to contribute with whatever it is they find.

During her submissions, the princess said the country was lagging behind in taking advantage of the economic gains that would come with dagga legalisation, as there was need to take advantage of the reputation local dagga has internationally due to its high quality.

Of note, in the past, calls for dagga legalisation were thwarted by the former prime minister Sibusiso Dlamini-led government, as it stated categorically that they would not look into any legalisation. He went to the extent of stating that the country was not ready to deal with the repercussions which come with dagga legalisation, such as addiction, as the country was not equipped to deal with such.

This was repeated in his memoirs, as Dr Sibusiso Dlamini stated that even though they were aware of the benefits, they far outweighed the disadvantages.

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High-ranking officers within the ministry, when probed about the scope within which the committee operates, said they were in the dark as the ministers did not involve them in anything

Mobile Money agent robbed E37 000 while in shower

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

Criminals managed to get away with E37 000 from an MTN Eswatini Mobile Money agent. The incident happened in Simunye over a month ago.

The Mobile Money agent, Nkhosinathi Dlamini said he was robbed the money while he was taking a shower.

Dlamini said when he got out of the shower, he found his flat turned upside down. Noting the chaos, he rushed to check where he hid his proceeds and

found that the cash was no longer there. Dlamini stated that the stolen money was part of what he made in two days, as it was the busy days of the month.

He added that some of the money was what he got from selling airtime.

What saddened him was that he did not even hear when the thieves broke in, as he was in the shower as he had left the doors unlocked, not suspecting that anything could go amiss.

He resides with a friend in one of the houses within the Simunye area and the roommate was not present.

"The challenge in cracking the mat-

ter is that I can't even give police information of suspected people, as I did not see the thieves," he said.

When asked why he kept such a large amount of money in the house, Dlamini said he was going to deposit the money in the bank the following day.

He estimated the sum to be close to E45 000, however, police mouthpiece Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said the thugs took E37 000. Vilakati said no arrest has been made yet and investigations were still underway.

SOME OF THE PREACHERS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR SERVICE



Reverend Griffiths Dlamini.



Reverend JV Mazibuko.



Pastor ZZ Maziya.



Reverend Samson Mhlanga.



Reverend Shodi Msibi.

Ka-Boyce principal joining U-Tech High

STORIES BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

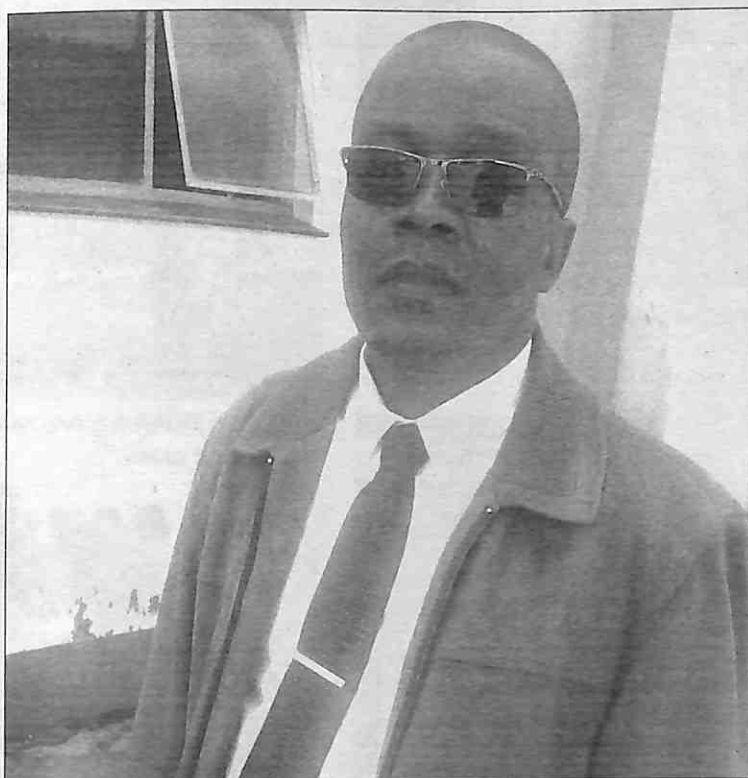
After producing excellent results in the 2018 Swaziland General Certificate of Secondary Education (SGCSE) examinations, Ka-Boyce High Principal Lungelo Nhlengethwa is leaving the school.

Nhlengethwa is set to join U-Tech School this term after applying for the position which became vacant following the departure of long-serving Principal Mavela Shongwe, who left in December last year.

Meanwhile, Nhlengethwa joined Ka-Boyce in 2016 during the second term, replacing the long-serving Simon Mthunzi. Information gathered is that Nhlengethwa received the transfer letter early this year when schools opened for the first term.

Sources within the school alleged that the principal had already informed pupils and teachers of his imminent exit. In an interview with this publication, Nhlengethwa confirmed the news, saying he had received the transfer letter but disputed reports that he informed learners and teachers that he was leaving the school.

When asked when he was expected to leave the school, Nhlengethwa said he was still waiting for logistics. "I am not sure when I would leave Ka-Boyce as I am still waiting for the two regions' education officers to finalise paperwork which would enable me to relocate to U-Tech. Otherwise, I'm just waiting for that



Outgoing Ka-Boyce High School Principal Lungelo Nhlengethwa.

formality," Nhlengethwa said.

Sharing his experience at Ka-Boyce, he said he was leaving with good memories.

Happiness

He noted that being in charge of a good performing school was challenging but shared his happiness about his time at the school.

He stated that he was happy because he was leaving the Ka-Boyce with the same tag as still the best school in the country. "I pray and wish that

my successor would also continue with the set standard as it is very important for the pupils as they come here knowing that they would perform better in their studies," Nhlengethwa explained.

He continued to state that poor performance can disturb pupils as well as their parents because they had so much trust in the services of the school. When asked about his secret to producing good results, instead, Nhlengethwa said he had no known

secret but praised good teamwork. He then sang praises to responsibilities taken by the teachers, pupils and parents. "As you can see the teachers are hard at work, if you can go around the school there is no class without a teacher. They are all here despite that there is a civil servants protest going on today. The teachers are all here, they do the work, they are one group which is highly dedicated to work," Nhlengethwa expanded.

Policy

Furthermore, he said pupils of Ka-Boyce were also gifted as they at times challenged the teachers. He pointed out that the challenge by the pupils makes teachers to stay on the top of their game. Sharing what he usually told teachers during opening meetings, Nhlengethwa said, firstly, the meetings are held at a neutral place not at the school. He stated that his policy and plea to school committees was that opening meetings should be held at a lodge or hotel for two days (excluding nights). He pointed out that during the meeting, the teachers discussed past year's results and also deliberate the on-going year.

Different officers from the same field (education) are also invited to share words of advice to the teachers. He said during the meetings, they agreed that they should continue striving to produce good results.

He estimated this year's intake to be over 600. Efforts to discuss the matter with Lubombo Regional

Optimistic to produce good results at U-Tech

Outgoing Ka-Boyce High Principal Lungelo Nhlengethwa is optimistic that he would produce good results at his new school, U-Tech.

Speaking about his move to U-Tech, he asked and hoped that all stakeholders at his new school would accept him.

He understands that U-Tech was a different school with extra courses but said he was optimistic of producing good results.

"I work for the betterment of the institution and I'm aware that I can't achieve all by myself. I would work with all the stakeholders that I would find that side. In the education sector, you work with what you're given and you cannot change the features. You can't just fire teachers because they are not producing desired results, you have to work with them to produce good results," Nhlengethwa explained.

He noted that the main challenge that he can face at U-Tech would be not being accepted by all the stakeholders. He mentioned that if received well as the principal, then good results were guaranteed.

"Once there is no good acceptance or you're fighting, obviously learning would be disturbed, so I am praying for a warm welcome when I arrive at the school, he said. He mentioned that he applied for the position after seeing an advert in the media.

Education Officer Musa Mthupha were futile as his phone rang unanswered yesterday morning.

Minister of finance's company defrauded over E200 000

BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

An accounts clerk has allegedly defrauded Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg's company, Montigny Investments Limited, an amount estimated to be over E200 000.

The female clerk, who is accused of defrauding the timber company, is based at the Nhlengano branch. The name of the officer is known to this publication but has been deliberately withheld pending finalisation of the on-going investigations.

Sources close to the matter informed this publication that the officer was busted last week after intensive investigations. However, she is said to have tendered her resignation on Monday while investigations were still underway.

The source informed this publication that the under-fire officer was responsible for handling domestic small scale sales cash and petty cash. This means she was the one who was



Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg.

receiving cash for all items bought in the farm by locals in small scales not bulk.

An example is buying treated polls, sawdust, to name a few. It is said she

was the one receiving such monies.

"Investigations are on-going; they have not been concluded yet. It is not clear how she defrauded the company and how much exactly she took but

so far reports suggests that it is over E200 000," an impeccable source said.

The source went on to state that the suspected lady has been with the company for not more than five years.

It is suspected that the alleged fraudster took large sums of money per day. However, it is yet not clear how she was busted as information is still scarce pending the investigations.

Montigny Investments Limited Executive Director Andrew le Roux confirmed that the company was investigating suspected fraud at its Nhlengano branch. However, the executive director could neither confirm nor deny if the money amounted to E200 000. "The investigation is on-going," le Roux said.

He went on to state that Montigny has a zero tolerance policy on theft and fraud. He added that in the event that the investigation indicates criminal activity, criminal charges would be preferred against the suspect.

According to the company's website, Montigny Investments Limited

is a Swazi-owned and operated diversified timber company.

Founded in 1997 by entrepreneur Rijkenberg, Montigny has grown from a small family business into the largest private timber owner-operator in Southern Africa, with a turnover in excess of E1 billion.

The company services approximately 40 per cent of the regional wet-off-saw timber market, and has diverse timber-trading interests in South Africa, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, Angola, Zambia and Japan.

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It is not clear how she defrauded the money and how much exactly she took but so far reports suggests that it is over E200 000

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR SERVICE @ Mandvulo Grand Hall



The praise team rendering a performance during the beginning of the year service held at Mandvulo Grand Hall yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Police Male Voice Choir rendering their performance, which uplifted Their Majesties and the congregation at large.



Some of the people who came through to present different gifts to His Majesty on the day.



Princess Mazwezu and her team reciting verses at the service.



Princess Buhlebetive rendering a song while backed by the praise team.



Mvuzo Mamba and businessman Lucky Slomo Dlamini, who is the director of Slomo's Corporation, captured as they leave Mandvulo after the service.



Senator Chief Nzameya Nhlabatsi gestures during his conversation with Minister Lady Howard-Mabuza after the service.

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Cabinet ministers, senators and some of the congregants who attended the service share pleasantries after proceedings of the day.



Bishop Stephen Masilela meeting Minister of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe after the service.



Former DPM Paul Dlamini following proceedings of the event.



Umbutfo Gcobisa, Senzo Dlamini and Banele Dlamini in song as they seem to enjoy proceedings of the service.



Ngwane College Principal Dr Amos Mahlalela and Prophet Gcina Mthethwa were among the many prominent people present at the service.



Minister Harries 'Madze' Bulunga, Speaker Petros Mavimbela, King's Office Chief Officer Chief Mgwagwa Gamedze and Minister Makhosi Vilakati were also among the many executives present at the service.



Prince Lonkhokhela shares a moment with Setsabile Tsabedze, Banele Dlamini and Reverend Shortgun Simelane after the service.



Members of the Royal family also came through to join the King and the nation in prayer.



Legislators, community leaders and senior officers from government and security forces glued to the stage.



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Mom dumps 13-month-old sickly toddler, demands him 13 years later

STORIES BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

A mother who dumped a 13-month-old child at her boyfriend's parental homestead has returned 13 years later to demand the child's full custody.

The child was born in 2005 and his name and that of his parents are known to this publication, but are withheld to protect the minor. Furthermore, the matter is set to be argued in court on March 25, 2018.

The father of the child is a member of Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF), while the mother is a textile firm worker in one of the companies in South Africa. She also claimed to be from that country.

In an interview, the child's mother *Thoko said she was forced by her baby's (*Sanele) father's (*Menzi) family to dump the child in 2007.

"My baby dad's family first took Sanele when he was eight months old. They said I should bring him because he was sickly. At the time, they felt they would take care of him better than me," she explained.

Refused

A month later, when she returned to get her child, Sanele's grandmother is said to have refused with him and phoned Menzi to alert him that the mother of his child had come to fetch the child.

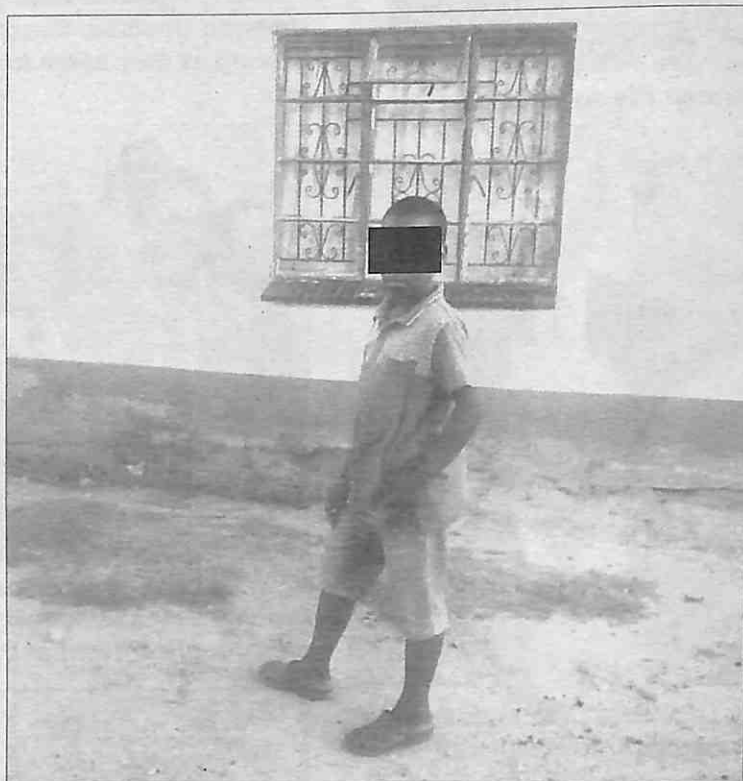
Thoko alleged that when Menzi arrived, he assaulted her so badly that Sanele's grandmother had to intervene. Thereafter, in August 2006, Thoko reported the matter to Mliba police, who are said to have forcefully taken the child from Menzi's homestead after getting a court order from a Manzini magistrate.

Months passed by, the matter appeared at the Magistrate's Court and the magistrate ordered that an assessment should be done in both families to determine which family could better raise Sanele.

The assessment ruled in favour of Menzi, however, the magistrate ordered that Sanele would be released from the mother's custody after Menzi had paid damages as per Eswatini laws and culture.

Menzi was also ordered to contribute E300 maintenance fee monthly.

- she now alleges the child is abused by his father
- she claims magistrates, welfare officers are corrupt
- child's father denies paternity but won't surrender him until he is 18



***Sanele the boy whom his parents are fighting over his custody. (Courtesy pic)**

Tension

Sanele continued to be indisposed and tension between the families continued. Thoko's family agreed that he (Sanele) should be taken to Menzi's family as they felt there was no cooperation over payment of Sanele's medical bills.

"I visited Sanele twice; thereafter, they refused me contact with my child, so I stopped visiting him. I counselled myself that I would never see Sanele again; then I left for South Africa as my father is from that side. "In September last year while away, I received numerous reports that Sanele was being abused by his father," she expanded.

Thoko said the reports she received were that Sanele suffered abuse after Menzi had divorced his wife and moved in with another girlfriend. Thoko alleged that Sanele was forced not to mingle with other children in the area.

She added that the girlfriend would set Sanele against his father, by planting missing things in the house like money in Sanele's bags. The father would then allegedly heavily assault Sanele for dishonesty.

"Through the beatings, Sanele suffered a gaping wound in the head and

”

I visited Sanele twice; thereafter they refused me contact with my child, so I stopped visiting him. I counselled myself that I would never see Sanele again

mouth. Sanele is no longer doing well at school as the abuse had disturbed him so much that he is still doing Grade Three at 14 years old," mourned Thoko.

Towards the end of 2018, Thoko sent his relatives to Menzi's family to enquire about the allegations. However, a meeting between Menzi and Thoko's families failed to yield positive results, as two days after the meeting they got a call which summoned them to the Magistrate's Court. The magistrate is said to have issued a restraining order against Thoko's family and further told the relatives that they should stay away from Sanele until he's 18 years old.

She said what made things worse was that Menzi has reportedly hidden Sanele, as no one knows his whereabouts. She feared for her child's life and asked the publication to pursue the matter.

When contacted, Menzi disputed abuse allegations stating that the child was kept in a safe place. He said Thoko had in the past failed to honour about four court summons to discuss the matter in 2006.

Indisposed

He went on to state that when Thoko brought the child to him, he was indisposed and could not eat for two days. Menzi argued that ever since Thoko dumped Sanele when he was 13 months old, she had never checked on him (Sanele).

She accused Thoko of keeping hold of Sanele's birth card.

He confirmed that last year, he met Thoko's relatives and told them that he was surprised that they wanted to see the child as they had been away from his life for the past 14 years.

Menzi said he went to report the matter to the court, which eventually gave him a court order stating that Thoko and his family should stay out of the child's life until further notice. "She is saying that my neighbours had informed her that Sanele was being abused and he had disappeared. I'm just wondering how come after all these years was she feeling pity for Sanele. She has been sending me messages that she wants back the child," Menzi narrated.

NB: *Not their real names to protect the minor.

DNA revealed the boy is not my child - father

The 14-year-old boy's father has made a stunning revelation that he is not the child's father.

Menzi said he was aware Sanele is not his baby as he did a DNA test at Jozini in 2012, which came out negative. He said this was explained by the fact that the baby mama did not want a new DNA test conducted.

Therefore, Menzi said in as much as he was aware that Sanele was his child, but he wants to keep him until he is 18 years old.

He said this was because Sanele in his entire life only knows him, not his mother so he believed that keeping him away from Thoko would be best for the child. Menzi mentioned that it would be after turning 18 when Sanele would decide if he wants to go with Thoko or not.

Rumours

Menzi alleged that he heard rumours that after Sanele was born, Thoko also claims two other men as Sanele's fathers.

He claimed that part of the 13 months when Sanele was with Thoko, she disappeared for nine months.

"I want the real father of Sanele to come and get him (Sanele), I won't even ask for a refund for raising the child. The reason she refused to surrender Sanele's birth card was that it contains such details. I would only release Sanele to be in his rightful father's custody," he expanded.

Magistrates, social welfare officers corrupt - baby mama

Thoko said while trying to win back custody of the child, she witnessed serious corruption from magistrates and social welfare officers.

Thoko made an example that at one instance, an officer from the social welfare department failed to assist her or to even set up a meeting between her and Menzi.

Thoko alleged that the officer only told her to take the matter to the High Court. Thoko felt the officer said this as a means of stopping her from demanding the child back, as she could not afford to hire an attorney.

Order

She added that in an attempt to win back the child, she went to the Manzini Magistrate's Court to acquire an order which would enable her to gain custody of the child.

She said the magistrate who ordered that they should not be allowed to see the child for 18 years did not handle the case well, as parties were not allowed to bring their arguments to help on decide the matter.

She also suspected foul play on the restraining order which was issued by the magistrate, as her relatives were never served with such.

NB: *Not real names to protect the minor



The High Court of Eswatini, where Thoko claims she was referred to.

Botswana President Masisi's Eswatini relatives unmasked

...Masisi has in-laws at Lawuba in the Shiselweni region

STORIES BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

President of Botswana Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi frequents visiting the country to visit, among other relatives, his brother-in-law, the publication can disclose. Dr Masisi is the fifth President of the Republic of Botswana.

He has also served as Minister of Education in that country since 2014. Previously, he was Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration from 2011 to 2014. He was first elected to Parliament in 2009.

He visited the country on May 17, 2018 soon after he was inaugurated in April. During his visit, the president mentioned that he had relatives in the coun-



President of Botswana Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi.

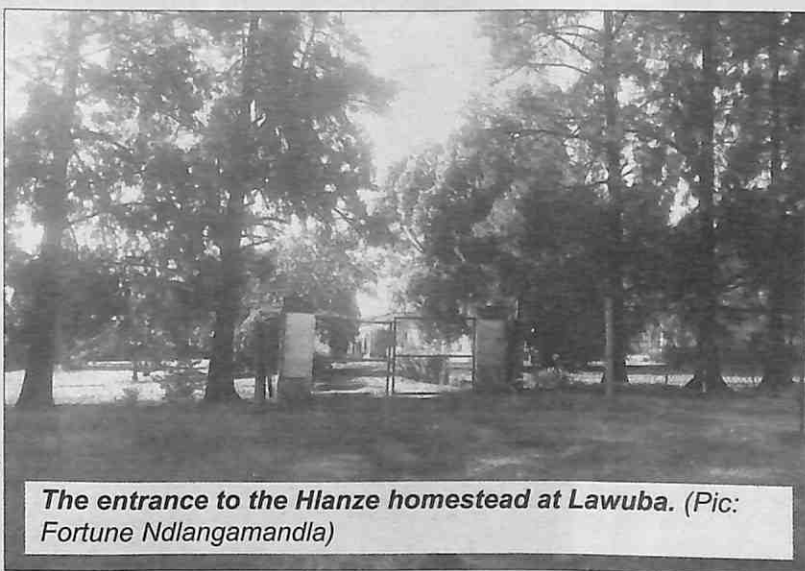
try. He went on to mention that even some members of his family had been in the country visiting the relative who was not disclosed at that time.

Investigations by the publication has unearthed that the relative he was referring to was his brother-in-law Derrick Hlanze's family.

Hlanze is married to Masisi's elder sister. There are two other siblings in the family of four.

When contacted, Hlanze confirmed knowing President Masisi but said protocol does not allow him to discuss the matter with the media.

Both countries apparently advised Masisi's relatives to keep away from the media or not to discuss the president



The entrance to the Hlanze homestead at Lawuba. (Pic: Fortune Ndlangamandla)

He then declined to entertain any questions that were posed to him, emphasising that protocol does not permit him to respond.

The publication understands that since the story of Masisi's relatives was pursued, there have been numerous meetings to discuss if it was okay to disclose the identities of the president's relatives.

Both countries apparently advised Masisi's relatives to keep away from the media or not to discuss the president.

Be that as it may, information obtained by this newspaper suggests that Hlanze is from one of the rural areas in the Shiselweni region called Lawuba.

Lawuba is a few kilometres away from Hlatikulu town.

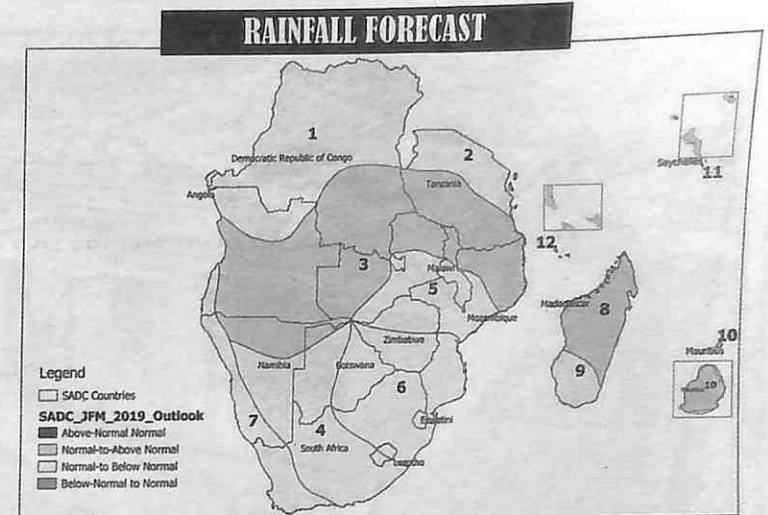
Hlanze's homestead is near Mashayekhatsi, just metres away from Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku's parental homestead. Another powerful figure from the same area is Chief Justice (CJ) Bheki Maphalala.

It was gathered that the two spend most of their time in South Africa while they also own a residence around Mbabane. "However, they spend more time in South Africa," a source said.

The source further informed the publication that Hlanze and his wife met in the early 80s while studying at the University of Eswatini (UNESWA), Kwaluseni. The two have three children from their marriage.

"They got married around 1982 if I am not mistaken," a source said.

Furthermore, the source also said the president and his family have been in and out of the country numerous times. This includes President Masisi's parents and his grandmother, who used to reside at Lawuba.



Rains to continue this month

STORIES BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

According to the 2018-2019 regional seasonal climate forecast, rains are expected to continue even next month.

The ministry of agriculture has, therefore, urged farmers to plant alternative crops.

In the 2017/2018 rainfall season, rains resumed in late January, with the region receiving heavy rainfall with associated floods and flash floods in Zambia, northern Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Eswatini and Lesotho in February and March 2018.

Overall, the SADC region received normal rainfall during the first half of the last rainfall season (October - December 2017).

However, parts of Namibia, western South Africa and northern DRC received below-normal rainfall.

Pockets of Angola, Zambia and Mozambique, as well as most of Madagascar, experienced above-normal rainfall.

An extended dry spell from late December 2017 to late January 2018 over central parts of the region was associated with extremely high temperatures.

Reacting to the developments, Sifiso Nzalo, from the Swaziland

Meteorological Service Department, said rains are expected to continue in the coming months.

Nzalo said during their earlier predictions, the department stated that rains were expected to continue as normal like in previous years.

"There were chances that the rains would be less as of January to March. Normal rainfalls are also expected to continue as normal from March to May. Chances are there that the rains may decrease," Nzalo explained.

He highlighted that the department would in March compile a substantive report for January to March to determine if the rains were normal or they decreased.

Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza, when contacted on advice to farmers, said farmers should plant alternative crops like beans, jujube, to name a few.

Mabuza stated that farmers should not be reluctant to plant alternative crops as the ministry wishes that the country could have excess products so some could be sold.

"Generally, we encourage farmers to plant but the farmers should be wise and plough relevant crops. Those with irrigation systems should plant everything as long as they would be able to irrigate them," he said.

'Continue harvesting water'

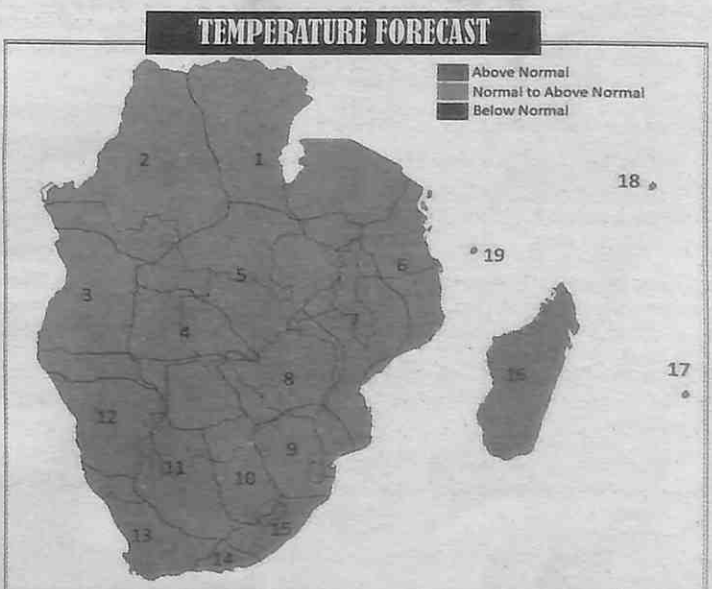
Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza encouraged Emaswati to practice water harvesting as rains continue to pour.

He said those capable of harvesting water should do so while every homestead should use water

sparingly.

Minister Mabuza gave an example of using bath water to irrigate crops in a homestead.

He went on to state that his wish was that every homestead should at least have one crop which they would grow to sell.



President Masisi to visit Lawuba this year

Information gathered by the publication from those close to Derrick Hlanze's family suggests that Botswana President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi is expected to visit Lawuba again this year.

During a visit at Lawuba on Tuesday afternoon, a family member who asked not to be named said even though he was not certain of the date, but he was aware that President Masisi was expected to make a visit to the Hlanze home-

stead before the end of the year.

He went on to state that last year on Christmas Day, they were also told that he was supposed to visit the homestead. However, due to undisclosed reasons, that visit never occurred.

"We have to do some touch ups here and there before the president could come," an individual said.

The individual added that Hlanze was expected to make a stop at Lawuba on Wednesday.

He expected that Hlanze would share more information on Masisi's expected visit this year.

On the other hand, Hlanze politely declined to discuss the president's visit, noting that sharing such information with the media had a potential of ruining the anticipated visit.

He said such information was classified because of the status of the president and thus cannot be shared with the media.



The roof of the house collapsed after a raging fire which was caused by a neglected candle used during a power outage at Senator Cleopas Dlamini's house in Thembelihle on Friday evening.



Part of the house which remained untouched.

Candle **burns** Cleopas' home to cinders

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

A house belonging to former Public Service Pensions Fund Chief Executive Officer Senator Cleopas Dlamini was burnt to ashes on Friday night.

According to a care-taker who was found trying to make sense of the charcoal chaos at the Thembelihle home, the fire started in the children's bedroom. "They told me that the fire started in the children's bedroom after a candle fell," Masotja Simelane said.

He stated that there was no electricity during the course of the night

and candles were used as a source of light. "No one was injured as they were able to flee the blaze," he said.

A visit to the house by this publication yesterday morning revealed the extent of the inferno which burnt over 50 per cent of the house. Rooms affected included the garage, living room, kitchen, bathrooms and bedrooms.

A sister to the senator's partner was found at the house but she could not be drawn into commenting, save to say that all occupants left the house unscathed.

Simelane stated that there were two children who were in the house at the

time of the blaze, along with adults. It, however, could not be ascertained if the senator was in the house as well when the fire started.

Neighbouring residents said there was still no electricity yesterday morning and the outage was blamed on a nearby transformer malfunctioning on Friday afternoon.

Attempts to reach the senator failed as he did not respond to calls made to his cellular phone yesterday.

On the other hand, police officers who arrived at the scene as this publication's news team was leaving, said they were yet to investigate.



The kitchen was left with fallen water pipes as well as roofing tiles.



The garage which housed this vehicle as well as a washing machine was not spared.



Some parts of the house, such as the living room as well as the main bedroom, seem to have been spared.

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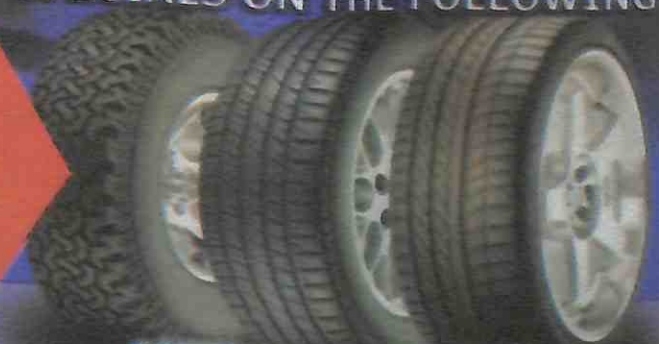
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Some of the roofing tiles which fell on the abandoned vehicle.



The kitchen cupboards told the grim tale of the extent of the fire.




The heat of the inferno dislodged tiles from the walls in the kitchen.




The bedroom where the fire started had some smouldering piles on the floor.

The passage leading to the kitchen and living room was left in this condition following the blaze on Friday night.



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 TENDER NO10 OF 2018/2019
 SWAZILAND FIVE STAR HOTEL
 FIRE SEALING INSTALLATION SUBCONTRACT



KISS JOINT VENTURE

SWAZILAND FIVE STAR HOTEL

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Tender No.10 of 2018/19
The Engineer
Site Office
Ezulwini,
Swaziland

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

Ex-Army Brigadier General indisposed for three years

STORIES BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

Former Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) Brigadier General Cyprian Sipho Nhlengethwa has been indisposed for about three years.

He is husband to Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU) Vice-Chancellor Professor Winnie Nhlengethwa.

Brigadier General Nhlengethwa retired from the army on June 1, 2015.

This publication visited the former army general at his homestead at Gundwini, Ntabamhloshana. It was during the visit where Nhlengethwa confirmed that he has been sick since his retirement.

At Nhlengethwa's homestead, the news crew was attended to by the ex-army officer's relative, who said Nhlengethwa was his uncle (*babe lomkhulu*). The news crew was taken inside the house where Brigadier Nhlengethwa was found sitting on a couch watching television.

Nhlengethwa agreed to do an interview with this publication and further said he had no problem with his photo being taken. The former brigadier suffered a stroke which rendered his right side of the body ineffective. Moreover, the ex-army officer also lost his speech due to the sickness.

During the interview, he would use his hands to point parts of his body that were affected by the sickness. The relative also helped to clarify where clarity was sought.

Nhlengethwa and the relative disputed allegations doing rounds that the ex-army general was being denied



Former Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) Brigadier General Cyprian Sipho Nhlengethwa, who has been sickly for approximately three years, during an interview with this publication at his home. (Pic: Fortune Ndlangamandla).

medical attention by a family member. The relative said the family has been taking the ex-soldier to Mkhivi Clinic for regular check-ups.

The relative also revealed that some UEDF members have been to the homestead to check on their ex-colleague.

Nodded

The last visit was early last year.

Seeing he was willing to proceed with the interview, this publication asked to discuss his sickness with his wife Professor Nhlengethwa as he had lost his speech and he nodded his head in approval.

Professor Nhlengethwa, when con-

tacted, said she needed to get her husband's consent on whether to do the interview or not. At 23:10pm, she texted the reporter saying she was ready to discuss the matter. "Mr Ndlangamandla, you can call for my response as promised. From Prof Nhlengethwa on behalf of Brigadier Nhlengethwa," reads the text message.

However, when called the following morning, the vice-chancellor said her husband had not authorised her to discuss the matter. Therefore, she said she could not discuss the illness with the publication.

Instead, she rushed to alert the

reporter that she was aware of an allegation that there was a family member who was allegedly depriving Brigadier Nhlengethwa medical help.

However, when the publication posed the question to her, she said she could not respond to it. When probed further, she said her husband and the relative responded to the question.

"I think what you got from them is the truth and it won't change from my side. It just stands like that.

I was not happy that the newspaper interviewed my husband about issues pertaining to the country's authorities and me.

Disrespectful

It was inappropriate, disrespectful; I don't know what to call it," the SANU Vice-Chancellor expanded.

It was explained to her that when pursuing the story, the newspaper was not aware of her husband's health condition.

She was further told that the reason the interview was cut short was after seeing Nhlengethwa's health condition.

She went on to state that due to her husband's former position in the army, she could not also discuss allegations that the army was not assisting the retired officer in this time of sickness. "It would be like I'm saying the country's leaders are not taking care of Nhlengethwa," Prof. Nhlengethwa said.

She said it would be better if her husband was able to respond to the allegations as they touched on the army. She advised the publication to discuss the matter further with the army. She refused to give details of

Army willing to help Nhlengethwa

Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) has confirmed that they were aware of retired Brigadier General Cyprian Sipho Nhlengethwa's illness over the years.

This was said by army's Public Relations Officer (PRO) Lieutenant Tengetile Khumalo when responding to questions from this publication. "Brigadier General Nhlengethwa retired on the 1st of June 2015. Yes, Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force is aware that General Nhlengethwa is indisposed," Lieutenant Khumalo said.

When asked what has the army had done as means of assisting the ailing brigadier general, Khumalo said the defence force has always supported sickly individuals, including Nhlengethwa. She added that the UEDF regularly sends a team to check on him.

Denying

On the circulating news that there was a family relative that was denying Brigadier General Nhlengethwa medical help, Khumalo said the defence force was not aware of such.

"Moreover, UEDF cannot poke its nose into personal matters that need the attention of the family council (*Iusendvo*)," she said.

Nevertheless, Lieutenant Khumalo said if the brigadier general needs medical assistance, he can visit Phocweni Military Clinic.

She said the clinic has a team of experienced doctors and nurses who can assist him. However, she clarified that he was free to attend any clinic and hospital of his choice.

when her husband fell sick and further declined to state when he retired from the army.

167 homesteads mushrooming on govt farms

BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

Shiselweni Regional Secretary (RS) Zwakele Dlamini has revealed that there are about 167 mushrooming homesteads in two government farms.

Dlamini was reacting to news that there are residents that could be evicted in the Shiselweni region within communities such as Mashobeni South, Mboshweni, Mvemve, Mahhishini and Hlane, to name a few. Due to the evictions threat reports concerning residents in these areas, Dlamini said there were other government farms at Mhlosheni and Magindzaneni which had mushrooming homesteads.

The farm at Magindzaneni is under the ministry of housing and urban development. Dlamini said about 63 homesteads had mushroomed and feared that more were still mushrooming. "This comes at a time when the residents have been told to stop constructing structures as the land was under government not Swazi Nation Land," Dlamini said.

He went on to state that the farm is kept for future investment purposes. He said the issue of illegal settlers at the farm was once addressed by the region's former Regional Administrator, now Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku. He mentioned that during the 2017 meeting, residents acknowledged that they were aware that they were in a government farm.

Encouraged

"They said they were allocated the land by the royal kraal of that area. We have the records, they said they khonted with cows. This hinders development," Dlamini noted. He encouraged residents near farms to always consult with his office to determine the boundaries of the farms and that of the Swazi Nation Land.

Dlamini stated that the office of the surveyor general had been instrumental in identifying boundaries. He agreed that some of the royal kraals in that region have been allocating people land which was not under their jurisdiction.

He went on to state that government officials who were present during the meeting included him, Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Housing and

Urban Development Clifford Mamba, Director of Housing and Human Settlements Bhethemba Matsebula as well as that ministry's Director of Urban Government Tito Simelane.

Meanwhile, the farm at Mhlosheni is under the ministry of tourism and environmental affairs.

Dlamini said the ministry already had a project underway on the farm. "Only four homesteads were known to the ministry but we recently, together with the surveyor general, visited the farm. The report stated that there were about 104 illegal homesteads now," Dlamini expanded.

He pointed out that the residents claimed that they were allocated the land by their royal kraal.

"What pains us is that we don't believe that the royal kraals are allocating the land to the residents. Royal kraals are given mandates to uphold the country's laws, so we think there are some individuals who were illegally allocating the land," Dlamini explained.

Furthermore, Dlamini said the illegal allocation of land was killing sustainable development as government reserved the farms strictly for business

purposes. He added that the illegal settlers in the farms were now obstructing development.

When asked what exactly would happen to the illegal settlers in the farms who were now holding back development, Dlamini said his office would engage them on the way forward. He mentioned that parties involved would have to find an amicable agreement which would be fair to the settlers' human rights.

Agreement

He said his office, together with that of the surveyor general, was yet to conduct and compile findings which would reveal how many people were illegally settling on government farms in that region.

He was optimistic that both parties would reach a mutual agreement which would not result in the settlers being evicted. He hoped that should there be a need that some be relocated; the terms and conditions would be stipulated in the agreement. Meanwhile, there are currently two well-known forestry companies in the Shiselweni region, which are Montigny Investments Limited and Shiselweni Forestry Company (SFC).

”

Only four homesteads were known to the ministry but we recently together with the surveyor general visited the farm, the report stated that there were about 104 illegal homesteads now

A new proposed forestry company, known as Silulu Agric Forestry, is on the cards.

The company reportedly began operations on a small scale last year. It is said that it has been going around the country marking boundaries, especially targeting idle government farms.

Furthermore, reports suggest that Silulu Agri Forestry is set to merge with Shiselweni Forestry Company.

Montigny Investments Limited was founded by Finance Minister Neal Rijkenberg in 1997.

When failure is not an option

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Falling a hundred times does not count as long as one is able to rise above each hurdle.

Nothando Thandeka Dlamini (23) believes so much in happy endings that the disappointments that come in between are of no consequence, as long as she dusts herself off and rises above them.

The self-assured young lady from Sidvashini in Emvembili has her dreams set in the skies.

The former Timphisini High pupil has just completed Form Five and received her results with which she hopes to apply for a course which will enable her to become an air traffic controller, even though her first love would have been a career in civil aviation.

Presenting

Despite the several As and Bs, she is not content because she believes she could have done better.

"I was aiming for As in most of my subjects because I understand that excelling in education opens many doors," she says, while emphasising that society calls for one to have some sort of education in order to be taken seriously.

Nothando lost her father in 1997 when she was merely two years old.

She then alternated between her mother who lives in Msunduzi and grandmother who lives in Jeppesreef in South Africa.

Due to the more stable environment presenting itself in Jeppes, she



Nothando Thandeka Dlamini.

enrolled at a school within the area bordering Matsamo where her mother tried over the years to ensure she remained in school.

In 2015 when she was doing her matric, a new problem presented itself as she needed to get a South African identity document or a study permit in order to write her final examinations.

Holding on to a conviction that she had to complete her education in order to succeed, she wrote the trial examination and hoped something would come up and enable her to write her final exam.

She, however, had to postpone her dreams; "I had to leave the school before the final exams because I did not have the necessary documents to be properly registered."

Fulfil

She returned to the country in 2016 after all attempts to write failed and she utilised the hiatus to try and make strides towards her dream.

Holding on to her dream of hoping to complete, she rallied on and held on to the hope to fulfil her childhood fantasies of working with airplanes.

"When I was young, whenever I

was sked as to what I wanted to be when I grew up, I always said I would fix airplanes."

This dream called for her to respond to a vacancy for mechanics' interns within the Matsapha Airport. "If it meant being employed to carry tools for mechanics, I was going to do it," she says as this would be her ticket to getting where her heart was, civil aviation. At the same time, she made way to the army headquarters where she tried to find out if they could offer her any assistance seeing as her father worked within the force before died.

"They could not help me in any

way," she says.

As she left the offices dejected, a concerned soldier advised her to try her luck with former senator Walter Bennett. "I contacted and assured him that all I wanted was a chance to complete my education as I was determined," says Nothando.

Despite fearing rejection, she garnered enough courage to relay her tale and how she had to drop out of school because of lack of documentation.

Disappointment

She sought to be enrolled in schools within Mbabane to no avail. However, she later found a place at Timphisini Central High. There, she started her Form Four after schools opened and had to catch up.

"For the very first time in my life I failed a subject as per my first term results," she says, adding how this was a disappointment as she had always managed to ace her examinations.

The move to Timphisini necessitated for her to move to her maternal grandmother's home. Her determination was rewarded as more assistance was forthcoming in the form of her uncle (father's younger brother) who assisted her regularly when it came to her needs such as bus fare, whereas Bennett paid for her school fees.

Looking at other people's experiences assisted her accept that it would not always be rosy as one trudged towards success.

"You have to work hard for success."

Failing English spurred her to write

One of Nothando's hobbies is writing scripts which she hopes to one day produce.

Every drama series she pens is set in the country as she believes there is potential to improve the entertainment industry locally.

"I started to read after I failed English for the first time during the 2016 first term results." Thereafter, she got interested in writing her own material which came about due to her fertile imagination.

ination.

She carries with her a book within which she writes all her ideas which come naturally because she is observant and curious to know about the lives of the people she meets.

"The biggest lesson I learnt from my teachers is that if you keep practising, you will succeed. So I keep writing everything that comes to my mind and hopefully an award winning show will one day come out of it."

A year can make a huge difference

It took Nothando eight years to complete her high school education even though she has never repeated a class.

As encouragement to her peers who might feel they are too old to remain within the school system, she says it is important to recognise that 12 months might seem long, but it is only one year, a very short time within which one can make a huge difference and regain their lives.

"Forget about all other disturbances

and focus on God only as He makes all things possible."

She recalls how she would fall seriously sick during the academic year and would be deterred from carrying on but persisted because of her determination to succeed.

This year, she is determined to knock at every door while looking for a scholarship.

Her goal is to go to Latvia if she can where she has heard there are good aviation schools.

”

She recalls how she would fall seriously sick during the academic year and would be deterred from carrying on but because of her determination to succeed

Hope for Nakile as debilitating tumour removed

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

She is upbeat and positive.

Nakile Myeni (12) is hoping for the best after the tumour which made her unable to raise her head from weakness has been removed.

The young girl was first featured by this publication after she was 'forgotten' despite being prepared for theatre where a biopsy was to be performed on a tumour which was on her neck.

The girl from Ezindwendweni had

been promised the procedure slated for December 5 and this called for her to have her last meal on the day before and fast in preparation for surgery.

This was not to be as she was 'forgotten' and only when her mother alerted nurses that she was hungry more than 24 hours after her last meal, was she told to eat as it seemed her operation had been deferred to a later date.

She stayed in the hospital until she was discharged and told to return later because the only specialist who

could operate on her was away on annual leave as the doctor would return on December 23.

On Friday, when her mother Zandile Maziya was contacted, she said her daughter was on the mend.

"The tumour was removed, and we are set to return to the hospital next month," she said.

The family is currently at Siphofaneni and when this publication spoke to Nakile, she sounded excited as she said she is now able to turn her head without the excruciating pain she felt.

"I am able to move my head aunty," Nakile said with excitement.

She is now looking forward to recovering and returning to school.

"We have been told that there is a huge possibility that she has cancer and we are just hoping that it is not and that she is completely healed," said her mother, adding that they were waiting for the February check-up and the report on the what composed the tumour. With the tumour removed, Nakile said she was now waiting to be given an all's clear as she is determined to become a nurse.



Nakile Myeni before the operation.

PUBLIC SECTOR ASSOCIATIONS **DELIVER** PETITIONS



A section of members of the public sector associations marching past the Nkhotfotjeni Building on their way to deliver petitions to different ministries and departments on Friday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



The workers also presented a petition to the police, which was received by senior police officer Mumsy Dlamini, among others.



Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) General Secretary Sibusiso Lushaba presenting a petition to Labour and Social Security PS Thulani Mkhali.



Ministry of Education PS Dr Sibongile Mtshali receiving a petition from SNAT General Secretary Sikelela Dlamini.



SNAT General Secretary Sikelela Dlamini reading a petition before it was delivered to representatives of the SA High Commission.

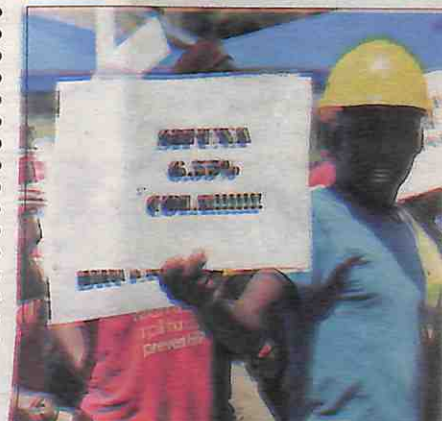


Part of the action during the march as the workers did the famous toyi-toyi.



There was a strong presence of security forces to ensure a peaceful march.

THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL



EC MINISTRIES TO BUILD MULTI-MILLION CHURCH, CLINIC

...We trust in God that we will receive more support from the business community and individuals for us to realise our goal. We are also grateful for the support we received from the many companies who made pledges and also bought tables on the night

SIMON SHABANGU

The Evangelistic Crusaders (EC) Ministries International wants to build a multi-million Emalangeni auditorium, a clinic and a school, church Founder Bishop Musa Mbingo has said.

Mbingo said they are currently in a fundraising drive to get funds to start the project, which he said will not only benefit church members but the people around Matsapha and beyond.

They will also benefit from the services to be offered by the facilities.

Speaking during an interview during a fundraising dinner they hosted at a marquee planted next to the Matsapha Airport on Saturday night, he said the priority is the clinic, which he said if all goes according to plan it should be finished by the end of the year.

He said they decided to prioritise on the clinic because they have seen the need, with Matsapha being a densely populated area, there is high demand for health services.

Support

"The funds we raised at the dinner will help us to kick-start the project, which will not only help the church but will also help the community around Matsapha where our headquar-



Bishop Musa Mbingo welcoming guests at the fundraising dinner in Matsapha last Saturday night. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

ters is based. "We trust in God that we will receive more support from the business community and individuals for us to realise our goal. We are also grateful for the support we received from the many companies who made pledges and also bought tables on the night," he said.

He said their next project will be the church, which he said they want to make it a first world structure, which will fit well with the on-going development across the country. He said their target is to have the structure complete by year

2023, stating that they have secured the land where the projects will be built. He noted that so far the response they are receiving is positive, noting that even pastors from different churches are extending financial support, something which they appreciate a lot as a church. "We encourage companies and individuals to continue supporting us because these are big projects, which will require lots of funds. I must add that the church is also heavily involved and making contributions towards the projects. We will have more fundraising initiatives and we

hope the nation will continue to support us," he said.

On the night of the event held on the way to the airport, the gathering was treated to word of God by the bishop and other guest preachers.

They were also treated to music ministry by Botswana Gospel artist Tshepo Lesole, who is an SABC Crown Gospel Awards Best of Africa nominee, as well as local 'golden boy' of the gospel music Linda Dlamini, who was well received by the audience.



Sisters Winile and Thandeka Matsenjwa decided to go traditional for the night.



Sibongile Dube seated with Bishop Mbingo's mother Sarah, who was a special guest at the event.



Gospel Life Sanctuary International Pastor Andile Hlophe and his wife Tebesuthu were also at the dinner.



Khulile Ntshalintshali and her husband, Sizwe, joined by Bareng Leipego as they were dressed up for the night.



Friends capturing the moment as they awaited the start of formalities of the day.



Pastors Elijah Dlamini, Wonderboy Khumalo and Fannie Sihlongonyane sharing a light moment as they also came through to support one of their own.

Bishop Musa Mbingo and his wife looking great at the dinner.



BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

This past week, I attended my very first comedy show in the country and I have to say that I was very impressed.

Well, the comedy night was 'back to school themed' and I later learnt that a part of the proceedings, which were made, were to be donated to school children for buying sanitary pads.

I took some time to rate the performances of some of the comedians

Mdura – He was exceptional, especially as the MC. Has a great stage presence and he was interacting with the audience the whole night.

What I didn't like was when he pleaded with the audience not to take videos because the comedians might repeat the jokes. What? I couldn't believe it. That is just straightforward undermining of your audience.

Repeating jokes in the Kingdom of Eswatini. What Mdura and co have to understand is that this country has a population of about 1.2 million people, so the one person who attends your show this week and enjoys it is probably going to be the very same person who attends it next week and looks for a different experience. That's a challenge to them as comedians to make sure that they always get new material because that's just the market. Why repeat jokes? Does that mean you are disregarding the person who watched your show the last time and only entertaining the one who is only seeing you for the first time on stage. They should stop being lazy and make jokes. They rather repeat jokes on gigs outside the country not locally, there's no excuse comedians y'all are offside for repeating jokes in this country, it's too small of a population.

Rating – 8/10

Solly – What an interesting set. He was hilarious and the way he introduced the sex and weed jokes was just great. He can obviously do better with his stage presence though, because still looks just a tad nervous, but that's something he can work on. I hope to see more of him, and I hope he won't repeat the very jokes.

Rating – 7.5/10

Mandy – It was really great to finally see the only female comedian doing her thing. Not only is she down to earth, but is as jolly in person, so I was really looking forward to her set after meeting her

Rating – 7/10

MAIN INTERVIEW



BACK TO SCHOOL COMEDY NIGHT REVIEWS

Ndosh – Great role-play for him to come through as the principal and his jokes subscribed to that. He knew he set was 10 minutes long though, and I felt he should have panned more on his time, because he only managed to throw in about three solid jokes and the deejay was cutting him. The DJ also should have found better means of letting the comedians know that their time was done, not to rudely interrupt them on stage the way he did.

Rating – 7/10

Emcee da comedian – This was also a very interesting set. Nothing really stood out from his set, but he did well. It was a satisfactory performance.

Rating – 6/10

Dr Shakes – The local meme king has been said to be boring on stage, but he proved me otherwise on Thursday. He arguably had the best intro on the night and if that was from the top, the young man is an exceptional comedian. He, however lost his steam as he continued and some people among the audience complained about him repeating a joke I really liked. He is great though, and he is innovative in his memes, I see no reason why he can't keep on coming up with new jokes. His

backstage. She does have good jokes, but nerves get the better of her. There's nothing funny about a comedian with a funny joke, but says it nervously. She needs more stage presence, and must calm down and be herself. You can do it Mandy, just take a deep breath before going on stage and own it.

Rating – 6.5/10

Elfoe – The Eswatini TV man did what I call classic comedy. Engage the crowd and make them relate. Stories about his father and family cracked everyone up and more so because everyone could relate to it, which made his set are enjoyable.

stage presence also has to be applauded. I'm looking forward to his one-man show at Solani's this month, I was impressed.

Rating – 8/10

Giyani – His dress code was well thought of, the less privileged but jolly fellow at school, and it fitted him. His jokes were also on point, and he had really improved from what I saw about a year back. Absolutely loved his set as the closing act.

Rating – 8/10

Elfoe – The Eswatini TV man did what I call classic comedy. Engage the crowd and make them relate. Stories about his father and family cracked everyone up and more so because everyone could relate to it, which made his set are enjoyable.

Rating – 8/10



THE HEART'S INTENTIONS

BY MUKELO TEMBE

Lives fall apart when we need to be rebuilt. It takes a lot more courage to let something go than it does to hang on to it, trying to make it better. Letting go doesn't mean ignoring a situation. Letting go means accepting what is, exactly as it is, without fear, resistance or a struggle for control.

If someone has offended you, insulted you, or disappointed you, let it go! If you are remembering all the ways you have been hurt or forgotten, let it go! Ask yourself, what good does it do for me to hold on to this?

If you should encounter angry or unkind actions today, take a deep breath, reach deep within and greet the lack of love with love.

Nothing destroys self-worth, self-acceptance and self-love faster than denying what you feel.

Without feelings, you would not know where you are in life. Nor would you know what areas you need to work on. Honour your feelings. Allow yourself to feel them.

In my deepest, darkest moments, what really got me through was a prayer. Sometimes my prayer was 'Help me.' Sometimes a prayer was 'Thank you.' What I've discovered is that intimate connection and communication with my Creator will always get me through because I know my support, my help, is just a prayer away.

Release and detach from every person, every circumstance, every condition, and every situation that no longer serves a divine purpose in your life. All things have a season, and all seasons must come to an end. Choose a new season, filled with purposeful thoughts and activities.

You have a right to say no. Most of us have

very weak and flaccid 'no' muscles. We feel guilty for saying no. We get ostracised and challenged for saying no, so we forget it's our choice. Your 'no' muscle has to be built up to get to a place where you can say, 'I don't care if that's what you want. I don't want that. No.'

You've got to know what your 'thing' is, and you've got to call it a 'thing,' whether it's meanness, nastiness, un-forgiveness, arrogance, ego, resistance, rebelliousness or defiance. Everybody's got a 'thing,' and once you call your 'thing' a 'thing,' we can give it a place to be or dismiss it.

Begin within. If it shows up in your life, it's coming to tell you something about you that you're acting like you don't know. Something about yourself, or your relationship with God.

When we start the day with a spirit of joy, openness, peace and love, we put the universe on alert; we want more of the same.

No matter what is going on in your life today, remember, it is only preparation for better things.

Do not allow yesterday's garbage to influence your experience today. It is unnecessary to punish yourself for being human.

What you tell yourself about yourself, about your life, about your limitations, you will believe.

Each day, focus your attention on what you want. Each day, take one step that will bring you closer to it.

Your life is a reflection of what you believe in. If you really believe something can stop you, it will. All things are possible! The key is to identify what you want, claim it for yourself, and believe that you are worthy to have it.

We must fill our minds with a truth, loud enough to drown out the incessant defeatist voice of the negative ego.

Just do what you do and do it well. Stop worrying about what other people are doing, or what they will say about what you are doing.

You are powerful. Stand up in your power! Embrace your power! Serve the world by bringing your power into your life.

SUNDAY PODIUM

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

IS JUSTICE STILL BEING SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER?

A few years back, this nation got rid of Justice Ramodibedi in a rather conspicuous manner, and now Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala was appointed and tasked with ensuring that justice is not being served to the highest bidder or ranking, but according to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Now, this past week's events during the opening of the High Court, where the CJ and the Law Society of Swaziland (LSS) had a public spat both taking each other head-on, with the LSS President Mandla Mkhwanazi telling the nation that the CJ is corrupt.

Firstly, I'll address the law society. It is very easy to point out someone else's mistakes when you haven't even got your own house in order.

Lawyers in this country have turned the once-noble profession to being a joke, where instead of helping people who seek justice, they crook and milk every last penny out of them.

The LSS knows this but never even once has it made it a priority to get rid of that rot or to make sure that they discipline crooked lawyers, so this coming from them is very rich!

And again, the manner in which they chose to deal with this is funny and proves that they don't mean any good. Why play to the public gallery instead of using the formal and acceptable way of meeting and talking to the CJ?

The opening of the High Court has now turned to be an event where lawyers take on the CJ and we are getting sick and tired because they never substantiate everything that they claim. Their main gripe, amongst other issues, as I understand this time is the CJ's role or interference in the appointment of judges.

The CJ responded by telling lawyers where to get off and told them to come with evidence of their claims, of which the LSS answered by telling us that they do have the evidence, but for some reason, they didn't care to share it.

Why then cause such a hullabaloo if they aren't going to come completely clean with it and show us that the CJ is on foul play. Why such drama? Why make such noise and then do nothing about it? It really doesn't make sense, instead it makes a mockery of the whole justice system.

If they are withholding information that is worth incriminating, especially by the top person in the justice office, then they should come out with the evidence. Or are they plan-

ning on using that as their trump card to get the CJ to bend to their will, which doesn't serve the public's best interest.

WHY NOT COME OUT WITH EVIDENCE THAT PROVES THE CJ'S WRONGDOING?

Attorney General (AG) Chief Sifiso Mashampu Khumalo even came out and told them that the blame game among judicial officers was uncalled for, and he really made sense.

As people in the noble profession, they need to understand their pushing and shoving doesn't help anyone, rather it gets us back, wondering whether we really got rid of the rot when the former CJ left, or was it the face of the rot that left. It makes us as the public worry about whether justice is being served or personal vendettas are being pushed. It makes us wonder whether justice is still being sold!

If they aren't going to come out with the evidence, Mkhwanazi and his lawyers should shut up, and not rile us up as the public, because it simply means they are pushing an agenda of self-justice and we will not allow ourselves to be caught up in their folly games.

Well, to contextualise it to this

section, I decided to opine on this issue after I had a talk with a law student in the country, who was complaining about the lack of support or rather clear system of ensuring that albeit the lack of financial remuneration, the noble profession remains to its main core of what it's supposed to be.

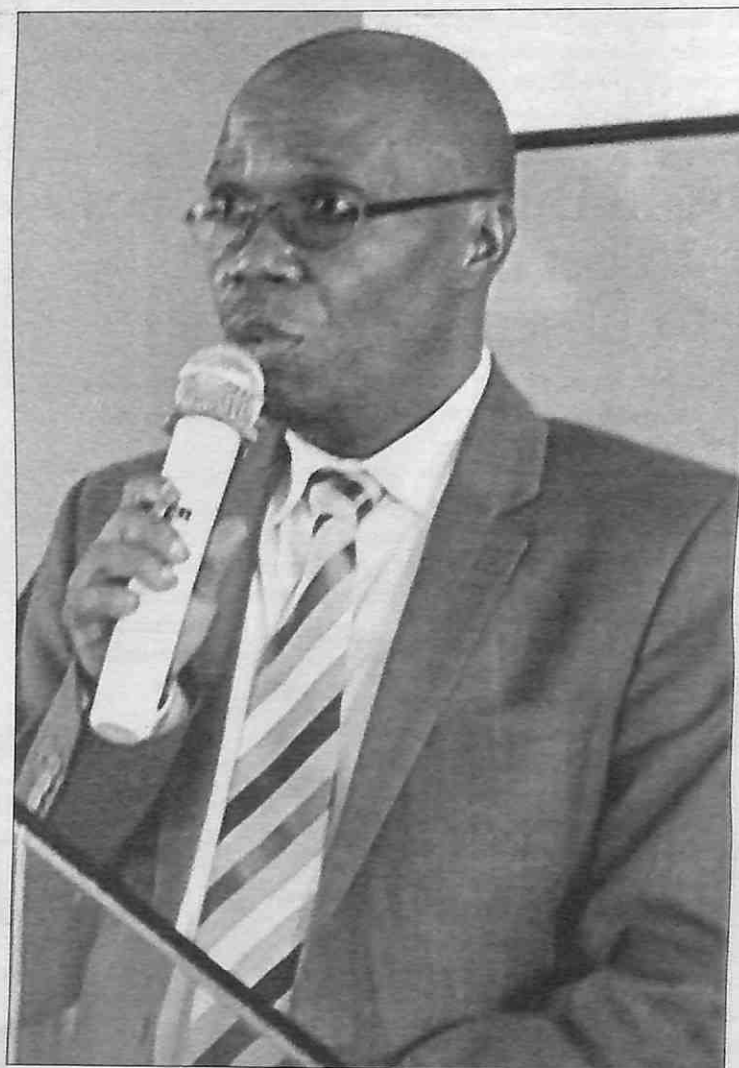
In fact, this young lad was worried as to why the law society wasn't coming clean and assumed that they were trying to 'blackmail and extort' the CJ, and extortion of a public officer is by its nature also a crime.

I feel sorry for the newly-appointed Minister of Justice, Pholile Shakantu because this is a challenge to her.

The citizens do not have faith in the justice system anymore and the people who are working on it are busy playing games with us. She needs to find a way to sort this out because this is looking very messy.

And the pertinent question that pops in my mind is that - were we fooled when the former CJ left and wrongly assumed that he had left with all the rot?

My mother, one of the most honest people you will ever meet, once told me that the opposite of good is bad, and the opposite of justice is injustice - something lawyers are serving this beautiful nation currently.



Law Society of Eswatini President Mandla Mkhwanazi.

You have a right to say no... Your 'no' muscle has to be built up to get to a place where you can say, 'I don't care if that's what you want. I don't want that. No.'

If you want wealth, be wealthy. Talk it. Think it. Prepare yourself to have it.

The process of life is ever guiding you, pushing you, preparing you for the next part of the process.

You know how to make it through the ups and downs; the good times and the hard times. You have done it before. You will do it again!

Everyone has something that blocks us from the full experience and expression of our nobility.

Fear wears so many clever disguises it is virtually impossible to always recognise it. Fear disguises itself as the need to be somewhere else, doing something else, not knowing how to do something or not needing to do something.

Everything that happens to you is a reflection of what you believe about yourself. We cannot out-perform our level of self-esteem. We cannot draw to ourselves more than we think we

are worth.

The only way to get what you really want is to let go of what you don't want.

Changing your life does not always mean you stop doing certain things. It may mean you start doing certain other things. What you really want to do is nurture the attitude that you are open to learning more about yourself. Accepting more about yourself. This is what will inspire you to do something new.

Memories

You can accept or reject the way you are treated by other people, but until you allow the wounds of your past to heal, you will continue to bleed. You can bandage the bleeding with food, with alcohol, with drugs, with work, with cigarettes, with sex, but eventually, it will all ooze through and stain your life. You must find the strength to open the wounds, stick your hands inside, pull out the core of the pain that is holding you to your past, the memories, and make peace with them.

When your life is going downhill, it doesn't get better just because you want it to. Nor can

you wish for it to be better. Your life will only get better when you get better.

Remain open. There is something bigger than you know is going on here.

You can never love anyone to your own detriment. That is not love, that is possession, control, fear, or a combination of them all.

When you have something to do, life will not allow you to move forward until you do it.

The road of life is strewn with the bodies of promising people. People who show promise, yet lack the confidence to act. People who make promises they are unable to keep. People who promise to do tomorrow what they could do today. Promising young stars, athletes, entrepreneurs who wait for promises to come true. Promise without a goal and a plan is like a barren cow. You know what she could do if she could do it, but she can't. Turn your promise into a plan. Make no promise for tomorrow if you are able to keep it today. And if someone calls you promising, know that you are not doing enough today.

When you can look a thing dead in the eye,

acknowledge that it exists, call it exactly what it is, and decide what role it will take in your life then, my Beloved, you have taken the first step toward your freedom.

If you are afraid to take a chance, take one anyway. What you don't do can create the same regrets as the mistakes you make.

Everyone has a purpose because God is a purposeful God. Before you find out who you are, you have to figure out who you aren't.

When you stand and share your story in an empowering way, your story will heal you and your story will heal somebody else.

Act the way you want to be and soon you will be the way you act.

Education does not take place when you learn something you did not know before. Education is your ability to use what you have learned to be better today than you were yesterday.

Everything you have done and been through is valuable and important. In order to be who you are, to know what you know, to be where you are in this moment, you needed to go through what you went through.



Zondo Commission to go after BOSASA, Correctional Services

JOHANNESBURG - Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo has asked the legal team at the State Capture Commission to investigate if BOSASA still enjoys the alleged corrupt relationship with the Department of Correctional Services.

Zondo was shocked by the testimony of former ANC MP Dennis Bloem who also at one point, served as the chairperson, of Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services. Bloem told the inquiry yesterday that the contracts BOSASA had with the department amounted to what he called a money laundering scheme. He told the commission that BOSASA was awarded

a catering contract by the department but inmates still continued to do the cooking while the company was just taking the money.

Zondo says this is worrying. "What we've just heard is worrying in terms of tax payers' money if the evidence we've heard is true."

He says something needs to be done. "I hope that the investigators can urgently establish if that is still the position with regards to the catering contract."

He says if Bloem's evidence is true, urgent steps must be taken by the relevant law enforcement authorities to stop the further plundering of tax payers money.

Eyewitness news

DA in Buffalo City 'hopes to get more support' to unseat Xola Pakati

CAPE TOWN - The Democratic Alliance (DA) in the Buffalo City Metro is hoping to get more support to unseat executive Mayor Xola Pakati.

Thursday's motion of no confidence was postponed to the next council meeting at the end of February.

The other political parties had left the room before the matter came up for debate.

The DA is accusing Pakati of failing to manage some of the wrongdoings that occurred in 2018.

The DA's Kevin Mileham says the mayor did nothing after the South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU) embarked on an illegal strike in 2018, and then acts of criminality, arson and widespread damage to public property started shortly after.

"Part of the problem was that there weren't other political parties in the room, they'd left by the time the matter came up for debate. So, it was agreed to postpone the matter."

Eyewitness News



Debt-ridden Eskom secures R15 billion loan

CCAPE TOWN - Cash-strapped power utility Eskom said on Friday it had secured a R15 billion loan facility with a consortium of local and international lenders.

The loan is guaranteed by the state and will form part of Eskom's current capital expenditure programme.

Eskom's CEO Phakamani Hadebe said it was encouraging that financial markets continued to view the company 'in a positive light' as it tried to achieve financial and operational stability.

Andre Pillay, the company's treasurer, said Eskom had now secured roughly 95 per cent of its R72 billion funding requirement for the current financial year. The remaining five percent

would be secured from various sources, including domestic debt capital markets.

"The conclusion of this facility will ensure that Eskom's liquidity requirements are timeously fulfilled," he said.

Pillay said Eskom had also secured 30 per cent of the funding it needed for the next financial year. *ANA*

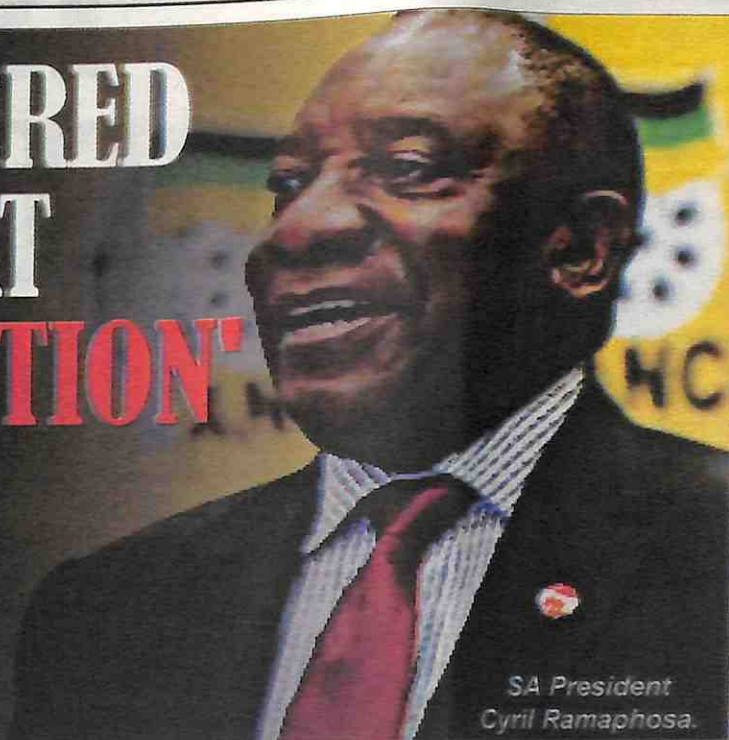
Cash-strapped power utility Eskom said it had secured a R15 billion loan facility with a consortium of local and international lenders.



ANC OFFERED A SHOT AT 'REDEMPTION'

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Let us not be too scared. Let us not be too alarmed, as all these things yield information. It's necessary that we go through this



KIMBERLEY - The litany of commissions of inquiry currently taking place should be seen as a 'moment of redemption' for the ANC, President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Friday night.

He told guests at the ANC Northern Cape fundraising gala dinner in Kimberley that those involved in malfeasance and corruption 'must be man and women enough to stand and be accountable'.

Ramaphosa said these commissions should force people who have done wrong to be accountable to the nation.

"Let us not be too scared. Let us not be too alarmed, as all these things yield information ... It's necessary that we

go through this," Ramaphosa added.

Over the last two weeks, South Africans have witnessed damning revelations that emerged at three separate inquiries headed by the judiciary.

Bribed

The most prominent is the commission of inquiry investigating state capture, headed by Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo. Here, the commission has heard shocking revelations of how some politicians and government officials were bribed for contracts by BOSASA.

At the same time, an inquiry headed by retired judge Yvonne Mokgoro is looking into two senior prosecutors, Nomgcobo Jiba and Lawrence

Mrwebi's fitness to hold office.

Elsewhere, an inquiry into allegations of impropriety at the Public Investment Cooperation is taking place, headed by former president of the Supreme Court of Appeal, Justice Lex Mpati.

Ramaphosa said these commissions would yield moments of redemption.

"These processes are taking us through a catharsis," he said, adding that it was necessary for South Africans to go through it.

The president further noted that the country was going through dramatic changes but reassured that this was part of the renewal of the ANC.

Times Live

Political interference in NPA heard at Mokgoro Commission

JOHANNESBURG - The Mokgoro Commission of Inquiry has continued to hear how the NPA was characterised by political interference and pushing certain prosecutions.

Former state prosecutor in KwaZulu-Natal Simphiwe Mlotshwa testified yesterday how senior officials at the NPA pressured him to carry out certain prosecutions, particularly in the Cato Manor case.

He was one of many witnesses who testified this week at the commission of inquiry into the fitness of advocates Nomgcobo Jiba and Lawrence Mrwebi to hold office.

Mlotshwa has described how he tried to resist pressure from senior officials at the NPA including Jiba but that he was eventually pushed out.

Mlotshwa says there had been relentless instructions for him to prosecute accused persons in the infamous Cato

Manor 'death squad' killings.

Meanwhile, deputy prosecutions boss Willie Hofmeyr testified that Jiba and Mrwebi tried to sabotage the corruption case against former national police commissioner Jackie Selebi.

Former prosecutor Glynnis Breytenbach also testified this week, she claims her disciplinary process was initiated to pull her off the case against the then head of crime intelligence Richard Mdluli.

Eyewitness News

Move with speed, appoint new PIC Board, COSATU urges Mboweni

JOHANNESBURG - The trade union federation COSATU has urged Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni to accept the letter of resignation by the board of the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) and to 'move with speed' to appoint a new board.

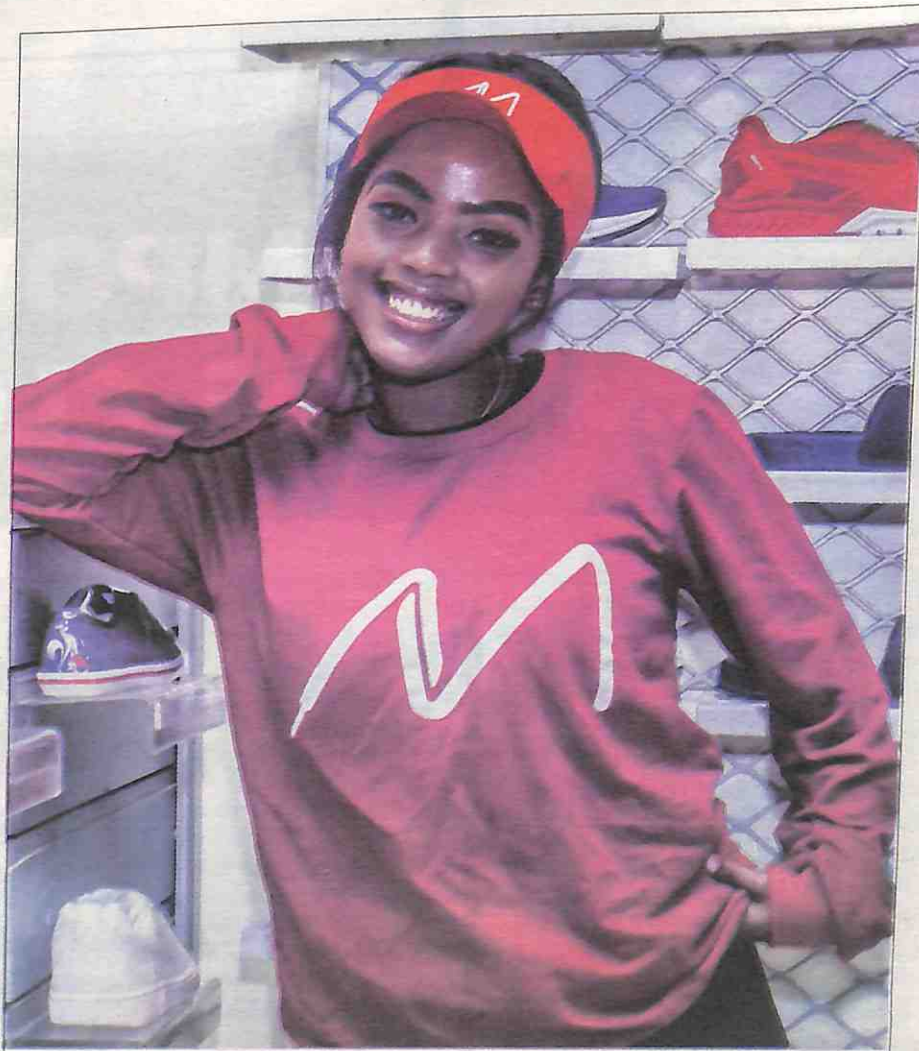
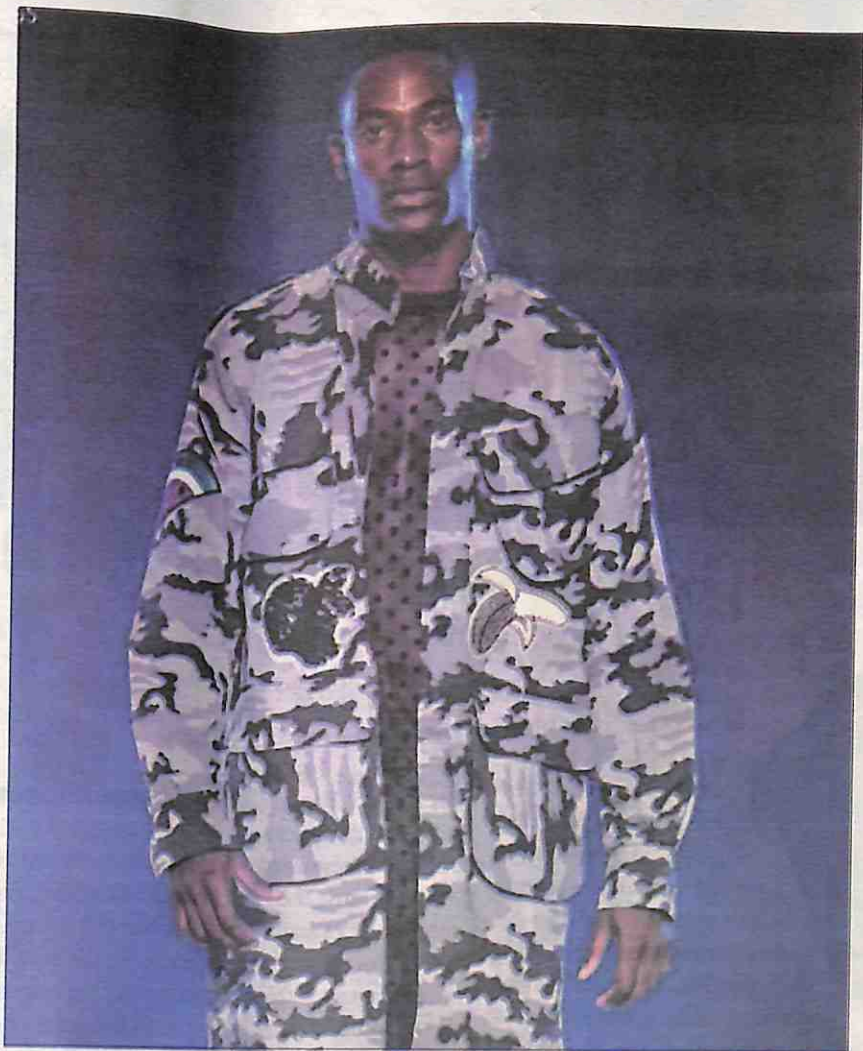
The PIC board reportedly submitted a letter to Mboweni on Friday, asking to be relieved of its duties.

The request comes amid allegations made at the inquiry into the country's state-owned asset manager which implicate several PIC executives.

Headed by retired Supreme Court of Appeal judge Lex Mpati, the commission of inquiry began on January 21 after allegations of deal-making involving political connections, as well as allegations against the PIC's former head Dan Matjila.

Welcoming the board's letter of resignation, COSATU said in a statement yesterday: "Whilst it is not clear whether or not the PIC Board or some of its members may have engaged in corrupt activities, however, the allegations are far too serious to ignore."

Times Live



SundayObserver
Scene

"Fashion is a language that creates itself in clothes to interpret reality."



WRITER'S NOTE:

Cotton first! Our very own Eswatini brands going all out and flying the flag.

Sunday Scene decided to look at the Eswatini's clothing lines this Sunday on pages 2-3.

We looked at the fact that a lot of people would like to open their own clothing lines and like to know how they can start one.

They need to know that starting a clothing line can be a very rewarding experience for a creative entrepreneur with a vision.

Whether you're looking to create a simple line of printed apparel or you want to create an entire cut and sew collection featuring various pieces and seasonal additions, this article will show you how to start a clothing line.

Reading through pages 4-5 we spoke to Eswatini's well-known brand owners that are highly promoted and wanted by lot of Emaswati and people out of the country.

They told us how we can get their brands, how they deal with the challenges of them being in competition they face as there are a lot of brands in the industry.

Each of these clothing products presents their own opportunities, challenges, and available options for building a clothing business and brand around them.

Later on we will look into some of the most common clothing line business models to get a better sense of the work, time and monetary investment required for each.

Nowadays, there are many materials with which clothes are made. A person can choose from purchasing clothes made from natural, origin materials, like silk, wool, and leather, but may also select one for the man-made fibers extensively used in clothes manufacturing, like nylon, polyester, Lycra and Gore-Tex.

With the recent technological developments, there is great speculation for the direction future clothes will take; in fact the clothing electronics industry has just started. You will enjoy as you read through and get to know and get educated about most of the brands you see around the county with some people wearing them.

Till next week!

Please follow us on Instagram @Sunday_Scene

IMPORTANCE OF CLOTHING

By Phetsile Mamba



The human race universally wears articles of clothing—also known as dresses, garments, or attire—on the body in order to protect it against the adverse climate conditions.

In its broadest sense, clothing is defined as the coverings of the torso and limbs, as well as the coverings for the hands, feet and head.

Articles carried rather than worn, such as purses, are usually counted as accessories, while glasses or jewellery, although worn, also fit this category.

On the other hand, the body's decoration with tattoos, make-up and hairstyle, although contributes to the general message an individuals want to relay in addition to his or her clothing choices, do not constitute clothing as such.

In most cultures, clothing was introduced as a method of protecting the human body against extreme weather conditions—strong winds, intense heat, cold and pre-

cipitation.

In particular, the weaves of clothes prevent the circulation of air around the skin and thus, avoid the exit of the air reheated by the skin,

which makes people feel uncomfortable and cold. Additionally, the clear weaves of clothing avoid the ultraviolet radiation of the sun and the burns in the skin, protecting it, therefore, from the heat. Finally, more impermeable weaves protect the human body from coming into contact with the water of rain or snow. Since water is an excellent thermal storage cell, when the cold rain drops of snow flakes fall and touch the human skin, they immediately send through the nerve cells a message to the human brain that the exposed area is becoming colder than the rest of the body and causing people to feel discomfort.

But people wear clothing for functional as well as social reasons.

Apart from the practical functions of placing a piece of garment above the skin, wearing clothes also carries specific cultural and social meanings. In numerous cultures, for instance, it is bad sight to show to others parts of the human body anatomy and particularly the genitals.

Thus, clothes serve as a method to hide from the rest of the world the particular areas of a person's body.

Religion, customs and of course, particular historically important circumstances have shaped the way different people in various times feel about clothing and exposure.

Moreover, clothing has been regarded as one of the best ways to distinguish social classes, sexes, occupation, marital status and ethnic or religious affiliation. But in order to interpret correctly the messages a particular set of clothes may transmit to others, one has to be familiar with the translation of the specific code. Wearing white during a western funeral for example is highly inappropriate, while eastern societies endorse such a color selection for mourning people.

Today, there are many materials with which clothes are made.

A person can choose from purchasing clothes made from natural origin materials, like silk, wool, and leather, but may also select one for the man-made fibers extensively used in clothes manufacturing, like nylon, polyester, Lycra and Gore-Tex. With the recent technological developments, there is great speculation for the direction future clothes will take; in fact the clothing electronics industry has just started.

Starting a clothing line can be a very rewarding experience for a creative entrepreneur with a vision.

Whether you're looking to create a simple line of printed apparel or you want to create an entire cut and sew collection featuring various pieces and seasonal additions, this article will show you how to start a clothing line.

Depending on what kind of clothing line you want to create, there's likely going to be many different steps involved in the process.

The more involved you want to be in the sourcing and production of your line, the more time, effort and money you'll have to invest. If you're just interested in starting something quick and easy, there are options for that too.

If you've ever been thinking about starting a clothing brand, look no further. This post has been in the works for nearly a year and along the way we've included the knowledge and experience of dozens of entrepreneurs and companies from the clothing industry. This industry knowledge ranges from a small brand that managed to launch a successful crowd funding campaign that raised them £300,000 to put towards manufacturing their high-end merino wool clothing line, to a private label wholesaler of blank apparel who targets the B2B market, to a pattern maker and tech pack designer who works with aspiring clothing line creators to help bring their visions to life and finally we've gone right to the source to get insight from a factory that dyes yarn and weaves textiles.

There's a lot involved when it comes to starting your own clothing line, so let's jump into it. Deciding Clothing Products You Want To Sell

You have a lot of choices when it comes to creating apparel and fashion products. If you've always wanted to start a clothing line, you likely already have a good idea of the particular products you want to create and sell. For others, creating a clothing brand may represent a unique and interesting opportunity to design a product that represents their personal style and personality, but they may be unsure of which products to sell.

Regardless of which person you are, it's important to carefully consider all clothing and apparel options before deciding to move forward.

Some clothing and apparel products you may want to consider for your brand are:

- Short Sleeve Shirts
- Long Sleeve Shirts
- Hoodies
- Pants/Leggings
- Dresses
- Lingerie/Underwear/Socks

Each of these clothing products presents their own opportunities, challenges, and available options for building a clothing business and brand around them. Below we will look into some of the most common clothing line business models to get a better sense of the work, time and monetary investment required for each.

Choosing a Clothing Line Business Model

If you're ready to start your clothing brand you'll have some important choices to make at this point. There are several directions you can take to create your own brand that are pretty different from each other. Furthermore, and most importantly, the difficulty, costs and time input vary dramatically.

Let's take look at the most common options:

- Print-On-Demand
- Private Label Clothing Line
- Custom Cut & Sew Clothing Line
- Let's dig into the advantages and disadvantages of each one below:

HOW TO START A CLOTHING LINE

advantages of each one below:

1. Print-On-Demand Clothing Line

The first and easiest option for starting your own clothing line involves printing your designs or logo on standard blank apparel. This is an attractive option for people with a low budget (less than £1,000) and those wanting to benefit from being able to set up a nearly fully-automated business. The biggest drawback to this type of business model is the lower profit margins and the lack of ability to differentiate your product on things like material, stitching and fit since you're using standard wholesale clothing.

The print-on-demand or direct-to-garment printing process uses a special digital ink-jet printer to print ink directly onto clothing and apparel. These digital printers are able to produce full color images with extreme accuracy.

Print-on-demand printing produces high quality printed apparel quickly and efficiently. Because of this, there are no setup costs, unlike screen printing. This means that it's easy and cost effective to print small orders (including just 1 unit).

Pros

- No set-up costs
- High quality prints
- Unlimited color options
- Perfect for low order quantities or one-offs

● Many clothing options (shirts, leggings, socks, dresses etc.)

Cons

- Not cost effective for large production runs
- Generally no volume discounts
- Limited print product selection
- Limited finishing options (tags, labels)

2. Wholesale/Private Label Clothing Line

This option is similar to the option above, but a little more involved, giving you more options for personalization and higher margins, while costing more and taking slightly longer to get started.

This method involves you purchasing blank clothing products that you would

then need to customize by adding print, tags, labels, etc. Since you're purchasing bulk inventory upfront, you'll also need to figure out warehousing and shipping for your products.

By purchasing blank clothing and apparel items upfront and in bulk, you get better pricing which allows for greater margins. As an additional benefit, by purchasing inventory upfront and not printing/shipping directly from the printer, you have greater control over the final product allowing you to add additional details like tags and custom labels. This allows you to further increase your brand's perceived value to achieve greater margins. Finally, purchasing inventory upfront allows for more cost effective and equally high-quality printing processes like screen printing (as opposed to digital direct-to-garment printing as noted in the above method).

Screen printing is an old technique that has stood the test of time. As one of the most popular methods for printing onto clothing and apparel, screen printing can produce durable and long lasting result. However, it has a labor intensive setup process which means screen printing is its most cost effective when printing in bulk.

Pros

- Cost effective in large batches
- Volume discounts
- Potential for increased perceived value from customers
- Potential for increased margins

Cons

- Not cost effective for large inventories of designs, colors and sizes
- Can only print

simple images and designs (not photographs)

- Usually minimum order starts at 10 units per color/size

- You'll have to manage inventory and shipping yourself

3. Custom Cut and Sew Clothing Line

Custom cut and sew clothing means you're doing everything. We're talking about designing sketches, turning them into patterns, sourcing fabrics and manufacturers and paying for a full production run (which could be thousands of units).

Making your own clothing isn't for the faint of heart. This can be an intensive process that can take months at minimum to get up and running. You'll need to find a manufacturer that is willing to do smaller runs, you'll need to work with a pattern maker, and you'll have to source and test fabric, and create many samples before you even come close to a finished product.

Depending on the exact clothing items you're looking to produce, just to get a few samples as finished products can cost thousands.





I'M ALL ABOUT HIGH QUALITY

Mbongeni Sithungo, famously known as DJ Mbo, born and raised in Mbabane, from a family of 6, a second born, a Graphic Designer, a DJ and entrepreneur.

He makes sure every item he sells is of high quality and meets international standards. Sithungo is always researching on latest trends through the internet and magazines and taking advice from his clients.

He has learnt that it's fast paced and very innovative, which is what keeps him excited. I am a very creative person, so I really enjoy the creativity and marketing part of it.

They can purchase the caps only at Sneakers, Corner Plaza at Ezulwini and at Clothing Solutions, Bhunu Mall, Manzini. The rest of the items can be ordered via social medium, Facebook @Dj_Mbo and Instagram @Dj_Mbo

Through producing creative and trendy clothes, Keeping track of everything, and managing by the numbers. He sees it being easily accessible in top respected stores being creative.

Seeing people wearing it with pride and believing in what he does.

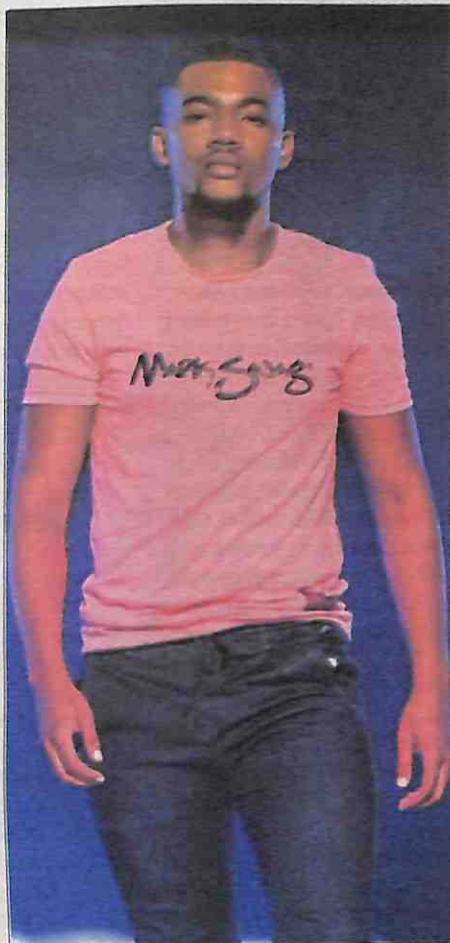
It's uniqueness. The biggest challenge is non-collection of orders, which is the reason why moving towards people accessing them in a store is the best option.

People want authentic products regardless of where they are produced, that's where the opportunities are.

DJ Mbo



You have to stay true to your heritage; that's what your brand is about."



MARK SWAG INSPIRED BY URBAN STREET WEAR CULTURE

Shiggy Mbewe, co-owner of Mark Swag in ternational. I'm the marketing and sales head of this urban street wear brand, which was founded by my brother Chitambi Chenx Mbewe.

"First and foremost, we design and sew the clothes ourselves and partially outsource some of the branding. We have control over the quality of our product and trends in today's market. That makes us stand out from the rest besides the fact that we also produce some of the other local brands. We always try to stay a step ahead by being unique and innovative in our designs. We always try to identify what we call short term trends which are trends that last 3 to 6 months and only focus on longer and more impactful trends. Recently we have been working on a gym line because we noticed a lot of people have made gym a lifestyle, now this trend will be around for a long time if not forever.

The clothing industry is very complex you need to have a team you cannot run a brand on your own. Most brands in Eswatini are run by individuals; we made sure we have a design team, branding team, marketing and sales team. That's how we have stayed afloat all these years

We have a store in Manzini at Summer Place building shop 19 EMC design studio on Mancishane street. We also have another associate store opposite SNPF building in Manzini called Genuine Leather. And in Mbabane our clothing is available at Perfume Hut at the Corporate Place. We keep our clothing lines or ranges alive by using ambassadors and influencers, for instance we dropping the Zumpson line with Zuma, an influencer and graphic designer using his artwork and skills will help us tap into a new market in Johannesburg and because he is Swati his friends or fans there will also endorse our line. We give the brand to the people we do not try to dictate the designs and trends ourselves that's why we work with different people.

Lihle Maseko works close with Shaun Dlamini, Khonza Nzalo and Menzezi Mlangeni. They are currently at tertiary.

What makes them different is their culture professionalism when doing things. They have also launched several products and services, head wear (caps, sun visors, beanies, socks and smart casual wear).

On the service section, they now offer photography.

"We don't worry about what others think of our style because we follow only the trends that we can see ourselves wearing, not every single one.

"We have learnt that trends come and go. We need to wear whatever

Mark Swag international will be shipped all over the world, we are working on an online store. And we are hoping to open a store in Canada next year through our founder Chex, who has relocated there. We will also supply more stores with our clothing in SA and Zambia. Growing up in a family of designers and tailors I was groomed by my brother he created Mark Swag and sort of drop it in my lap and expected me to run with it I was a bit reluctant however the response from clients was overwhelming and I found myself selling t-shirts in varsity, doing fashion shows all over Gauteng, anyone that knows me now I had a t-shirt on me to sell. I'd sell t-shirts in my sleep literally.

The merch is inspired by urban street wear culture and influencers such as Kanye West, brands like Off White and Adidas. Even pop culture has a lot to do with our direction. The classic Mark Swag print had impacted so many clients it's one of a kind!!! The thickness and texture will have you digging your pockets. Our cut is personalized and our designs are always timeless. Competition of course however the last competition we faced in the country was two years back. Lately we have been running the industry like a monopoly. Online shopping is the new wave! With so much internet access young designers need to jump on the bandwagon. Online shopping wave and use the internet to its full capacity" Mbewe shared.



ALWAYS KEEP YOUR MERCHANDISE SIMPLE

I'm Zweli Dlamini, from Msunduzi in Mbabane recently completed his tertiary education at Limkokwing University (International Tourism).

The logo (brand) itself is different; it has this deep concept behind it. He used the pin as it's a very useful tool e.g. it connects fabrics, decorates and used to improvise in case of emergencies.

He thought putting it down with the map also has a lot of meanings, including trying to connect nations with the brand (Spenete).

Secondly he tries by all means to keep his merchandise simple but with high quality (to fit all ages and styles). He also tries to hear out from his clients on what they really want, in other words he does personalise other merchandise if requested. He wants his clients to have a say, be part of this new brand.

"I work with a team that helps research on the latest trends on social media, fashion shows, TV, magazines and more, (Barman Thwala, Imaginerlens, Bandiswa Makhanya, Cindy Marley Miles, Howard Vilakati and Nokwanda to name a few)" he said.

He has seen that nowadays families like wearing the same brand, from the little one to the father just like him and his daughter (Lillie). It is very important for a brand to include kids when making merchandise. He has also



learnt that lot of people do not like 'me too' so it's crucial to make our staff a limited edition.

We try to be consistent, deliver on time keep up with the trends and provide best customer service with quality. We are aiming to the stars, so if everything goes well, in five years' time we should be doing business across borders and owning at least two stores locally.

I worked in one of the big brand stores in town for a few years, which grew the love of clothes in me, will say this again also the arrival of my little angel Lillie gave me the push factor to go ahead and put it into action," Dlamini shared.

He just wants the brand to be up there, represent the country with the others, embrace the most undervalued tool of the pin and also be known of high quality and exclusive brand.

It is the uniqueness of the logo, the local brand name and the fact that it represents Africa as a whole.

"To be honest, Eswatini are accepting our local brands, they are supporting big-time as much as there are still people talking negativity about local brands. There are people who only

wear Swazi brands.

The only challenges I think I can mention are finances (capital) and stable place to stock out the merchandise.

As a colourful country with very beautiful traditional attires, I think we haven't been innovative enough to play around and bring up all the Swati beauty in our brands yet, young designers have lot of opportunities to work with brands to mix up European and African fashion into one piece," he added.



TRENDS COME AND GO - SLQM

we want, when we want. Also that before you buy something, think of yourself wearing it.

We advertise our work using social media platforms such as Instagram (@slqm_wear), Facebook (Slqm Wear) and Whatsapp (76863294). That's is where people get to place orders of our products. Physically we are found at the House of Gazibo Boutique, Eyethu building, office no. 12, Nkoseluhla Street, Manzini.

By understanding the concept of competing against yourself, because it's not about winning in this industry, it's about doing your best, taking risks and seeking for improvement.

By constantly re-inventing the brand through the means of creating unique, innovative and trendsetting designs that will hopefully push the fashion industry forward in the country.

In mass production which is available in most fashion stores all over the country, reaching all local customers hopefully abroad as well.

In the past, I've always found myself wearing the



same outfit as someone else, I didn't enjoy it, so I thought to myself, why not create my own brand and design my own unique outfit, that is how I started the brand.

Uniqueness, it's wearing something that only a few people have, having the pride to walk out of the house knowing that I am the only one who owns this type of outfit; we simply aim at provid-

ing that feeling for all who wear the brand.

The fact that it's simply made and designed by the people who wear it. If you can imagine the outfit we can make it for you.

The brand is well received in the country; we see a genuine interest from the Swazi people, they like the fact that it's locally owned and made. Challenges we're facing as a brand, in fact I think all the new brands experience is the issue of finding raw material, high quality material, we often have to compromise on some designs to fit the available materials, it's something we are currently working on.

I think as a country we do not focus much on fashion and designing, there's general lack of innovativeness.

We look so much towards foreign countries that we fail to realize that there is immense potential that lays within our own country" he shared.



BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA



Briefly tell us about yourself?

Well, I am an artist, specifically focusing on music at the moment. And I say 'at the moment' because I'm passionate about all art forms and definitely interested in expanding into acting, fashion etc in the near future.

Your love and passion for music. How did that come about?

I guess I always had it in me because I grew up in a family that adores music more than your ordinary family. I like to think if my father had allowed himself to, he would have been a musician. All my siblings are musically talented, it's a genetic gift, I think, haha! But fast-forward to 2010, my first year at university, I met Macgee, he was in a band and they were looking for a vocalist. He was the band leader I guess, because he was the one who recruited me, and 'recruit' is a nice way of saying, I was pushed into it because I honestly didn't believe I had a special voice, nor had I ever written a song in my entire life.

That was the beginning, although nothing special came out of it really, because in 2012 I came back home and later got a job as a journalist. It wasn't until Macgee reached out to me in 2015, which was about four years of no contact, and he said he had been making beats and couldn't think of anyone to sing better on them...haha! I thought that was too far-fetched but then again it was just the right words to get me to try music again. That's how my first song 'Power' came about, which couldn't have been a better song to start with now that I look back and think about it, because of its depth and meaning. Funny enough, I wasn't aware of it either, until months later, I realised that I had written from my soul and with this song, I was able to tell a story that was hidden inside of me and I was able to express all that had been suppressing me. So I guess one can say through 'Power' I allowed myself to say YES and surrender to God's call for my life.

What type of genre do you specialise in and who do you look up to?

I mostly specialise in RnB and pop, but not limited to just the two. I see myself as an all rounder, for me it's more like a wave to ride than just music and the word 'genre', honestly ever pops up at the end of the creating process of a song, because then I have to categorise it for sale purposes etc. I have worked with the likes of DJ Dino Bravo, re-creating a house track titled 'Stay Real' and I look forward to expanding and pushing boundaries in terms of my creations. I look up to a lot of artists, especially Beyonce and the late Michael Jackson.

When and how did you break into the entertainment industry?

I decided to focus on music in 2016. My breakout song was 'Power'. With the help of my then manager, I was able to get shows and send out my music to radio, media platforms etc. She was really instrumental because she helped give me a sense of direction. I also did a lot of research, which really helped me learn and understand what I was getting myself into. My research included watching a lot of workshops, live performances and documentaries about musicians, there's honestly a lot one can learn

MANDISA MAMBA

SUPERSTAR ON THE RISE

● One of my biggest highlights is allowing myself to fully jump into music in the first place. If someone would have showed me my today, three years ago when I first started out, I seriously would have not believed them.



● I aspire to make money just like any other business does, and what's important is having a plan and strategy in place.

your art to grow will eventually yield beautiful results.

Having released a couple of singles in the past two years... should we expect an album from Mandisa anytime soon?

I don't know, honestly. People quite often ask me this question, and I always say 'creating music is a business' at the end of the day, I aspire to make money just like any other business does, and what's important is having a plan and strategy in place.

My priority right now, as a business, is building a fanbase so strong that when I release an album, I will definitely make returns. Also, I believe creating an album is about telling a full story, so until I figure out exactly what story I am telling in that season, I will just be releasing singles. It could be this year that everything comes together or maybe five years from now, I don't know. What I do know though, is that in the meanwhile I will be doing the work that is required of me so that when the time is right and opportunity avails itself, I will be ready and open to fully give of myself in that manner.

As you may know... Beat On Beats is a movement aimed at promoting the local house music scene. What is your view on house music Eswatini?

House music has always been alive here at home, I think it's one of the genres that bring a lot of people together. It's beautiful to watch our house DJs and artists grow, compete internationally and top streaming charts like iTunes etc. That on its own shows just how creative we are as a nation, it shows just how much potential we have and how far we can go. It is beautiful to watch.

Any favourite producers? And would you look into collaborating with one of them in the near future?

Interestingly enough, I don't have a favourite producer. I am just open and willing to work with anyone who is great at what they do, with the understanding that the term 'great' does not necessarily mean fame/famous. Some unknown producers are just as great as the popular or well-known producers. We all don't want the same things in life, and I've learned to never allow myself to miss an opportunity based on my limited understanding of human beings or because I didn't give someone a chance.

What have been your highlights and downfalls as a singer?

One of my biggest highlights is allowing myself

from merely watching and following in the footsteps of other musicians.

The industry comes with a lot of challenges. How have you been able to overcome them?

Staying in God I guess. Every field has challenges I believe, but what's imperative is staying connected to God and knowing why you are doing what you are doing (the number one and most important reason of all being the fact that you are passionate about it).

Patience and persistence too, that's one way to overcome the many challenges that occur in the entertainment industry. Our biggest downfall as creators is rushing the process, especially that of creation. 2018, for example, taught me so much about patience, it was truly an excruciating process until I allowed myself to just give in to life's order and timing. And that for me in 2018 was learning to acknowledge, love and respect the work that I had done so far. I tried so hard to release new music and failed. It was frustrating really, but with new understanding and wisdom, I was able to do the inner work within myself, allowing myself to accept that I am enough as an artist, my work is enough and every song I have created is special in its own way and that it should never be neglected, by me especially. I believe winning the MTN SWAMA award was part of my lesson of patience and the reward that comes with it. It was a lesson that being patient enough to allow a song or



BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA

to fully jump into music in the first place. If someone would have showed me my today, three years ago when I first started out, I seriously would have not believed them. But I came in it with just faith, and I guess in a way the process will forever be an ongoing ever-increasing highlight...sounds crazy I know, haha! Second biggest highlight would be winning the MTN SWAMA award, which was a beautiful way for the universe to affirm that I am in the right field, doing what I am meant to do and doing it how I am meant to do. Also, being nominated for 'Best Female Artist in Southern Africa' that was definitely insane, still is even now. Its an experience that has broadened my mind in so many beautiful ways.

A downfall would be patience, as I mentioned above, but the beautiful thing is I now understand that until I master patience, I am honestly just playing myself. And so when life throws me lessons of patience, I am now more allowing of myself to stop, turn within and do the work required for progress.

Can you tell us about your recent trip to Ghana and how that came about?

The SWAMA president told us about the All Africa Music Awards (AFRIMA) and I was one of the artists who applied - by submitting my song 'Party'. Funny thing is, I applied and completely forgot about it, then Mozaik The Producer called to congratulate me, with confusion of course, I asked what he was talking about, and he then related to me that the AFRIMA nominations list was out and I had made the cut for 'Best Female artist in Southern Africa'. I couldn't believe it, even more when I saw the other African artist in my category; Nadia Nakai, Shekinah, Babes Wodumo, Rouge!!! Who are all the biggest artist in South Africa at the moment. God truly surpassed my dreams and expectations with this one. Going to Ghana was a beautiful opportunity to play, connect and rub shoulders with the biggest artist in Africa. But more importantly an opportunity that broadened my mind and level of dreams and goals. I came back a whole different person, mentally, and I am deeply grateful for the experience. Which takes me



back to what I had mentioned earlier on, that in my lesson of patience last year, I had to acknowledge, love and respect my existing songs, knowing that they are good enough and should never be neglected, by me especially.

You have created quite a fanbase, what should your fans expect from Mandisa?

Well, I mean it depends on what my life lesson is this year, haha! I'm just kidding.

My single 'Party' will be available on Caller Tunes very soon. I will update my supporters via social media. I'm also working on releasing new material and collaborating with amazing musicians, DJs and producers. My social media is the best way to stay informed on what I am currently doing, so I advise readers to ensure they follow me so they do not miss out on what's new.

Words of advice to aspiring vocalists/artists.

● Firstly, stay connected to God, He is your source of being and source of inspiration. Have faith and trust that He will provide all that you need to succeed.

● Be true to yourself; there's no one like you in the entire universe and that is your power. Allow yourself to be courageous in your art, I know sometimes it's difficult to be honest because having to re-live your personal story maybe painful, but the truth is the only way to succeed, it is to tell your story exactly how it is, it's the whole point of having the gift of creating.

● Practice makes perfect; no matter how talented you may think you are, if you do not allow yourself to cultivate/work on your talent, you will deprive yourself of growth and success.

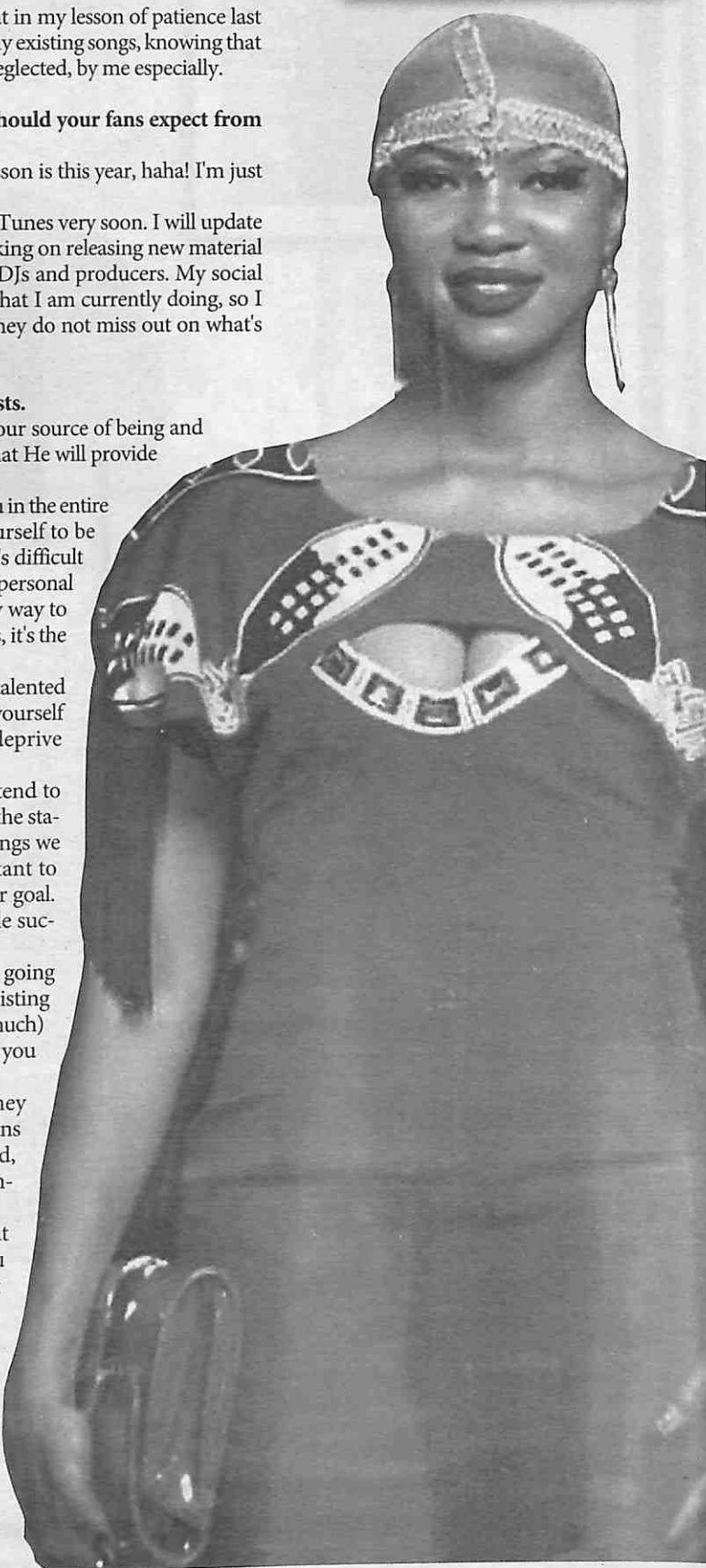
● Do not rush the process; as artists we tend to think releasing music automatically gives us the status of celebrity, so much that we demand things we haven't even began working for. It's important to know your place without losing sight of your goal. Be humble in your journey and with the little successes that you gain along the way.

● Have a plan; know what it is that you are going for, people will come along in the name of assisting you (some will keep their word, others not so much) take their help but never lose sight of what it is you are aiming at.

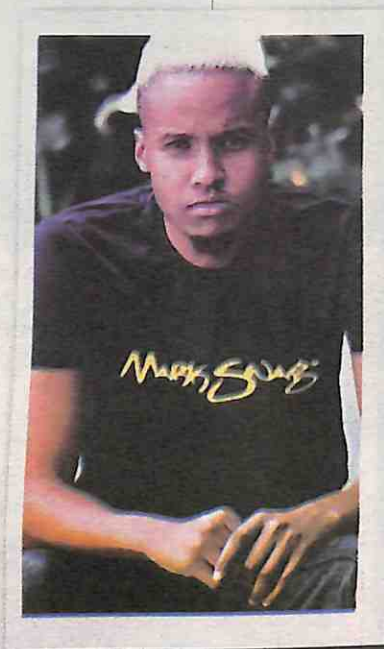
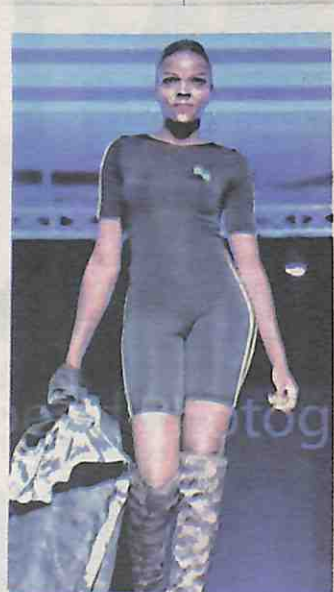
Instead of fitting in their plans of what they think you should do, make them fit in your plans so that when they don't live up to their word, you are not left in confusion, instead, you continue with your initial plan.

● Find the right help/team; it takes time but it's important because there's only so much you can do alone. Surround your self with the right people for your soul, which means your team must be made of people who believe in you, love and support you. We all learn along the way so don't be afraid to allow your team to learn as they go, what's important is that they are 100% invested in you.

● Lastly, learn to trust your inner voice, sometimes it may be frightening to follow your intuition, but trust me, it always knows best.



LEADING CLOTHING LINES



Analysis & opinion



BY KENNETH
DLAMINI

SHOW US EVIDENCE YOU NOT 'MAKHULU BAAS'

...It looks a case of jumping from the fire into the frying pan for the country's justice system.

Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala was all over the news this past week, with lawyers going hammer and tongs in exposing the judicial failings in the country at the hands of the CJ.

In a powerful submission during the opening of the High Court on Monday, the legal eagles did not hold back as they accused the CJ of what they termed as "justice for sale."

Law Society President Mandla Mkhwanazi lambasted the CJ as being responsible for the judicial collapse. He accused the CJ of meeting litigants and determining the outcome of cases all by himself.

The lawyers went on to slam the CJ for refusing to meet with them despite numerous attempts to engage him.

Consequently, the lawyers don't see any difference between the CJ and his predecessor, Michael 'Makhulu Baas' Ramodipedi.

These are serious allegations against the man entrusted with a responsibility as huge as that of the CJ.

And, guess what, all the CJ could say to save his sorry face was to ask the lawyers to produce evidence of the 'justice for sale' accusations. What kind of arrogance is that?

I would have expected better from the CJ, at least give a satisfactory response to such damning allegations than portraying himself a smart alec by asking for evidence?

Never mind the fact that the lawyers have evidence for his escapades as they later claimed the following day, but what was the CJ trying to achieve by demanding evidence?

His response strikes me as that of someone caught with pants down and desperately trying to save face.

The lawyers articulated their issues perfectly as far as I'm concerned and all they needed was a response from the CJ.

But instead, Maphalala like a cornered snake, came out all guns blazing and demanded evidence in the process.

My question is; what evidence does one need that the CJ has not been meeting the lawyers? He knows it's a fact that there has been no meeting between him and the lawyers.



Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala.

Instead of demanding evidence, Maphalala should be telling us why he's not been meeting the lawyers.

There's overwhelming evidence that the lawyers have met all other stakeholders apart from the CJ.

Record

They are on record saying they have met Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini, Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku, Attorney General Sifiso Mashampu Khumalo and Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Pholile Shakantu and Director of Public Prosecutions Phila Dlamini.

So, should we say the lawyers have a problem or clearly the problem lies somewhere else?

It makes you wonder therefore

if the lawyers are wrong that the CJ is not different to 'Makhulu Baas'. They liken the CJ's appointment to the second coming of 'Makhulu Baas'.

Concerning

These are frightening allegations which should be concerning the CJ, instead of putting a barrier in defence. If anything, Maphalala should look himself in the mirror to try and see where the likeness with the much-vilified former CJ comes from.

That's what good leaders do. They sit and reflect on things. You get criticised and then you try to learn from it.

Not to quickly jump onto a defensive mode as the CJ did on the fate-

ful Monday during the High Court opening.

Ramodipedi

No one needs to be reminded about Ramodipedi's well-documented antics and ill-fated reign as head of the Judiciary in the country. So, for anyone to be likened to that man, I would be worried.

We shouldn't reach a point where we are all in agreement that it seems a case of jumping from the fire into the frying pan for the country's justice system.

All the CJ needed to say was assure the lawyers that one; he would address the concerns they raised and two; he would find time in his obviously busy schedule to meet with them.

Arrogance for anyone holding a leadership position can be a recipe for disaster. Forewarned is forearmed.

I'm reminded of the old adage that says: "Arrogance is a roadblock on the highway of wisdom."

The CJ should not allow himself to be above reproach. Doesn't that statement sound familiar?

Yes, it does because I have heard it before. These were the warning signs we all saw before the monumental collapse of justice in the previous regime led by Ramodipedi.

The CJ should not allow things to degenerate into the chaos that they were during Ramodipedi's time.

We don't like to sing the 'I told you so' chorus because by then it would be too late to pick up the pieces.

If he keeps demanding evidence of the justice for sale from the lawyers, then perhaps we will also demand that he furnishes us with evidence that the man at the helm of the country's Judiciary is not Michael Ramodipedi posing as Bheki Maphalala.

Because, there is such striking resemblance at the moment that it makes it difficult to see the difference. Or, is it me seeing double? You may never know with these things.

Whatever it is, am sure no one wishes to see the sequel of the Ramodipedi era. Not now, not in future.

Just saying, I thank you.

Paul Pretorius: Guiding SA through the morass of corruption

JOHANNESBURG - The tone of his voice rarely fluctuating, Advocate Paul Pretorius has spent much of the past year navigating South Africa through the treacherous maze of state capture.

He has done so with measure, control and a stern hand. He has been a cicerone, guiding us into the crevices and corners where the most astonishing corruption lurks, into the cul-de-sac of Gavin Watson's Monopoly money cash safe and leading us through the clandestine back-room exchanges, illuminating how the Gupta leaks

came to light. As the landmines exploding at the Tiso Blackstar offices in Braamfontein ripple across the country, it is his deferential approach, his slow and measured movements, that brings a sense of calm to the proceedings. He has joined the dots of complex graft, pointing out the signposts of collusion and compromise along the way, stressing the seriousness of the situation, but without ever sounding the alarm.

It makes the 69-year-old's selection as evidence leader and head of the legal team an inspired one by Deputy Chief Justice Ray Zondo. It's as if Zondo knew we would need a steady hand to hold the fragility together when the skeletons began tumbling out.

Those who know him best say he doesn't see himself as a charismatic corruption buster. He is reluctant to stick his head out above the parapet or elevate himself above his team, although he has allegedly faced some dissent from within his ranks. Pretorius subscribes to an ethos reminiscent of that of US special counsel and Trump investigator Robert Mueller, the master of silence. As Mueller speaks through his indictments, Pretorius is speaking vicariously through his witnesses' testimony. (For the record, he declined a request to be interviewed for this article because he is restricted by bar council rules.)

"He's a very astute fellow, very moral. He's not dynamic and he's not terribly charismatic but

you couldn't have higher integrity. I wasn't surprised at all that he was made evidence leader. It made perfect sense," a senior counsel tells me about his long-time associate. Pretorius is held in the highest regard by his colleagues at the bar as a "true gentleman". But beyond the composure, the temperament and the intellectualising round spectacles, is a complex, layered history peppered with surprising nuggets - from banning orders, to rugby games with Steve Biko, more than one marriage, a brief sojourn as a record store owner, sinister threats, a quirky, sandpaper dry sense of humour and even a gold Cannes Lion.

News24



By Comfort Mabuza

ESWATINI SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS NEED A CHURCH SOCIAL CONCERN INTERVENTION

● Almost 39 years later, the country is collapsing, confronted with so many challenges as a result of bad governance and poor judgement by the leadership.

Plato once said, "One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." The Kingdom of Eswatini is in a crisis and the sooner the Christian community rises to assume its social concern role and agenda and help broker peace between the political leadership and labour movement, we are facing a bleak future and doomed. While prayer move the mountains, as a theologian and social commentator, I am convinced that the church, yes, Christian leadership must become salt and light and help resolve the impulse we are faced with. We have prayed and fasted, but I guess its high time Christian leadership emerge to chart the maze.

This nation need the voice of God, and such an opportunity calls for Christian witnesses to emerge and help bring about national healing.

The church cannot afford to fold arms and only prepare souls for the Kingdom of Heaven, social concern and justice is our core business and mission. If God is Lord over our lives, then we better roll-up our sleeves and help bring the Kingdom of God's agenda in the matters of governance of this great nation.

Otherwise, we will soon be swimming in endless turmoil and facing economic crises. The church should broker peace and harmony. Christians must get involved and avoid being governed by novices who have no clue what governance entails. George O'Well states, "A people who elect corrupt politicians, impostors, thieves, and traitors are not victimsbut accomplices."

ECONOMIC CRISES SHOULD BE OUR CONCERN

When the working class are not able to meet their basic needs and sustain their livelihoods, the church should be concerned as poverty is no good news at all. People will surely be unable to cope as thousands will be living way below the poverty levels. The

Christian church has tended to preach salvation of the soul and preparing people's spiritual lives for heaven, and in the process end up neglecting socio-economic agenda as part of establishing the kingdom of God.

The Christian church cannot afford allowing poverty to reign and render our people hopeless and unable to cope. Social concern agenda should propel the church to be concerned about the state of the economy and how it affects the citizenry. While we mourn the fiscal indiscipline, Christians certainly would be naïve to turn a blind eye on reckless spending of public funds and continued failure to meet the needs of the populace.

There is no way we can live in peace and stability when the masses are hungry and unable to sustain their livelihoods.

It is a matter of realising that government should ensure people's livelihoods are sustained and basic things met.

When we have the bigger percentage of the citizens living way below the poverty lines, then we have an emerging crises, as quality life becomes a far-fetched dream.

At the end of the day Eswatini must feel secured that their life matters. We cannot afford to have the obtaining crises economically remain untended to.

Someone must ensure that the basic things like access to food, medical care and sustained livelihoods is a top priority by the government of the day, otherwise we are headed for disaster and gloom.

Socrates, as if drumming sense says, "The wise who refuse to rule should prepare to suffer the rule of idiots." We better get involved on social concern agenda.

BASIC LIVING STANDARDS

If Eswatini are living way below the poverty levels, then the Christian obligation should be that of ensuring we help come out with intervention mechanisms. If the populace cannot have food and shelter, we are not setting a good example if we cannot provide Christian counsel.

We tend to forget that a hungry person is an angry lot, and Christ fed the hungry; a sign that we should be concerned about people's livelihoods and standards of living. It begins with ensuring that food security is guaranteed for the populace. So long as we live on handouts, where people become beggars, yet we as a country are blessed with fertile land and rivers that could be used for irrigation, shame on us.

A national policy aimed at addressing land utilization is long overdue. Zoning the land for sustainable agriculture remains crucial in our motherland.

We are quick to lay blame and say people are lazy, when there is hardly any empowerment programmes aimed at arming people with skills and potential to address food security matters.

Eswatini needs to re-visit its own priorities about the living standards and livelihoods of the populace. We seriously must be concerned at the high number of people struggling to survive.

The ongoing national crisis needs prompt attention, otherwise we are brewing disaster as a bigger percentage of the population are in dire need of food aid and can hardly access quality medical attention.

The living standards of the people are worrisome and the sooner we

attend to that the better. Living on handouts and continued failure to engage on national programmes aimed at ensuring food security is a sign that we are compromising quality life.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

As advocates and defenders of human rights, the church must be concerned that national priorities are not in order.

Government should be compelled to urgently address the high levels of poverty and unemployment. Previously, it was a matter of embracing the reality that we as a country perhaps do not possess needed skills and competences.

It should concern the church leadership too that many graduates and well trained Eswatini cannot find job opportunities. We should begin by asking ourselves if the skills people acquire are really needed ones to help move the country forward to become an economic hub in SADC.

If we have arable land; why not invest in agriculture? Seemingly our climate does allow us to have farming done all year round. It is perhaps high time that we revisit the land policy and tenure.

There is a serious food shortage right now, when millions of acres of land is being used for growing sugar can instead.

One has no qualms that sugar bring good fortune and returns in foreign exchange, but what is that if we still cannot grown staple food, maize and beans? Somehow, one wonders if our agriculture policy on food security is being dusted and revisited accordingly.

Why should we as a country have acres of uncultivated fertile lands,

especially in the middle and Lowveld not being utilised to ensure food sustainability and security?

It certainly does not make sense to be always carrying a begging bowl, when land we have and it is just a matter of ensuring the irrigation system is adequate even during the dry season. Ordinarily, while we chase for crops that give us foreign exchange, perhaps its high time we reflect on sustainable agriculture to ensure food security. Let the church arise with solutions.

SKILLS FOR LIVELIHOODS

At the end of the day, the church should assist this nation to think seriously about appropriate skills development for her citizens.

Christians should be concerned that the education being provided has all needed components to make the citizens compete globally. Government must ensure we have a highly skilled populace armed with skills to venture into business and create more job opportunities.

It is our social concern as Christian leaders that no people should be loitering around with no skills and competences to survive the harsh reality of being unemployed because one lacks needed skills.

Our tertiary education seems to be producing more white collar professionals, when in reality technology advancement is pointing to the fact that vocational skills as preferred and highly on demand not only in SADC, but the continent is in dire need of vocational qualifications and skills. We have tended to forget that our country, and to a large extent the SADC is blessed with natural resources needing skills and competences that can only come through vocational acquired skills.

This is God's world and the Christian community must rise up with adequate answers on how to respond with armed and equipped personnel even in the agri-business as well as technology advancement. I am shattered to think that engineering and technology skills are still dominated by expatriates.

One wonders when we will produce more technocrats armed with needed skills for emerging markets and industries.

The church must take the lead in developing people skills based on market demands.

Evang. Wilton Mamba



LOST IN TRANSLATION

● Interestingly, there are many doctrines today who dispute the truth that Jesus is God. While His knowledge of the scriptures without having undergone conventional training made the Jews wonder as to where such knowledge came from, in their eyes this still did not qualify Jesus to make the claims He did.

Jesus did everything humanly comprehensible to prove to the Jews that He was sent from the Father. They did not believe Him. To the casual reader, the New Testament of the Holy Bible comes across as a story of a man who tries desperately to convince his detractors that he is something important. And no one believes him. Sounding very desperate to the spiritually uninformed, Jesus told the Sanhedrin (Council of the elders who formed the Jewish High Court) as they persecuted Him, "But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." While this statement really sounded like a pipe-dream under the circumstances, Jesus was quoting the scriptures, a truism and

prophecy that could not be changed. Following are a few examples that play out just how His own people did not believe that Jesus had the authority He claimed to have because the Holy Spirit was not released at the time - the key to decode Jesus' language: 'Now the Jews murmured and found fault with Him because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven." They kept saying, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does

He now [have the arrogance to] say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?" (John 6:41-42). But Jesus continued to assert His deity: 'So Jesus answered, "Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him [giving him the desire to come to Me]; and I will raise him up [from the dead] on the last day."

For a people who were steeped in tradition, following the Law of Moses as religiously as it was human-

ly possible, this was blasphemy. It is this blatant approach to His ministry that has led latter day Bible scholars to even suggest that 'Jesus was either what He claimed He was or He was plain mad to claim He was God'.

Interestingly, there are many doctrines today who dispute the truth that Jesus is God. While His knowledge of the scriptures without having undergone conventional training made the Jews wonder as to where such knowledge came from,

in their eyes this still did not qualify Jesus to make the claims He did.

Never discouraged, Jesus went on to plead for their understanding; not at all begging them, but doing more than was enough to get them to see Him for who He was and still is, even quoting from their own Law in the Old Testament, "It is written in the prophets, 'And they will all be taught of God.' 'Everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father, comes to



JOY
NDWANDWE'S
LEADERSHIP
ZONE

MODERNITY NEEDS INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

● Land is significant component and contributing factor towards the murder, brutality, rape and sexual violence, and mother earth must be bleeding, as these are painful moments for her.

Firstly, I publicly condemn the high incidents of murder, rape, brutality, and sexual violence and offences within the country.

Whether these are happening in 'relationships' be it intimate, family or community, they are strong indicators of a failed state. Morally, spiritual and psychologically failing in protecting each other, indicates moral degeneration. Thus, begging me to ask does murdering, raping and sexually violating solve contentious problems? Particularly when we are the envy of Africa in the successful preservation of culture and traditions, and most significantly when we are branded as a Christian country, the pulpit of Africa.

Yes, the world is turmoil; however, living with lies as manufactured as truths is indeed extremely problematic. A recent public discourse between Bishop Hlatshwayo and Mkhulu Makhanya, left me with disbelief on how modernity needs indigenous knowledge. They were blaming each other's institutions, as this was nothing personal as I read it, but institutional. For current moral, spiritual and psychological decay, which we read about daily in the newspapers, their arguments fascinated me. This exposure affirmed the role of the media in creating awareness on moral degeneration, fast becoming dominate paradigm. Moreover, at the core of this decay is religion and traditional healing, hence I was inspired to write this article.

NATURAL WORLD VS MONEY

In the natural world, the plants are considered 'hairs of mother earth,' therefore mother earth's way to heal and nourish her children, that is, all living beings. Therefore, it was a natural right to use 'mother earth's hair' our mother's gifts to humanity including with fellow living beings as we coexisted in harmony. This was the worldview of indigenous healing; hence, herbs and animals combined into aromatherapy, *kubhunyisela*, to pacify the animalistic elements within humanity. Evidently, we have totemic relations with animals in each family, which become an important part of this pacifica-

tion held for every African child as a rite of passage.

In the money world, such practices are bastardised to the point that many families due to religion and education have delinked their progeny. As the most important aspect of humanity in the context of modernity, is making money at all cost, even if it costs them their humanness. This is why we find ourselves with moral degeneration that asks critical questions to two moral institutions, whether they have been captured. Traditional healers are at the core of moral leadership, and this institution has been permeated by the money world. Therefore, they receive disequilibrium souls as clients planning or have orchestrated a crime but protect them with 'mother earth's hair.' These plants and herbs originally meant to protect humanity, manipulated as tools in the world of money.

The natural world, where indigenous knowledge was contextualised and understood, as opposed to the money world where it is negated and bastardised. Religious institutions captured by the money world, and their biggest competitors are traditional healers. Hence, the religious dogma focusing on healing and miracles for luck, whilst extorting money out of the poor. Substituting mother earth's hair with modernity's commodities such as doom or making people eat grass.

Yes, these are extreme cases but daily humanity manipulated in the

money world as the transference of traditional healing is making millions within religion. Therefore, who can have a moral voice against the murder, brutality, rape and sexual violence when the two centres of morality, captured and leading moral degeneration?

LAND POSSESSION VS OWNERSHIP

Land is significant component and contributing factor towards the murder, brutality, rape and sexual violence, and mother earth must be bleeding, as these are painful moments for her. Mother earth is the source of morality, spirituality and psychological understanding of the people. Indigenous knowledge and its metaphysics is rooted on the land, and once disrupted then the people experience disequilibrium. Hence, indigenous metaphysics, land possession and not land ownership, such that people remain unstripped of their moral, spiritual and psychological place in society. This metaphysics of the natural world where ancestral land was not up for sale as you cannot own what your ancestors possessed, and most significantly, you possess the land currently on behalf of the next generations.

In the money world, such indigenous thoughts considered knowledge of fools like myself, and yet only fools would sell something they do not own but possess. The level of murders, brutalities and sexual violations linked to the land possession vs ownership is shocking.

On national television, a male relative was building a house in his uncle's yard, kicking out the natural rightful possessor of the land, daughter of the demised. In his colonised mind, he thinks he can own land as a male, and yet he is violating the natural rights of mother earth. You cannot own land possessed by your ancestors, as it is not yours but belongs to the next generation. It is the most fundamental right that has been abused by traditions and culture influenced by modernity.

Modernity does not understand land possession, as it created systems in accounting, law and economics to determine value of the land, make transactions and seal the title deed. Unfortunately, this imposition has never reflected on why land possession for so many centuries is respected for generations, hence, it assumed indigenous knowledge stupidity. Now trends indicate traditional institutions yearning in actively participating within modern land ownership where land possession prevails and this is difficult one for me. When traditional institutions violate the natural rights that created them, I bleed like mother earth, as having morality, spirituality and psychology of people negated by traditional institutions is painful. As this means traditional institutions have no moral authority as they are captured and corrupted and most significantly displacing its followership, the people morally, spiritually and psychologically.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, modernity has created intractable problems; hence, it needs the integration with indigenous knowledge for sustainable solutions. The right to life is a natural right and the right to protect and preserve life is a natural right embedded within the children of mother earth. Therefore, modernity needs to listen to the natural rights of mother earth as a sustainable intervention towards stopping these murders, brutalities, rapes and sexual violations. Modernity needs to attend indigenous knowledge school, to change its way of thinking, and learn to unlearn how modernity development paradigm is problematic to humanity. As modernity has been put on a pedestal, as a model of development and yet it is based on exclusive development. This exclusive developmental paradigm has created intractable problems of modernity. Evident in the murders, brutalities, rapes and sexual violations that have become dominant modern culture and this is extremely sad and regrettable.

My facilitation on Restoring Dignity, *Ubuntu*, to approximately 300 inmates at His Majesty's Correctional Services was a grounding experience. Hence, I wish to conduct research on 10 per cent of the inmates and their families, for understanding what has happened to this nation. Morally, spiritually and psychologically such that we can produce this level of murders, brutality, rapes and sexual violations within the small geographic space and population. As I am certain that during the days of aromatherapy, *kubhunyisela*, pacifying animalistic instincts, people understood their firm place in society, morally, spiritually and psychologically. Hence, I argue modernity needs indigenous knowledge, Africa is the cradle of humanity and its people cannot live without connectivity to natural rights and land possession. Moreover, the fallacy that the money world would provide people a firm place in society is questionable, money is energy, which must circulate within societies rooted in indigenous knowledge.

Me. [Is 54:13].

This is the same Law that Jesus, in one of His first public appearances, assured He had not come to do away with. "Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He [who was with the Father and] who is from God; He [alone] has seen the Father. I assure you and most solemnly say to you, he who believes [in Me as Saviour - whoever adheres to, trusts in, relies on, and has faith in Me - already] has eternal life [that is, now possesses it]. I am the Bread of life [the Living Bread which gives and sustains life]. Your Fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

This is the Bread that comes down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread [believes in Me, accepts Me as Saviour], he will live forever. And the Bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh (body)." Then

the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" (John 6:46-52).

Clearly, this was a hard teaching for the Jews, not only to understand, but to tolerate, largely because it was contrary to the teaching of their tradition. Very soon Jesus became insufferable, and the powers that be sought to kill Him.

Even His own disciples began to desert Him; especially after He said, "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood [believes Me, accepts Me as Saviour] remains in Me, and I [in the same way remain] in him." (John 6:56). "When many of His disciples heard this, they said, "This is a difficult, harsh and offensive statement.

Who can [be expected to] listen to it?" (John 6:60). There are many today who believe Jesus was killed as

a punishment of His rebellious action to the powers of the day.

Satan thought killing Jesus would silence Him and prevent the emancipation or freedom of the people from the power of sin. But the death of Jesus fulfilled His mission. It is what He was born for - to die and set the captives free.

The blood of Jesus on the cross lifted the veil of ignorance to His teaching to those who accepted Him as Lord and Saviour. Because He died for us, we now understand the full import of Matthew 6:9-13 - that He came to die for our freedom: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom (through the Holy Spirit) come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread (Jesus who is in His Word). And forgive us our debts

(die on the cross to cancel our sins) as we have forgiven our debtors (the only way by which we claim the benefits of the cross).

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom (Holy Spirit) and the power (the ability to use the Holy Spirit) and the glory (for the glory of God)] Amen.

Those who refuse to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour suffer the curse of the statement: "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. That is why I told you that you will die [unforgiven and condemned] in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am the one [I claim to be], you will die in your sins."

Remember, there is only one way to come to His knowledge: John 3:3, 'Jesus answered him, "I assure you

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If you have been blessed by reading this article, or seek clarification on some of the issues raised here, contact Evang. Wilton Mamba on 7677 9312 or 7977 0952 or 2404 5284.

You can send an email to mambawilton.multimedia@gmail.com. Fellowship with us today at 10am at Multimedia, Corner Somhlolo Road and Mhlabi Street in Mbabane opposite ICAP.

and most solemnly say to you, unless a person is born again [reborn from above - spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified], he cannot [ever] see and experience the Kingdom of God (enter heaven nor receive the Holy Spirit)."

By Tengetile Hlophe and
Thula Sizwe Dlamini

Guest Writers

THE PROSPECTS OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS (IKS) IN ESWATINI

Around the world, proponents of the indigenous knowledge system (IKS) have argued that modernisation and development are responsible for the limited exploitation and commercialisation of traditional practices, expertise, and lifestyle.

Without reservation, they correctly argue that modernity has stigmatised IKS, which has led many communities to neglect erroneously their traditional way of life in favour of westernised modern living.

Confounding the situation is that most developing countries, Eswatini included, have failed dismally to fully master and use modernity to achieve social and economic development.

We cannot help but wonder whether Eswatini has also forgotten to apply its indigenous knowledge and skills in pursuit of the country's developmental ambitions?

We are of an open mind that maybe Eswatini's lacklustre economic recovery could be an opportunity for harnessing and commercialising indigenous knowledge and skills. This thought is hard to resist, especially if one considers the economic infrastructure that Eswatini has added since 1997 – the first year in which the National Development Strategy became operational.

THE GROWING SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Whereas it is often difficult to trace and demonstrate the contribution of indigenous knowledge to modern science, its contribution to human development has been phenomenal.

Professor Jesse Popp points out that natives were first to discover the active ingredient in Aspirin: acetylsalicylic acid by using the bark of the willow tree to relieve pain. Others have shown that about 60 per cent of anti-cancer and 75 per cent of anti-infective drugs approved from 1981 to 2002 were traceable to natural medicine used by indigenous people.

In previous articles, we have argued that for Eswatini to turn the economy around, there is need to make targeted investments into research and development, particularly by harnessing indigenous knowledge to produce new goods

and services.

HOW DOES ESWATINI MEASURE ON THE IK LANDSCAPE?

In examining what could be classified under IK in Eswatini, an ESEPARC study titled 'An Historical Perspective of Innovation in Eswatini' shows that Emaswati have innovated to adapt to the ever-evolving development landscape.

The study documents incremental improvement in innovation in the traditional sector (handicraft, traditional food and medicine) based on the needs of producers, changes in policy, and as a form of response to societal, technological and global change.

The study finds that producers have innovated when introducing new patterns, designs and colours to their craft. Moreover, Emaswati have introduced new methods of preparing traditional foods or making traditional medicines.

Others have moved away from indigenous sources of fibre to incorporate plastics in response to the country's evolving environmental legislation that encourages the protection of indigenous plants.

The downside has been limited formal education of producers in the sector, which has led to the low use of technology in production processes, which has hindered creativity or its implementation thereof. A majority of the study respondents were in possession of only high school (32.6 per cent) and secondary level (28.7 per cent) education. In such a set-

up, innovation becomes limited to market innovations with very low product and process innovation. Indeed, as the study results show, only 18.6 per cent of the producers actually engage in product and process innovation.

The sector is also characterised by inadequate access to good markets, a less transparent pricing system and limited producer information. There is also lack of support in as far as standards and quality assurance is concerned. Producers do not advertise their products and a majority of them are barely connected to manufacturers.

The study finds that the utilisation of traditional medicine as an alternative and complement to modern medicine has rendered IK a crucial source of economic activity and a source of growth in the rural sector. Other drivers include the increasing number of urban households that are incorporating indigenous vegetables in their diets as a healthier alternative, and the desire to produce indigenous products and services to supply the country's budding tourism industry.

The study finds that knowledge transfer channels are simple (not trivial) but very effective. For instance, 40.1 per cent of producers reported that they obtain the knowledge from family members; 21.7 per cent from friends, neighbours and individuals in their communities; 13.2 per cent were self-taught while 10.1 per cent got it through formal training insti-

tutions – suggesting that a majority (or about 75.2 per cent) of the knowledge that drives the traditional sector is easily transferable through social interaction, which illustrates that communities have more effective mechanisms for knowledge transfer and technology diffusion.

INNOVATION IN IKS

In thinking about how Eswatini could use the traditional sector as a foundation for the country's own modern industries, a point to consider is that IKS builds on generations of experience, existing capacities of communities and their innate production processes.

The ESEPARC study found that producers in the traditional sector, unlike in most sectors of the economy, already possess the basic skill and tacit (implicit) know-how for production; but lack access to new technology, knowledge, and advanced skills to help them innovate.

From the foregoing analysis, we postulate that the country could increase levels of innovation by providing new information, research and development, and the latest technologies to producers in the traditional sector.

For instance, biotechnology presents opportunities to come up with new formulations of *umhlabele*, or to increase the shelf life of *inkakha*, or *imbuya*.

The point here is that it is possible to create uniquely pan-Eswatini manufacturing firms by incorporating the foundational aspects of tradi-

tional products for industrialisation in Eswatini.

Similarly, opportunities are plentiful for local entrepreneurs who will bridge the knowledge gap between producers in the traditional sector and markets (by integrating ICTs), including helping them improve quality and adhere to generally approved standards and modern designs and developing new ones.

WHAT CAN ESWATINI DO TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF IKS?

A 2016 ESEPARC study found that the informal economy in Eswatini is worth a staggering E20.5 billion. Amongst this sector are those commercialising indigenous products such as woven baskets, bottled jam, petroleum jelly, as well as traditional attire, medicines and brew.

Getting ahead for Eswatini calls for an improvement in the production factors for local producers, especially those operating in the informal sector through what economists call combining informal (indigenous) manufacturing (including processing) with formal manufacturing.

Small tweaks such as an improvement in the provision of production technologies and infrastructure, improved accessibility to inputs and markets, organised marketing of products, and setting quality measures and standards for producers would go a long way in providing an enabling environment for the country to start commercialising its IKS.

A FIRST RATE LIFE

By Lisa
Mongelli

As I look back over my life story, it is plainly evident to me that the Universe always sought to provide me with a first rate life.

I, however, questioned my worth, and was unable to receive it. With my value in question I was never able to excel or to achieve the best for myself. I questioned my worth, doubted and disliked myself sending out negative vibrations and attracting back more of the same. I felt victimised by my childhood, my parents, and life in general to be completely honest.

I felt guilty for the anger I harboured toward my parents, and I blamed myself for being stupid, ineffectual, and erratic. I was clinically depressed and in deep despair. I do not believe I have ever met anyone who is a bigger vic-

tim than I was.

This state of being kept me from living in the present I was too unhappy with the life I had (unknown to myself) created; as a result, I was constantly projecting myself into a future that never came always looking for something better never living in the moment never really living. I wasted years of my life on a mental treadmill watching life go by, and dreaming about things that would never happen.

I couldn't see the good in my present day because I was so deeply immersed in my own misery. I was resonating on such a low frequency the Universe simply could not give me all the good things that I so desperately wanted, and I actually deserved.

What was best for me became

contaminated with feelings of depression, worthlessness and despair. So no matter what good I projected into the future for myself, it always eluded me. Why? Because the negativity I was living out in the present day overshadowed any other possibility. It is only when I changed my attitude toward myself and the present that my life really began to change. When I found compassion for myself, and gratitude for my life, then and only then did my life pivot and move into a positive direction. I finally began to see light for the first time in what had formally been a very dark place.

I came into this world like so many of us under a cloud of fear and negativity simply because my parents believed in hardship and

lack.

No matter how good things were there was always something wrong, and if it wasn't they would make it so with their constant state of fear and pessimism. My father was obsessed with money and poverty. He eventually lost everything in a constant drain of bad investments and gambling losses. His belief that he was undeserving and this set an unconscious intention for his life that was so deeply ingrained within him; he simply could not escape it. My father is one of so many people living out this kind of reality. If you feel unworthy of creation's abundance, you can never have it. What is your frequency? What resonance are you vibrating on? Are you resonating with a victim mentality or are you vibrating

with abundance?

It was only after I learned about the law of attraction that my circumstances really began to slowly transform. I had been a victim all my life, projecting blame outwardly. It was second nature for me to blame someone else for my suffering; it was what my parents taught me. My parents taught me what their parents had taught them; we are all victims of circumstances. Nothing was in my hands as I carried no responsibility.

The greater power controlled everything and this strange fickle power deemed who would be lucky and who not; then one day (I still do not remember how I got hold of a copy) I watched 'The Secret'. After watching it, my mind began to reel and I was seized by the undeniable truth, that I was responsible for myself, my life and all that was in it, success or failure it was all in my hands. I could actually change my life by changing the way I think.

And in the process formalise some of the businesses operating in the informal sector.

We have already argued that knowledge is transferred easily intra and inter households and communities within the sector, which suggests that communities could be targeted as possible innovation hubs. Opportunities exist for creating community clusters where local producers will share production costs for the sector to contribute to industrial growth.

Eswatini would also have to address demand-side factors for products made from IK. This includes demonstrating the benefits of such products to consumers to increase their consumption and as such, their contribution to the total amount of goods and services produced in Eswatini at any given time, otherwise known as gross domestic product (GDP).

There is no doubt that Eswatini could anchor her "blue ocean" strategy (defined as the simultaneous pursuit of differentiation and low cost to open up a new market space and create new demand) on IKS.

While we are careful not to dictate how this could be done, there is no doubt that the triad of research and development, knowledge transfer, and producer and consumer education is key in turning the traditional sector into an important source of immediate and future growth in Eswatini.

Standards

Examples of operationalising this idea include supporting rural women who produce petroleum jelly from sisal with the scientific evidence of its benefits (if any), providing advertisements and standards, and sensitising the nation on the importance of buying this product.

If successful, this could accelerate the large-scale commercialisation of their product and help in import substitution, job creation in rural areas and community development.

Policymakers are encouraged to take a long-term view as they ponder this and consider providing bold support to indigenous processes of innovation to harness the opportunities for learning and building capacities for technology adoption.

This will encourage innovation among communities and sustain production processes, create new jobs, increase exports, and in the long-term lead to the emergence of products and services that are unique to Eswatini.



TOURISM & TRAVEL

BONGANI DLAMINI

STA Marketing Manager

Email: mm@tourismauthority.org.sz



The Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA) has accelerated its marketing efforts of 'destination Eswatini' in the international travel markets.

In the last 30 or so days, the ETA has galloped between Netherlands and home for the Vakantiebeurs Annual Exhibition, and hosted three sets of visitors. Last week, as we unpacked our bags from the Netherlands, we parted with the Winkels who had won a tourism package to Eswatini from the Netherlands.

The positive report we gladly photocopied in our memories will ensure Eswatini has Dutch ambassadors who will be fishers of other travellers.

Eswatini is neatly and systematically locating the touch down, a point where the country will start marketing itself. Only after resting awhile were we able to walk down memory lane and gasp in awe of the success and exposure that the kingdom got at the exhibition. There is now a lurking possibility of 25 000 pairs of eyes ogling the country for the ultimate African kingdom experience.

It was a marvel to see journalists taking shots of our gigantic, custom-made 36 square-metre exhibition stand, dignitaries eyeing, inquiring and promising. Our most pivotal drum roll moment, as there were numerous, is that the ETA managed to negotiate about 17 possible partnerships with tour operators, travel writers, public relations companies, magazines, bloggers and even television producers.

This past week, we hosted two couples from the United Kingdom (UK) and Germany who had come for media tours for myriad reasons, specific to each. Our German visitors are updating two travel manuals they had written for the German, Swiss and Austrian travellers who wished to travel to southern Africa. The couple, Friedrich Koethe and Daniela Schetar are qualified scholars of Sociology and Anthropology, respectively, and both have been writers for the past 25 years. The passion for writing kept on creeping on the two of them until they answered the call and started travelling. They write for German publisher, Baedeker

with a dashing reputation for being the most famous and traditional publishing house in the whole of Germany since 1832. This couple will produce the 200-page Baedeker Smart and a 600-page Baedeker travel guides with profiles of countries, and now including our very own.

Accommodate

It is inspirational to witness the production of youth-ingestible portions and fleshy, passionate-filled pieces to accommodate both the busy, young travellers and eager readers. Koethe and his wife have soared through Windhoek, the Karoo, Cape Town, Eswatini and from here, Johannesburg and Kimberly. It is such an honour that these expert Samaritans without an extra cost to the country will market Eswatini. The refurbished travel guides will be available in stores with their experiences and knowledge of Eswatini engraved in some of its pages. And, all of this will happen by this time next year to give some fillip to the new travel year. The two publications will shower their markets with 11 000

copies between themselves from January 2020. Our other guests, Gavin and Claire Bell graced the country all the way from England to profile Eswatini for reasons that differ quite immensely from the Germans. Gavin, commissioned by Andrew Purvis at the Daily Telegraph, is an award-winning travel writer. The Daily Telegraph has a readership of a whopping two million, notwithstanding incalculable online readers.

Gavin is investigating conservation of rhinoceroses in Eswatini and to his shock, he spotted 17 in only an hour at Mkhaya Nature Reserve. We can only deservedly give Big Game Parks a standing ovation for their hard-earned splendour in the battle against rhino poachers. Beaming with love and passion for the endangered species, he has already started giving us positive reviews. While Claire, Bell's wife, is a travel editor with an edge for culture and writes for Whiskeria, a UK magazine that studies whisky as a part of culture. Claire showed a bucketful of inquisition as one of her many missions is to study cul-

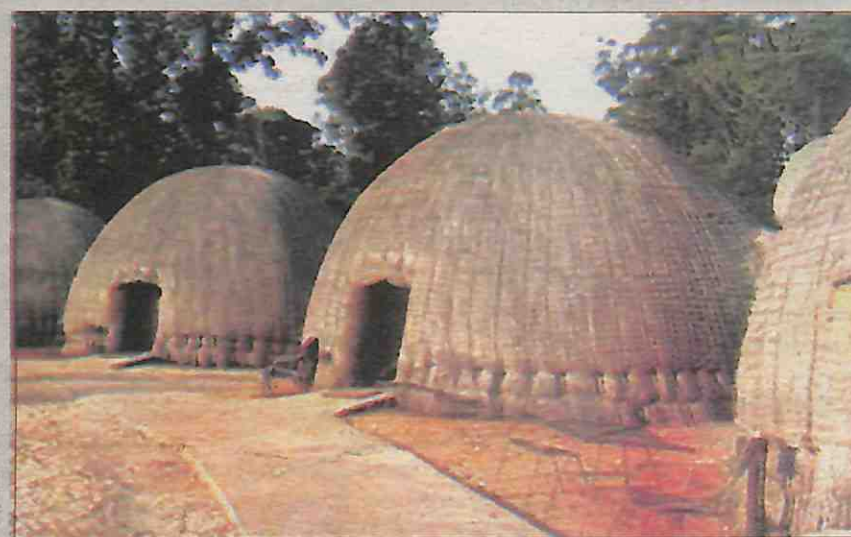
ture aspects rather than wildlife and attractions. As if geared with sociology and psychology skills herself, she conversed with our communications officer and the tour guide to juice them of information about the Swati species.

Experience

As a writer for whiskey connoisseurs, we wished she could have stayed long enough to experience our very own Marula/Buganu festival.

Being visited by our beloved guests has once again led us to a point of appreciating who we are as a one-tribe people in our humble country. Interestingly, the Bells came in the company of their seven-month-old daughter, Fintry. The baby has been travelling from country to country since she was six weeks old. Now, this family is given to the art of travel and writing about it, and they are instilling that same culture in their little one. This child was not only named after a small village in Scotland, but a huge tourist attraction, she clearly is a genesis to fruitful years of tourism and travel.

A GENESIS TO A FRUITFUL YEAR



When the realisation struck me that my thoughts were creating my life, and I was responsible for myself and virtually everything in it, I then began to study the law of attraction. Through my study, I slowly began to comprehend that I truly am a creative being. When my thoughts changed my frequency changed, and with that I began to attract a better life story. I discovered what you think you create, what you think you become. Everything in this Universe operates by law.

● *This state of being kept me from living in the present I was too unhappy with the life I had (unbeknownst to myself) created; as a result I was constantly projecting myself into a future that never came always looking for something better never living in the moment never really living. I wasted years of my life on a mental treadmill watching life go by, and dreaming about things that would never happen.*

Just like gravity, this Universe has laws and we are part of those laws; part of the process that created all things. If you don't understand the law of attraction, don't discard it.

Challenge yourself, read about the law of attraction, watch films,

inform yourself. Open your mind to the possibility that you are a powerful being created in the likeness of a Powerful Benevolent God; because whether you believe it or not every thought you think 'Creates your Life.' The Universe wants one

thing, that mankind should live in abundance and well being. Allow yourself to live in the Joy of life; go with the divine flow.

Remember the Universe will always give you the best life you are prepared to give yourself. Keep a good

thought, and above all else, choose to be happy.

God bless you and enjoy your Sunday.

Please share your thoughts with me write me at lisamongel-li30@gmail.com



THE SECOND COMING

Macford Sibandze
Guest Writer

SHO MAJOZI!!!

After taking a deserved sabbatical leave as a columnist, I make my return to the fatherland. Did I say 'fatherland'?

Yes, I did, because anything to do with the literal work is my religion; I live it! I love it! Exit the column, DIRECT DESCENDANT OF ABRAHAM and enter 'THE SECOND COMING.' Gagaga 'SECOND COMING?' Yes, the return to mainstream politics where I have signed a five year social contract with the people of Manzini North.

Maybe I should have screamed "Happpppppyyyy New Year" and personally thank God and the gods for giving me nine lives! Did I say 'gods?' Someone once said to me I mustn't use the word 'gods' in my vocabulary because I will roast in a braai stand somewhere in hell.....gagagagaga I laughed out loud because I won't be alone in that imagined artistic gigantic blaze of fire! And we know why Europe created hell; to scare the hell out of you because it is easy to colonise scared people! Gagagaga.

RETURNEES

A big shout to the returnees to Parliament as the road was rocky and thorny! Previously, others finished their term (s) intact? Others were brutally smashed against the wall, breaking all bones (and souls) in the process! You know when you fall from a chilli tree (*sihlahla sabhelebhle*) you remove the dust from your buttocks and keep walking. (Johnie Walker) But when you fall from a gum tree (*sihlahla sa gomu*) even the force of gravity

has no mercy on you! That's politics for you!

It is not a {fair} game for sissies and sissie boys! Its tough and can be traumatic. It can reduce one to a daily stand-up comedian! As I talk, many are now lying stone cold in the political cemetery or worse, in the dustbin of history! But the good thing about it, is that through, grace you can bounce back! So when I call this column THE SECOND COMING, it really is.....the second coming!

TOPICAL ISSUES

In this column, I will tackle topical issues in the arts, entertainment, politics, etc, locally and in the global stratosphere.

As usual, I will employ humour while discussing serious subjects. I will avoid controversies though being alive is controversial on its own as others wish they can just stop your blood from circulating with the scorn of their horrific glance! Gagagaga!

As a politician I understand both love and deep seated hate! Anyway, my very first article is about the state of the economy and the full blown fiscal crisis! I am taking a leaf from Central Bank Governor Minister Majosi Sithole for predicting a slight growth in the economy if we flag caution!

GLOBAL ECONOMIC MELTDOWN

Since the global economic meltdown in the fall of 2008 the world has not yet fully recovered! With dependency in the West, it becomes obvious that the South will catch the flue with any slight economic nausea from that hemisphere. With our next door rich neighbour, South Africa in recession, we feel the heat. Besides our currency pegging to the Rand, South Africa is our biggest trading partner and any instability in that country has a direct impact on us.

But with all the odds against us including geo-positioning, we have all it takes to cross the line to victory! This I say because we have not yet reached a position of institutional constraints, social upheavals, devastating natural catastrophes, etc experienced by other countries!

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

At just mid-2000, we cleverly came up with the Job Creation Summit to curb unemployment deterioration.

It was followed by the Agricultural Summit which made sound quick wins and turn around strategies for the country! With decentralisation in place and recommendations of these two summits and others, lie a big chunk for economic

growth! Fortunately, the country has an abundance of human resource. This has translated to best concepts, however, the only limitation has always been starting up!

For obvious reasons agriculture is at the horns of our economic stimulus but we also have to give a chance to other sectors such as manufacturing, tourism, ICT, entertainment, etc which are showing signs of resilience. All what I am saying is spick and span, written, as recommendations from these two summits. And when you read the academic journals of Eswatini geniuses like Dr. Mike Matsebula, you realise how blessed we are with knowledge, all we need is application! Just take a trip to SEDCO, you will be shocked that they have all it takes to turn around the country.....but why the economic infirmity?

EDUCATION SYSTEM - THE BUCK STOPS (STARTS) HERE

The bulk of the problem lies here; in the education system! Its true people of my age, a little below and above, proudly roll their tongues when in conversation, as an exhibition of Queen Victoria's tongue! We even write big words of English (Hail the Queen) as victims of colonial psychosis! While this was cool

(Hip-hop Slang) some three decades ago, today it is not amusing because that's the dark pit where our economic spread neatly rest in peace. With this education system we have handcuffed and imprisoned a whole generation for decades to come!

EXIT SWAZILAND ENTER ESWATINI!

But this generation is resilient! Through new technology, it is bridging the digital divide and doing wonders.

In Eswatini, Liswati has invented a cellphone! In Eswatini, Liswati has made a plane! In Eswatini, Emaswati make huge social media innovations! In South Africa, Emaswati are running the economic show! Governor Sithole made a fatherly and professional warning that the nation has to be careful of the allure of money dangled by bogus shylocks! Well and good, but in this economic quagmire, the potential entrepreneurs, the innovative, itchy hands, are vulnerable to anyone with a full or 'fool' basket *batsi indlala idlisana ema.....!*

Look at the mess Africa is in through the big China! Bye bye! Some time to come, I will write about the dangerous seduction of Big China: the Beijing Dragon!

INFLATION, LIVING STANDARDS AND MINIMUM WAGE

Demography Today With Ndumiso

W

here are we headed to????

The world has some strong repercussions on issues which involve economic indicators. Mostly the issue of economic indicators hits hard mostly on second and third world countries, Eswatini and Afghanistan respectively.

In definition, the term 'Inflation' refers to the relative persistent increase in the price level of goods and services in a country over a period of time.

However, this concept is appreciated by many countries such as Germany, among others, some countries on the one hand are negatively affected by the hyper inflation rate which varies across countries mainly depending on how that country is doing economically.

With the rapid inflation rate in the developing world (Eswatini), this issue results in high living standards and having an impact on the minimum

wages of the workers.

In Eswatini a majority of the working class are mainly employed by the factory industry (14 000) people in total.

The price level of goods and services in Eswatini are ever rising whereas, on the other, hand salaries and wages are still low. In other words, the salaries rise on an arithmetical progression 1, 2, 3, 4,tn. whereas the price level of goods and services follow a geometric progression 1, 3, 9,tn.

This trend in the long run with all costs kept constant leaves a huge gap on the living standards and also negatively affecting the National Minimum Wage (NMW). The Swazi residents start losing their purchasing power due to their inability to buy goods and services after inflation and inclined living standards.

The purchasing power now lives with the owners of the means of production (Capitalists) who own and operate the factors of production (Land, Labour, Capital and Entrepreneurship). The working class becomes a liability to the owner of the means of production.

According to books and writings in Eswatini and the constitution, it is written that workers (Domestic, seasonal, permanent, temporal and part-time) that there is a stipulated amount set aside for workers in all sections in Eswatini.

Is it enacted practically? I doubt that is the case

because a majority of the workers in Eswatini are employed by the private sector and they get far less than the minimum wage of the country and no one is saying a thing about it and no one wants to have that under their roles in as far as legislation is concerned.

Workers, parents of school going children in the country, are left to feel the wrath of school fees, goods and services and to cover basic needs of the family.

A vast population migrate from the rural areas to urban areas in search for jobs and to their surprise they are found to be unemployed. Those that are employed start renting out flats where they shelter themselves whilst working in the factory shells.

They are tasked with paying rent and buying food to feed their families but with such low wages (£1 500) what can a person do than to wonder and further increasing women sexual appetite?

This increase in women sexual appetite leads to increase in HIV and AIDS prevalence and incidence rates. With the ever increasing price level of goods and services, a potential buyer now has limited purchasing power to buy consumables due to less wages and salaries.

Eswatini has been experiencing rapid inflation rate for some years now but still the government of Eswatini has not showed any sign of rising the

workers' salaries and wages.

These indicators are central measures depicting development of a country and if the government/central bank is not putting up together resources for the future, then Eswatini will be on its way to Zimbabwe's route.

The central bank has the prime role of keeping inflation relative and average for the people. However, in this case, Eswatini has a high inflation rate and the living standards are rising rapidly but the matter is the prices of goods and services which keep rising and the people still get far less than that of the goods and services.

Projections indicate that Eswatini's inflation rate is set to further hike and the living standards are also set to rise for the next three years and what is a sad story for most people in the country is to be told that there will be a three per cent increment in the year 2021.

This, on the other hand, implies that the current situation is still to exist and a majority of the people, especially the working class, will still not have more money as per their plea to government.

Stories have been foretold many times about some countries experiencing hyperinflation rate which results in the value of money to fall.

Is Zimbabwe story far from Eswatini's?

Share your thoughts/comments with me on WhatsApp on 7622 9373.

Parliament officially opens soon and government's singularity of purpose in working towards economic recovery, its achievements within the three months it has been in office, the proposed strategy and action plan, and the invitation to all to join in this national project has become such a chorus for the prime minister, you can already predict he will sing it again in his first address to parliamentarians.

This refrain will probably also accompany responses to every question parliamentarians and the rest of Eswatini society asks pertaining to government actions, including its misdeeds as we have already seen.

CABINETS ONE VOICE NEEDS TO BE BALANCED BY OTHERS

But this goal should not gain further entrenchment as an excuse to neglect other issues, which are equally pressing. This Cabinet boasts an impressive pedigree, comprising a diversity of backgrounds, experience and expertise. As such, it is expected that it will have a diversity of views which should enable ministers to see and deal with the array of national challenges from different perspectives. But let's face it – ultimately, just as with previous Cabinets, they will have a line to tow that will inevitably at times clash with even the best of their intentions. Not only will that curb independent thought and action, the reality of collective responsibility will block internal progressive voices from asserting themselves. Ultimately, it will be one voice speaking.

That is why, if the prime minister and his team are serious about national involvement in charting a turnaround, one of their key priorities will be to address the issue of freedom of expression that is guaranteed by the constitution, but which in reality is one of the most violated rights by the country's authorities, both by commission and omission.

If the invitation for all sectors to contribute is genuine, it is not a call that will, or can realistically or effectively be heeded by us simply because the framework for engaging in frank discussion and debate in this country does not exist. While you can blame – as everyone is wont to do lately – the previous government for anything and everything that is wrong, let us not forget that the infrastructure that enabled the previous Cabinet to shut people up, still exists.

FAILURE TO OPERATIONALISE THE CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE OF FREE EXPRESSION

Section 24 of the national constitution recognises and guarantees the freedom of expression. It clearly states that "(1) A person has a right of freedom of expression and opinion," and "(2) A person shall not except with the free consent of that person be hindered in the enjoyment of the freedom of expression, which includes the freedom of the press and other media, that is to say –

(a) freedom to hold opinions without interference;

(b) freedom to receive ideas and information without interference;

(c) freedom to communicate ideas and information without interference (whether the communication be to the public generally or to any person or class of persons); and

(d) freedom from interference with the correspondence of that person."

Of course, there are limitations to the rights but essentially it means we should not be in the same position we were in prior to 2005 where expression and access to information are concerned.

But we are in a worse position now – there used to be multiple forums in the broadcast media for robust debate and diverse voices. Today, when such should be flourishing, they no longer exist.

It is beyond failure that as we start the 14th year of the constitution's operation, there has been no concerted effort to pass updated legislation.

Development assistance has been sought and

GENDER EQUALITY - MAKING THE PROMISE A REALITY

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ACCESS TO INFORMATION INTEGRAL

(A HURISWA initiative supported by UNESCO to promote gender equality in Eswatini)



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given to review laws in line with the constitution and various regional and international human rights instruments. The few analysis reports and draft bills produced as part of the UNDP and Commonwealth assistance have gathered dust.

Law reform relating to freedom of expression must happen and Cabinet is responsible. It is true that it is parliament that passes law but the process, outside of a private Member's Bill, is such that it is line ministries that table legislation for debate. Hence it will be the willingness of the executive that will determine whether the necessary progress is made.

LAW, CUSTOM AND PRACTICE IMPEDING FREE SPEECH

There are many laws that interfere with the freedom of expression and access to information. Amongst them are the Books and Newspapers Act, 1963; Official Secrets Act, 1963; Proscribed Publications Act, 1963; Cinematography Act, 1968; and Sedition and Subversive Activities Act, 1938.

There are cultural considerations too, where the good customary values of respect and consensus have somehow mutated to mean "Thou shalt not differ from the status quo."

Some limitations are not even in law but are practices developed over time in walking the tightrope between what will and what will not offend the powers that be.

There has been politicisation of the Swazi identity – if a person does not fit into this mould of conformity, she or he is easily labeled "unSwazi" and their views thereby delegitimised, even where they avoid punishment. Hence the prevailing atmosphere of fear powered by unwritten rules and open secrets about issues we do not publicly address and there are people that are muted by preventing their voices to be heard in the media, particularly the state (which are meant to be public) broadcast media.

WE, THE PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO SPEAK

But we, the people, are the major stakeholder in governance, and we must be able to speak. We are the so-called "ordinary" person on the street.

We are business. We are artists. We are the media. We are civil society.

We are churches and other faith-based organisations. We are rate-payers. We are informal economy traders. We are human rights defend-

ers. We are workers. We are the unemployed. We are youth. We are persons with disabilities. We are the elderly. We are political parties. We are non-Swazi residents. We are refugees.

We are development agencies. We are parliamentarians. It is all of us. We all have an interest in where our country is going and we must have access to the information that enables us to interact with those who govern.

We must also have the freedom to express ourselves accordingly to influence their direction for our best developmental interest.

The experiences of people like Thulani Maseko and Bheki Makhubu are simply high profile manifestations of the phenomenon of making examples out of people whose only crime has been to point out the systemic flaws in our governance and the ills that have been birthed thereby.

There are many more people whose stories have not been told with the same fanfare, but who have equally suffered because they have spoken out. Even in so-called protected spaces such as the national Sibaya, people have been pursued and punished for being critical or expressing dissent-

ing views.

This cannot also be a feature of the 'Mandvulo era.'

PM'S MY WAY OR HIGHWAY TENDENCIES A CONCERN

Prime Minister Mandvulo is concerning exhibiting early signs of having my way or the highway tendencies.

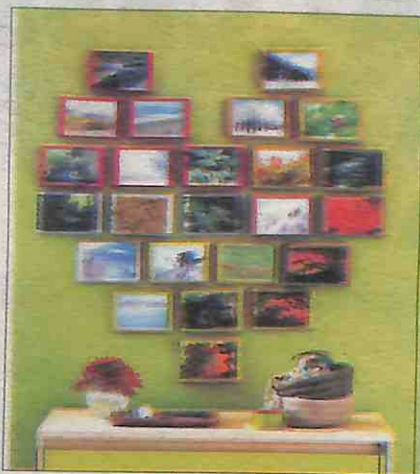
This is an attitude that may work in the short term as he wields his delegated power to bulldoze through his positions, using it to maintain a level of intransigence, but in the long run, it will take him down the same rabbit hole that was merciless to his predecessor and will be just as merciless to him also.

The corporate sector may have primed him and some of his colleagues well in certain aspects of leadership, but they must realise that this role they are now in is a different ball game altogether, and that the public that government is supposed to be serving does not appreciate such arrogance.

They may have the power to do what they want, but the nation deserves more respect.

They would do well, therefore, not to quickly squander the goodwill they currently enjoy.

HEART ART



Display your favourite photos with heartfelt flair with this unique presentation.

You will need:

- 4x6-inch blocks of medium-density fiberboard (MDF) or scrap wood (We used 24 blocks.)
- Crafts paint in several colors
- Foam paintbrush

- Photos
- Spray adhesive
- Adhesive strips designed for hanging art on walls

Step 1

Gather materials and dilute crafts paint (4 tablespoons) with water (1 tablespoon) to create a wash.

Step 2

Use a foam paintbrush to apply the wash to the front and sides of one wood

block. Repeat the process with other blocks and colors.

Step 3

When all the blocks are dry, mount the photos using spray adhesive. Gently press each photo onto the painted side of each block.

Lay out your pattern on the floor. We arranged 24 wood blocks into a heart shape.

Use removable adhesive strips to attach the blocks to the wall.

Sourdough egg breakfast casserole

Starting your day with a high protein breakfast is a great way to ensure you have the energy you need to make it through the morning.

Sourdough bread and some sharp cheddar cheese give this traditional egg breakfast casserole a slight tang that your taste buds will love.



bread and then sprinkle the cheese on top of the sausage.

Egg Casserole | Serves 15**Ingredients**

- 8 to 10 large slices of white sourdough bread cut into cubes, about 4 cups
- 750g sausage crumbled and cooked
- 2 cups grated white cheddar
- 12 large eggs
- 2 1/4 cups milk
- 2 tsp dry mustard
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground pepper

Directions**Step 1**

Spray a 9x13 inch baking dish with non-stick cooking spray and place the bread in the dish. Sprinkle the browned sausage over top the

Step 2

In a medium-size bowl, beat together the eggs, milk, dry mustard, salt and pepper. Beat until all of the egg yolks are well mixed before pouring the egg mixture over the cheese. Cover the casserole with plastic wrap or foil and refrigerate overnight or for at least six hours.

Step 3

When it's time to cook the casserole, preheat the oven to 165C. Bake the casserole, covered with foil, for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake for an additional 15 to 20 minutes or until the middle of the casserole is puffed and set. Cut into squares and serve warm.

Rose gold, subway tiles and exposed lighting were some of the top home decor trends of last year.

But with a new year comes new decorating patterns, stylish and timeless pieces, and fresh takes on old styles.

2019 is going to have some fantastic home design trends, and if you're planning on building this year, why not consider one of these design trends to make your new home stylish, elegant and modern.

Many of the ideas on this list can be achieved for a fraction of the retail price with a little shopping around, and it may help to carry photographs or magazine cuttings so there is no confusion about what you want.

Antique shops are a great place to find interesting furniture and decorative items that never go out of style; these will always add a touch of timeless class to your interior.

ARTISANAL FIXTURES

Designers have noticed a shift in what kind of fixtures are more popular.

Recently decorators have become more partial to artisanal fixtures by local artists and small businesses, especially when it comes to lighting.

Artisan fixtures personalise your home, and, like natural elements, they help shift the home's focus from the technological to the natural world. A good place to find artisanal fixtures is at local handicraft markets, where even if you don't find something then and there, you will probably be able to interact with the artist and commission the kind of fixture you like.

A benefit of having an artisanal fixture made especially for you is that your home will always remain unique.

2019 HOME DESIGN TRENDS

**NATURAL ELEMENTS**

Stepping away from the technology-obsessed decor we saw dominate the 2018 design trends, 2019 will move towards fresh, natural materials such as stone, copper, concrete, and granite.

These elements help to bring an organic and

serene ambiance to any space, while reflecting the natural world around your home.

Add natural elements to your home décor by bringing in some indoor plants, which have become very popular in the last few years. Air plants don't need much maintenance, and make

a wonderful addition to a bookcase or TV stand.

VELVET FURNISHINGS

Velvet used to be old fashioned and stuffy, but has been reborn as a funky way to add luxury to your interior. This multi-dimensional fabric is already gaining a lot of attention, leading many

MAKE YOUR OWN MUESLI

Muesli checks all the boxes of a perfect weekday breakfast.

You can make it in advance; it's packed with whole grains, fibre, protein, and antioxidants; and it's extremely versatile, both in how you make it and how you eat it. I like to make a big batch over the weekend to last throughout the week, which significantly speeds up my weekday morning routine. It's toasty, nutty, chewy, and truly satisfying—a breakfast that can hold me until lunch.

Muesli | Makes 5 cups

Ingredients

- 3 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 1/2 cup wheat bran
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 1/4 cup raw pecans, coarsely chopped
- 1/4 cup raw shelled pumpkin seeds
- 1/2 cup unsweetened coconut flakes
- 1/4 cup dried apricots, coarsely chopped
- 1/4 cup dried cherries

Tools

- Large rimmed baking sheet
- Large bowl
- Large airtight container, for storing

Directions

Step 1

Arrange two racks to divide the oven into thirds and heat to 180°C. Place the oats, wheat bran, salt, and cinnamon on a rimmed baking sheet; toss to combine; and spread into an even layer. Place the almonds, pecans, and pepitas on a second rimmed baking sheet; toss to



combine; and spread into an even layer. Transfer both baking sheets to oven, placing oats on top rack and nuts on bottom. Bake until nuts are fragrant, about 10 to 12 minutes.

Step 2

Remove the baking sheet with the nuts and set aside to cool. Sprinkle the coconut over the oats, return to the upper rack, and bake until the coconut is golden-brown, about five minutes more. Remove from oven and set aside to cool, about 10 minutes. Transfer the contents of both baking sheets to a large bowl and add the apricots and cherries. Toss to combine.

Step 3

Transfer to an airtight container. Muesli can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature for up to one month.

Enjoy as desired. Enjoy as oatmeal, cereal, overnight oats, or with yogurt, topped with fresh fruit and a drizzle of honey or maple syrup, if desired.

RECIPE NOTES

Storage: Muesli can be stored in an airtight container for up to 1 month.

Serving suggestions: To make overnight oats, combine equal parts muesli and milk or non-dairy milk (I prefer 2/3 cup of each) in a small lidded container (at this point I like to top mine with frozen blueberries, too). Refrigerate overnight and enjoy cold in the morning.

Freezer-friendly breakfast sandwiches

I don't think it's too extreme to say that this whole concept of freezable breakfast sandwiches has changed my world.

Or at least my mornings. Suffice it to say, they are amazing. If you love eggs in the morning, often buy breakfast on the way to work, wouldn't mind saving a few bucks, or all of the above, then these sandwiches are about to make you very happy. They're great for a quick breakfast on busy mornings, or to microwave and pack as part of a lunch box meal.

Breakfast sandwiches | Makes 6

Ingredients

- 10 large eggs
- 1 cup milk salt
- 6 slices bacon
- 6 slices cheese
- 6 English muffins

Tools

- Whisk
- Baking pan
- Medium bowls
- Baking sheet
- Aluminum foil
- Paper towels
- Clean plate
- Spatula
- Biscuit cutter or drinking cup, roughly the same size as the English muffins

Directions

Step 1

Heat the oven to 180°C. Place one rack in the lower third and another rack in the upper third of the oven.

Step 2

Whisk the eggs together with the milk and salt in a large mixing bowl. Film a 9x13 baking pan with cooking spray, and pour the eggs into the pan. Place on the lower rack in the oven. Bake until the eggs are puffed around the edges with golden spots, and a paring knife inserted in the middle comes out clean, 25 to 30 minutes. Cool completely.

Step 3

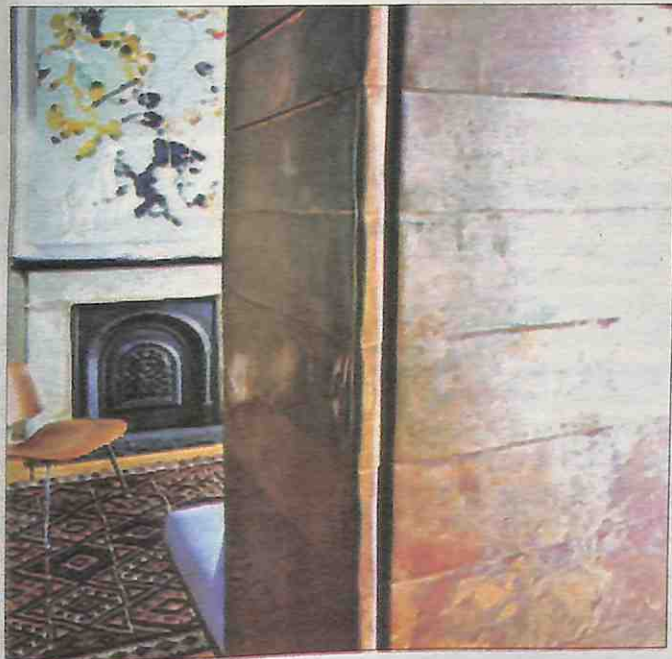
Line a baking sheet with foil. Lay the bacon on the baking sheet in a single layer with no pieces overlapping. Turn up the edges of the foil to catch the grease. Place the bacon on the upper rack in the oven and bake until the bacon is crispy, 15 to 20 minutes. When finished, transfer the bacon to a plate lined with paper towels to drain. When cool, break each piece in half to make them easier to fit on the sandwiches.

Step 3

Place the English muffins cut-side-up on a baking sheet and toast in the oven for just a few minutes, until the edges are toasted. If desired, you can brush the muffins with butter before toasting.

Step 4

Cut out the egg rounds: Use a spatula to lift the eggs out of the pan and onto a cutting board. Using a large biscuit cutter or drinking glass (roughly the same size as your English muffins), cut six rounds out of the eggs. The scraps can be used to make more sandwiches if you have extra English muffins, or they can go in salads, stir-fries, or other quick meals during the week.



designers to believe velvet decor will be one of 2019's most sought-after trends. With your option of velvet sofas, velvet headboards and even velvet walls; the decorating possibilities are endless.

FLORAL PATTERNS

This decorating trend has been around for a while, but always seems to come back in new and improved incarnations. This year we will see floral patterns in a new light. Decorators expect to find exaggerated proportions and contrasting colors used for this timeless decor pattern. Think wallpaper, or sofas in contrastingly different floral patterns.

COPPER ACCENTS

Rose gold was one of 2018's most used decor trend; however in 2019 we expect to see less rose gold and more copper accents, along with a mix-

ture of other metals. With its red and orange tones and overall earthy hue, copper is a much-needed breath of fresh air for the new year. Because copper is a metal, you can use it in any of your home's spaces, such as in the kitchen as a dish rack or in the bathroom to store different odds and ends.

RICHER COLORS

Though muted colors can help you avoid making spaces feel overwhelming, designers believe that this will be a year where bolder colors are preferred. Richer hues throughout your home can make your more muted furnishings and decorative decor pop. Look out for dramatic reds, statement pinks, bold yellows and organic greens.

BRASS

2019 is setting up to be a year where we wave



goodbye to stainless steel and polished nickel, and welcome brass accents back into our homes. Brass is a surprisingly warm and subtle alternative to the expected steel accents, and can be incorporated into any of your home's different spaces.

BLACK & WHITE

A truly timeless design trend, black and white furnishings will want to be on your list of trends to incorporate into your home's decor this year. The visual contrast of black and white will provide a sense of balance and boldness to your home's space, and works very well with natural elements such as green plants, coloured stones and artworks with beautiful scenery.

MILLENNIAL PINK

A massive hit last year, this trendy hue is still getting a lot of attention. We've already seen this

pink shade make its way into home decor and fashion, but for 2019 get prepared to incorporate this colour in new creative and unique ways, as an easy way to update any space.

TONAL REDS

The past few years have seen designers and homeowners gravitate towards cooler colors such as blues and greens, so it has been exciting to see warmer tones returning. Tonal reds are a great way to add complimenting contrast while providing the warmth that makes your home more inviting.

GEOMETRIC PATTERNS

Similar to floral patterns and brass decor, incorporating geometric patterns is no new trend. Yet for the New Year geometric patterns are expected to become a dramatic presence. Colors will be bolder with oversized patterns. This is a trend that will help make a bold statement in any room. A chic and easy way to incorporate this pattern into your home decor is adding geometric throws.

CONCRETE ACCENTS

Some may wonder why concrete has left the construction zone, yet 2019 will be the year it steps into many homes decor. Providing a crisp, clean look that's easy to compliment Concrete isn't just for countertops. Geometric concrete tiles will become increasingly popular and pair two of next years hottest design trends into one stylish piece.

BUCKET SINKS

Also known as a trough sink, the bucket sink joins the list of vintage design trends that are predicted to make a massive comeback in the next year.

Farm-house inspired, these pans are family friendly and will add personality and a touch of nostalgia to any kitchen or bathroom.



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

TRUMP SUSPENDS ARMS TREATY, CITING CHINESE AND RUSSIAN THREATS

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is pulling the plug on a decades-old nuclear arms treaty with Russia, lifting what it sees as unreasonable constraints on competing with a resurgent Russia and a more assertive China.

The move announced on Friday sets the stage for delicate talks with US allies over potential new American missile deployments.

In explaining his decision, which he had foreshadowed months ago, President Donald Trump accused Moscow of violating the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty with 'impunity' by deploying banned missiles. Moscow denies it is in violation and has accused Washington of resisting its efforts to resolve the dispute.

Democrats in Congress and some arms control advocates criticised Trump's decision as opening the door to an arms race.

"The US threat to terminate the treaty will not bring Russia back into compliance and could unleash a dangerous



US President Donald Trump.

and costly new missile competition between the United States and Russia in Europe and beyond," the private Arms Control Association said. It argued that Washington had not exhausted options for drawing Russia back into compliance.

Trump said in a statement that the US will 'move forward' with developing its own military response options to Russia's banned deployment of cruise missiles

that could target western Europe.

"We cannot be the only country in the world unilaterally bound by this treaty, or any other," Trump said. Other officials said the treaty could still be saved if Russia reverses course and returns to compliance, but that window of opportunity will close in six months when the American withdrawal is due to take effect.

Unacceptable

The Trump decision reflects his administration's view that the arms treaty was an unacceptable obstacle to more forcefully confronting not only Russia but also China. China's military has grown mightily since the treaty was signed, and the pact has prevented the US from deploying weapons to counter some of those being developed in Beijing.

Leaving the INF pact, however, risks aggravating relations with European allies, who share the administration's view that Russia is violating the treaty but who have not endorsed a US withdrawal.

AP

Mnangagwa accuses West of 'backing Zim violence'

HARARE - Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Friday accused western countries of supporting violent countrywide protests in January that were sparked by a huge rise in fuel prices.

At least 12 civilians died and hundreds more were injured following a joint police and military crackdown on protesters after shops were looted and set on fire.

"We regret the loss of life but we needed to protect property as well as other citizens not involved in the protests," Mnangagwa told local reporters.

"We have told the western countries that they cannot turn around and raise concerns when they are the ones sponsoring the violence," the privately-owned NewsDay newspaper quoted Mnangagwa as saying.

Authorities have blamed the protests on the main opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party and on non-governmental organisations that they said were backed by western governments.

When he took over from Robert Mugabe in 2017, Mnangagwa pledged to revive the moribund economy and

attract foreign investment by ending the country's international isolation.

Police have arrested more than 1100 people, including opposition lawmakers, trade unionists and even some children as part of the crackdown, which has been criticised by the US, the European Union and Britain as well as by rights groups.

Mnangagwa, who won a disputed election in July, also announced a package of measures for state workers after strikes by doctors and teachers over poor pay.

AFP

Ivory Coast ex-president Gbagbo freed

THE HAGUE - Former Ivory Coast president Laurent Gbagbo was freed from detention by the International Criminal Court on Friday, under the condition that he will stay in the country that accepts to take him in and that he will return to the court when asked to do so.

Reading a unanimous decision by a five-strong appeals panel, presiding Judge Chile Eboe-Osugi ordered Gbagbo and co-defendant Charles Blé Goudé 'to be released to a state willing to accept them on its terms'.



Reuters

Laurent Gbagbo.

tories'.

Gbagbo, who ruled Ivory Coast from 2000-2011, has spent seven years in custody in The Hague.

The men were acquitted of atrocities charges on January 15 but had been kept in detention pending objections by prosecutors, who plan to appeal against the acquittal and sought guarantees that the men would return to court later if required.

A spokesman for the ICC on Friday night said both men had left the detention centre in The Hague "as an interim measure," without providing further details.

Gbagbo and Goudé need to report weekly to the law enforcement authorities of the country that accepts them, and are not allowed to make any public statement on the case, the panel said.

Guaido extends olive branch to China

CARACAS - Venezuela's self-proclaimed president Juan Guaido has promised China he will honour bilateral agreements and said he was ready to start a dialogue with Beijing 'as soon as possible'.

Guaido's comments to the South China Morning Post, published yesterday, appear aimed at laying to rest questions over whether his political challenge to President Nicolas Maduro would disrupt ties with Venezuela's main creditor.

Maduro visited China in September, striking energy and gold mining deals as he sought Beijing's support for his crisis-hit nation.

"China's support will be very important in boosting our country's economy and future development," Guaido, the 35-year-old opposition leader, said in the email interview with the newspaper.

"Given its competitiveness and market, China is a fundamental global player with whom we would like to re-launch our relationship



Venezuela's self-proclaimed 'acting president' Juan Guaido.

based on mutual respect and cooperation."

"We are ready to begin a constructive relationship and dialogue with China as soon as possible."

Guaido proclaimed himself acting president last week amid protests in Caracas.

While many countries, including the US and Brazil, have backed Guaido, China has so far declined to pick sides, stressing its longtime position against "interfering" in the domestic affairs of other nations.

AFP

BRIEFS

S. Sudan opposition objects constitution amendments

JUBA - South Sudan's main opposition faction says it will challenge proposed amendments to the country's constitution. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO) said it would petition continental bloc, the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), to stop the bill from reaching the justice ministry, the East African reported. UN Miraya Radio reported that senior SPLM-IO official Oyet Nathaniel Penono said in the capital Juba on Thursday that IGAD as guarantors of the South Sudan peace agreement should order the withdrawal of the bill or make significant amendments. ANA

Bashir orders re-opening of Sudan border with Eritrea

KHARTOUM - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on Thursday announced the re-opening of his country's eastern border with Eritrea, which has been shut since last year. Bashir ordered the frontier closed in January 2018 after he announced a state of emergency in the eastern region of Kassala to fight arms and people smuggling. "I announce from Kassala the opening of the border with Eritrea," Bashir said on Thursday at a televised rally of loyalists in the regional capital near the frontier. "Politics can divide us but still they (Eritreans) are our brothers and relatives," he said, without giving more details on the decision. AFP

EU states move to recognise Venezuela's Guaido

BRUSSELS - European Union governments will move to recognise Juan Guaido as Venezuela's interim president from next week, but using cautious language for fear of setting a precedent for political crises, two EU diplomats said on Friday. Nervous that Guaido's decision to declare himself president could set an example for other opposition leaders around the world, EU foreign ministers agreed in Bucharest this week to back him only until a new election could be held. Britain, France, Germany and Spain are expected to announce their direct recognition of Guaido from tomorrow, assuming an eight-day deadline they set last Saturday if an election is not met, diplomats said. Reuters

Venezuelan's Maduro's hours are numbered

BOGOTA - Venezuela's dictatorship only has a short time left, Colombian President Ivan Duque said on Friday, calling for more diplomatic pressure on that nation's leader, Nicolas Maduro, to facilitate the return of democracy to the oil-producing nation. Colombia, which is part of the 14-country regional Lima Group, has already recognised Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido as interim president of Venezuela. "Today it's worthy to applaud what the world is seeing and that is that the dictatorship of Venezuela has very few hours left, because there's a new institutional regime that's being created thanks to the work that Colombia and other countries have done," said Duque. Reuters

REAL MADRID, BARCA FACE OFF IN COPA DEL REY SEMIS



MADRID - Real Madrid will face defending champions Barcelona in the semi-finals of the Copa del Rey.

The draw made on Friday means there will be back-to-back Clasicos, with the second leg due to take place in the last week of February, before Madrid host Barca in La Liga on March 2.

The first leg will be played at the Camp Nou next week before a return at the Santiago Bernabeu. The provisional dates are February 6 and 27. Real Betis will go up against Valencia in the other semi-final.

Barcelona are 10 points clear of Madrid in La Liga and will be favourites to progress but their opponents have found form in recent weeks, winning six of their last seven matches.

Barcelona Director Guillermo Amor said: "Real Madrid are playing well

and they will be the Madrid team we always expect -- a group of winners that competes for everything, that can give us a scare if we are not ready to work."

"There's nothing like it," Real Madrid Director Emilio Butragueno said. "We are talking about two teams with a lot of resources, with extraordinary players and we always expect very tight games."

Greatest

"We trust our players but obviously this is one of the greatest games in the world today."

Barca are chasing a record fifth Copa del Rey success in a row while Madrid are into the last four for the first time since they won the competition in 2014.

Two Clasico games in a week will crank up the pressure on both teams at the end of the month but Real also

have a testing schedule around the first leg, sandwiched between a city derby against Atletico Madrid in La Liga and a Champions League last-16 first leg away to Ajax.

Santiago Solari's side will hope victories in the Copa del Rey can have a knock-on effect in the league, however, where Barca have been unflappable over the past two months, winning eight matches on the spin.

The opener at the Camp Nou will present Madrid with a chance to avenge their 5-1 hammering there in October too, a result that led to Julen Lopetegui being sacked as coach.

They reached the Copa del Rey semis after completing a 7-3 aggregate victory over Girona on Thursday while Barcelona pulled off a brilliant comeback to beat Sevilla, overturning a 2-0 first-leg deficit by winning 6-1 at the Camp Nou. *AFP*

Downs take control of Group A

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns took control of top spot in Group A in the CAF Champions League after defeating ASEC Mimosas 3-1 at Loftus Versfeld on Friday evening.

Downs controlled the match and should have won by a more comfortable margin were it not for some wasteful finishing. Credit to Pitso Mosimane's side for bouncing back from a disappointing week which featured losses to Chippa United and Amazulu.

Sundowns bossed the early exchanges and took just over 10 minutes to break the deadlock and get themselves off to a perfect start.

Gaston Sirino found space on the left flank, getting to the byline before whipping in an excellent ball for defender Mosa Lebusa to head home in the 10th minute.

Soon after, Lebusa turned from hero to villain when he pushed Salif Bagate in the penalty area with the Tunisian referee having no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Ahmed Herve Diomande calmly dispatched the penalty into the top right-hand corner to level matters at 1-1.

On the half-hour mark, the visitors almost took the lead when Alphonse Yao's corner was flicked on and headed inches wide by centre-back Wonlo Coulibaly. This, despite the Brazilians still dominating territory and possession.

It was clear from having played three matches in six days, the hosts were tiring towards the end of the first half with ASEC actually finishing the stronger as the sides headed in to the interval.

The home side started the second half like a house on fire, having two good chances in quick succession in the

opening five minutes. First, Anthony Laffor was denied by an excellent save from Abdoukarim Cisse after superb interplay between Themba Zwane and Sirino before Maboe hit the post with a close-range header moments later.

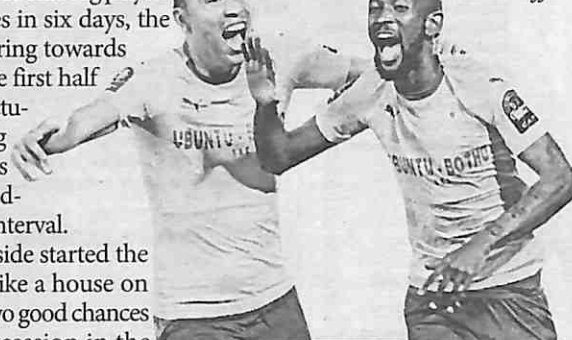
In the 53rd minute, the Brazilians would not be denied. Sirino, who was orchestrating things in midfield for the hosts, played Lyle Lakay in on the overlap who crossed for Zwane to score a simple tap-in from close range.

Skipper Hlompho Kekana then hit the post from a direct free-kick in the 65th minute as Mosimane's side came agonisingly close to a third. Ten minutes later, they were dubiously denied what appeared to be a legitimate goal for offside.

Sundowns would have been wondering how it was possible that they were only a goal ahead after wasting a series of gilt-edged opportunities. They were almost punished for their wasteful finishing when Denis Onyango was forced in to a fine save from a scorcher of a long-range effort.

The third goal would come eventually in stoppage time when Zwane found new signing Emiliano Tade in the area, who chipped the ball over Cisse to cap a memorable debut and secure the three points for his side.

Kick-Off



Majoro on target as Wits stretch lead

JOHANNESBURG - Lehlohonolo Majoro came off the bench to secure Bidvest Wits a crucial 1-0 win against struggling Maritzburg United at Bidvest Stadium on Friday night.

His 80th minute goal separated the sides in a tense and high stakes encounter.

With no games in hand over second-placed Orlando Pirates but with a two-point advantage, Wits needed to extend their lead while Pirates are on continental duty.

That they did and their five-point lead will examine Pirates' title credentials. Maritzburg's dire situation was pretty clear from the fact they were four points adrift of 15th-placed Chippa United.

With only 11 games left for both teams, Wits are primed for the finishing line while Maritzburg, who lost their 10th game, sunk deeper into the relegation quicksand.

Maritzburg though had the game's first chance in the fourth minute through Yannick Zakri but Darren Keet smothered his

tame shot.

Wits were far more incisive but should have punished Richard Ofori's consecutive brainfades when he twice rushed out of the box.

Ghabadinho Mhango skied the sixth minute chance but Ofori redeemed himself when he saved Deon Hotto's eighth minute free-kick.

Hotto made a nuisance of himself for the better part of the first half through a 23rd minute shot that went wide and 33rd minute attempt that Ofori saved.

Wits also came close on the stroke of half-time but Simon Murray's chance was cleared off the line.

Wits controlled large swathes of the second half and created the better opportunities. However, they had little to show for their endeavour.

Hotto continued to be a constant menace and had 52nd and 74th minute shots saved by Ofori while the Maritzburg keeper also denied Murray and Cole Alexander in the 53rd and 72nd minutes.

Times Live

Welsh comeback shocks home side in Six Nations opener

PARIS - Wales staged a remarkable second-half comeback to stun France 24-19 on a memorable opening Six Nations night in Paris.

Warren Gatland's team trailed 16-0 at the interval, but they responded magnificently to claim a 10th successive win and equal their longest unbeaten run since 1999.

Tries by scrum-half Tomos Williams and wing George North, who capitalised on opposite number Yoann Huget's defensive howler, plus two Gareth Anscombe conversions and a Dan Biggar penalty, edged Wales ahead following a 15-minute purple patch.

And after France went back in front through a Camille Lopez penalty, North claimed his second try - a stunning 60-metre interception effort that Biggar converted - to give Wales a seventh victory from the last eight starts against France.

Les Bleus dominated the opening 40 minutes, cruising clear through touch-



downs by number eight Louis Picamoles and Huget, while Lopez booted a penalty and drop-goal.

But Wales underlined strong Six Nations title credentials with a second-half display so far removed from what preceded it, it was hard to comprehend.

Wales came under incessant pressure in the early moments as France made light of slippery handling conditions caused by rain that started two hours before kick-off and had not relented.

Backs and forwards combined impressively to leave Wales stuck inside their

own 22, and Les Bleus built patiently before working enough space out wide to send Picamoles over for a sixth-minute try. But there were initial goal-kicking concerns for France as Morgan Parra missed an easy conversion attempt and then drifted a long-range penalty wide after Wales launched an opening attack through a strong Jonathan Davies run.

The visitors should have drawn level approaching the half's midway point after centre Hadleigh Parkes freed full-back Liam Williams.

Sky Sports

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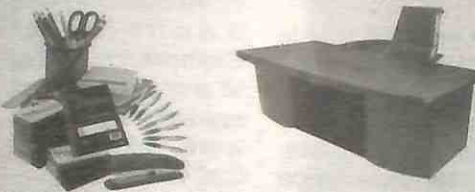
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Arrows extend unbeaten run under Komphela

DURBAN - Steve Komphela's impressive start at Golden Arrows continued as his charges registered a 2-1 victory over Highlands Park to boost their top-eight hopes.

Komphela made four changes from their Nedbank Cup victory last weekend, as Divine Lunga, Musa Bilankulu, Wayde Jooste and Knox Mutizwa

returned to the side, while Ennocent Mkhabela was handed his debut for the Lions of the North.

The match started at a high tempo but there were no clear chances in the early stages, although Danny Venter brought the game to life in the 24th minute with a strike from outside the box that took a nasty deflection to beat Tapuwa Kapini as

Arrows went ahead. While Highlands were finding it tough to carve out openings, Siphamandla Sabelo almost doubled the lead for the hosts on the half-hour mark with a low curling strike that flew slightly wide of the bottom post.

Abafana Bes'thende shot-stopper Nkosingiphile Gumede almost gifted the visitors an equaliser on the

stroke of half-time after spilling a cross from Lesenya Ramoraka in the box, but the Highlands attackers were unable to profit the handling error.

Second-half substitutes Peter Shalulile and Mokete Mogaila added some much need pace for the visitors going forward and the former nearly pulled a goal back 10 minutes after coming on with a header at the near post that

sailed over the bar. Arrows were a danger on counter-attacks and they eventually doubled their lead with 20 minutes remaining through Lerato Lamola, who slotted home from close range just two minutes after he was introduced by Komphela.

The Lions of the North gave themselves some hope in the final quarter of the encounter when Ryan Rae pulled a goal back with a brilliant header at the far post.

Soccer Laduma



Heung-min Son celebrates his second-half winner with teammates.

Son helps Tottenham squeeze past Newcastle

LONDON - Heung-Min Son's late goal finally broke down Newcastle's resistance as Tottenham earned a 1-0 win at Wembley in the Premier League yesterday.

The South Korean, who has now scored two in two since returning from the Asia Cup, saw a low effort from the edge of the box creep under the body of Newcastle goalkeeper

Martin Dubravka (83), who will feel he should have done better.

In an entertaining clash, Lucas Moura missed a fine opportunity in the first half, heading wide in space, Erik Lamela hit the woodwork with his own headed effort, while at the other end after half-time, Salomon Rondon also nodded against the far post.

Christian Eriksen saw a cute flick

cleared off the line by Fabian Schar, before Son's late winner.

The result means Tottenham have gone 29 league games without a draw, breaking a Premier League record, and puts Mauricio Pochettino's side second in the Premier League for 24 hours at least before Manchester City's clash with Arsenal on Super Sunday.

Sky Sports

Barnes' stoppage-time penalty salvages point



Ashley Barnes celebrates.

BURNLEY - Ashley Barnes' stoppage-time penalty salvaged a 1-1 draw for Burnley as they halted Southampton's charge away from the Premier League relegation scrap.

Having been denied what seemed to be a clear spot-kick midway through the first half at Turf Moor, Barnes made no mistake from 12 yards to secure a share of the spoils late on.

Nathan Redmond's strike 10 minutes into the second half had looked set to be enough for Southampton, but Burnley rallied - Barnes denied by Alex McCarthy and the crossbar before debutant Peter Crouch headed into Jack Stephens' arm.

And with referee Anthony Taylor this time showing no hesitation in giving the decision Burnley's way, Barnes stepped up to ensure their unbeaten league start to 2019 continued.

Danny Ings should have put his former club behind six minutes in, but failed to lift his effort over Tom Heaton,

who had reacted sharply to close the angle, and Burnley were convinced they should have had a penalty with just over half an hour played.

Having taken down a long ball, Barnes drew a clumsy challenge from McCarthy, but despite Southampton's goalkeeper getting none of the ball, Burnley's claims fell on deaf ears.

Phil Bardsley cleared off the line and Heaton denied James Ward-Prowse after the interval, and Southampton's pressure told when Redmond arrowed a low finish into the bottom corner 10 minutes into the second half.

Barnes continued to pose Burnley's greatest threat and forced a brilliant save out of McCarthy before hitting the crossbar.

However, there was to be one more twist - Stephens' handball from a Crouch knock-down giving referee Taylor little choice but to point to the spot, and Barnes duly slammed home in the 94th minute.

Goal

Milivojevic, Schlupp strike as Batshuayi makes debut

LONDON - Luka Milivojevic and Jeffrey Schlupp struck as Crystal Palace comfortably defeated Fulham 2-0 at Selhurst Park on Michy Batshuayi's debut, handing the visitors their fourth loss in five Premier League games.

Captain Milivojevic netted his seventh top-flight goal of the season from the penalty spot midway through the first half.

Even though Palace had to wait for a second, they were in control throughout as Fulham fell to their eighth straight loss in a Premier League London derby and failed build on Tuesday's 4-2 win over Brighton and Hove Albion.

Roy Hodgson had the luxury of leaving deadline-day signing Batshuayi on the bench until the 82nd minute, but the striker still had enough time to play a part in Schlupp's late clincher, as Palace won for the first time in four league games.

Aleksandar Mitrovic failed to take a golden early chance, sending a free header wide from six yards after being found by Joe

Bryan's delivery.

That proved costly when Palace took a 25th-minute lead from the penalty spot. Cyrus Christie's handball while climbing to challenge Christian Benteke - who made his first start since September - gave Michael Oliver an easy decision, and Milivojevic found the net despite Sergio Rico getting a hand on his effort.

With half-time approaching, Benteke almost marked his return to the team with a goal when he sent an overhead kick off the crossbar having been picked out by Andros Townsend.

Rico made key second-half saves from Jordan Ayew and Schlupp, while Mamadou Sakho sent a header off target as Palace sought a deserved second goal.

That arrived with three minutes remaining when Batshuayi drew a fine save from Rico, allowing Schlupp to convert the close-range rebound as Palace cruised to victory, with Fulham failing to register a single shot on target in the contest. *AFP*

In-form Wolves too much for Everton

LONDON - Wolves piled further pressure on under-fire Everton boss Marco Silva with an entertaining 3-1 win at Goodison Park yesterday.

The Toffees' patchy results this season have seen the Portuguese's position come under intense scrutiny and he will not be sitting any more comfortably after Wolves picked up a third straight Premier League victory to cement their place just outside the top six.

Ruben Neves' early penalty had Nuno Espirito Santo's side ahead but Everton were level midway through the first half thanks to Andre Gomes' thumping first goal for the club.

However, slack marking from a free-kick allowed R a u l

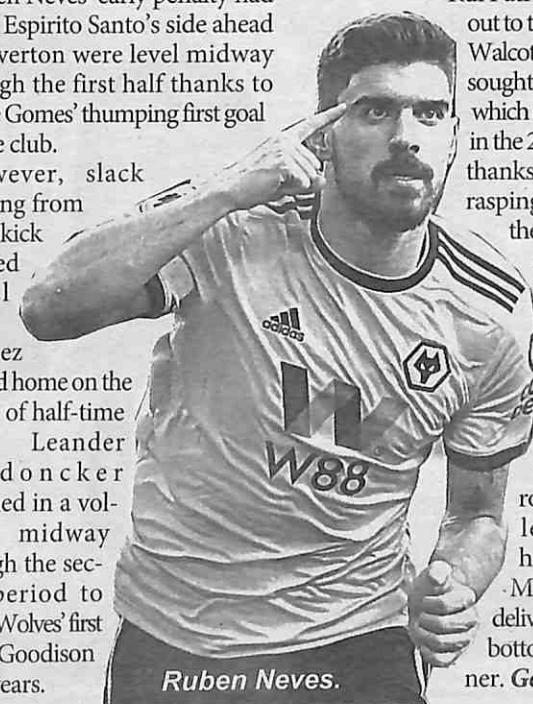
Jimenez to head home on the stroke of half-time and Leander Dendoncker smashed in a volley midway through the second period to secure Wolves' first win at Goodison in 40 years.

Everton had taken the lead inside three minutes of their win at Huddersfield Town on Tuesday but it was their turn to fall behind early on here as Leighton Baines felled Matt Doherty and Neves calmly converted the spot-kick.

The hosts almost gifted Wolves a second in the 20th minute when Tom Davies lost the ball and Jimenez fed Dendoncker, who was denied by Jordan Pickford at close quarters.

Rui Patricio surged out to thwart Theo Walcott as Everton sought a response, which duly arrived in the 27th minute thanks to Gomes' rasping drive into the roof of the net from 18 yards.

But Wolves restored their advantage as Jimenez rose unchallenged to head Joao Moutinho's delivery into the bottom-left corner. *Goal*



Ruben Neves.



INGWENYAMA CUP 2018/19



THE BATTLE FOR E1.3 MILLION CONTINUES

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER - The talk is over! Somhlolo National Stadium is the venue where all the dust shall settle this afternoon, when four of the best teams lock horns for a right to compete in

the final for the grand prize of E1.3 million.

Teams

The stakes cannot be any higher, and it promises to be a day of sheer entertainment, and perhaps upsets for those who have high hopes for their teams to

make it into the final.

For the neutrals, it is a day to enjoy the best that local football has to offer, as all the teams appear confident of making the last two. Below, we analyse what may transpire this afternoon, taking care not to make a final judgement.

YOUNG BUFFALOES VS MBABANE SWALLOWS

Somhlolo Stadium 3:30pm

This is arguably the pick of the semi-finals as no love will be lost when Mbabane Swallows take on Young Buffaloes in what appears to be a crunch match.

Swallows have had the edge over their oppo-

nents in the last couple of years, and if Buffaloes were to win here, it would be the sweetest revenge imaginable. This will be a tough game for both sides, no doubt. This is more so because both teams have very gifted players, maybe the best available in the country.

They both have been very consistent, dominating local competitions for a very long time to date. This is why it is difficult to call this game ahead of kick-off, more so because Swallows have been stuttering of late, while their opponents have continued to bulldoze their way past most of the teams they have come across. Buffaloes' victory over Royal Leopard in the quarter-finals was the most difficult game played by any team in the Ingwenyama Cup this year. They were very

impressive in that game, but so were Swallows when they overcame the challenge of Manzini Sundowns with a 2-0 win at the same stage. It promises to be a cracker of a contest, and surely, those who would make their way to the stadium for this game will not be disappointed.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR?

Watch-out for the attacking players on both ends of the pitch. Buffaloes have a very good striker in Ndoda Mthethwa, coupled with the play-making ability of the likes of Sandile Gamedze and Wandile 'Skosh' Shabangu. These players will pose a serious threat to Swallows, but Buffaloes have a lot to be worried about themselves, because Swallows have speedy wingers in Tony 'TT' Tsabedze and Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko. The goal threat from silent assassin Sizolwethu Shabalala cannot be underestimated on any day. Returning striker Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa will make the runs to open up the defence.

PREVIOUS RESULT

September 20, 2018
Swallows 2 Buffaloes 1

2019 RECORD

Swallows -

Played: 5
Won: 4
Draw: 0
Lost: 1

Buffaloes -

Played: 5
Won: 4
Draw: 1
Lost: 0

KEY PLAYERS

Swallows - Tony 'TT' Tsabedze, Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko, Siboniso Ndzabandzaba

Buffaloes - Ndoda Mthethwa, Sandile Gamedze, Sifiso Matse

COACHES

Swallows - Musa Manyatsi
Buffaloes - Dominic Kunene

MBABANE HIGHLANDERS VS MALANTI CHIEFS

Somhlolo Stadium 1:15pm

It is a fact that many people think Mbabane Highlanders will have a walk-over here by easily beating Malanti Chiefs to qualify for the finals, but for most of us who follow premier league football week in and week out, this will not be the case. Malanti Chiefs have been the team to watch when it comes to knock-out competitions over the years. In fact, amongst the so-called small teams, they have been the ones that have been successful the most, reaching the semi-finals, finals, or going one better by winning a trophy against expectations.

They have been impressive again in the Ingwenyama Cup this season and would go into this game against Mbabane Highlanders with a high level of confidence that they can beat the 'Bull' and qualify for the finals. Perhaps, it will shock many that Highlanders, one of the biggest teams in the land, are at this stage of the competition for the first time in four years. However, that is the reality, and what it means is that the team will be under pressure to beat Malanti Chiefs and qualify for their first ever final.

What will be crucial

Mbabane Highlanders player Thabiso Mokenkoane and Malanti Chiefs players.

is how they deal with that pressure, because if they were to choke, Malanti Chiefs would have a very good chance of progressing here.

What to look out for?

The battle will be in mid-field, where Highlanders can do with creative ability of a player like Vusumuzi Zungu. It will, therefore, depend on whether coach Saul Chamunika is willing to alter his system in this one game to allow Zungu to return to the centre of mid-field, which is his natural position.

For those who may not be aware, Zungu has been leading the attack as a target man for Highlanders in their most recent matches. He has done it to good effect in terms of holding up the ball for mid-field players to join the attack.

In Zungu's absence, Highlanders are likely to deploy Menzi Mamba and Mlaba Nkambule. Malanti will have Bhokisisa Shongwe and probably Sifiso Mkhabela. Success in that part of the field and the ability to start attacks on either wing will have a big effect in the game.

PREVIOUS RESULT

September 20, 2018

Highlanders 2 Malanti 1

2019 RECORD

Highlanders -

Played: 5
Won: 4
Draw: 1
Lost: 0

Malanti -

Played: 5
Won: 2
Draw: 1
Lost: 2

KEY PLAYERS

Highlanders - Vusumuzi Zungu, Thabiso Mokenkoane, Sawa Gamedze

Malanti - Siyabonga Nkambule, Asive Langwe, Binwell Katuyi

COACHES

Highlanders - Saul Chamunika
Malanti - Raymond Dlamini



Mbabane Swallows player Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu and Young Buffaloes player Ndoda Mthethwa.





IT'S ON BUCKLE UP

Ingwenyama Cup Semi Finals

February 3 Sunday , 2019
Somhlolo National Stadium

Highlanders FC	Vs	Malanti Chiefs FC	13h15
Young Buffaloes FC	Vs	Mbabane Swallows FC	15h30



Remember to obey all traffic safety laws!

UNITED HOLDINGS INSURANCE PUMPS IN E50 000 FOR LEG OF LAMB

STORIES BY JONGILE XUBA

GOLF - United Health Insurance has pumped in E50 000 towards the annual Leg of Lamb golf tournament.

This was announced by United Holdings Insurance General Manager Commercial Marcelle Fortune during the launch of the sponsorship held at Manzini Club on Friday evening. The GM said they were happy to be associated with Manzini Golf Club and also the Leg of Lamb competition.

"We are sponsoring the tournament to a tune of E50 000 to run for the full year. This will go a long way in helping us get in touch with our clients," she said.

Speaking on behalf of the golfers was OB Macwele, who said they were very grateful to receive funding at a time when the economy was not stable.

He urged his fellow golfers to support United Holdings to make sure they continue supporting the tournament.

The Leg of Lamb tournament is a weekly competition played every Friday at Manzini Golf Club, where the winner walks away with a big piece of lamb leg.



Manzini Golf Club's Eerfan Dada, United Holdings Insurance General Manager Marcelle Fortune, Leg of Lamb captain Wakie Lawrence, United Holdings General Manager Operations Mzingaye Ndlovu and Manzini Golf Club Vice Captain Jethro Masuku pose with the replica cheque at Manzini Club on Friday.



Manzini Golf Club Vice Captain Jethro Masuku addressing the golfers during the launch.



Leg of Lamb captain Wakie Lawrence making his remarks after the tournament.



United Holdings Insurance Operations Manager Patrick Gamedze directing proceedings during the launch.



Winner of the first Leg of Lamb Tournament Sive Dlamini receiving his prize from United Holdings GM Operations Mzingaye Ndlovu.

Sive wins first 2019 Leg of Lamb

GOLF - Sive Dlamini was the winner of the first edition of the Leg of Lamb Golf Tournament played at Manzini Club on Friday.

With a record attendance of 42 golfers on the day, Dlamini was able to see off the competition and secure the maiden title with 21 points.

He was followed by Peter Burke on 20 points on a count back, while Robert Mncina came third, also on 20 points.

Andreas Mkhathwa finished fourth on 19 points followed by new mem-

ber of the Manzini Golf Club Nkululeko Dvuba on 18 points.

Also worth mentioning is that the only female golfer on the day Nomvuyo Dlodlu managed an impressive 11th position with 17 points.

United Holdings Insurance Leg of Lamb Results

Champion - Sive Dlamini - 21 points

Runner up - Peter Burke - 20 points c/b

Third place - Robert Mncina - 20 points

Clover's E20 000 boost to Cricket Association

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

CRICKET - THE Eswatini Cricket Association (ECA) has clinched a E20 000 sponsorship from Clover Swaziland.

The sponsorship, launched at Enjabulweni Primary School yesterday, will go towards the hosting of a mini-cricket tournament.

Accepting the sponsorship was ECA Secretary Eric Phiri, who thanked the sponsor for their support. He said the sponsor couldn't have come at a right time as cricket was an expensive sport, something that results in some children not being afforded the opportunity to play.

"One of our objectives is to make sure that we invade the schools and catch them young. We also want to create awareness at the very tender age so they can grow in the sport. This will ensure they know the basics from a young age, in a manner that even children from as far as the Shiselweni region learn to play cricket. This will then eliminate the misconceptions that it is not a sport for the Swazi child. "We appreciate Clover for this partnership, and promise to live to the standards we promised to live to," he said.

Meanwhile, Clover Swaziland Managing Director (MD) Ronnie Egambaram said the company was pleased to play a part in shaping the future of the country through sport.



Clover Swaziland MD Ronnie Egambaram presents the cricket ladies team with the Mini-Cricket tourney kit. This was during the launch of the E20 000 sponsorship which was held at Enjabulweni Primary School. (Pic: Sibusiso Dlamini)

He noted that their products complemented sports.

"We are very proud to be involved with the cricket association on this project. We are glad to provide a grassroots platform for all Eswatini

children. We also appreciate that albeit the benefits of just playing cricket, there's the discipline, sacrifice and hard work, which are all life-lessons that we want our future generation to grow up having grasped," he said.

NNAS changes name, logo

BY JONGILE XUBA

NETBALL - The National Netball Association of Swaziland (NNAS) has changed both its name to Eswatini National Netball Association (ENNA) and its logo.

The changes were approved during a Special General Meeting called by the ENNA Management Committee at Zakhele in Manzini yesterday.

ENNA President Simangele Motsa said she was happy that the clubs all approved of the changes the MC had come up with. "I thank the members for unanimously endorsing the changes we made. The organisation will now be called Eswatini National Netball Association henceforth," she said.

The members did however suggest a few alterations to be made to the logo in order for it to fully accommodate the sport. Also on the agenda for the meeting was the adapting of new rules and regulations drawn up by the MC. Teams were given time to read over the new rules and will submit their opinions and additions during a meeting to be held in two weeks. The president urged all the teams to look over the new rules carefully so that they could make their submissions. "We will have a follow up meeting on the 16th of February where we will discuss the proposed changes to the rules and regulations as well as other issues that we did not get to address today (yesterday). It is very important that all teams read carefully so that they can ask the right questions next time we meet," She said. Motsa further urged the members to attend the follow-up meeting without fail as the decisions made there would be final so all teams must be present.

Support Papic - EFA tells local coaches

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER - The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has called upon local coaches to support Sihlangu head coach Kostadin Papic.

This was revealed by the local football mother body Chief Executive Officer Frederick Mngomezulu during the coaches' meeting held at the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) Technical Centre at Lobamba yesterday.

"We are appealing for support and unity from our coaches towards the Sihlangu coach (Papic), as this will go a long way in improving our football. We want to see a smooth and friendly working rela-

tionship between coaches and the head coaches.

"Coaches will be able to work closely with the head coach, who is working towards closing the gap between coaches and players. They should feel free to consult him whenever they want to express their views," he said.

Mngomezulu added that they would be signing a compliance agreement with FIFA, a move aimed at professionalising football in the country. "We are working towards meeting both FIFA and CAF requirements so that we improve the local game and are hoping to have met these requirements when we sign the FIFA letter of agreement on May 31," he said.



Sihlangu head coach Kostadin Papic.

Coaches happy to meet Papic

SOCCER - Local coaches have expressed happiness over their meeting with the new Sihlangu head coach Kostadin Papic yesterday.

Interviewed after their four-hour session with the Serbian mentor at the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) Technical Centre, some of the coaches said they were happy to have met and shared ideas with the former Orlando Pirates and Kazier Chiefs coach.

This is what they said
Anthony Mdluli (Sea Birds)

"We are happy that we have met the head coach and shared football ideas with him.

"We would like to thank the EFA

for facilitating the meeting and hope for the best as we take our football to greater heights."

Terisayi Changara (Moneni Pirates)

"We are happy to meet the coach whose style of play suits some of the local teams. I believe we are going to have a good working relationship with him."

Mduduzi 'Nyama' Shongwe (former Manzini Sundowns assistant coach)

"We are going to support the head coach in everything he does and hope he will assist all the national squads, including the juniors because this will be good for our football."



Terisayi Changara.



Mduduzi 'Nyama' Shongwe.

We will be under pressure - Bull's Mhlongo

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER - Mbabane Highlanders' assistant coach Bongani Mhlongo has admitted that his team will be under pressure when they take on Malanti Chiefs in the Ingwenyama Cup this afternoon.

In a pre-match interview, the coach stated that they had reached the semi-finals of the competition for the first time, which was an achievement on its own.

He said for that reason, he expected his players to feel the pressure of possibly qualifying for the final for the first time, but said they were ready to deal with anything.

"We have prepared for every aspect of this game, and I can assure our fans that we are going into the match with the focus and belief that we can win," he said.

Mhlongo noted that there had been a concern in some quarters that his team was not scoring enough goals. He said the good thing was that even though they had not been able to score many

goals, they were able to win matches.

"I would say we are close to 98 per cent in terms of readiness. We have studied our opponents and know their weak and strong points.

"We intend to capitalise on their shortcomings to win this game and reach the final," he said.

Meanwhile, Highlanders captain Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze urged the supporters to come and rally behind the team during the clash. "Our fans have always been loyal, but I hope they realise how important this game is. We are determined to make

them happy by winning the match, and going to the final and further win the competition itself.

"This is a semi-final, which means anything is possible. I think we have a team that can do the job against Malanti Chiefs. We know exactly what we need to do in order to win this match," he said. Highlanders beat Malanti

2-1 in the league towards the end of last year. They would be looking for a repeat of that performance this afternoon.



Tinyosi sting Red Lions

...As Tambankulu Callies beat Mbabane City 1-0

Tinyosi..... (0)2
Red Lions..... (0)0

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - Tinyosi snatched a crucial 2-0 victory against Red Lions to mount pressure on National First Division (NFD) log leaders Black Swallows in the title race.

It was two second half goals from Simphiwe Makama and Mphumelelo Zwane that gave the Mphumelelo Ngwenya led side the much-needed three points during the encounter played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

A slow first half from both teams saw the game into break level and goalless, as both sides did very little to create the needed chances.

The second half saw the two teams come out of their slumber and launched attacks in search for goal. Tinyosi were rewarded for their efforts, as they managed to break the deadlock six minutes into the stanza.

'Downs snatch' Weslians' midfielder

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER - Manzini Sundowns have lured Cameroonian midfielder Willy Djemba from town-rivals Manzini Wanderers.

Djemba is said to have signed a six month contract with the 'Kappa Boys' after being offloaded by the 'Weslians' in the past week.

The central midfielder fell out of favour with the maroon and white outfit after spending close to a year with the side.

Also joining Sundowns from Wanderers was upcoming development coach Percy Shongwe, who has replaced Penuel Malinga as the club's head of youth development.

A source close to the matter asserted that both player and the coach were now part of the 'Kappa Boys' camp.

"The duo joined Sundowns on Friday afternoon after agreeing to terms with the team. They will be start training with the team on Monday afternoon in preparation for the team's next match," he said.

Efforts to get Sundowns Public Relations Officer (PRO) Muzi Matsenjwa were futile as his cell phone rang answered when called yesterday. Attempts were also made to get Wanderers Public Relations Officer Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini but his cellphone was not available on the the MTN network when also called yesterday. Djemba joined Wanderers last season under the guidance of former coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe together with Ghanaian player Michael Asamoah, who was discarded by the club at the beginning of the season.



The goal came after some brilliant play on the right flank from full back Simphiwe Makhanya, who lofted in a cross, which Simphiwe Makama simply tapped into the net. Red lions tried to mount a comeback but could not string together enough passes going forward.

Opposition

The opposition was eventually punished by Tinyosi as Zwane doubled the lead for his in the 80th minute when he whizzed into the box to beat goalkeeper Felizwe Vilakati. The win sees the Lobamba-based ensemble jump to the second spot on 27 points, three points away from the log leaders.

Meanwhile, Lubombo-based side Tambankulu Callies recorded a 1-0 victory over Mbabane City at Somhlolo yesterday.

The second from bottom-placed side bagged the maximum point courtesy of a goal scored by Meshack Sifundza in the second half of the match.

Mbabane City went down to 10 men after key man Linda Msibi was sent off for dissent in the 55th minute, putting Callies at advantage.



**BUCKLE UP, AS
ALL ROADS LEAD
TO SOMHLOLO**

Fixtures

Ingwenyama Cup semi-finals
Playing today at Somhlolo National Stadium
Highlanders vs Malanti Chiefs 1.15pm
Swallows vs Buffaloes 3.30pm

National First Division log

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Black Swallows	14	9	4	1	23	10	13	30
Tinyosi	14	9	1	4	20	11	9	27
Milling	14	7	4	3	19	14	5	24
Madlenya	14	6	5	3	17	12	5	23
Rangers	14	6	5	3	20	16	4	23
Tycoons	14	6	4	4	17	11	6	22
Seven Dreams	14	5	5	4	17	13	4	20
Red Lions	14	4	4	6	17	18	-1	16
Mbabane City	14	4	3	7	12	15	-3	15
Hub Sundowns	14	4	2	8	7	18	-11	14
T. Callies	14	3	2	9	11	21	-10	11
City Warriors	14	1	2	11	5	19	-14	5

Results

National First Division		
Hub	1	Warriors 0
Mbabane City	0	Callies 1
Tinyosi	2	Red Lions 0

ABSA Premiership		
Golden Arrows	2	Highlands Park 1

Premier League		
Tottenham	1	Newcastle 0
Burnley	1	Southampton 1
Chelsea	5	Huddersfield Town 0
Brighton	0	Watford 0
Everton	1	Wolves 3
Crystal Palace	2	Fulham 0
Cardiff City	2	AFC Bournemouth 0

Fixtures

ABSA Premiership		
Bloem Celtic	v	Black Leopards 15:30
Baroka FC	v	Chippa United 15:30

Premier League		
Leicester City	v	Manchester United 16:05
Manchester City	v	Arsenal 18:30

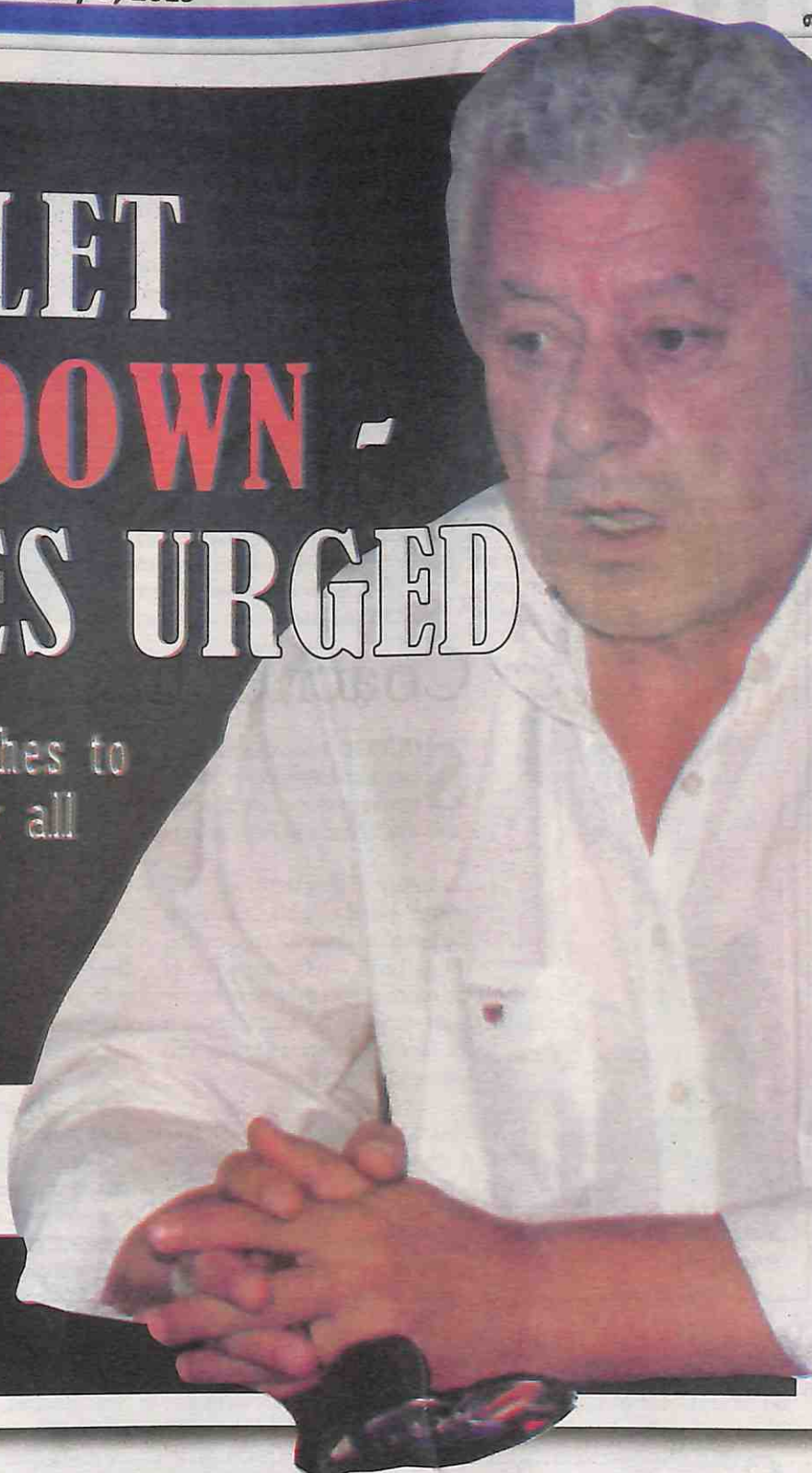
SundayObserver SPORTING

February 3, 2019



DON'T LET PAPIC DOWN - COACHES URGED

EFA asks local coaches to give Sihlangu mentor all the support as he executes his duties



Higuain eases pressure on Sarri as Chelsea cruise

LONDON - Gonzalo Higuain scored his first two goals for Chelsea as they thumped Huddersfield Town 5-0 in yesterday's Premier League clash at Stamford Bridge.

The Argentina striker converted in each half, either side of a double from Eden Hazard, to cap an impressive home debut for the club he joined on loan from Juventus last month.

Chelsea completed the rout in the 86th minute, when David Luiz's header got the better of Jonas Lossl with a hefty deflection off Elias Kachunga. Maurizio Sarri's side were thrashed 4-0 by

Bournemouth on Wednesday, leading to a post-match dressing-room inquest led by the head coach, but they rarely looked in trouble against a Huddersfield side who are 13 points adrift of safety at the foot of the table.

Opening

Higuain had come close with a half-volley before opening his Chelsea account 16 minutes in, running onto N'Golo Kante's clever pass and firing high past Lossl.

The Huddersfield goalkeeper had to parry a good strike from Cesar Azpilicueta as Chelsea began to dominate, with David Luiz wasting a great chance with a wayward header.

The visitors were growing into the game when Azpilicueta went to ground under minimal contact

from Kachunga, allowing Hazard to send Lossl the wrong way from the spot and make it 2-0 before the interval.

Hazard continued to cause unease for the Huddersfield defence and he eventually struck the killer third goal, gathering Ross Barkley's pass, waltzing around Lossl and finishing left-footed.

Higuain made certain of both the victory and a memorable first outing at the Bridge three minutes later, sending a thumping effort off Terence Kongolo and beyond Lossl from the edge of the box after being set up by Kante.

David Luiz's header was diverted past his own keeper by Kachunga to compound a rotten outing for Huddersfield, who have earned just one league point since the start of December. **Goal**

