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# FORMER MINISTER IN E2000 000 BRIBE

STORY ON  
PAGE 3

...alleged to have offered ex-High Court Judge Justice Mpendulo Simeon Simelane the said amount for the judge to preside over the SRA, Impunzi Wholesalers' case

## Electricity workers storm Parliament

Page 2

## Cops to 'put down' criminals

Page 2



## Mampintsha beats up Babes Wodumo

UPDATES ON PAGE 25

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# 'ICE CAN'T TIGHTEN A FEMALE'S PRIVATE PARTS'

BY SIZWE DLAMINI  
Pigg's Peak

**DEPUTY Director of Health Services Clinical Dr Velephi Okello has said that ice cubes can never be used to tighten a woman's private parts.**

Dr. Okello's statements come after commercial sex workers stated to medical practitioners that they used ice cubes before sex to create a tighter feeling for males.

The sex workers who were speaking at a closed meeting over the weekend in Pigg's Peak said they would wrap the ice cubes with a

cloth that would be placed on the private parts a few hours before sex.

The sex workers went on to say that the ice cubes were also perfect in creating a feeling of numbness during sexual intercourse that would become painful if repeated multiple times. For ethical rea-

sons, the names of the sex workers as well as the name of the organisation that hosted the meeting has been withheld.

Speaking to this publication after the meeting, Dr. Okello said the ministry of health knew about the ice cube practice, noting it was clearly a miss informed practice.

"I have heard about the myth that some women use ice cubes to tighten the feeling of sexual intercourse, however, the practice is false and is not scientifically proven. Such myths should be dispelled to create public awareness," she said. Other medical practitioners also said that the ice cube practice was a myth that had no substance.

# COPS TO 'PUT DOWN' CRIMINALS

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI  
Matsapha

**POLICE are considering taking a new approach in combating crime in the country.**

And if advice given to Acting National Commissioner of Police William Dlamini is anything to go by police will be 'putting criminals down'.

The acting NatCom, when addressing throngs of police officers and Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini at Matsapha Police Academy yesterday, said there had been an increase in the number of armed

robberies in Manzini.

He said people had become so ruthless having the guts to enter private properties with the intention of committing crime.

## Ruthless

Dlamini said he has had talks with some of his counterparts where they had time to share ideas on how they combat crime in their countries. He said they told him that they had adopted a ruthless approach when dealing with criminals "he said they put them down", NatCom stated, which can roughly be translated to mean that they shoot to kill.

"It is time we change our policing strategy," he said, much to the applause of

police officers.

Even though Dlamini did not specifically say which police service shared the "we put them down" idea with him, it has been reported that the acting NatCom was fresh from a visit in South Africa where he visited Birchwood SAPS in Johannesburg after an invite sent by General Khehla Sithole. Worth noting is that South African Police Services are currently under the National Police Commissioner Bheki Cele, who is well known for his infamous 'shoot-to-kill' statement. Police officers in South Africa are known for their ruthless approach when dealing with criminals, especially armed robbers.

# PASSING OF BUDGET IN LIMBO

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI  
Lobamba

**IT looks like the budget speech, as it is right now, will not pass any time soon.**

The budget speech was delivered in Parliament by Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg last week Wednesday in the House of Assembly. The budget was debated yesterday by Members of Parliament (MPs), but the debate could not be exhausted as the legislators felt it was already late. It was 7pm at that time, with the debate having started at 2:30 pm. The legislators are expected to continue with the debate today afternoon in the House of Assembly.

The MPs yesterday were of different views regarding the budget. Some were of the view that it should be taken back to the ministry of finance so that certain components could be fixed. Other MPs, on the other hand, were of the view that the ministers and MPs should go into a caucus and discuss the budget privately, with the view of making the right corrections so that the two sets of legislators

(MPs and ministers) could move forward together. No one was for the idea that the budget should pass as it is right now.

There were many components of the budget that did not rub the MPs the right way and that made them feel they should not allow the budget to pass as it was. The hike in fuel and electricity VAT was one of the things that made the MPs to state from the onset that they could not allow the budget to pass. The lawmakers felt the addition of VAT on electricity was not fair as the same thing was done last year.

## Imposing

To some MPs, it looked like the Cabinet or government officials had not done a proper homework before imposing the VAT on electricity. They wanted the budget to provide solutions on how the country was to generate its own electricity. On the issue of fuel hike, some MPs felt the government was too much on that one. They felt the people were being taxed to the bone and they could not allow this to happen. The legislators felt it would be better for the hike to be channelled towards the roads agency so that the roads in the country could be

improved as the situation was so horrible. Driving on some of the country's roads was becoming almost impossible.

The MPs said government should not increase the utilities because Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini stopped such hikes in November last year. They also felt the hike will not be fair on workers, whose cost of living adjustment (CoLA) was not catered for in the budget. The hikes would trigger price hikes in other sectors, such as public transport.

Other MPs also raised concern on the fact that the budget touched on corruption, but did not state how the corruption would be addressed. Some even stated that the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) had become a haven for corruption such that there was a scuffle at Cabinet as two members fought over the ownership of the commission. The MPs also questioned the transparency of the budget because it did not seem to represent the interests of the people. They felt the budget was formulated by people who had their own interests and used Parliament to rubber-stamp and passed the budget. Some MPs felt they should know and own the strategy of the budget so that they could support the budget. However, the MPs felt they were exhausted yesterday at 7pm and decided to adjourn and resume the debate today. Minister Rijkenberg will be responding to the MPs' concerns today.

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# SIBUSISO SHONGWE IN E200 000 BRIBE

STORIES BY SANDILE NKAMBULE  
High Court

**FORMER** minister of justice and constitutional affairs Sibusiso Shongwe is alleged to have offered former High Court judge Justice Mpendulo Simeon Simelane E200 000 to preside over the Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA) and Impunzi Wholesalers' case.

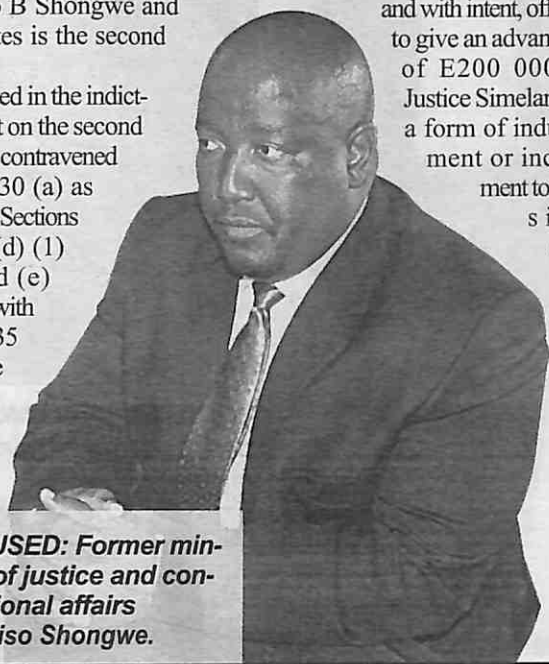
This is the case in which Shongwe was charged for 'Contravening the Prevention of Corruption Act in that upon December 2014' at or near Mbabane he did wrongfully, unlawfully and with intent directly or indirectly, being a politician accepted or agreed to accept an advantage from another person unknown to the prosecution money amounting to E2 million from Impunzi Wholesalers.

He is also alleged to have done this in order for him to influence one or more members of the Judiciary to preside over a pending civil litigation involving Impunzi Wholesalers (Pty) Ltd and the

- Ex-minister allegedly bribed judge with E200 000
- Former minister has been indicted at the High Court, facing 22 counts related to contravening the Prevention of Corruption Act

Eswatini Revenue Authority. According to the amended indictment, Shongwe is the first accused in the matter, while his law firm Sibusiso B Shongwe and Associates is the second accused.

It is stated in the indictment that on the second count, he contravened Section 30 (a) as read with Sections (c) (1), (d) (1) (11) and (e) together with Section 35 (2) of the



**ACCUSED:** Former minister of justice and constitutional affairs Sibusiso Shongwe.

Prevention of Corruption Act, in that while at Mhlanganyane in the month of December 2014 the former minister unlawfully and with intent, offered to give an advantage of E200 000 to Justice Simelane as a form of inducement or incitement to preside over

pending litigation involving Impunzi and the SRA and rule in favour of the former minister thus contravening the act.

Alternatively, Shongwe is guilty of contravening the Act's Section 21(1) (a) and (c) as read with Section 35 (1) in that while at Mhlanganyane in the same month and year, he did wrongfully, unlawfully and with intent offered to give an advantage of E200 000 to Judge Simelane as a form of inducement or incitement to preside of the civil litigation involving Impunzi and SRA in favour of him.

Shongwe faces a total of 22 counts related to the contravening of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 2006.

With the indictment having been filed by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) at the High Court, this means Shongwe's trial is nigh.

## SHONGWE ACCUSED OF USING GOVT LETTERHEADS

AS part of the charges preferred against the former minister in the amended indictment, Sibusiso Shongwe is also alleged to have abused government letterheads to write to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) intimidating the commission to thwart investigations.

The ACC was investigating Shongwe

### ...to thwart investigations

and his law firm on amounts of money allegedly transacted in his bank accounts and that of the law firm. According to count four, through a letter of request of information in terms of Section 34 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, he directly or

indirectly being a politician (minister) unlawfully demanded or accepted the advantage from government as a legal person using his position used government letterheads in response to and addressed the ACC commissioner the contents of which

abused or intimidated and sought to thwart the investigations into acquisition of a sum of E2 million held by his law firm. This, according to the indictment, was an abuse of his position as the minister of the Crown an act designed to achieve the unjustified result of abusing, intimidating and attempting to thwart the investigations in the control of the E2 million.

## He is also charged for E450 000 perjury in purchase of property

**FURTHERMORE**, on the sixth count Sibusiso Shongwe is facing a charge of perjury in that upon the month of July 2013 at or near Mbabane while acting in his personal capacity, he did unlawfully and with intent, depose to an affidavit in a court case involving Rudolf Diamond and Tsakane Rudolf Shilubane and three others where he made averments.

The averments were to the effect that he had read the answering affi-

davit of Shilubane and confirmed that he is the lawful owner of a property (plot) Lot 1532 in Mbabane at Thembelihle and stated that he procured the plot of E450 000 from the late Paul Mhlaba Shilubane during his lifetime by virtue of a special power of attorney signed by the late Shilubane as he duly paid E100 000 deposit.

He is alleged to have deposed to the sworn affidavit knowing very well that he was not the lawful owner of the property or he did not

procure the property for the sum of E450 000 during Shilubane's lifetime since he did not even pay the E100 000 to him.

### Legitimate

Further, it has been stated that he did not even view the property with the late Shilubane and no offer for sale of property was made, hence he was not the legitimate owner of the said property. He is also charged with fraud in that with a furtherance of a common purpose with the others, he unlawfully falsely

and with intent to defraud allegedly gave out and pretended to the Master of the High Court or her representative or representatives of judicial officers (magistrates), High and supreme Courts and Christian Amoako Consultants' Thabiso Tsabedze that there was a special power of attorney by the late Shilubane. Such power, according to the indictment, was to give Tsakane Shilubane powers to dispose certain immovable property at Thembelihle.

## MKHULU ARRESTED FOR SPIKING BUGANU

BY MELUSI MLOTSA  
Mbabane

**IN a rather shocking discovery, an elderly man of Mbelebeleni had been arrested for allegedly poisoning his son over the past weekend.**

The senior citizen, identified as Shongwe (92), is said to have poured a poisonous substance into a container full of marula and gave his son Jovi Shongwe (49) to drink last Saturday. Mbelebeleni area falls under the Manzini Region.

Impeccable sources within the community revealed that Jovi and his father had a long standing misunderstanding that prompted the duo not seeing eye to eye. The bone of contention between the two could not be ascertained.

"On Saturday, Shongwe went to a nearby drinking spot and purchased marula using a small container. Along the way home, he allegedly poured a substance, which is suspected to be muti.

While doing this, he was seen by some of the people who were passing by and alerted his son that he must not take even a sip of the marula brought by his father," said the source.

The source mentioned that Jovi did not heed the warning from the concerned people of the community and imbibed the marula given by his father. "Wavele watsi cabu cabu," said the source.

The source mentioned that some few minutes later, Jovi complained of stomach pains and was rushed to the nearby community health centre at Dvokolwako where he is recuperating. Deputy Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Assistant Superintendent Nosipho Mnguni confirmed the incident. "An old man aged 92 years has been arrested for poisoning his son. He will soon appear before a magistrate," she said.



On Saturday, Shongwe went to a nearby drinking spot and purchased marula using a small container. Along the way home, he allegedly poured a substance which is suspected to be muti. While doing this, he was seen by some of the people who were passing by and alerted his son that he must not take even a sip of the marula brought by his father," said the source



## SA to hike petrol by 74 cents

**JOHANNESBURG** - South African motorists will be paying 74 cents more per litre of petrol and between 91 and 93 cents more per litre of diesel from tomorrow.

The fuel price announcement for March was made by Minister of Energy Jeff Radebe, yesterday morning. He said the

price hikes were mainly due to an increase in international crude oil prices.

The current inland price for a litre of 95 octane unleaded petrol is R14.08. From tomorrow, this will rise to R14.82 per litre. The increases announced by Radebe include:

- Petrol (93 Octane, ULP and LRP):

74.00 c/l increase;

- Petrol (95 Octane, ULP and LRP):

74.00 c/l increase;

- Diesel (0.05% sulphur): 91.00 c/l

increase;

- Diesel (0.005% sulphur): 93.00 c/l

increase;

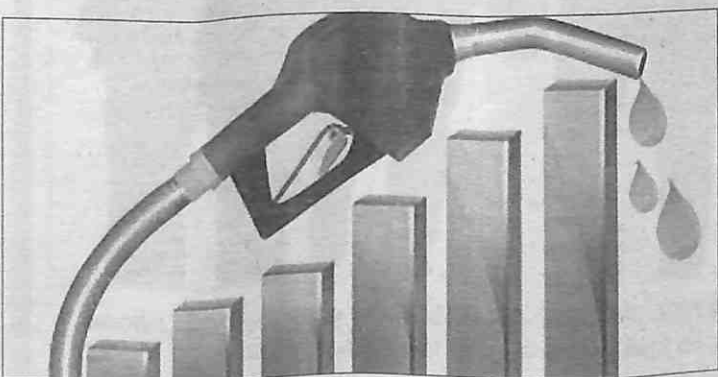
- Illuminating Paraffin (wholesale):

76.00 c/l increase; and

- Maximum LPGas Retail Price:

101.00 c/kg increase

Fin24





# MPs **debate** the national budget



**GRACEFUL:** Minister Princess Sikhanyiso upon arrival for yesterday's business in Parliament. The MPs debated the national budget. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



**PREMIER:** Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini accompanied by Clerk to Parliament Ndvuna Dlamini into the chamber.



**NEIGHBOURS:** MPs Derrick Masuku and Mduduzi 'Small Joe' Dlamini ready for the start of business.



**READY:** Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Pholile Shakantu arrives.



**READY:** Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg, MP Mduduzi Dlamini and MP Phila Buthelezi on their way to chambers.



**I SEE:** MPs Mduduzi Magagula and Nkhanyeti Ngwenya chatting.



**LATER:** PS Makhosini Mndawe on his mobile phone as he makes his way to the august House.



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# DAGGA SMOKING PUPILS RECEIVE 12 STROKES EACH

BY MELUSI MLOTSI  
Mbabane

DESPITE the fact that Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku's office recently issued a statement calling for positive discipline of children, some pupils of Ezulwini Community High School were allegedly beaten to a pulp for misconduct, this publication has gathered.

About 20 pupils of Ezulwini Community High School received 12 strokes each for allegedly smoking dagga in the school premises.

The pupils were whipped by their parents and teachers at the school on February 19. Each pupil is said to have been given 12 strokes on his or her back while lying down on a table at the teacher's staff room.

## Culprits

According to reliable sources, among the culprits who received the corporal punishment were 16 males and four females.

It had been gathered that most of the pupils are in Forms One and Two.

The highly placed source said it all started some few weeks back when one of the teachers found the pupils gathered inside a class and one of them was having a note of paper in his hand, writing something.

It turned out that the list the pupil was writing was an order for those who will be buying dagga, according to the source. The concerned teacher is said to have asked the pupils what the list was all about.

"Initially, they duped the teacher about the list, however, after much interrogation, they later confessed that it was an order for some of the pupils who are smoking dagga," said the source.



**THIS WAY:** The signage to the Ezulwini Community School where pupils were allegedly found in possession of dagga last week. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

A thorough investigation conducted by the teachers is said to have later taken place where it was discovered that the smoking of dagga at the school is rife.

The pupils who were found to be smoking dagga were sent home and ordered to come back with their parents.

## Explained

It is said the parents came on Tuesday morning where it was explained to them that their children were involved in the smoking of dagga. It had been mentioned that the principal of the school asked the parents to whip their children in front of her and the other teachers. The pupils were ordered to lie down on a table while the parents carried out the beating. "The parents were lax when beating their children and this prompted the principal to ask one of the teachers to take the stick and whip the pupils

to a pulp. Each pupil received 12 strokes on his or her back," said the source.

The source said after a thorough beating, the principal asked the parents to take the pupils to the nearby police station so they are counselled for their engagement on drugs.

A team from this publication visited the school on Monday morning. The principal was reportedly out attending other school duties. The Deputy Principal, who identified herself as Mrs Khumalo, said she is not allowed to talk to the media.

"The principal of the school is the right person to comment about this matter you are asking," she said. Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that some of the pupils were reported at Ezulwini Police Post where they received counselling.

## Webster, Floyd lose appeal against Macford's victory

BY SABELO MAJOLA  
Supreme Court

**ELECTIONS losers under Manzini North Inkhundla Webster Lukhele and Floyd Mlotshwa lost their bid to challenge MP Macford Sibandze as the Supreme Court has dismissed their appeal.**

The Supreme Court handed judgement in the application which was before the Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala, who was sitting with Judges Majahenkhaba Dlamini and Jacobus Annandale.

## Judgement

When handing down judgment, the court noted that it is apparent from the evidence that the heads of argument and list of authorities from the applicants (Lukhele and Mlotjwa) was caused by the negligence of the applicant's attorney who willfully disregarded the rules of court.

The court stated that reasons given by the applicants for the delay in the late filing of the heads and list of authorities are not reasonable and do not constitute a reasonable explanation for the delay and further observed that the application for condonation does not deal with prospects of success on appeal.

"The applicants must present a reasonable explanation for the delay in complying with the rules of court and must also show that applicant

has prospects of success on the merits which the applicants failed to satisfy both requirements for condonation.

Accordingly, the following order is made; the application for condonation for late filing is dismissed, the appeal is truck off the roll and may not be reinstated without the leave of court," CJ ordered.

Both judges concurred and there was no order as to costs.

The two losers lodged an application at the Supreme Court on August 30, 2018 challenging the nomination and subsequent election of Sibandze as MP for Manzini North as they contended that he is not a resident of Makholweni under the constituency.

## Application

Subsequently and before the main application could be heard, the applicants lodged an interlocutory application for the recusal of High Court Judge Mzwandile Fakudze arguing that he had previously worked for the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) and could, therefore, decide the matter in favour of the respondents (EBC, Sibandze and the AG).

The interlocutory application was dismissed after the hearing on the same date and the appellants then lodged an appeal against the judgment of the High Court.

## BOY STRUGGLES TO CLIMB DOWN



**HELP:** A young boy struggles to climb down a tree after spending sometime playing on it at Msunduzi yesterday. This could end badly if guardians or parents are not around to take care of the young ones. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI  
Matsapha

**PRIME Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini yesterday toured Matsapha Police Academy.**

The premier said his visit to the Academy presented an opportunity for him as minister for police affairs to be acquainted with a wide range of issues confronting the police service in area of training for the requisite support and guidance as may be necessary from his office.

Dlamini said the Police Academy is key in the capacitation of police officers to face contemporary crime challenges. He encouraged that as the Academy is the centre of police training curriculum development, specialised training programmes should be conceptualised to

## PM tours Matsapha Police Academy

enable officers on the operational ground effectively deal with violent crimes and other social maladies.

The prime minister said His Majesty King Mswati III stated that there is a need for the police to be always on their toes and be ready to deal with all crime challenges manifesting in society.

## Upgraded

He said this is precisely the reason why His Majesty saw it fit to upgrade the training institution from being a college to an Academy, so that it can offer advanced training courses in policing.

During the tour, the Royal Eswatini Police Service reported the water challenges they face. Matsapha and surrounding areas are faced with water short-

ages these days due to a number of reasons.

This problem, which has been going on for some time now, has seen the institution being without water on numerous occasions.

This coming Saturday, the institution will be without water as per a notice run by the Eswatini Water Services Corporation.

The Deputy National Commissioner of Police Vusi Masuku reported to the prime minister that they have a serious challenge at the police service. He said they have been informed that on March 9 and March 23, they will be without water. He said the problem is that they don't have a reservoir, hence they were in this predicament.



BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
AND MELUSI MLOTSI  
Mbabane

# Women are not sex objects - DPM

**DEPUTY Prime Minister Themba Masuku has urged men to end sexual harassment towards women as they are not sex objects.**

The DPM was speaking during the launch of the International Women's Day yesterday, with the commemoration to be held at Siphofaneni Inkhundla on Friday. In a bid to commemorate International Women's Day, Masuku has made the call to action for men to uphold the dignity of the country's women and girls, by changing the mentality of viewing women as 'sex objects'. "Women are not sex objects and it's high time that men take a stand to protect and defend the country's women and girls," he said.

"Akuphele kugagadlala bomake, akuphele kugagadlala lamanye emadvodza", Masuku added.

During the launch, Masuku highlighted the importance of women's socio-economic empowerment as an essential component of sustainable development.



**LAUNCHING:** Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku making his remarks during the launch of the International Women's Day scheduled for Friday at Siphofaneni Inkhundla.

"As seen in last year's national elections, there was a campaign by Her Majesty the Indlovukazi which encouraged the nation to vote women into Parliament and leadership roles. Women form a

significant component in the informal economy and as such, we need to recognise and promote women's entrepreneurship skills and economic empowerment. In this regard, Eswatini needs to make a

commitment to place women at the centre of initiatives that will see them play a pivotal role in developing the country," Masuku stated.

Under the theme 'Think equal, build smart, innovate for change', International Women's Day 2019 will focus on innovative ways to advance gender equality and women empowerment, with its main focus on social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructures.

## Resolution

Masuku said the United General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring March 8, the International Women's Day. He said it is time the country reflected on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played extraordinary roles in their communities. "This day of commemoration allows countries and communities to look back on accomplishments and challenges and more importantly, to look

towards the untapped potential and opportunities that await the future generation of women," he said. Masuku said the International Women's Day is also a global hub for sharing information, experiences, good practices, events and resources on key development issues and also assessing how women can be part of these. He added that the country appreciated commitments made by the United Nations, African member states, SADC member states, by ensuring that gender equality becomes one of the five Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "We also appreciate that the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment is a central aspect of the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as other international, regional and national policies," Masuku said. The DPM said the commemoration of International Women's Day will be characterised by a series of activities, designed to sensitise the nation on the SODV Act and the Disability Act of 2018.

## Labour ministry flooded with complaints from UNESWA students

STORIES BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

**IN the past weeks the Ministry of labour and social security has been inundated with a series of questions and complaints pertaining to the University of Eswatini (UNESWA) students' financial assistance.**

The pressing issues with the UNESWA students leadership relate to the late release of allowances, perceived reduction of book allowances and the fate of 26 students who were erroneously included in the 2018 scholarship award list.

Minister Makhosi Vilakati said since January 2019, the ministry has met with UNESWA Students Representative Committee (SRC) on three occasions, talking and explaining these issues to the students' representatives.

He said every time the ministry was getting the impression that the students understand the explanations and that they will

"I hope students will understand and give us time to finish designing the system and then engage."

be able to in turn explain to their student body.

The minister said they acknowledge that understanding does not necessarily mean agreeing to all the explanations. However, the ministry's take is that they should continue to engage on the explanations until they reach a common ground with a view to finding the solutions that are so desired to extend tertiary education to all school leaving graduates.

Vilakati said there is no way to achieve the economic transformation desired as a country if students, who are the human resource input for tomorrow, are beset by so many peripheral problems to learning.

He said however, that there is a need to be mindful that the ministry is operating within a limited budget, hence the reason each year government is only able to award scholarships to only 1 000 new students to UNESWA, which is in addition to about 4 000 ongoing students against over 5 000 who qualify.

"Processing allowances for this number of students is an arduous job," he said. Vilakati added that they are improving the current disbursement systems and hoping that in future years students will get their allowances timeously.

He added that they shall discuss the proposed new allowances disbursement system with students and institutions, as well as suggestions on how it could possibly be strengthened for successful implementation.

"I hope students will understand and give us time to finish designing the system and then engage. We will invite students and institutions for discussion on this item in April 2019," added Vilakati.

## Control measures on book allowances

**MINISTER of Labour and Social Security Makhosi Vilakati has clarified that book allowances were never reduced.**

However, the ministry introduced control measures to ensure that allowances issued out for books is exclusively used to purchase prescribed books and learning material.

"The new system required students to account 100 per cent for every cent disbursed for book allowance. UNESWA students must be highly applauded and credited for coming up with this policy in that they in 2017, came to the ministry and complained about high text book and stationery

costs at the university's exclusive book shops and requested that the book allowance be given to them directly so they can procure books and stationery at competitive rates in the open market," said the minister.

### Cheque

Government could not give students an open cheque, rather it was decided that students be given an initial E2 000.

The minister added that in the event a student would require any top up depending on the list of prescribed text books, that would be required for that particular course or programme, the student would first have to provide proof that the initial E2 000 was used

to buy books and learning material and then request a specific verifiable amount for all the remaining books that he or she requires.

### Allocation

"In the subsequent allocation (year after) of book allowance" verification will be undertaken to determine if indeed every cent in the previous year allocation, the allowance was used to procure prescribed text books, stationery and learning material before issuance with new one.

"Anyone, therefore, who says book allowance has been reduced is spreading lies intended to confuse and flatter students' emotions for reasons we can only imagine," added Vilakati.

## Minister apologises about erroneously awarded scholarships

**THE minister has apologised to faculty of agriculture and health sciences students who were erroneously included in a list of students awarded scholarships.**

Minister Moses Vilakati said this was a genuine human error, which was realised a day after the initial list was sent to UNESWA. Unfortunately, the UNESWA administration had already posted the list on the notice boards and informed the students. "We were still seeking a way of balancing

these two strong views and in the proposals that we were working on as a ministry the interest of the students was paramount.

"We regret the recent incident where students had to flock in their numbers to the ministry with apparent frustration that the university had not registered them," said the minister. Vilakati added that this is a clear sign of lack of effective communication between the ministry and the university on some of these issues.

AFRICAN LEADERS  
MALARIA ALLIANCE



**Background:** The African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), which is presently chaired by His Majesty the King, is hiring a qualified individual to help establish and manage a public-private fund to finance malaria in Eswatini. Responsibilities will include establishing the Fund's secretariat, supporting the Board of Directors, and liaising with donors and the national malaria program.

**Deadline:** 4 March 2019

**How to Apply:** Email your CV and three references to [srooke@alma2030.org](mailto:srooke@alma2030.org)

### Requirements:

- Advanced university degree in management, finance, or accounting
- At least 7 years of relevant experience, preferably in management
- Experience in project, contract, and budget management
- Understanding of financial statements and business reports
- Experience working with senior corporate executives and/or government officials

More Information is available at <http://alma2030.org/about/jobs> (see "Director, Malaria Fund Secretariat" job posting)



# Ummemo at Mbhuleni in SA



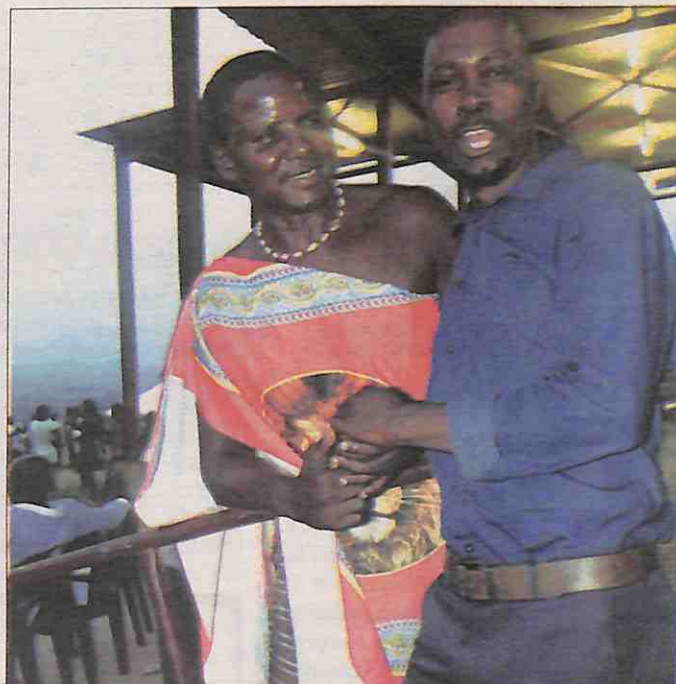
LACWEBETELAKO: Emabutfo in full swing during the event as they rendered a number of songs.



ALSO THERE: Some members of Ligcabho LaMhlekezi watching the event.



IN NUMBERS: Part of the people who attended the event.



HAPPY: EBIS Radio Presenter Benjamin Mfanyana Magongo (r) sharing a light moment with one of the Eswatini delegates.



LEADER: Mbhuleni Chief Prince Makhosonkhe Dlamini after his arrival at the arena where the festivities were happening. This was during the Ummemo taking place at Mbhuleni (in Badplaas) in Mpumalanga, South Africa over the past weekend. (Pics: Samson Ncongwane)



LEADER: Umbutfo Sihlahla Semahhabhula Ncongwane leading emajaha from Mbhuleni in song.

CHATTING: EBIS continuity presenter Mfanyana Benjamin Magongo in a conversation with Mantfweshu, Bhembe, Matsala and Malaza.



INGADLA: Ligcabho LaMhlekezi rendering Ingadla dances on Saturday.

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# PM TOURS MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE



**TOGETHER:** Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini, Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza, directors, CEOs and senior officials in a group picture outside the ministry's offices.



**SPEECH:** Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini looks on while Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza addresses the staff. (Pics: Courtesy)



**WELCOME:** The PM being welcomed into the ministry of agriculture by the minister.

**IN NUMBERS:** Staff from various departments under the ministry of agriculture came out in numbers to meet the prime minister.



**HONOURED:** US in the Ministry of Agriculture Eric Maziya, the PM and minister of agriculture posing for cameras after touring the ministry.



**KEENLY:** Senior officials from the ministry of agriculture awaiting the arrival of the prime minister.

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...MBHULENI ROYAL RESIDENCE UMMEMO

# KING ADVISES MBHULENI CHIEF TO BE HUMBLE

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI  
Mbhuleni, South Africa

**HIS Majesty King Mswati III has urged Mbhuleni Chief Prince Makhosonkhe Dlamini to stay humble before his subjects.**

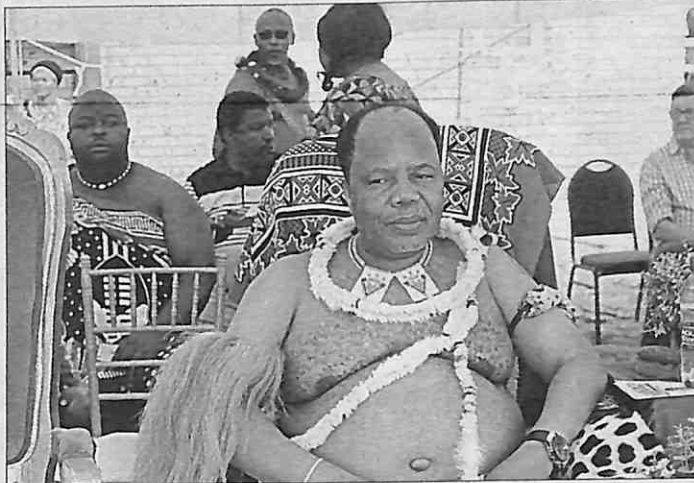
The King advised the chief during Ummemo traditional ceremony which was held at Mbhuleni Royal Residence in Manzana (formerly Badplaas), South Africa. The King's message was delivered by Indvuna Lutfwacula Fakudzwe.

The King advised Dlamini to always be humble so that he could achieve success together with his people.

A leader who was too full of himself will not succeed because his people will not want to associate with him in any way.

People, according to the King, do not like pompous leaders.

Such leaders had no time to develop other people but only cared for themselves. The King further advised Dlamini to continue with the Ummemo custom.



**NKHOSI: Mbhuleni Chief Prince Makhosonkhe Dlamini upon arrival at the arena where the festivities were happening. This was during Ummemo at Mbhuleni (Badplaas) in Mpumalanga, South Africa, over the past weekend. (Pics: Samson Ncongwane)**

This custom was helpful in preserving unity in any nation as people gathered and celebrated their culture. Culture was a very important component in uniting any nation. Unity in any nation was a

very important catalyst in the development of that country. It was for that reason why culture was a very important component of any nation that had to be preserved.

The King further suggested that

Dlamini should also ensure that culture was transferred to the youth who are the future generation. He said it was important for the youth to partake in cultural events such as Ummemo so they learn the beauty of culture. The King said what was beautiful about the culture of Emaswati was that it encouraged peace, stability and unity, as opposed to political unrest. Political unrest was not meant for Emaswati and the youth should learn that such did not benefit anyone.

The ceremony attracted scores of people from many parts of South Africa and Eswatini. His Majesty the King sent a delegation to attend the event. The delegation included government officials, the media, and the performing groups. The event also attracted representatives of traditional councils in South Africa. Representatives sent by Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini were also present. Traditional leaders from the 60 traditional councils in Mpumalanga were also in attendance.



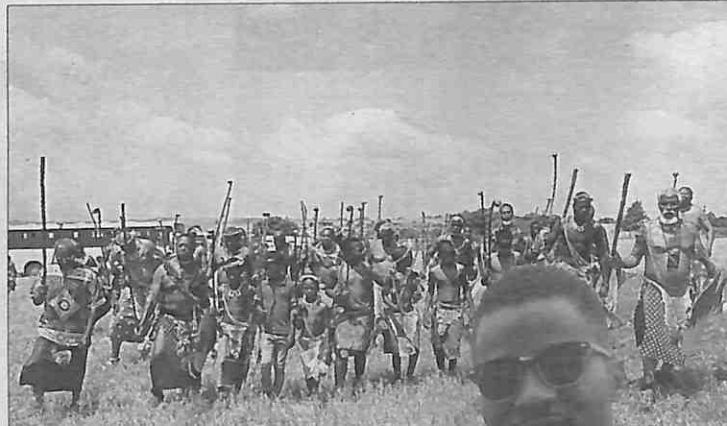
**GUEST: Members of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders (MPHTL) following proceedings. From r-l is Chief Hhoyi (Chairperson), Chief Cecil Mahlangu (Deputy Chairperson), and Teyani Nkosi (member).**



**LIVE: Ligwalagwala FM's stand was fully packed at some point as many wanted a glimpse of the radio station's broadcasters.**



**CROWD: Part of the people who attended the event.**



**IN SONG: Lacwebetelako in full swing during the event as they rendered a number of songs.**



**REMARKS: Sijabuliso Ndzinisa from the Culture and Traditional Affairs introducing members of the delegation from Eswatini.**



**ALL SMILES: Some members of Ligcabho LaMhlekezi who formed part of the local delegation.**

## Gold mine for Mbhuleni

**EMASWATI are in for job opportunities as a gold mine is expected to open up at Mbhuleni.**

Mbhuleni Chief Prince Makhosonkhe Dlamini on Sunday during the Ummemo ceremony held at Mbhuleni Royal Residence, revealed that they were still consulting with the relevant officials to see how this big project could be implemented. The mine will be situated at a place called Tjakastad.

The prince said this was one of the developments that would see the people of his area benefit as they would be first in line for jobs in the mine. He asked for support from his people and those from surrounding areas to ensure the success of the project.

Meanwhile, the prince said there were plans of constructing a shopping mall in Badplaas. This was caused mainly by the fact that Nhlazatje is now densely populated. Nhlazatje is a town within the Mbhuleni community.

The chief said building a shopping mall would avail job opportunities to the people of Mbhuleni. He further said the time of thinking jobs were in places such as Johannesburg was over.

"Jobs are not only in Johannesburg. We can create our own employment opportunities here. All we need is your support so that we can develop together as a community," Prince Makhosonkhe said. He further urged his people to support the initiatives by the ruling authority of Mbhuleni.

Without the people's support, Prince Makhosonkhe observed, there was nothing they could do because what they did was for the benefit of the people of that area.

## Isibaya's Qaphela sends crowd wild

**RENOWNED Isibaya actor Abdul Khoza, who plays the role of Qaphela Ngwenya in the soapie, sent the crowd crazy when he turned up.**

The crowd which attended the Ummemo showed how much they loved the actor.

They wanted him to relate to them how he played the role of Qaphela Ngwenya.

Qaphela is known for his role as a stubborn fellow, who shoots his enemies willy-nilly. He is also known as a fierce fighter who wants things done his way or else there is bloodshed. During his remarks, Khoza said he was grateful for being part of the event. He said such events should be encouraged

because they brought unity among black people. Khoza expressed happiness in seeing the youth among the people who attended, as this meant the culture of black people would continue to be preserved. He pleaded with the youth to stay away from crime, saying he also did not like it. "I actually do not do crime. I am only involved in criminal acts in the soapie with an intention of sending a message. Please do not be afraid of me," Khoza said. Also present during the event were Ligwalagwala FM's broadcasters.

They included Stanford 'Magidzeludzakeni' Mhlanga, Lungile 'S'bukubukwana' Mhango, Willy 'The Voice' Qwabe and Penny Lubisi.



# Teacher fined E20 000 for forcefully touching, kissing colleague

BY NOKUZOLA THWALA  
Mbabane

A teacher has been found guilty of sexually harassing a colleague at Mbanjane Primary School under Kubuta Inkhundla.

Ronnie Daniels was sentenced to two years in prison with an option to pay E20 000 fine by Nhlangano Magistrate Florence Msibi.

He was found guilty of contravening

the SODV Act of 2018.

Daniels forcefully kissed and touched the buttocks of a fellow teacher in the same school on February 1 after having imbibed on *buganu*.

The school's Vice Chairperson who was identified as Mrs Gwebu, said they have not taken any action after the verdict neither have they met.

"We haven't met as a school committee to discuss this issue and a way forward. We are still waiting for our secretary to call a meeting," she stated.

On that note, Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) Secretary General Sikelela Dlamini said they expected their members to accord equal respect to others whether a teacher, pupil or ordinary member of the public.

"This case has been adjudicated by a court of law, so it is very difficult for us to comment more.

However, we have not received a comprehensive report from the branch which will help us in deliberating and getting the accused teacher's side."

## Parents not happy with helping out in teachers' houses

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI  
Maphaleni

SOME parents of pupils at Mabheleni Primary in Maphaleni have been accused of refusing to assist the school with its maintenance despite that such was agreed upon.

Chairperson of the school Ndimiso Shabangu said Micro Projects had donated building material sometime last year for its development.

The school committee, therefore, felt that the involvement of the parents would be of great help in this initiative.

Shabangu said the parents were happy about the development of the school

and were willing to be part of the project. He added that they even went as far as paying a penalty fee as parents if one was unable to honour agreement.

However, according to Shabangu, a few of the parents were not for the idea.

### Committee

It is said the school committee summoned the parents to a meeting telling them to clean teachers' quarters, build toilets and clean around the school because teachers were busy teaching their children.

The school committee was accused of forcefully grouping parents into groups of four and has put together representatives that go around the parents' homestead to collect E50 penalty fee if par-

ents do not show up for their duties. Parents had reportedly not agreed to such a fee.

Teachers were accused of ill-treating pupils if their parents did not show up. Maphaleni Member of Parliament Mabulala Maseko said nothing of this sort was brought to his attention.

Maseko stated that he only knew that Micro Projects had donated building material to help in the improvement of the school last year.

Hhohho REO Tamari LaNgwenya said such was impossible, adding that if parents were helping the school it would have been something that was agreed on by both parents and the school committee.

## 98 motorists nabbed for DD

BY NOMY NYANDZENI  
Mbabane

OVER the weekend, 98 motorists were arrested for drink-driving.

Assistant Police Information and Communications Officer Nosipho Mnguni noted that the number of drunk drivers is increasing daily, as a result the number one cause of accidents is driving under the influence of alcohol.

Mnguni said drink-driving is still a major problem but the authorities are still looking at means of dealing with culprits.

"However we cannot stop people from drinking, but we do all that we can to arrest those who are found under the influence of alcohol while driving," she said.

Mnguni added that drunk drivers do not only put their lives at risk, but they also distract other motorists.

"The authorities have advised



**CONCERNED:** Assistant Police Information and Communications Officer Nosipho Mnguni.

people to think appropriately before they consume alcohol, for instance, you know that you will drive home later, so there is no need to indulge in alcohol. Moreover, to fight against drunk drivers; police will continue to intensify visibility on the road through the mounting of road-blocks and speed traps."



**EXPECTED:** Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku.

## DPM for Philani Jazz Festival

NOKUZOLA THWALA  
Mbabane

DEPUTY Prime Minister Themba Masuku is expected to give a keynote address at the Philani Maswati Charity Organisation Jazz Festival launch scheduled for March 30 at Dvokolwako.

There will also be a fashion show for the elderly on the same day where about 3 000 people are expected.

The event will start at 0800 hours until midnight; entrance fee is E50 and E100 for pedestrians and cars, respectively. Currently, as an aid towards fundraising, the charity organisation is selling promotional stickers costing E100, a car with the sticker will be provided with secured parking.

The main act on the day will be Step-by-Step, which is a jazz music group. There are more artists in the line-up like Mimzkhulu, Dumako Brothers, Police Gospel Messengers, sibhaca from the police, Phathwakahle, Makhoyane, Mdura the comedian, DJ Khwanny and many more.

Philani Maswati Chairman Lutfo Dlamini said free medical treatment would be offered to about E1 000 elderly people from Mkhweni Inkhundla and beyond.

These will also be provided with breakfast and lunch as they will be coming early from their places of abode. "The main objective of this event is to seek like-minded businesses and organisations to partner in bringing change to the elderly whilst they (companies) showcase their brand through advertising, merchandising and other creative avenues," he added.

On that note, Communications Officer at the DPM's office Mihla Khumalo said this was a great initiative auxiliary to the welfare functions pursued by government, adding that they planned to contact the organisation so that they brainstorm and work together always from now onwards.

As an aid towards fundraising, the charity organisation is selling promotional stickers costing E100, a car with the sticker will be provided with a secured parking



**BUSINESSMAN:** A cyclist who uses his bicycle as means of transporting his wares to various trading points rides towards the KaBelina shops to get more stock for his business. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Man at work



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| 185/65R14       | E550.00 | All 16 inch Sizes from E300.00 up |
| 175/70R14       | E540.00 | All 17 inch Sizes from E330.00 up |
| 175/65R14       | E530.00 | All 18 inch Sizes from E350.00 up |
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DOC18511

## 2019 BUGANU AT HLANE



**MBUBE!** His Majesty King Mswati III addressing the Lutsango members during the last day of the Baganu Festival at Hlane Royal Residence on Sunday. The festival was also witnessed by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



**OVER THERE:** The two heads of state captured in a conversation.



**READY:** Lutsango from Tibiyo Taka Ngwane getting ready for the action of the day at the main day.



**FULL SWING:** South African Minister of International Relations Lindiwe Sisulu and Mbha Kunene from the police service doing kut-samba.



**JAHA:** Emalangenzi Prince Bhekokwakhe, who leads Mpini area, and Senator Prince Mshengu of Macetjeni also attended.



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### TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE OF MAIN ROAD 7 (MR7) FROM LUKHULA TO SITEKI

The above Main Road will be temporarily closed to traffic between Likhula and Siteki. The Road Closure is meant to ensure safety of road users while blasting works take place. Traffic disturbances are expected to be on Thursday, 7 March 2019 from 14h00 to 16h00.

During the road closure, the public is kindly requested to adhere to road signage and traffic controllers who will facilitate accommodation of traffic. Below is a pictorial image showing the proposed road closure.

We apologise for any inconvenience that may be caused during this period.



**MAKHOSINI MDAWE**  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

DOC18511





## 2019 BUGANU AT HLANE



**MHLEKAZI:** Her Majesty the Indlovukazi addressing Lutsango on Saturday evening.



**POSE:** Tibiyo Taka Ngwane MD Dr Absalom Themba Dlamini flanked by the organisation's Lutsango Lombuso Dlamini and Dlalile Mdziniso. They are joined by Mndeni Mazibuko, Musa Ndlela, William Malaza, Bonginkhosi Malinga and General Manager Musa Mdluli at the festival.



**ENERGETIC:** Inkhosikati LaFogiyane was a marvel to watch as she displayed her skills during the kutsamba session where she was also joined by Lutsango in a well orchestrated performance.



**KEEPING ORDER:** Senior officers from the Royal Eswatini Police Service were also out and about to ensure the Baganu Festival went undisturbed.



**IN STYLE:** Lutsango from the Royal Eswatini Police Service doing what they know best.

### TENDER NOTICE



#### CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA) is a semi-autonomous revenue administration agency responsible for revenue and customs administration on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini. The Authority acts within the broad framework of Government but outside of the Civil Service structures. The SRA was founded through the Revenue Authority Act No. 1 of 2008 and was duly declared operational on 1 January 2011.

The Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA) is calling upon experienced companies to express their interest and also share information for the below mentioned services. The purpose of this exercise is to pre-qualify companies that can demonstrate that they are suitably qualified and have previous experience and capacity to provide the services and further to gather information on these areas from those who have vast knowledge and experience.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>TENDER NO.</b>   | SRA 2019/007  |
| <b>TENDER NAME</b>  | EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROVISIONING OF CORPORATE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT SERVICES |
| <b>CLOSING DATE</b> | 29 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019   |

The scope broadly includes the following:  
Provisioning of corporate travel management services. The services include Provisioning of ticketing (air), accommodation (hotels), ground travel (taxi, shuttle services, etc), visa and other ancillary services.

Interested and suitable qualified companies who wish to provide or partner with the SRA on the above services must visit the SRA website at [www.sra.org.sz](http://www.sra.org.sz) and/or Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA) website at [www.sppra.co.sz](http://www.sppra.co.sz) for the detailed Terms of References/EOI Document and guide on the submission.

**\*\*SRA does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender!**  
**\*\*SRA does not bind itself to award the tender!**



## LUBOMBO NEWS

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Wonderboy Dlamini

# 'Education system needs more of Shongwe's calibre'

MINISTER of Economic Planning and Development Dr Tambo Gina has recognised the impact made by retired principal of U-Tech School Mavela Shongwe, saying the education system needs more of his calibre.

Shongwe was bid farewell by teachers and parents during a colourful event held at the school last Thursday.

The minister was invited as the keynote speaker during the event. He was represented by former minister Winnie Magagula, as he was reportedly held up on other national duties. In his written speech, Gina first acknowledged the positive contribution made by Shongwe in the education system. He noted that the retiring principal had the interests of children at heart, as he brought new innovations with the intention of broadening opportunities for them.

The school also has a college wing, which provides vocational training for both school leavers and the working class. The minister said government had also noted how the school attracted pupils from other countries, such as Mozambique and Botswana, an indication that the school's administration was doing something right and noticeable to other countries.

"Words cannot totally capture the successes and positive change that Shongwe brought to the school in the 18 years of service at U-Tech," said the minister. Gina said the retiring principal has

**GIFT: Parents of U-Tech presented the retiring principal Mavela Shongwe with ihawu.**



managed to impart skills and knowledge to both the learners and the teachers at the school. The minister said the fact that the retiring principal now sits in national boards indicates that his talent and capabilities were recognised nationally. Meanwhile, Gina ended by sharing words of wisdom with the pupils, urging them to have self-respect before everything else in life.

The minister said children must appreciate that

they came from different backgrounds, but must strive for a common goal, which is to make their future better than their past. Furthermore, he called upon the young people to have respect for their elders, saying this was the basic of achieving more in life. "Respecting the elders also means that you will be able to learn from them, as they have been through many things which you are yet to experience in life," the minister said.

Give my successor a chance to prove his worth - Shongwe

RETIRED principal of U-Tech School Mavela Shongwe has implored the management of Ubombo Sugar and parents alike to give his successor a chance to prove his or her worth in taking the school to greater heights.

Ubombo Sugar (PTY) Ltd is the founder of the school, running it side by side with government. Shongwe was bid farewell last Thursday after serving the school about 18 years. During his tenure, he implemented a number of innovations, including the introduction of the South African syllabus, Matric. Shongwe thanked the management of the company and parents for supporting him throughout his time and making it possible for him to run the school smoothly.

#### Successor

He then implored the company and parents to accord his successor the same support without necessarily comparing him or her with what he had done for the school. "Do not expect my successor to do things the same way that I did or even at my pace. Allow my successor to run the school according to how he or she sees fit and for the benefit of the learners," said Shongwe.

In his usual flamboyant manner, Shongwe said the company and parents must acknowledge that every individual has his or her strengths and weaknesses. He urged the company to concentrate on the strengths of the person who will be taking over from him. Furthermore, Shongwe advised the company to give the next principal a target which the school hopes to have achieved in the next few years. "Just like you gave me a mandate and a target when I arrived here 18 years ago, do the same with my successor, but without expecting him to emulate me," he said. Meanwhile, Shongwe said he would still be available to assist the school wherever he can, especially in the provision of the Matric syllabus.

Lubombo Regional Education Officer Musa Mthupha commended the retiring principal for having managed to improve the academic performance of the school. Mthupha said the school was amongst those which are known for academic excellence in the country.

## Market remains with no electricity, businesses failing

SOME businesses which are housed at the Siteki Market are on the verge of shutting down due to an electricity blackout.

About 20 operational shops and offices are housed by the Siteki Market, a building which is owned by the town council. The businesses are mostly owned by small entrepreneurs, save for one supermarket which is operated by an Asian businessman.

#### Electricity

The building has been without electricity since last Wednesday. Speaking to this publication, some of the business owners disclosed that they were on the verge of shutting down as they cannot operate without the use of electricity.

"The most selling products I have in my shop are ice blocks, cold drinks and potato chips. All these need the use of electricity," said David Dlamini. The business owners disclosed that they have been frequently reporting the outage at the EEC Siteki Depot since last week, but nothing has been done. Meanwhile, other areas which were said to have had similar outages last week reported that they were finally attended to on Sunday. These include Moyeni, KaMdodi and Lugongolweni. However some areas remain in the dark, such as Kalanga and Mpoloonjeni.

## Buganu a unifying festival - foreign nationals

FOREIGN nationals living in the country for reasons of employment have described the Buganu Festival as a unifying ceremony, which brings thousands of people together just to dance and be merry.

The nation had over the past weekend gathered at Hlane Royal Residence for the annual celebration of the first fruit.

The festival was graced by His Majesty King Mswati III and Her Majesty Indlovukazi. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa also had a taste of the festival as he joined Their Majesties on the last day of the festival.

#### Tourists

Speaking during random interviews during the festival, a number of foreign nationals, who included tourists, sang praises to Their Majesties for hosting such an event, which brings people together in celebration.

Oli Tamblyn from London said he was amazed to see thousands of people coming together for a joyful ceremony like the Buganu.

"The unity is evident with the thousands of people wearing the same regalia; this is amazing," said Tamblyn.

He was echoed by Helena Hock of Germany, who added that she was hoping to join more such events in the near future.

The two disclosed that they have recently arrived in the country after getting employment at Good Shepherd Hospital. "I have been



ALSO THERE: Oli Tamblyn, Helena Hock and Chris Oddy at the Buganu ceremony.

in Eswatini for less than a month, but have already noted that Swazis are a loving nation. One can just talk to anyone on the street, something which is not common in my country," said Hock.

In his usual flamboyant manner, Shongwe said the company and parents must acknowledge that every individual has his or her strengths and weaknesses.



# SODV ACT TACKLES CRITICAL ISSUES

STORIES BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI  
Manzini

**AN informative training conducted by the department of gender and family issues under the DPM's office was held last week.**

In association with the GBV Referral Network Partners, the training focused mainly on unpacking the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act 2018 to the attendees at The George Hotel in Manzini.

The training started on Wednesday and was attended by the UNFPA and government ministries that deal with SODV matters on daily basis. These included ministry of health; Public Health Unit, Sexual Offences Unit, social workers and the police from regions.

Attendees were in high spirits when discussing the SODV Act.

They wanted the Act unpacked so they could pass this information to their other colleagues and members of the community in their various constituencies.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) representative Sipho Dlamini said the issues being addressed by the newly-enacted Act are important to

everyone.

He mentioned his willingness to get more insight on the Act and how it would assist the nation.

Dlamini further commended the Kingdom of Eswatini for passing the SODV Act 2018 which would help address gender inequalities.

The department of social welfare, under the DPM's office, was pleased that such a tool had been passed and now want to reach out places like health institutions, schools, churches and bus ranks.

Meanwhile, Director of Gender and Family Issues Jane Mkhonta-Simelane said without UNFPA's support, it will have not been possible to come up with the strategies to address gender based violence in the country.

She said the workshop was for the trainers to be trained so they in turn train others in their constituencies and that duplicate effort should be avoided since a lot of people need to be trained.

She said if more people were trained on the Act, there will be no need for the recruitment of more police officers, since violence cases would have gone down.

## 'Report abuse cases to cops'

**IT is important to report SODV cases to superiors first, says Principal Crown Council Lomvula Hlophe.**

During the training, Hlophe urged the trainers that as a team, they should ensure that whatever cases brought to their attention are reported to the authorities first, who will then collect necessary evidence to help with the conviction.

She added that it is only through the police that the case would be taken to court. Hlophe said when cases are brought to the trainers in their constituencies, all should be taken seriously and people should be advised to report the matter to the police. "There is need to have more one stop centres in the country as there is one in Mbabane, which is currently running. We are hopeful that more centres will be opened at regional level.

As leaders we should not focus mainly on the cases on a legal point of view, but also focus from the victim who is left emotionally drained by the case and making sure they are not victimised," she said.

## NATICC, JA partner to end teenage pregnancy

BY STARKY MKHONTA  
Nhlalango

**NHLANGANO AIDS Training Information and Counselling Centre (NATICC) has partnered with Junior Achievement (JA) Eswatini to fight teenage pregnancy in schools.**

NATICC has all along been involved in the social aspect in dealing with teenage pregnancy in schools and JA has come on board to empower the teenagers with entrepreneurship skills.

The partnership of NATICC and JA was officially launched last Friday at Bethesda in Nhlalango.

NATICC started the teenage pregnancy prevention project in 2017 in six schools from Shiselweni region. JA Eswatini Chief Executive Officer Siboniso Madlopha and NATICC Director Sisekelo Nzima were part of the partnership launch.

In the six schools, there will be teen clubs formed with the purpose of empowering teenagers so they do not fall into the trap and assist them improve academically.

Nzima said the partnering with JA Eswatini was meant to assist teenagers to fully focus in their studies and not to fall into the temptation of being involved in unbecoming conduct.

"Through the clubs the teenagers will be given an opportunity to improve academically, delay their sexual debut, prevent HIV and those who have fallen pregnant are taken back to school as we all know that teenage pregnancy is not only a social problem but an economic pragmatic as well," said Nzima.

Nzima said it was no secret that children or adolescents were crafters of their own future.

"Young people can make a choice about their future. If they want a positive future, they can decide and it's also up to them to decide if they want it to be bleak. Their future is determined by the choices they make," said Nzima.

Nzima said with the country experiencing high teenage pregnancy, something needs to be done.

"The kingdom is experiencing huge challenge of teenage pregnancy. The figures are frightening and dropouts have also become a cause for concern. It calls for everyone to stand up and find a

solution. The partnership we have with JA is part of finding the solution," said Nzima.

Nzima said NATICC and JA partnership was one way of also making sure that Vision 2022 of attaining the first world status is achieved. He said NATICC and its other partners cannot take a backseat and think a miracle would address some of the social ills affecting the kingdom.

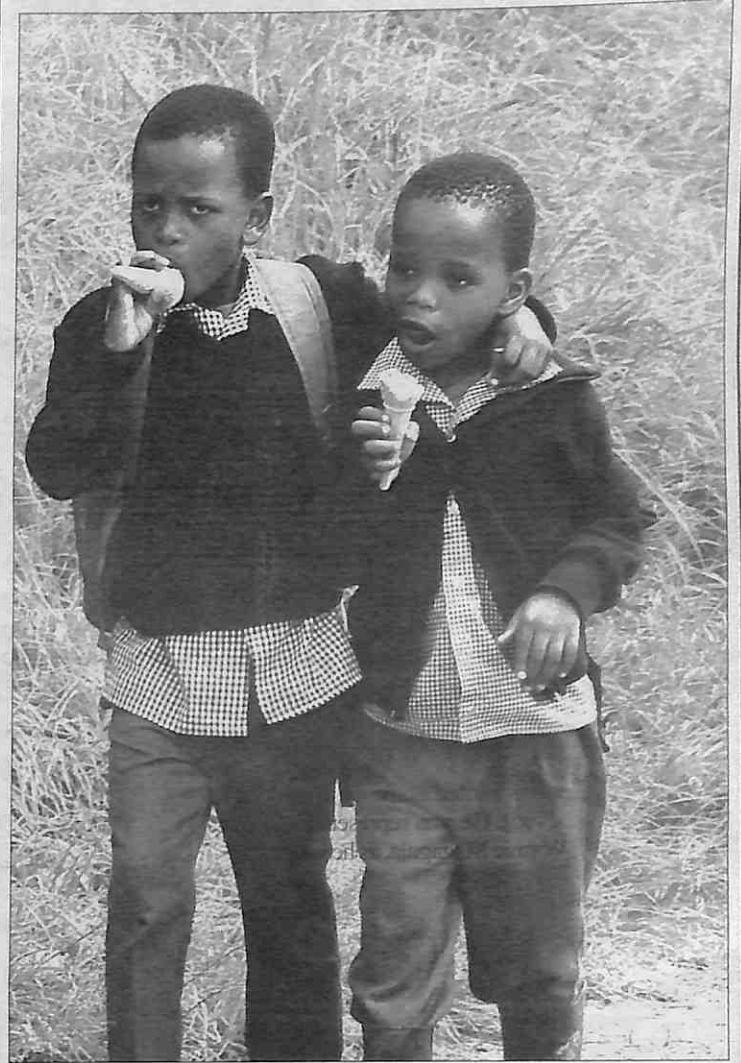
"As NATICC, we can't just sit back when seeing that something is amiss in the country," he said.

On that note, JA Eswatini CEO Siboniso Madlopha echoed Nzima's words, noting that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NATICC would go a long way in assisting teenage girls.

"NATICC has the technical know-how when it comes to social problems that lead to teenage pregnancy and it's a programme they have been doing in these schools. We are today unpacking the role we will be playing in complementing NATICC. Ours is to empower the teenage girls on how they can afford some of the things that are dangled by the culprits who end up ruining their future. We have come in to sharpen these innocent girls that they can afford some of these things and they will be made aware on how to tell 'blessers' where to get off. We are coming in to make the girls economically strong and never allow anyone to take advantage of their situation," said Madlopha. The six schools that will benefit under the NATICC and JA Eswatini are; Mbukwane, Dwaleni, Makhosini, Nzongomane, Nkhungwini and Mantambe (all high schools).

**ALSO THERE: JA Eswatini Chief Executive Officer Siboniso Madlopha.**

## FRIENDS LIKE THESE



**MY FRIEND: Pupils from Msunduza Primary School enjoy ice cream during their break-time yesterday.**  
(Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

## Eswatini ranked 9th in Africa's child friendliness index

BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

**ESWATINI is currently ranked ninth in the Africa Child Friendliness Index of 2013.**

This is a major step as the nation was ranked 45th in 2008 said DPM Themba Masuku.

Masuku shared this as he condemned all forms of brutality against children.

He said corporal punishment would jeopardise the Kingdom of Eswatini's vision to be a developed country by 2022.

"The country aspires to achieve positive global recognition where all citizens, young and old, urban or rural, male or female, are able to sustainably pursue their life goals and further enjoy a life of value and dignity in a safe and secure environment," the DPM said.

He noted that children are expected to be safe at all times as well as receive and enjoy love, support and protection.

"Severe corporal punishment hugely affects the positive rankings of the country," he noted.

Masuku added that the country had a progressive constitution and has further aligned itself with a number of international conventions which seek to assist and guide the delivery of bet-

ter services to the people.

He added that all these legal instruments put emphasis on human rights and dignity as captured in the nation's vision of 2022.

"Teachers and community members are encouraged to make efforts towards engagement of positive discipline measures, which will be characterised by engagements with children leading to a common understanding and solutions," said Masuku.

He further urged children to exercise utmost respect to teachers and parents in their daily lives which is the social and legal responsibility of the child. He added that schools and community structures are encouraged to reinforce their career guidance and counselling programmes.

Churches were also urged to develop programmes which seek to address issues affecting children and also empower parents on alternative measures relating to the discipline of children.

He concluded that his office and stakeholders should be approached to capacitate each other on better handling of issues regarding raising children and dealing with emotional stress.



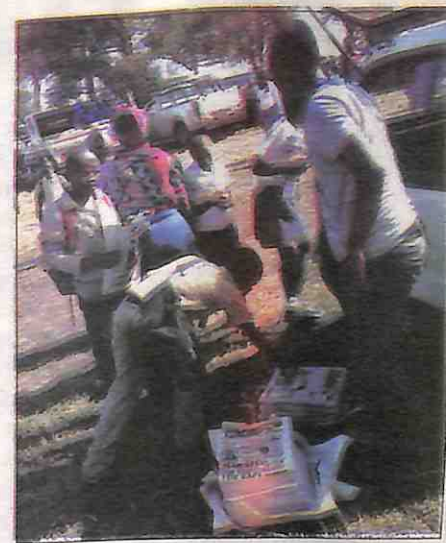
# 2019 BUGANU AT HLANE



**SERVING THE NATION:** Members of the Lutsango regiment distribute some free copies of the Observer on Saturday newspaper amongst themselves before the start of the Baganu ceremony held at Hlane Royal Residence over the past weekend. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu and Simon Shabangu)



**MBUTFO:** Mhlonishwa hands over a copy to an umbutfo who was also in attendance.



**FOR EVERYONE:** Even the young ones got the opportunity to grab a copy to read.



**MAD RUSH:** Some members of the Lutsango in scramble for the free Observer on Saturday copies.



**MORNING:** Swazi Observer's Luke Mkhonta was also there to monitor the distribution.



**ONE FOR YOU:** Swazi Observer Circulation Officer Mhlonishwa Dlamini presenting a copy to Senator Princess Dzelisa, who is also Interim Chairperson of Emavulandlela Scouts Association. She is joined by some of the executive members.



**MINE TOO:** Mhlonishwa Dlamini mobbed for copies of the newspaper.



**HERE YOU GO:** Swazi Observer Journalist Wonderboy Dlamini, who is based in the Siteki office, distributing free copies of the newspaper..



**WE GOT ONE:** Swazi Observer Board member Dumsile Sigwane and Olga Malinga showing their copies of the Sunday Observer.



What's in Your Mind

info@observer.org.sz

## Features &amp; Opinions

Refresh What You Think

# RECIPROCATED EFFORTS THAT GO A LONG WAY IN LEADERSHIP - RESPECT

EFFECTIVE leaders know that respect is not a commodity that has to be demanded from followers, but rather a reciprocated initiative that followers bestow in recognition of the influence the leader has.

Leaders need to be respected in order to be successful, but earning that respect takes time and consistent effort from the leader.

When team members and employees respect the leader, they are more likely to work harder to accomplish the shared goal they believe in.

Leaders need to realise that employees are people just like them, and they have basic needs that must be met and nurtured in order to enhance performance.

Every person wants to be recognised as a human being regardless of the position he occupies in the organisation. Hence, leaders who show respect to employees earn respect and that is a component that is critical for the leader to succeed.

## EARNING AND BUILDING RESPECT

Many people like to be respected yet respect is a commodity that is earned. For leaders to be respected, they have to respect the people. The nature of human beings is such that they reciprocate. So to be respected, you have to respect the followers.

Leaders who earn respect often are much more successful than those who demand respect, and there are ways to achieve that tricky balance. The Harvard Business Review (2014 Vol. 6) list the following areas as core for building respect

● **Be consistent:** If you do what you say, people will recognise and respond to that.

● **Be punctual:** Time management should not be hard. Making others wait for unnecessary periods diminishes respect. If you sanction a meeting, you cannot keep the people waiting for you.

● **Be responsive:** Leaders should always be available, whether at work or not, and workers and or team leaders need to know that when they need you, they can reach you.

● **Be right, but be ok being wrong too:** Know your facts, but if you make a calculated decision that proves false, own it and accept that you made the best effort.



People will notice.

● **Forgive mistakes:** Humans are not perfect, and neither are leaders. When you make a mistake, show others how to shake it off. And do not penalise those who try to be creative in solving a problem and do not succeed.

● **Show Respect, always:** It is easy to criticize when others mess up. It is better to support someone, even in error, in order for them to bounce back strong.

● **Be Proactive:** Not everyone is as good as your best workers. Help those struggling, but be firm. If people continue to undermine the team, do what is best for the team to succeed.

Though respect is reciprocal, the other side of the coin is that, the business environment is far different than in years past. Younger employees do not hold the same views of work and management as their parents did. Distrust and entitlement can be crippling traits to overcome.

That is why it is more important that leaders embrace their position and actually lead. It is imperative that leadership show others respect so to gain respect.

## THE ADVANTAGE OF RESPECT?

With respect you can get others to follow you. Getting people to follow you willingly is a key point to leadership. People want to be

part of something special. If people admire you, they will think that you have something special to offer and will be much more willing to lend a hand.

Once you get a following, you can then use people to achieve the goals of the organisation. Great leaders will inspire respect in others and be a great example.

## GETTING RESPECT

Respect is earned. It is not given freely. This statement has been the reason that so many people hold back respect. The truth is that it is important to show respect whether the person deserves it or not.

A lot of employees/team members are not on the same level as the leader. The employees often feel inferior and wonder how they are valued.

A great leader can come in and show people respect and admiration for their work. If the leader is genuine, the employee will feel much more willingness to work hard.

The reason is that by being respected and valued- employees feel happy to do more than is expected and that is a key component to success for any organisation.

## WHY RESPECT IS FUNDAMENTAL

A good leader must follow the first rule of

leading, and that is to lead by example. Respect and leadership work together. Think about every small thing you do. Will people admire you for your actions?

If you are not admired or respected, your leadership will be weak and performance will suffer.

All great leaders convey, with enthusiasm and optimism, goals and they do it with utmost respect for those around them. Leaders that know how to give the utmost respect will get much more loyalty and performance from employees.

“Leaders need to realise that employees are people just like them, and they have basic needs that must be met and nurtured in order to enhance performance”

# SUICIDAL STUDENT DIES AS CROWD CHEERS

AS the 21-year-old stood on the edge of the building threatening to jump, a crowd gathered.

But instead of trying to save him, people in the crowd whipped out their cellphones and encouraged him to 'Jump! Jump!'

Seconds later, the crowd's laughter turned to screams horror as the student jumped to his death.

According to Coconuts, this shocking incident happened last Friday at a four-storey mall in Indonesia's Lampung province.

An eyewitness known only as Heni told Kompas that most in the crowd were only interested in getting footage of the drama on their cellphones instead of rushing to his rescue.

"I even saw up there on the rooftop a man who was wearing black.

I thought he was negotiating with the victim so he wouldn't commit suicide, but he was actually among those who took pictures," Heni said.

Photos and videos posted online of the suicide have caused outrage about the crowd's apparent lack of humanity.

They may also be used as evidence against the witnesses. Knowingly not helping a person in danger is punishable by three months in prison in Indonesia.

So far, there are no reports that local cops have taken any action.

Dailysun



REAL: A photo of the student taken just before he jumped to his death.



## ON THIS DAY

...MARCH 5

**1623** - The first alcohol temperance law in the colonies was enacted in Virginia.

**1624** - In the American colony of Virginia, the upper class was exempted from whipping by legislation.

**1750** - 'King Richard III' was performed in New York City. It was the first Shakespearean play to be presented in America.

**1766** - The first Spanish governor of Louisiana, Antonio de Ulloa, arrived in New Orleans.

**1770** - 'The Boston Massacre' took place when British troops fired on a crowd in Boston killing five people. Two British troops were later convicted of manslaughter.

**1793** - Austrian troops defeated the French and recaptured Liege.

**1836** - Samuel Colt's Patent Arms Manufacturing of Paterson, New Jersey, was chartered by the New Jersey legislature.

**1842** - A Mexican force of over 500 men under Rafael Vasquez invaded Texas for the first time since the revolution. They briefly occupied San Antonio, but soon headed back to the Rio Grande.

**1845** - The US Congress appropriated US\$30,000 to ship camels to the western US.

**1864** - For the first time, Oxford met Cambridge in track and field competition in England.

**1867** - An abortive Fenian uprising against English rule took place in Ireland.

**1868** - The US Senate was organised into a court of impeachment to decide charges against President Andrew Johnson.

**1872** - George Westinghouse patented the air brake.

**1900** - Two US battleships left for Nicaragua to halt revolutionary disturbances.

**1901** - Germany and Britain began negotiations with hopes of creating an alliance.

**1902** - In France, the National Congress of Miners decided to call for a general strike for an 8-hour day.

**1907** - In St. Petersburg, Russia, the new Duma opened. 40 000 demonstrators were dispersed by troops.

**1910** - In Philadelphia, PA, 60 000 people left their jobs to show support for striking transit workers.

**1910** - The Moroccan envoy signed the 1909 agreement with France.

**1912** - The Italians became the first to use dirigibles for military purposes. They used them for reconnaissance flights behind Turkish lines west of Tripoli.

**1918** - The Soviets moved the capital of Russia from Petrograd to Moscow.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**Eva Mendes (Movie Actress)** - March 5, 1974 (45 years old)



**Sterling Knight (TV Actor)** - March 5, 1989 (30 years old)



**RAISED FROM THE 'DEAD':** This is just the latest in a series of religious quackery that South Africa and African citizens blindly and zealously follow.

## Fake pastors, violent youth - we must act now before all is lost to our nation

**JOHANNESBURG** - For anyone who has followed the news in our country last week, some profound questions emerge that must force us to confront the spectre we, as a society, appear to have become.

We are forced to ask whether we, as a collective nation, have lost our way.

We are compelled to question whether we are so broken a society, whether we live in such a suffocating moral vacuum, that we are willing to be duped by religious charlatans who, among other fakes, claim they are able to bring people back from the dead.

While the public ridicule at the absurdity of Pastor Alph Lukau bringing to life a man in a coffin appears rational to the rational-minded, the church is rich and has many who have faith in him and continue to pay money to hear him preach.

This is just the latest in a series of religious quackery that this country's citizens blindly and zealously follow.

Eating grass, being sprayed with insect poison, drinking petrol. In some churches, accusations of human trafficking, abuse and rape are being investigated.

Others are under scrutiny for defrauding congregants who handed over hard-earned and not-so-meagre monies in the hope of a quick return that did not materialise.

While the congregants lose money in blind faith, these so-called pastors have private jets and drive multi-million rand cars.

Surely this is not religion? Surely this is not faith? How can this be spirituality? How can this be Christianity?

As these churches take root and flourish in our country, we must question what profound levels of desperation drive scores to worship at them.

We must acknowledge that this is fraud and manipulation. It is coercion and abuse.

It should not be tolerated and, while the state must intervene and act, as a society we must engage in some brutally honest introspection

about how we worship and what shape that worship should take.

### VIOLENCE

As we ask hard questions about our faith, so too we must ask if we are so broken, so far removed from an understanding of our collective responsibility, that our youth, in this instance teenagers, think little to nothing of beating a man to death on the streets of a city.

Thoriso Themane's brutal murder in Polokwane, caught on video and sent around the world, is a damning indictment of the erosion of our social fabric.

One of the teens arrested in connection with his death boasted on video that he was untouchable because his father is a policeman.

In the Western Cape, gang violence in Bonteheuwel has claimed 18 lives so far this year.

In North West last week, in one case among many, a 17-year-old was sentenced for stabbing his teacher to death.

**“As we ask hard questions about our faith, so too we must ask if we are so broken, so far removed from an understanding of our collective responsibility, that our youth, in this instance teenagers, think little to nothing of beating a man to death on the streets of a city”**

And in KwaZulu-Natal, several youngsters were arrested for repeatedly raping a 90-year-old relative.

What's worse is that the family reported them to the police only after the young men had defied reprimands and continued raping the granny.

Has the violence in our homes, in our schools, on our streets become so fundamentally pervasive that taking human life is common place?

What compels these so-called future leaders to engage in such violent behaviour and kill other humans?

Nationally, the commission of inquiry into state capture keeps us riveted daily with revelations of cash handouts, bags, booze and security systems for our politicians.

It continues to open corruption's can of worms.

It continues to expose the rot at the head of our nation. It shows that we are a society that is not happy with what we get paid to do.

As a result, we engage in corrupt and fraudulent acts to earn extra money at the expense of the services expected to be rendered to the citizens, often the poor and needy.

If those elected to lead our country are exposed as corrupt, or revealed to be alleged rapists and women abusers, where law enforcement appears complicit in preventing or hampering investigations, then what real hope do we have?

As dark as all this appears, there must be light at the end. We must stand up against charlatans. We must resist violence.

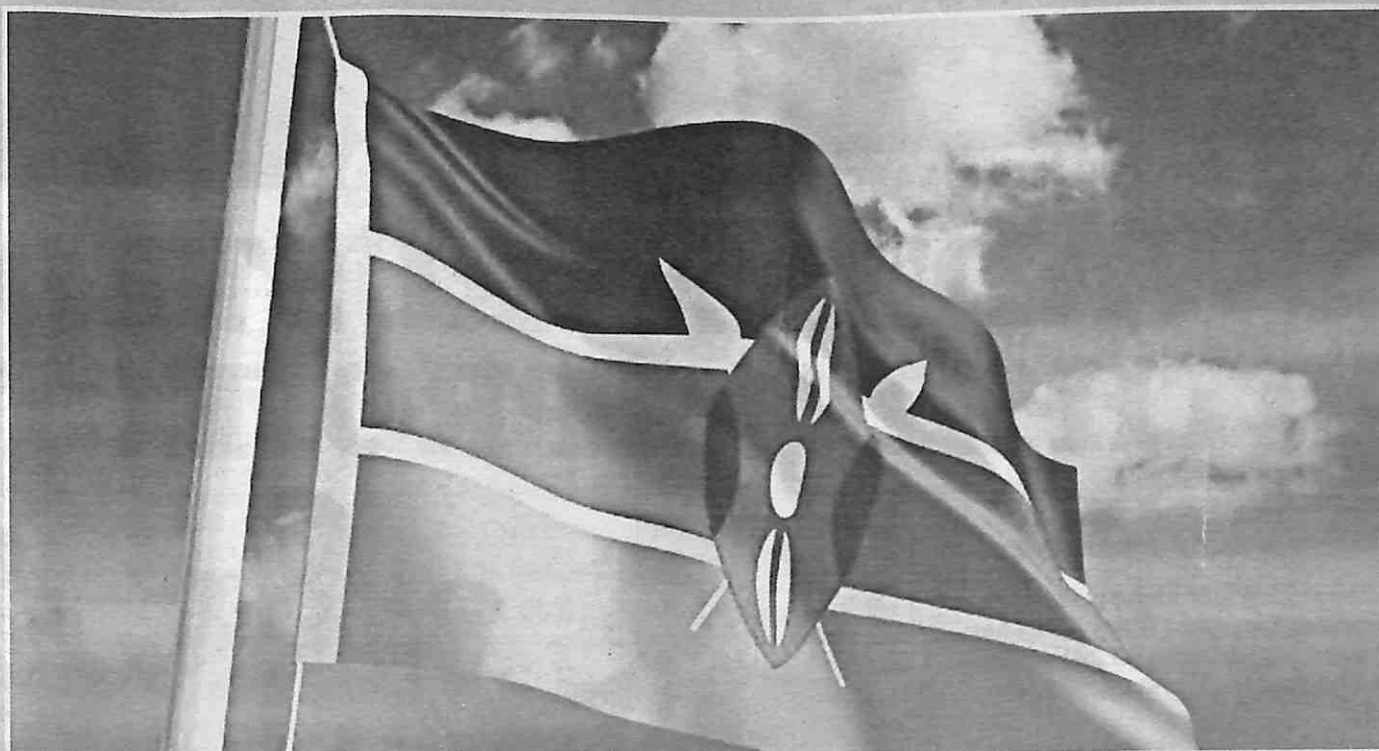
We are compelled to develop our society, to rid it of superstition, to help our neighbours, to uplift our youth, to reduce inequality and poverty.

We need more than just political will to do this.

We need a personal, individual shift that creates a collective good. We need to do it for ourselves.

This is our country; we cannot allow it to wither and die in the shadow of our ignorance and complacency. Wake up South Africa, before we are swallowed and lost. -CITY PRESS





## Kenya should let ICJ settle maritime dispute with Somalia

**NAIROBI** - The last three weeks have witnessed a strange diplomatic spat between Kenya and Somalia.

The Kenyan government summoned back its ambassador from Mogadishu and kicked out the Somali ambassador, claiming that Somali leadership had attempted to sell off parts of Kenyan territory.

The two neighbours have been locked in a dispute over their maritime boundary, with both claiming a narrow 100 000km<sup>2</sup> triangle of sea shelf thought to contain significant deposits of oil and gas.

After five years of attempts by both to negotiate a compromise, Somalia eventually filed a case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 2014, which is still to be adjudicated. However, Kenya has continued to operate as if there was no dispute and has already sold mining licences to international companies in the triangle.

The latest flare-up centres, at least nominally, on proceedings at a controversial public meeting organised in London by Somalia's Federal ministry of petroleum and mineral resources and Spectrum Geo, a Norwegian seismic data processing company.

The agenda for the meeting was somewhat unclear, with government officials initially suggesting it would be inviting bids for exploration, and only later clarifying that the meeting would present seismic data collected by Spectrum and offer for sale more detailed information about offshore blocks.

This confusion led to Somali citizens living in London storming the meeting to protest against the presumed auctioning of the offshore blocks to foreign investors, a boycott of the meeting by opposition parties and members of Somalia's Upper House, and then the bust-up with Kenya.

### INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The tone of the statement issued by Kenya on February 16 regarding the summoning of its ambassador in Mogadishu was startling. It fell short of declaring Somalia an enemy state, claiming the latter had indeed auctioned off "oil and gas blocks in Kenya's maritime territorial area".

It thundered about a map that had apparently been displayed at the conference showing the disputed territory as part of Somalia, and indirectly threatened to use as leverage "four hundred thousand Somali refugees and asylum seekers" in Kenya.

It also "reminded the Government of Somalia and the international community" of the fact that

it had troops serving in the Africa Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which is helping battle the al-Qaeda-linked armed group, al-Shabab. "The patience of the people of Kenya is not infinite," it warned.

Somalis are a more patient lot it seems. In a measured rejoinder a day later, the Somali government averred that no auction had taken place, explained that the map in question mirrored Somalia's long-standing position, and reiterated that the country has no intentions to undertake any unilateral actions (of the type Kenya has) in the disputed area until the ICJ renders its verdict.

What accounts for such an overreaction by Kenya? Well, perhaps it could be panic over the possibility of actually losing the case at the ICJ. Clearly, Somalia seems the more confident of the two about its prospects at the court, which is expected to hand down a verdict sometime this year.

Somalia has already won the first round after the court in 2017 dismissed Kenya's challenge to the proceedings on the basis that the two countries had previously agreed to settle the matter out of court.

### ILLEGAL TRADE

Further, this is a strategy Kenya has deployed before. The perceived success of its obnoxious and hardnosed campaign against the International Criminal Court's indictments for crimes against humanity against President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy, William Ruto, may have embold-

ened Kenya to think it can similarly bully its northeastern neighbour.

Kenya is not new to playing the bull in Somalia's china shop.

The Somali government was not consulted in October 2011 when Kenya sent forces across the border, nor when the objectives of the invasion morphed from pursuing kidnappers to taking southern Somalia's second-largest port, Kismayo.

Against Mogadishu's wishes, Kenyan troops brought former al-Shabab ally, Ahmed Madobe, to power as president of the newly created Jubaland State administration.

The country ignored a resolution of the Somali Parliament calling for its troops to leave. Moreover, the Kenyan forces in Somalia have been accused of engaging in illegal trade in charcoal and sugar, which enriches the very terror group they are meant to be fighting.

According to an article in the Standard newspaper, one of Kenya's demands for restoring diplomatic ties was that Somalia withdraw its case at the ICJ. This insistence is perhaps most telling of Kenya's true intentions.

### WEAKER DIPLOMATIC POSITION

It thus appears that having already sold prospecting rights within the disputed zones to companies such as ENI, Total, Anadarko and others, and facing huge claims for compensation should the ICJ rule in Somalia's favour, Kenya has fabricated a diplomatic incident to pre-empt that judgment and force Somalia to agree to a negotiated solution.

The Mogadishu is already in a weaker diplomatic position having already angered its international partners at the beginning of the year by kicking out the top United Nations official in the country, Nicholas Haysom. Perhaps Kenya smelt blood.

Such tactics are, however, a double-edged sword. A serious rift with Somalia would have repercussions on Kenya's participation in AMISOM as well as risk radicalising border communities and legitimising Somalia-based terrorists targeting Kenya.

It would also harm the regional cooperation that AMISOM depends on, weakening the fight against al-Shabab and endangering people across the region.

It is thus in everyone's interest that Kenya dial down its rhetoric and, as The Star editorialised, commits to abide by the decision of the ICJ.

-ALJAZEERA

## Wit and Wisdom

"Let your workings remain a mystery. Just show people the results." **Lao Tzu**

"The man who has confidence in himself gains the confidence of others."

**Hasidic proverb**

"The man who does more than he is paid for will soon be paid for more than he does." **Napoleon Hill**

"Do what you love, and don't stop until you get what you love. Work as hard as you can, imagine immensities." **Debbie Millman**

"Done is better than perfect." **Sheryl Sandberg**

"Go for it now. The future is promised to no one." **Wayne Dyer**

"Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." **Will Rogers**

"True happiness comes from the joy of deeds well done, the zest of creating things new." **Antoine de Saint-Exupery**  
"A company shouldn't get addicted to being shiny, because shiny doesn't last."

**Jeff Bezos**

"Work gives you meaning and purpose, and life is empty without it." **Stephen Hawking**

"When something is important enough, you do it even if the odds are not in your favour." **Elon Musk**

"Failure is an option here. If things are not failing, you are not innovating enough." **Elon Musk**

"You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself." **Harvey Firestone**

"Leadership is an action, not a position." **Donal McGannon**

"Genius begins great works; labor alone finishes them." **Joseph Joubert**

"Be so ridiculously great at what you do that the world cannot help but give you an audience." **Joubert Botha**

"Our work is the presentation of our capabilities." **Edward Gibbon**

"Your income right now is a result of your standards, it is not the industry, it is not the economy." **Tony Robbins**

"Leaders spend 5 per cent of their time on the problem and 95 per cent of their time on the solution. Get over it and crush it!" **Tony Robbins**

"We are judged by what we finish, not by what we start." **Unknown**

"The ability to concentrate and to use time well is everything." **Lee Iacocca**

"Management is nothing more than motivating other people." **Lee Iacocca**

"The speed of the boss is the speed of the team." **Lee Iacocca**

"I believe in the dignity of labour, whether with head or hand; that the world owes no man a living but that it owes every man an opportunity to make a living." **John D. Rockefeller**

"I believe you have to be willing to be misunderstood if you're going to innovate." **Jeff Bezos**



# BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

## CONTACTS

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## VITALS

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Prime Rate                        | 10.50%           |
| <b>First National Bank</b>        |                  |
| Inflation Rate                    | 5%               |
| <b>Central Statistical Office</b> |                  |
| Mortgage Rate                     | 10.25%           |
| <b>Swaziland Building Society</b> |                  |
| Bank Rate                         | 7.0%             |
| <b>Central Bank</b>               |                  |
| Petrol (u)                        | E12.80 per litre |
| Replacement                       | E12.85 per litre |
| Diesel                            | E12.80 per litre |
| Paraffin                          | E 9.15 per litre |
| <b>Engen Garage</b>               |                  |

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 04 MAR 2019

| CURRENCY                | BUY        | SELL    |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|
| US Dollar / SZL         | 14.1405    | 14.1905 |
| British Pound/SZL       | 18.7128    | 18.7789 |
| Japanese Yen/SZL        | 7.8912     | 7.9184  |
| Swiss France/SZL        | 14.1475    | 14.1905 |
| Botswana Pula/SZL       | 1.3320     | 1.3523  |
| Australian Dollar/SZL   | 10.0270    | 10.0639 |
| Canadian Dollar/SZL     | 10.6367    | 10.6735 |
| Mozambique Meticals/SZL | 5.5211     | 5.5942  |
| Euro/SZL                | 16.0664    | 16.1267 |
| Gold                    | 1,294.0664 |         |
| Oil                     | 63.15      |         |

For more information contact:  
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Standard Bank

# ESWADE ENTRUSTED WITH E241M PROJECT

BY BAHLE GAMA

THE Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE) has been tasked implementing a E241 million worth Smallholder Market Led Project (SMLP).

The project is aimed at reducing poverty and food insecurity through investments supporting increased agricultural production, productivity and commercialisation of smallholder agriculture while maintaining and sustaining a resilient environment.

This was revealed by Minister of Agriculture, Jabulani Mabuza during the launch of the Chiefdom Development Plan (CDP) held at Lulakeni Royal Kraal over the past weekend.

He said ESWADE was a government entity which seeks to empower communities improve their quality of life through projects in commercial agriculture and associated enterprises, thus providing innovative services in infrastructure development and management.

"The ESWADE ethos is not just focused on lifting project beneficiaries from abject poverty to running businesses that are both profitable and sustainable, but also include access to potable water and sanitation for the project's targeted communities," he said.

The minister said these interventions were designed to provide better health and play an integral yet supportive role in the economic expansion taking place within those development areas.

He said people with access to sanitation facilities stood at 42 269 at the beginning of the five



CDP: Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza with Chief GasaWaNgwane during the CDP launch at Lulakeni Chiefdom.

years and 48 461 at the end of the period. The SMLP is set to cover 37 chiefdoms in the rain fed Middleveld and Lowveld areas of the Lubombo, Shiselweni and Manzini regions, covering a total of 12 tinkhundla.

Agricultural production in these areas will generally be individual, however, market supply or infrastructure maintenance may be jointly organised. He also disclosed that the SMLP conducted a market scoping study which found that goat production, beekeeping and indigenous chickens have a huge potential at the Lulakeni Chiefdom.

The study further uncovered that there is a high demand of these selected value chains in the market, thus encouraged the community to pursue the value chains for commercialisation.

The minister also highlighted that revenue from businesses initiated by ESWADE stood at E1.4 billion for the past five years alone.

He said this was from enterprises such as sugarcane, livestock and other diversified crops and from these enterprises, farmers from the project development areas under ESWADE have remitted taxes which are in excess of E210 million.

## One of ESWADE projects.



## Ultra Civil gets E2m intention to award contract for ESWADE tender

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

LOCAL company Ultra Civil has scooped an over E2 million intention to award tender contract from ESWADE.

The actual tender is worth E2 101103.14 and the company has been contracted to supply pipeline modification in the LUSIP main canal south off take six secondary distribution system.

The contract has been published in the Swaziland Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (SPPRA) website.

### DETAILS OF BEST EVALUATED RESPONSIVE TENDERER

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| NAME                    | Ultra Civil (Pty) Ltd |
| NATIONALITY             | Swati                 |
| PROPOSED CONTRACT PRICE | E2 101103.14          |
| TOTAL EVALUATION SCORE  | 87percent             |

The company scored a total evaluation score of 87 per cent, beating two other companies that had applied for the tender.

The companies are Valid Traders, who submitted a bidding prize of E1 338 300.05 and obtained a technical score of 39 per cent and

was disqualified while Nembeza Investments tabled a bidding prize of E2 136 852.30.

The company was also disqualified after they submitted a copy of a tax compliance certificate instead of an original and valid compliance certificate.



# CMA agreement presents opportunities for locals

BY MLINDENI CUMEDE

EmaSwati now have the opportunity to invest in international stock markets, including the JSE and the NYSE through various brokers that have aligned themselves with collaborating with Common Monetary Area (CMA) members and mandate.

One of the brokers, First World Trader, which is a brokerage firm from South Africa, offers the opportunity for CMA member states to invest on the Johannesburg and New York stock exchanges through an Equity trading platform known as Easy Equities.

A representative of First World Trader, Lucas Herrick said during an interview that CMA citizens have a wide range of investment opportunities under the Easy Equities platform. "Easy Equities account holders who are citizens of the CMA Area (South Africa, Namibia, Swaziland and Lesotho) have access to accounts including the Rand account, Tax Free Savings Account and an offshore USD account limited to NYSE and NASDAQ shares and ETFs," Herrick said.

According the Easy Equities website, account holders can buy shares for a min-

“

Regarding trading platforms similar to the one question, there are many platforms currently being used worldwide to sell and buy on stock markets

”

imum of E5 and US10 Dollars, respectively.

Asked about the existence of other trading platforms that stimulate the CMA, Harrick said it was likely that other platforms do exist.

"There are other platforms similar to this one but Easy Equities however is the most user friendly. But you may ask some other brokers in regards to them allowing EmaSwati to open accounts with them.

Herrick also confirmed that they do have EmaSwati with registered accounts with us.

Sought for comment on the existence of such platforms Joyce Dlamini, a manager at the Eswatini Stock Exchange said

the use of electronic interfaces was common in equity trading worldwide.

She said the stock exchange, its self, was a larger entity which is independent of stock brokers.

"Regarding trading platforms similar to the one question, there are many platforms currently being used worldwide to sell and buy on stock markets. For instance, our local stock market has launched the automated trading system, which is an electronic trading platform more or less similar to other electronic platforms used," she said.

Dlamini also mentioned prospects of regional stock exchanges stimulating the Common Monetary Area (CMA) Agreement through introducing linkage projects between stock exchanges in SADC member states.

"It is possible to gain access to international equity markets, but this has to be done through engaging with a trusted stock broker. In the case of stock market relations between Eswatini and other countries, some progress is being made; SADC is currently in the process of making it simple to gain access to markets in the SADC region. The Committee of SADC Stock exchanges is working on improving the multination aspect of equity trade," Dlamini elaborated.



## Beekeeping viable at Lulakeni - minister

BY BAHLE GAMA

Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza says a technical study on vegetation assessment, conducted in November 2018 by the SMLD in collaboration with the ministry, indicated that beekeeping is viable at Lulakeni.

The minister said this during the launch of the Chiefdom Development Plan, that Lulakeni Chiefdom had huge potential to produce and feed into the economic recovery strategy of the country through agriculture and it is, therefore, of paramount importance that the community attends

trainings for sustainable and improved livestock production technologies.

He further encouraged the people of Lulakeni to grab the opportunities availed to them and use the available resources wisely and profitably with intent to take the plan as their roadmap to 2022.

### Support

"May I mention that ESWADE, through the support from the Government of Eswatini, will continue to mobilise for funding through securing billions of Emalangeni from both local and international financial resources for supporting community-based business opportunities," he concluded.

BY SANDZASIVE NXUMALO

## Ministry of agriculture, AEC launch Tibusiso TaSimakadze Co-op

THE ministry of agriculture in collaboration with Africa Evangelical Church (AEC) Mbabane (Ka-Boyce) have officially launched the Tibusiso TaSimakadze Multipurpose Organisation.

The event also marked the launch of the orange sweet potato programme.

Principal Home Economist in the Ministry of Agriculture Nikiwe Dlamini, grown who led the tour in the AEC unit kitchen, explained that the organisation would be baking using sweet potato as it grows easily and plentifully in the country.

Rich

She said sweet potato was versatile and can be used to make scones, savoury fat cakes, biscuits, bread, juice and chips.

"Orange sweet potatoes are rich in beta-carotene, which is an excellent source of vitamin A, which makes it ideal for developing countries like Eswatini where there is a high level of Vitamin A deficiency; especially in children.

"The reason the ministry of agriculture chose the AEC is because it is a faith-base organisation and it will help empower women of the church. The ministry is looking into investment into the church as spiritual wealth is not the only currency required to continue doing its good work, it requires financial aid," she said.

Present during the event was Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga, who represented the Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza.



OFFICIAL: Nosisa Dlamini, Principal Home Economist in the ministry of agriculture, Nikiwe Dlamini and Sports Minister Harries 'Madze' Bulunga inside the Mbabane AEC Church (Ka-Boyce) during the launch of the cooperative last week Thursday. (R) Thembi Xulu, Commissioner of Cooperatives in the ministry of Commerce, Industry & Trade, handing over certificates of entrepreneurship to Dr Phindile Dlamini, Vice Chairperson of Tibusiso TaSimakadze Cooperative. (Pics: Sandzasive Nxumalo)

The minister, who is also Mbabane East Member of Parliament (MP), thanked the church for taking the agro initiative to empower people to be economically stable and have something to provide for their families.

"Recently, the budget speech, was presented in Parliament depicted the gravity of economy of the country, depicting its instability and lack of employment opportunities. Government is encouraged by seeing such businesses being established, as it provides job opportunities to the community.

"Moreover, government is trying to alleviate the reliance people have on social grants, as these grants initially assist the elderly and disabled. Such initiatives show that the people are assist-

ing in ensuring that the project started," he said.

The minister advised the co-operative not only to market itself but to partner with major supermarkets such as Shoprite, Pick n Pay and Spar.

### Encouraged

He further encouraged other communities under the Mbabane East constituency and Eswatini at large to start initiatives like this one, as it will help improve the economy of the country.

Meanwhile, Tibusiso TaSimakadze Multipurpose Organisation representative Dr. Phindile Dlamini gave a brief summary of what the organisation does.

She said the organisation began operations in 2018 and is made up of 33 members, who include men, women

and the youth of the church.

She said the main objective of the initiative was to improve the socio-economic status and unity amongst members and also to share knowledge with the community at large and to corporate responsibility.

Dlamini added their target market included shops, guest houses, bridal shops, hotels and schools.

"We would like to thank the ministry of agriculture and ministry of commerce, industry and trade for assisting us as an organisation.

The ministry of agriculture donated equipment, which include an industrial oven, industrial mixer, two tables, 5000L water tank, tank stand and gas burner through the Food and Agricultural



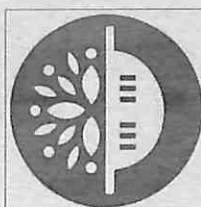
Organisation (FAO) and also helped in sending home economists to train the Co-operative members.

"The ministry of commerce, on the other hand, helped the co-operative in drafting a business plan, to register and also educated members on entrepreneurship," he said.

She added that they were planning to venture into property, transport business, financial services, manufacturing, and multi-agro processing and to also grow their membership.

The next sweet potato business launch will be held in the Shiselweni region followed by Mayiweane, where they will also be producing sweet potato products. The Mayiweane unit will also manufacture sweet potato flour.





**OMBUDSMAN**  
OF FINANCIAL SERVICES  
*Umlamuli wetindzaba tetimali*

**OMBUDSDAY FREE FAIR FOR ALL**

## 'Our value of accessibility'

**WE give a free service to all, and our processes are less formal and easy to grasp.**

We pride ourselves as the Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services for being easily accessible to consumers in the beautiful Kingdom of Eswatini as per our mandate, "to educate all stakeholders, including consumers, FSPs, consumer bodies and associations about the role, procedures and jurisdiction of the Ombudsman".

In the recently enrolled famous month of Love we managed to express our love to Lutsango members who attended the 2019 Hhohho Baganu Festival. We did not end at Buhleni, as Zombodze Emuva also got to appreciate our love during the recent Indaba organised and hosted by the Federation of Organisations of Disabled People in Swaziland (FODSWA), themed 'People Living with Disabilities Indaba'. Last but not least of these was Matata, which was the next to experience our love and appreciate our accessibility to consumers.

### BUHLENI

The Ombudsman office representatives were treated to a joyful and warm welcome by Lutsango at the Hhohho Baganu Festival. Lutsango was able to take time and listen to our presentation even though they were busy preparing to join Their Majesties later on in song and dance as per the Festival programme.

Gospel artist Nduduzo Matse together with Special Crew dance group kept the crowd entertained.

### RETIREMENT FUND COMPLAINT

"For a complaint to be attended to by the Office of the Ombudsman, it should relate to the administration of the fund," among other things, said our presenter.

She continued to share about the basis on which a retirement fund complaint can be taken up by the Office of the Ombudsman, stating that the complaint must allege:

- That the fund has made a decision outside its powers or that the complainant has been prejudiced as a result of maladministration by the fund.
- That a dispute of fact or law has arisen in relation to a fund, between the fund and any person or the fund and the complainant.
- That an employer who participates in the fund has not fulfilled its duties in terms of the rules of the fund or the law.



### ZOMBODZE EMUVA

Under the umbrella of FODSWA, the disabled people from Zombodze Emuva, Shiselweni I and Shiselweni II were given the platform to voice out what they wish the Government of Eswatini could do for them to meet their needs as members of society.

### FORMS

Our presenter delivered what was music to the ear for the crowd, "I am happy to announce to you today that the Office of the Ombudsman is committed to helping disabled people in the country; we have our complaint forms available in braille so that the blind also may be able to lodge their complaints against non-bank financial services providers.

"Also, in our budget we have allocated funds for a translator, should we receive them as our complainant.

"This is for the purposes of being accessible to all Eswatini citizens in the four regions of the country," said our case officer. She went on to mention that besides just visiting the office, our forms are available from our website both in English and Siswati. One can also visit their nearest CMAC offices to get our forms.

### SUBMISSION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMPLAINTS

1. A complainant shall first lodge a written complaint with the authorised financial services provider (FSP).
2. If a complainant is not satisfied with the response to the complaint lodged with the authorised FSP or if no response is received by the complainant within 30 days, the complainant may lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman.
3. Notwithstanding, 1 and 2 above a complainant may, on the basis of the urgency of a complaint, lodge a complaint in the first instance with the

Office of the Ombudsman.

4. The Ombudsman shall, in situations like 3 above, in his/her discretion, determine whether or not good cause has been shown to warrant a complaint being considered as a matter of urgency in terms of the Ombudsman's rules.

### MATATA

Alongside the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA), the Office of the Ombudsman took part in the latest FSRA roadshow at Matata on February 23, 2019.

On this day, the FSRA took the lead by educating consumers about their rights and responsibilities under the financial services products that FSRA regulates.

### ESTABLISHED

The Ombudsman of Financial Services, having been established through the promulgation of the FSRA Act 2010 by way of Section 74, also resolves other complaints in addition to retirement fund complaints.

### A SAVINGS AND OR CREDIT COMPLAINT

The subject treated by the Office of the Ombudsman on the day included a matter relating to a savings and/or credit complaint.

For a complaint to qualify under the savings and/or credit complaints criteria, it must relate to instances where a financial services provider:

- Breached any applicable laws, regulations, bye-laws or duties imposed by the agreement.
- Failed to give effect to a right provided to the consumer by law, regulation or bye-law in respect to the subject matter of the complaint.
- Failed to adhere to any applicable code of conduct provided for by financial services laws and other legislation applicable to industry.
- Failed to meet the standards of good practice required by financial services laws and instruments there under.
- Treated the complainant unfairly or acted in an unconscionable manner towards the complainant.

**NB:** Ombudsday is a monthly consumer education column compiled by the Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services in the country. Do not miss the next column which will be published in this newspaper next month.

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

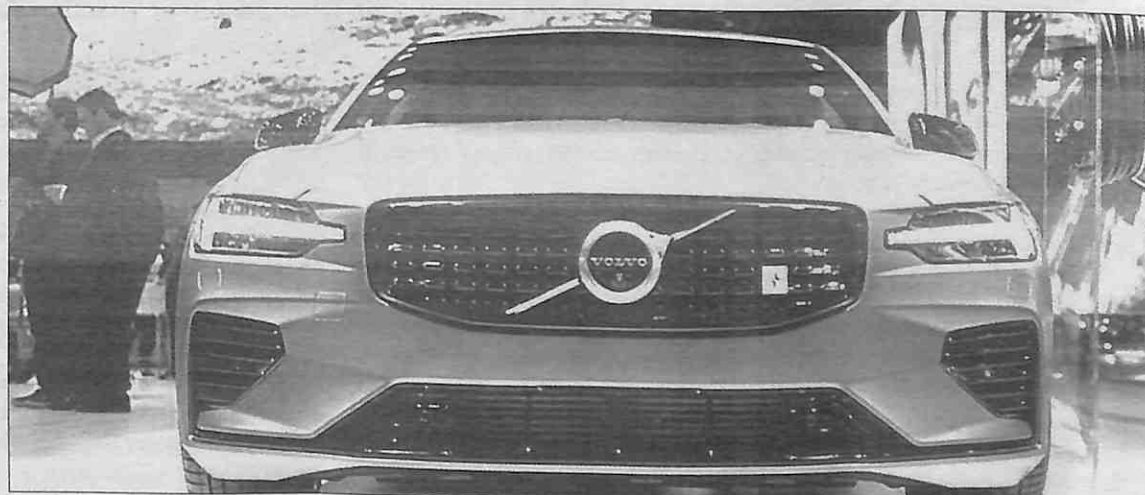
## Volvo cars to end limitless autobahn thrills by capping speeds

**GOTHENBURG** - Car buyers who want to drive at breakneck speeds on Germany's autobahn highways are about to lose Volvo as an option.

The Swedish car brand, which has long taken pride in its attention to safety, will design all models by 2020 to prevent drivers from going faster than 180 kilometres (110 miles) per hour.

The measure takes aim at excessive speed, which along with intoxication and distraction is one of the three main factors behind serious road accidents, Chief Executive Officer Hakan Samuelsson said.

"There is no reason why you should be able to drive a Volvo faster than 180," Samuelsson said in a phone interview. "When you look at German highways, a large part of accidents are



due to overspeeding, and in a German context that surely includes anything above 180."

The measure comes as Gothenburg-based Volvo, which is owned by China's Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Co.,

faces headwinds as a trade dispute between the US and China disrupted production plans and pushed last year's

margins lower for the first time since 2012. The CEO expects that strengthening Volvo's safety credentials will offset any negative impact from losing customers who want to be able to drive as fast as they see fit.

"We can have a discussion about whether we are acting as a 'big brother' and we are happy to debate that," Samuelsson said. "I think we will attract more buyers than we'll lose."

Volvo started a campaign in 2007 aimed at eliminating injuries and fatalities in crashes involving the company's cars by 2020. After addressing extreme speeds, Volvo will be looking at technology to prevent accidents caused by driving while impaired, or by distractions such as mobile-phone use. "With new technology, we can address those," Samuelsson said.

**Bloomberg**



# Focus on World News

## Global News

# Cohen hearing may have contributed to N. Korea summit failure - Trump



**SEOUL - US President Donald Trump said yesterday that the Democrats' decision to interview his longtime fixer, lawyer Michael Cohen, on the same day as a meeting with Kim Jong Un may have contributed to the North Korea summit ending with no deal.**

Trump and Kim met for the second time last week in Hanoi to try to negotiate a deal that would surrender some of North Korea's nuclear weapons arsenal in return for sanctions relief.

At the same time in Washington, former Trump aide Cohen was testifying before the US House of Representatives' Oversight Committee, accusing Trump of ordering his personal attorney to make threats for him about 500 times over the last 10 years.

"For the Democrats to interview in open hearings a convicted liar & fraudster, at the same time as the very important Nuclear Summit with North Korea, is perhaps a new low in American politics and may

have contributed to the 'walk'," Trump said on Twitter, referring to his decision to walk away from what he previously said was a bad deal with Kim.

"Never done when a president is overseas. Shame!" "For the Democrats to interview in open hearings a convicted liar and fraudster, at the same time as the very important Nuclear Summit with North Korea, is perhaps a new low in American politics and may have contributed to the 'walk',"

Trump said on Twitter, referring to his decision to walk away from what he previously said was a bad deal with Kim.

"Never done when a president is overseas. Shame!" When asked about Cohen's testimony at a press conference last Thursday in Hanoi after Trump had abruptly decided to end the summit early, the president called the allegations 'incorrect' and criticised the decision to have the hearing while he was away.

*Reuters*

## Egypt releases prominent photojournalist after 5-year term

**CAIRO - A prominent Egyptian photojournalist was released after five years in prison and returned home on Monday to hugs from his family and friends, pledging to continue working despite having to spend the nights at a police station nearby.**

Mahmoud Abu Zaid, popularly known as 'Shawkan', was convicted of involvement in a 2013 sit-in protest by Islamists that was broken up by security forces in an operation that left hundreds dead.

He was taking photos at the Rabaa Square in Cairo where Muslim Brotherhood supporters had staged a sit-in that August, 2013, to denounce the ouster and detention by the military of the country's freely elected but divisive Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

"I was heading out to take photos. I come back to my home after five years," Shawkan told The Associated Press at his home in Cairo's neighbourhood of Giza.

His lawyer, Taher Abuel-Naser,

said he was released from a police station earlier in the morning. An Egyptian court had ordered Shawkan's release last September after he had served out his term, but he remained behind bars as authorities said his release was still being processed.

### Unprecedented

Egypt under President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, a former general, has launched an unprecedented assault on journalists in recent years, imprisoning dozens and occasionally expelling some foreign journalists.

Shawkan said he has to report to the nearest police station and spend every night there from 18:00 till 06:00. But he said he would continue working as a photojournalist. "I am not the first or the last journalist to be detained," he said.

"I feel like I was born again, I feel relieved," said his mother, Reda Mahrous. "I used to stay awake at night thinking, telling myself that Mahmoud will come back today or tomorrow."

*News24*

## Zim land a dead asset, says finance minister

**HARARE - Zimbabwe's controversial land reform programme, which left most of its land without collateral value, has meant the country is now carrying a dead asset, its Finance and Economic Development Minister Mthuli Ncube has said.**

Before land reform, most farmers had title or property rights to their land, but close to 20 years after the programme, most of the land has no title and as a result, farmers have little access to loans.

The cancellation of property rights and security of tenure imposed such limitations on farmers and have had a negative impact on the southern African country's economy.

Ncube, however, believes government can restore the collateral value of land and restore farmers' access to billions of dollars-worth of credit that would immediately improve the country's production volumes.

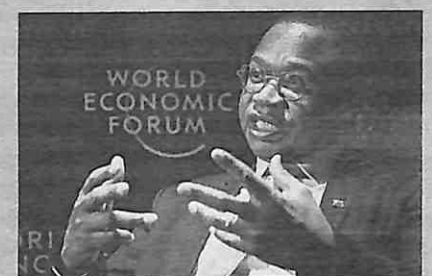
He believes dealing with the issue of land tenure and farmer compensation is critical for the country to be able to securitise its land assets.

Speaking at a breakfast meeting to review the 2019 Monetary Policy Statement, Ncube said it is critical that government restores property rights on land.

"We have created a dead asset in the form of land, and we need to turn it into a productive asset.

"One of the issues that needs to be dealt with is the issue of 99-year leases, there is still some work to do to close that off. Because without 99-year leases, we can't create enough cover in terms of property rights for banks to extend credit to farmers," said Ncube.

*News24*



**DEAD ASSET: Zim Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube.**

## BRIEFS

### EU offering long Brexit delay

**LONDON - It is not possible that the European Union will offer Britain a long delay to Brexit because of upcoming European elections, British trade minister Liam Fox said on Sunday. Fox said it was still 'entirely possible' Britain leaves the bloc as scheduled on March 29 but an extension to the Article 50 negotiating period may be necessary in order to deliver a smooth exit from the bloc. Prime Minister Theresa May has said any extension should not be beyond the end of June. Asked how he would react if the EU insisted on a much longer delay of 21 months or two years, Fox told BBC TV: "I would be shocked because I think it is actually not a possible outcome."**

*Reuters*

### Son of former Algeria PM dies

**ALGIERS - The son of Algeria's first prime minister has died while taking part in a protest against President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's bid for a fifth term in office, a government official and a family member said. Interior Minister Noureddine Bedoui identified the man as Hassan Benkhedda, a son of the late Benyoucef/Benkhedda, who took power after the country gained independence from France in 1962. "The forensic medical investigations will clarify causes and circumstances of his death," the minister said in a tweet. Benkhedda, believed to be in his 50s, was killed in a clash between police and 'thugs unrelated to the protesters', the minister said in a separate statement online. Family members, however, dispute that explanation.**

*Aljazeera*

### IS fighters to lose citizenship

**BERLIN - Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and their Social Democrat (SPD) coalition partners have agreed a plan to strip some Germans who fight for the Islamic State militant group of their citizenship, a German newspaper reported on Sunday. More than 1 000 Germans have left their country for war zones in the Middle East since 2013 and the government has been debating how to deal with them as US-backed forces are poised to take the last patch of territory from Islamic State in Syria. About a third have returned to Germany, another third are believed to have died, and the rest are believed to be still in Iraq and Syria, including some detained by Iraqi forces and US-backed fighters in Syria.**

*Reuters*

### 8 killed in India-Pakistan fighting

**PAKISTAN - Indian and Pakistani soldiers have again targeted each other's posts and villages along their volatile frontier in disputed Kashmir, killing at least six civilians and two Pakistani troops, officials said last Saturday. But in a sign that tensions between the nuclear-armed rivals could soon ease, a Pakistani cabinet minister said a key train service between Pakistan and neighbouring India would resume yesterday. Tensions have been running high since Indian aircraft crossed into Pakistan last Tuesday, carrying out what India called a pre-emptive strike against militants blamed for a February 14 suicide bombing in Indian-controlled Kashmir that killed 40 Indian troops. Pakistan retaliated, shooting down a fighter jet last Wednesday and detaining its pilot, who was returned to India last Friday in a peace gesture. *AP***



Focus on

## SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

# 'FF PLUS MAY GAIN VOTES FROM UNHAPPY WHITE DA SUPPORTERS'



**SPEECH:** FF Plus leader Pieter Groenewald at the party's manifesto launch on Saturday. (AP)

**JOHANNESBURG** - As political parties intensify their campaigns to woo voters ahead of the May elections, analysts have weighed in on the Freedom Front Plus' (FF Plus) manifesto launch at the weekend.

The party called for the scrapping of affirmative action and quota policies at universities and other organisations.

FF Plus leader Pieter Groenewald labelled black economic empowerment (BEE) as black elite enrichment. "Black economic empowerment is

nothing more than black elite enrichment. Now it is broad-based black economic empowerment? The only thing they broadened was the base to make the ANC elite more rich than they are at the moment."

Groenewald has also called for the scrapping of affirmative action and BEE and says race mustn't be the criteria to help poor people.

"Don't make race the criteria to support people that are really poor. Black and white and brown and Indian, there

are people who are poor."

The FF Plus is also opposed to land expropriation without compensation and gun laws.

## Transform

Political analyst Somadoda Fikeni said: "The Freedom Front Plus may contest for the same constituency as the DA because the DA is busy trying to transform itself and be more inclusive of blacks."

Meanwhile, Alex Boraine says the FF Plus may gain votes from "unhappy white" DA supporters who feel the party is too liberal.

"What the DA is trying to do is to reach out to the black middle-class and it could table that it's losing the old whites that have hung on to the party and painted the DA as a white party. So, they might make some gains out of it [and] I think it's a marginal issue."

*Eyewitness News*

## There is no hostility between SABC, ANC - Mbalula

**JOHANNESBURG** - The African National Congress (ANC)'s Head of Election campaign, Fikile Mbalula, has dismissed reports that his party is bullying the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) to cover more of their rallies in the run-up to the May elections.

City Press reported on Sunday that Mbalula met with the editors at the public broadcaster to discuss the ANC's low election coverage.

Mbalula apparently raised concerns about a rally in Limpopo attended by President Cyril Ramaphosa, but he says there is no hostility between the SABC and the governing party.

"It is not hostile. If it is hostile, it is not in the interests of the SABC or ourselves to have hostility. We need to unpack issues as they happened in that meeting and I'm very happy that I met professional people."

Mbalula is concerned that details of the meeting were leaked to the media.



**NO HOSTILITY:** ANC Head of Elections Fikile Mbalula.

"I was very taken aback by the leaks in the media, which suggest that I did something in that engagement which was unethical which is what I would not do."

He says the ANC respects media houses and will continue to discuss matters regarding the elec-

tions. "We engaged with all media houses, that includes the SABC. To exaggerate everything... to say we went there to do all sorts of things and suggesting that these are bullying tactics is far from the truth."

Mbalula added that independent

and fair coverage needs to prevail.

"We respect media independence, but independence of the media cannot mean ostracizing the ANC to prove your independence."

*Eyewitness News*

## Zille vows to remain active in DA politics

**CAPE TOWN** - Outgoing Western Cape Premier Helen Zille has bid farewell to her supporters in the Democratic Alliance (DA).

Zille's 10-year term comes to an end in May.

She addressed close to 5 000 DA supporters at the party's election rally on Saturday where she looked back at some of her career highlights. With her last few days in office, Zille said she would always remain true to the DA.

"I love the spirit of a DA value... it's a little bit nostalgic and sad, but I'm the kind of person who always moves into the future."

Speaking about life after the May elections, Zille said she would have to learn some basic survival skills. "I've have to learn how to reverse park again because I've been around for so long that I don't know whether I can reverse park anymore. I'll have to learn to get to places on time, because I have to factor in looking on a map or following the GPS, finding parking and all of that."

She vowed to remain active in DA politics, saying her most important legacy is the economic growth she championed. The soon to be former Western Cape Premier said her legacy will be characterised by the jobs they have created. "More than half a million additional people have jobs now, they didn't when we came into power. Employment has grown by 24 per cent, unemployment is 14 per cent lower on the broad definition of the national average. That is the legacy."

Zille also said their investment in green energy will help the province stave off the impact of load shedding.

"As Eskom goes into the utility death spiral which it is in right now, this province will be very well prepared for a green energy future."

Speaking on what she would have done differently, she said she would have wanted to start her term in government with the vast experience she has today.

*Eyewitness News*

"I love the spirit of a DA value, it's a little bit nostalgic and sad, but I'm the kind of person who always moves into the future"

## RAMAPHOSA GETS A YES FROM COSATU

**JOHANNESBURG** - President Cyril Ramaphosa has been given a reprieve by labour federation COSATU, which has decided not to change its national congress resolution and will continue backing the ANC in the general election, scheduled for May 8.

The explosive proposal not to support the ANC was raised by some COSATU affiliate leaders during the federation's central executive committee (CEC) meeting in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, last week. David Sipunzi, General Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, had hinted that the union could decide not to vote for the ANC in the election.

But City Press understands that the suggestion to withdraw support for the ANC in the upcoming polls failed to gain momentum during the CEC meeting.

However, it is understood that some COSATU affiliate leaders told the meeting that the federation, with its 1.6 million members, should

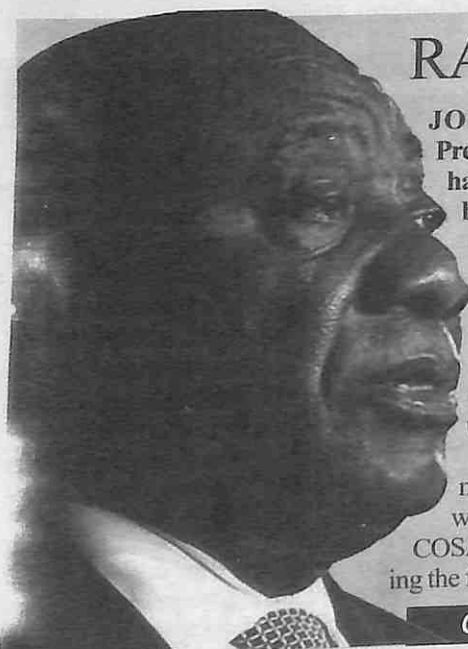
engage the SA Communist Party (SACP) to start preparing to contest future elections.

COSATU has a standing resolution to support and help build the SACP. COSATU is at loggerheads with Ramaphosa over his government plans to fix Eskom.

Ramaphosa announced his proposal to unbundle the troubled power utility into three separate units - responsible for power generation, distribution and transmission - during his state of the nation address last month.

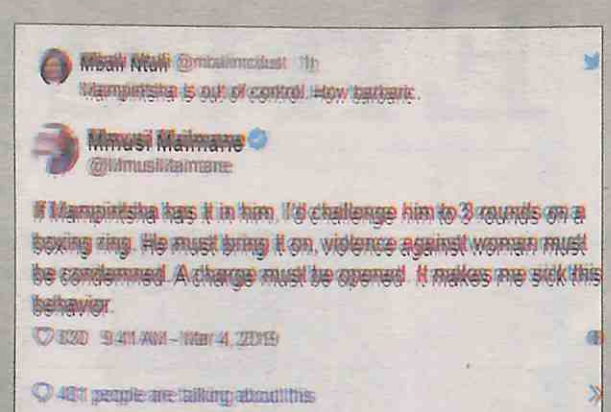
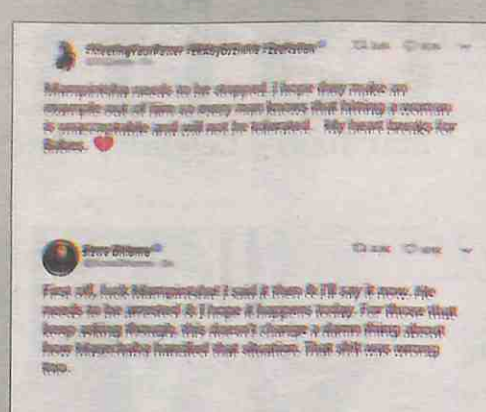
*City Press*

**GETS A YES:** SA President Cyril Ramaphosa.





## CELEBS CALL FOR MAMPINTSHA'S ARREST:



## MTHETHWA 'ABSOLUTELY HORRIFIED' AFTER BABES WODUMO ASSAULT VIDEO

JOHANNESBURG - Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa has joined many other people who are horrified at a video showing musician Babes Wodumo being assaulted by her boyfriend and fellow artist Mampintsha.

The attack was broadcast by Babes, whose real name is Bongekile Simelane, on her Instagram live feed late on Sunday night.

In the video, Mampintsha can be seen repeatedly slapping Simelane, who asks why he keeps hitting her.

It's not the first time

Mampintsha's abuse of the artist has come under the spotlight.

Mthethwa says abusive relationships must never be tolerated.

## Act

"Gender based violence in our society is so endemic, it is time that we act on it and not just talk about it because if we can't act now, we will never act. Our society has to move forward and people should understand that we are building a non-racial and non-sexist society."

The Eyewitness News



**ABUSED:** A video showing the 'Wololo' hit-maker being assaulted has shaken the country as people call for her boyfriend's arrest.

## She's safe! says Babes Wodumo's friend

JOHANNESBURG - Celebrities have taken to social media to voice their anger following a video of musician Mampintsha allegedly assaulting his girlfriend Babes Wodumo.

They have called for his arrest and for people to stop booking him for shows.

Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa released a statement calling for Babes to press charges against Mampintsha.

"We're absolutely horrified by the actions of musician Mampintsha caught on video where he brutally abuses internationally celebrated artist Babes Wodumo. We do not only condemn this senseless act but call on Babes Wodumo to immediately press charges against him. Government will never

...Her friend and actor Natasha Thahane responded to the call and told social media users Babes Wodumo was 'safe'.

tolerate gender based violence. It is informed by a twisted logic of patriarchal power relations in society.

"We call on all South Africans to isolate the perpetrators, to fight and defeat gender based violence with the same zeal as when we fought racism," he said.

Economic Freedom Fighters national spokesperson Mbuyiseni Ndlozi said Mampintsha's arrest was necessary because if nothing was done to help Babes Wodumo, the next step would be murder.

He said: "As a country, we are now all witnesses of the abuse of Babes Wodumo by Mampintsha. The call to

arrest Mampintsha is significant because we are refusing to be complacent with the unforgivable crime of women abuse. For if nothing is done, the next step is murder. #ArrestMampintsha."

Following the video, fans had been worried about her safety, calling for those close to her to check up on her. Her friend and actor Natasha Thahane responded to the call and told social media users Babes Wodumo was 'safe'.

She said: "It's most likely not my place to update you guys but I know a lot of you are truly worried. Managed to get hold of Babes. She's safe. Please keep her in your prayers."

The Citizen News

## I'D CHALLENGE HIM TO THREE ROUNDS - MAIMANE

JOHANNESBURG - As the country reels after seeing the incredibly violent attack recorded on Babes Wodumo's Instagram live feed, politicians and celebs alike have also weighed in on the matter.

While most have condemned Mampintsha (real name Mandla

Maphumulo), others have declared a challenge against him.

## Willing

A surprising challenge comes from the leader of the Democratic Alliance (DA) Mmusi Maimane who has said he was willing to go three rounds in a boxing ring with the musician.

The Citizen News



**CHALLENGES:** Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane.

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# Observer Entertainment

New Reviews Star Signs Celebrity Watch Cartoons

**WINNING:**  
Flameboy  
Universe with  
representatives  
from Sony/ATV  
after signing the  
deal.



## BIG MOVE FOR FLAMEBOY

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

**GLOBAL music publisher; Global Publishing with Sony/ATV has signed Flameboy Universe.**

This was revealed by Flameboy Universe's Manager Zwelakhe Mfanelo Simelane yesterday.

According to Simelane, the signing happened at the Sony/ATV regional offices in Johannesburg, South Africa last month.

"The deal is set to raise Flameboy's song-writing and composer profile to the same revered status that he enjoys as a performing artist.

"The partnership will ensure that Flameboy is represented by a publisher that has a worldwide presence, which gives them an opportunity to connect with other esteemed songwriters from Sony/ATV's roster and catalogue.

"The deal includes all Flameboy's future works," said Simelane.

Flameboy Universe parted ways with Sheer Publishing Africa late last year, a publisher that licensed his debut album 'Rich People.'

Simelane confirmed that they have been looking for a publisher that would understand their vision of putting their music onto the Global Market.

"Sony/ATV was interested in giving us a deal and we signed. This is also a

*...Global Music Publishing with Sony/ATV signs Flameboy Universe*

historical moment for the Eswatini music industry," he said.

Flameboy Universe released his debut project 'Rich People' in March 2017. The same year, he won the battle of bands competition 'The Sibebe Friday Night Live Season 6'.

He also performed at the 11th edition of the MTN Bushfire Festival.

Speaking to this publication, Flameboy thanked God, his family and his team for supporting him through his journey.

### Uniqueness

"I would also like to thank everyone who supported me in Eswatini. This global deal means a huge turn-around, it means we are no more striving to be but we are actually in business globally. I can't wait to work with the country in taking our art and uniqueness globally. It's the best time to be alive for the youth, with the country's continued support and prayers, the sky is the limit," said the artist.

He also thanked Sony for the opportunity they have given him. His single 'Believe Me' from the 'Rich People' album is still the most streamed song in the Kingdom of Eswatini at 100 000 downloads within 24 hours. He was the first Eswatini artist to perform on the

SABC 3 Expresso Show and Africa Channel TV.

The artist got three nominees at the MTN SWAMA 2017 and won the Newcomer of The Year award. He recently performed at the Standard Bank Lesotho Tourism Festival alongside the legendary American house music band Tortured of Souls.

Sony/ATV Music Publishing is the leading music publisher with a catalogue of more than three million copyrights, ranging from songs by iconic names including The Beatles, Bob Dylan, Michael Jackson, Carole King, Queen and The Rolling Stones to contemporary superstars such as Taylor Swift, Pharrell Williams, Lady Gaga, Kanye West, Pink, Sam Smith and Ed Sheeran. The company is a full-service music publisher with its interests including not only a world-class roster of songs and songwriters, but an industry-leading synchronisation operation and production music businesses Extreme and EMI Production Music.

## Bab'ngcobo lends a hand to less fortunate girl

BY DELISA THWALA

**ONE of the Crown Gospel awards winners has lent a helping hand to a less fortunate girl in the country.**

This was during the Dear Daughter event hosted by Zanele Mbokazi on Saturday.

The gospel star has offered to send E2 000 every month to the young girl. This money will go towards her school fees and other basic needs.

This pledge came after the gospel artist he heard about the challenges faced by the girl, which included that of not being able to cover her school expenses and food.

The act by the

gospel star touched many on the day.

"I'm helping where I can because this is a blessing," said the gospel artist.

It did not only end there, a certain woman also adopted a child on the very same day and vouched to take care of her needs.

Although the publication could not get a clear name of her church, but the woman promised to help the child.

The walk for Dear Daughter, which is a brainchild for Mbokazi, will be officially held on April 6. The Dear Daughter campaign also saw Mbokazi visiting schools like Mbabane Central and St Mark's High Schools. She gave talks about issues being faced by young people.

**BLESSED IS THE HAND THAT GIVES: Bab'ngcobo.**



## BUHLE BUYEZA TO HIT THEATRE

BY DELISA THWALA

**ESWATINI Theatre is bringing stage play titled 'Buhle Buyeza' from March 21 to 23.**

The stage play will commence at 7pm and it promises to be good theatre. This was revealed Theminkosi Mthethwa yesterday.

"The show is a historic epic the-

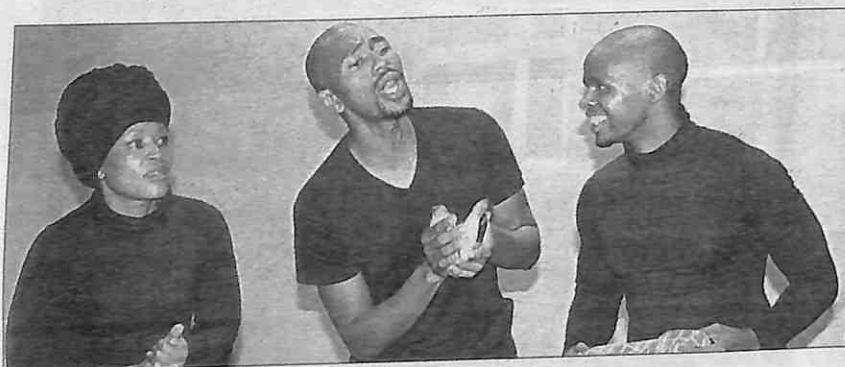
atre play. The action takes place between the reign of Sobhuza 1 (Somhlolo) and his son Mswati.

"The second play will portray a lot of history that took place a long time ago, like when the armies of Zidze from the South pushing North towards the South Clan.

"This theatre show will teach the audience that how the birth of the Swazi nation came about," revealed

Mthethwa. Film enthusiasts are urged to come out and witness this show.

Pre-tickets to the show cost E85 per day and if you have missed out on those you can buy them at the door at only E100. "This is going to be a great show. There is a lot of history in this that people should know about. "I plead that they just come out to see for themselves" said Mthethwa."



**ACT: one of the plays that has taken place at Mbabane Theatre Club where the Buhle Buyeza will be taking place this month. (File pic)**





**IN SONG:** The Yonder Worship Centre choir leading brethren in song during the Yonder Worship Centre Fundraising dinner held at Happy Valley Hotel. (Courtesy pics)

**WOMEN IN PRAISE:** These women stood up to dance during Zaza Mokhethi's performance.



## YONDER CHURCH RAISES E60 000

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

**YONDER** Worship Centre's building project fundraising gala dinner was a mega success as a number of people attended the event.

Gospel music lovers gathered at the Happy Valley Hotel on Saturday for the black-tie themed dinner to witness South African gospel singer Zaza Mokhethi on stage.

Collections made during the night amounted to E60 000, consisting of cash and pledges.

According to the church's Office Administrator, Besisekelo Dlamini, on top of the E60 000, more people are calling in to add their donations towards the building project.

The church was fundraising for its 400 seater auditorium and youth sports complex, which is phase one of

the church's building project. "This will cost E1.5 million. The second phase, which will be undertaken as time goes will cost a sum of E50 million. It will include a 3 000 seater auditorium, music school, Bible school, library, multi-sports complex, coffee shop, gym, kids' chapel, kiddies Game area, conference center, recording studio, dance school, and cinema," said Dlamini.

Local and South African gospel heavy weights Zaza Mokhethi, Sicelo Moya and saxophonist Fakazi Samuel serenaded the gathering.

Guest speakers who spoke at the elegant evening were deputy prime minister's representative MP Simosakhe Shongwe of Mtsambama constituency and PSPF CEO Langalakhe Dlamini.

The DPM's speech was full of praises for the founder and leader of the church, Pastor Bakhe Dlamini.

The DPM, through his rep-

resentative, mentioned that there is a great need of churches that will service the needs of people. PSPF'S CEO Dlamini motivated the prestigious gathering on dreaming big for God. He saluted Yonder Worship Centre for the great vision, that was not just going to touch Yonder Worship Centre, but the nation at large.

This will cost E1.5million. The second phase which will be undertaken as time goes will cost a sum of E50million. It will include a 3000 seater auditorium, music school, Bible School, Library, multi sports complex, coffee shop, gym, kids' chapel, Kiddie Game area, conference center, recording studio, dance school and Cinema," said Dlamini



**IMBEWU:** Zaza Mokhethi dishing her hit track "Imbewu"



**SUPPORT:** PSPF CEO Langalakhe Dlamini delivering his speech.



**SOLID ROCK:** South African award-winning gospel artist Sicelo Moya performing his album's title track, "Solid Rock".



**DIRECTORS:** MCs of the night, Pastor Bakhe's wife Nokwanda and Futhi Magagula directing proceedings.

## AUTHOR MBD TO RELEASE THIRD BOOK

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

ESWATINI'S best-selling author and 'Africa's black voice of consciousness', Mduzuzi Beethoven Dlamini, will in May, launch his much anticipated third transformational book titled 'Destiny Consciousness'.

This book follows his other widely read books titled 'Destiny Is Achievable' and 'The Journey of Being'.

This was confirmed by MBD Revolution International PR Mayibongwe Mavimbela.

Dlamini, popularly known as MBD, is a highly-sought after conscious suc-

cess coach, master trainer, personal transformation specialist and author with over 10 years' experience in people development.

Through his company, MBD Revolution International, Dlamini also coaches and trains individuals and organisations on mastery of conscious success programme.

"This is a holistic and transformational success model that awakens people to a new way of seeing and thinking about what it is to be human and what it takes to make life and work more rewarding and fulfilling," said Mavimbela. He said the book opens the mind and the heart of people to a fresh way of seeing; giving a depth and breadth of perspective that enables and

empowers them to gain unprecedented heights of connection with self, where in everything they do or are involved in or what they respond to on act from awareness, not from reaction and conditioning.

"Destiny Consciousness is about conscious success and the conscious way of living. It creates the awareness of who you really are, what you are capable of, and the abilities you possess. The insights contained in it open in one's life a new world of possibilities, and challenge one to face one's conditioned belief systems and prejudices that have always lessened one's power and made one lead a life of obscurity and nonentity," he added.

This will be Dlamini's third book and

is said to challenge one to deal with all the issues that have always sabotaged one in their journey of success and greatness, and makes one lesser of a god. Through his books and True-Experience Seminars, MBD engages people in their fundamental capacity as human beings, thus making them feel valuable and empowered to make deeply meaningful shifts in their lives, which lead them to be passionate and highly-engaged in life. Destiny Consciousness is a build-up from his two previous books, yet with a new and powerful perspective on success and destiny through consciousness.

**NEW BOOK:** Mduzuzi Beethoven Dlamini.





# SEM CARES TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2019

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

A newly formed arts and culture entity known as SEM Cares Foundation, which will be launched on April 27, has taken the initiative to also celebrate Women's Day.

This will be in support of the global day of celebrating the social, economic and cultural achievements of women on Friday.

The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

"As we might all know that International Women's Day (IWD) has occurred for well over a century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. We did not want to be left out. "Our organisation's mission is to mentor the youth into becoming changed agents in their own lives. Thus we believe we have the power to send the right message as the Eswatini youth in support to the global initiative through

... Celebrating the social, cultural achievements of women

our culture," stated the foundation's Director's Laurence Lukhele.

"The future is exciting. Let's build a gender-balanced world. Everyone has a part to play - all the time, everywhere. From grassroots activism to world-wide action, we are entering an exciting period of history where the world expects balance. Our culture comes first," he added.

Lukhele revealed to this publication that they would involve all



**ESWATINI:** One of the ladies looking at an art piece with the Eswatini map on it. (L) INTFOMBI: One of the models adorning umhelwane.

59 Tinkhundla in Eswatini and celebrate the International Women's

Day through culture. "We believe we will share this message everywhere we go and we seek for support from the corporate entities to help us achieve our goals," said Lukhele.



**SWAZI PRIDE:** One of the models wearing a Swazi attire playing with a car made from wires.



**CULTURE:** This model decided to wear a Swazi attire with a touch of Zulu.



**INDLAMU:** This model went for indlamu.



**NDEBELE CULTURE:** (L) One of the models wearing a Ndebele inspired traditional attire.

**LUDZIWO:** (C) This model had a clay pot (ludziwo) on her head.

**YELLOW MELLOW:** (R) This model had a yellow hair band to match her lihiya.



**EXPERT:** Capasso Head of Legal Affairs Wiseman Ngubo explaining how copyrights work to the audience at the music business workshop held at Sibane Hotel on Saturday. (Pic: Nokwanda Sibandze)

## MUSIC BUSINESS WORKSHOP INFORMATIVE

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

**LESARATO Events** hosted one of the most informative workshops this past Saturday at Sibane Hotel.

The workshop saw more gospel artists than artists from other genres in attendance.

The workshop was also attended by artists' managers and stakeholders of the music industry. Renowned entertainment law practitioner and music business consultant Dumisani Motsamai and Head of legal Affairs at Capasso Wiseman Ngubo lectured the audience on copyrights and how artists can get all royalties attached to their music.

Ngubo talked about the importance of understanding the business of copyrights and royalties.

He also said artists should ensure that all business transactions made when making music is recorded.

"Copyrights only transfers in writing, if there is no paperwork when selling or buying music then the rights belongs to the composer of the song," said Ngubo.

Artists were also given a chance to ask questions, especially on how they get paid when their music is streamed by people around the world.

Lesarato Events Director Mandla 'Cheeks' Nxumalo facilitated a discussion on marketing and promotion of artists and music.

He touched on the impact of marketing as an artist and the importance of creating a relationship with key players as an artist.

"It is important to create relationships with the media and support each other as local artists in order for you to grow," said Nxumalo.

The workshop helped most artists understand the music business and also the importance of copyrights.

The panel also discussed licensing and publishing music.

They also urged artists to register their work and make sure they have all necessary documents proving that they own their songs.



BY AYANDA DLAMINI

TV personality Elfoe Mangaliso Masilela last Saturday celebrated his birthday in style.

Held at Déjà Vu Cocktail Lounge, Elfoe's birthday was graced by personalities such as Ur Gal Zee, Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane, Phumelele Motsa and Mark Swagg's Shiggy to mention a few. SwaziBoy Entertainment DJs ushered the birthday boy and his friends into a fun-filled night as they dished celebratory music; from hip hop to house tunes.



**BIG BOYS:** Elfoe posing for the lenses with SwaziBoy Entertainment Director Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane.



**LADIES MAN:** Birthday boy posing with his gorgeous friend Khetsiwe.

# ELFOE CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY IN STYLE



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Mangaliso Elfoe Masilela celebrated his birthday in style with his friends in the entertainment industry last Saturday at Déjà Vu Cocktail Lounge in Matsapha.



**FRIENDSHIP:** TV man Elfoe captured with friends at his birthday party.



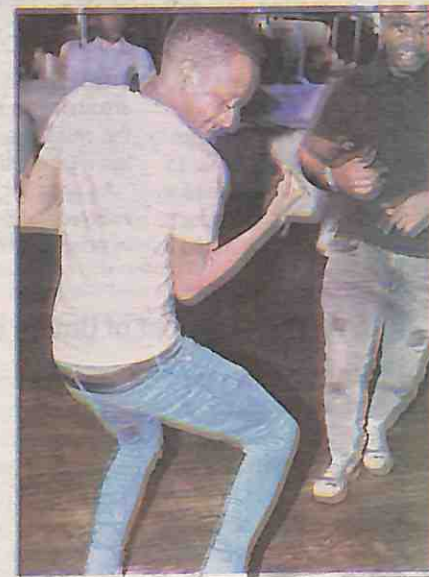
**YUMMY:** Elfoe's birthday cake on display.



**GENTS:** Elfoe captured with Thabiso Simelane at the party.



**ALSO THERE:** Tatenda Mtemeri and former Mr Eswatini finalist Warren Barbosa posing for the lenses.



**VOSHO:** Mancoba Mthethwa on the dance floor doing the most.

## LYRIKAL BUSTA COOKING SOMETHING WITH DIBA DIBA

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

**LYRIKAL** Busta is currently in the studio brewing something with rapper Diba Diba.

The duo is working on a song titled 'Skom Brema' and it promises to be a hit.

This song is set to drop on Friday.

Speaking to Busta, he said the song would be a catchy one

and it would be a party anthem in the country. "It is going to be an anthem and everyone will love it. The song is about two rappers who hail from different cities, being Mbabane and Manzini. "This tune is set to help them address their struggles in the cities," he briefly said. The song is produced by Trooth and was recorded at the LMTE Studios.

'Skom Brema' comes after the rapper's hit 'One More

Time'. The artist is not new to the scene, as he has a number of hits under his belt and he had a chance to share the stage with the likes of South Africa heavyweights Kwesta, Anatii and Emtee. He has also been lucky to perform at the biggest hip hop festival in the country; HipNotik. Diba Diba is one of the renowned rappers the country has to offer. He has also graced several stages in the country.

COLLABO: Lyrikal Busta





# Celebville

International Celebrity News

## Morgan Freeman explores faith in 'Story of God'

**NEW YORK** - During his career as an actor, Morgan Freeman has played the role of God. In real life, he claims to be 'undeniably' a believer. Now, the Oscar winner has travelled more than 120 000 kilometres (more than 74 000 miles) and visited 30 cities to try to unravel mysteries of spirituality around the world. Is there a God? What about the devil? How do people experience it? What is behind the secrets of different faiths? Freeman told AFP that on this long journey, he understood that religion, belief in a God, serves as 'society's glue'.



**STORY OF GOD: Morgan Freeman.**

"In almost every society, whatever the religion is, the point is to keep the people together functioning as a unit," he said. The third season of 'The Story of God', which has six episodes, premieres today on National Geographic. *News 24*

## Critics say 'Thank U, Next' to Grande for UK pride headliner

**UK** - US pop star Ariana Grande has denied she is cashing in on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT+) community by headlining a UK pride festival amid a debate over whether straight people should take on such roles.



**PRIDE: Adriana Grande.**

The chart-topping artist is due to headline Manchester Pride in northern England this August, but the news has attracted negative attention with some arguing the slot should have been given to a LGBT+ performer instead.

"I respect Ariana Grande as an

artist but a true LGBTQIA+ ally would recognise their privilege and use that platform to lift up artists from the community," user @linke\_lily wrote on Twitter. *Showbiz*

## Tommie Lee can't move to Los Angeles, judge blocks her

**LOS ANGELES** - Love & Hip Hop star Tommie Lee desperately wants to move to Cali, but the judge just told her, I don't think so, and it's all due to her long criminal history. Remember, Tommie is out on bond in her Georgia child abuse case, and according to court docs, obtained by TMZ, the judge denied her request to move to LA for work. She also asked to ditch her ankle monitoring device, but again the judge said no way after reviewing her lengthy rap sheet.

In docs, the judge noted her criminal history stretches back some 15 years with multiple convictions for theft, fraud and deceptive conduct, even while on probation. It damn sure



**BLOCKED: Tommie Lee.**

didn't help her case that Tommie was arrested twice within 24 hours for the child abuse case that prompted her wearing the monitoring device.

As we first reported, she's been indicted and faces a possible 54 years in prison. *TMZ*

## Rob Kardashian, Blac Chyna on speaking terms again

**HOLLYWOOD** - Rob Kardashian and Blac Chyna weren't faking it when they exchanged Twitter pleasantries, the two are actively communicating and repairing their relationship, for Dream's sake.



**ON SPEAKING TERMS: Rob Kardashian and Blac Chyna.**

Sources close to the former couple say they underwent at least seven mediation sessions together to iron out a deal for custody of Dream, and they've continued to be in direct contact about their daughter's care. Translation: for the first time in a LONG time Rob and Chyna are cordial. We're told the goal is for Rob and Chyna to make face-to-face hand-offs of Dream. Of course, they'll still have nannies standing by to assist

sometimes. As for the physical custody of Dream, Rob will have her for the majority, but they'll be splitting holidays equally and finding ways to accommodate both parents' schedules. *TMZ*

## AKA performs in front of Umlazi billboard

**DURBAN** - Traffic came to a standstill in Umlazi, south of Durban, as rapper AKA performed his hit song Fela in Versace four metres from a 'live billboard' as screaming children on a school bus drove past.

The rapper was the headline act as part of a campaign by local music station East Coast Radio. The campaign, the first of its kind, saw the likes of DJ Zinhle and Distruction Boyz taking performances to new heights, as they rocked the elevated stage. *Times Live*



**FELA IN VERSACE: AKA performs.**

## Bo in search of different sound

**SOWETO** - Bo Seritsane is in the throes of a hot Latin affair.



The musician has gone on a South American voyage to discover how African music influenced the world and how in turn the world interpreted it. It might sound like a class in anthropology, but don't wait for his dissertation, instead expect music with a scintillating edge.

We catch up on a sunny Tuesday afternoon in the lush surrounds of Montecasino in northern Johannesburg. "I travelled to countries that have been influenced by African music in search of a different reflection filtered by how the world interpreted music from the continent and I added my authentic sound," he tells me. Bo believes he's stumbled upon a winning formula.

"This is a sound with a global appeal. When you look at the trends in South and North America, you see that raggathon is all the rage. *Sowetan Live*

**SEARCHING: Bo Seritsane.**

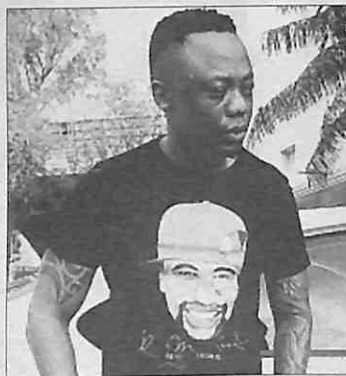
## Babes Wodumo is home safe and sound - Tira

**DURBAN** - DJ Tira has responded to the widespread backlash he's received after a video that seemingly shows a man believed to be Mampintsha physically assaulting Babes Wodumo went viral yesterday.

Tira topped the Twitter trends list as fans dragged him into the situation, as Mampintsha used to belong to Tira's record label.

In a statement issued on Twitter, Tira condemned any form of women abuse and said Babes was at home 'safe and sound'.

"My heart is really sad for Babes Wodumo and no woman should have to go through this. For those of you who know me, you know that I have never, and would never,



**SADDENED: DJ Tira**

enable abuse," Tira wrote.

Even though Tira expressed how appalled he is by abusive men, he didn't mention Mampintsha by name in his statement. *Times Live*

## 3rd time lucky as Kgomotso Christopher wins first Safta

**SANDTON** - If leading lady Kgomotso Christopher were superstitious, the colour white could have helped her finally win her first Golden Horn. After losing out twice in a row, Christopher last Saturday night was triumphant in Sun City in North West. The 39-year-old actress scooped Best Actress in a TV Soap at the South African Film and Television Awards (Saftas) for her role as vixen Yvonne Thebe in Scandal! beating Nomzamo Mbatha and Dawn Thandeka King. Christopher has been nominated in the same category three times and it's the first time she has won. For her big night, Christopher kept



**LUCKY: Kgomotso Christopher.**

it simple and elegant in white. "I've never worn white on the red carpet, so I wanted to go for a different colour to what I normally wear." *Sunday World*

## WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST



TODAY



**CAUGHT: Dabula**

Ntwenhle is confronted with the true nature of Dabula. Ntwenhle tells the Ndlovus the shocking and terrible truth about the mall. Qondi shares a sweet moment with Fezile.



TODAY



**ANGUISHED: Nina.**

Nina is anguished because she can't find out whether Obakeng is dead or alive. Hendrik follows Elmarie's advice. Sibiya struggles to stick Gatanga's rules of umqombothi brewing.



TODAY



**WANTS SOMEONE FIRED: KK.**

Susan affirms her place. KK wants Marang fired. Gugu's apology falls on deaf ears.



TODAY



**SIBLINGS: Rene.**

Bash is determined to find Bong's real killer. Kop says he'll look after Rene's siblings. Dumi wants revenge on Bra Honest.



PICTURE OF THE DAY

Ladies if you don't want your man to cheat on you, just buy him PS4 with Fifa game, its only R8000



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

**Aquarius January 20 – February 18**  
Some great news about a friend's good fortune could be exciting, Aquarius, and you might spend a lot of time on the phone not only congratulating that friend but also discussing it with other people. This is good for you, as you're apt to find it inspiring and use it as motivation to continue pushing ahead yourself. In fact, this news could change your life profoundly in the long run.



**Pisces February 19 – March 20**  
When it comes to managing money today, Pisces, you should go with your gut, whether it involves personal finances, job-related concerns, or the funds of a group you're affiliated with. Be less concerned about logic and more with how you feel about sources of income, specific investments, or ways of planning expenses. Do some research to verify your insights and then follow them!



**Aries March 21 – April 19**  
A new fascination with history or an exotic culture could drive you to learn more about it, Aries. It could become an obsession, for today at least. You might spend a lot of time online or in the library or talking to people who specialise in this field. By day's end, your mind could be spinning like a top. Take a walk and clear your head or you might not be able to sleep.



**Taurus April 20 – May 20**  
You may find that your instincts are right, Taurus, particularly where other people are concerned. You and a friend could come up with the same words at the same time, which might be a little disconcerting for both of you. Still, this increased intuition is likely to help your understanding of those close to you more than you ever expected. Make the most of it, and remember what you learn.



**Gemini May 21 – June 21**  
Social events and group activities could bring new interests your way that provide a rich field of knowledge for you to delve into, Gemini. Someone could recommend books on the subject. This could be very exciting, especially since a lot of new people who share this interest could come into your life. Be sure to keep track of names and phone numbers. You won't want to lose touch.



**Cancer June 22 – July 22**  
A number of people involved in the healing professions could cross your path today, Cancer. You might hear news about recent discoveries in those fields that sparks your interest. What you learn could affect your life in a profoundly positive way, so you need to write down not only the contact information for the people you meet but also the resources they use.



**Leo July 23 – August 22**  
A potential new love partner could show up, Leo, perhaps someone from a distant state or foreign country or in a field like law or education. You could have a lot of interests in common with this person. Some intriguing discussions could result. Whether you choose to pursue this attraction depends on your situation, but you can enjoy this person's company today anyway. Tomorrow - who knows?



**Virgo August 23 – September 22**  
Family members could spring some surprising news on you today, Virgo. This news may concern people you know or perhaps a family member has some interesting plans of his or her own that you weren't aware of. Although positive, this news could throw you for a loop. It should definitely cause you to alter your thinking in some way. Don't let emotion overwhelm logic right now.



**Libra September 23 – October 23**  
Invitations to some exciting social events in your neighborhood could come today, Libra. You might hear from some friends who are planning to attend, so you could be enthusiastically looking forward to these events. You will enjoy getting together with your friends. Bear in mind that you could also meet new people who prove to be valuable business contacts. Make sure you look your best!



**Scorpio October 24 – November 21**  
Good news involving a small, extra sum of money could come today, Scorpio. You might receive a check in the mail. Take a friend out to lunch. You will both have fun. Afterward, you may want to blow the rest of the money on something frivolous, but don't go that far. Think about one or more items you want and concentrate on those.



**Sagittarius November 22 – December 21**  
Bonding is today's keyword, Sagittarius. Relations with close friends should be enhanced by increased communication, perhaps some fascinating conversations about new ideas and exciting world events. This new intellectual rapport could bring you closer than you were before. Romantic relationships, in particular, intensify through newly discovered mutual interests, perhaps involving foreign cultures.



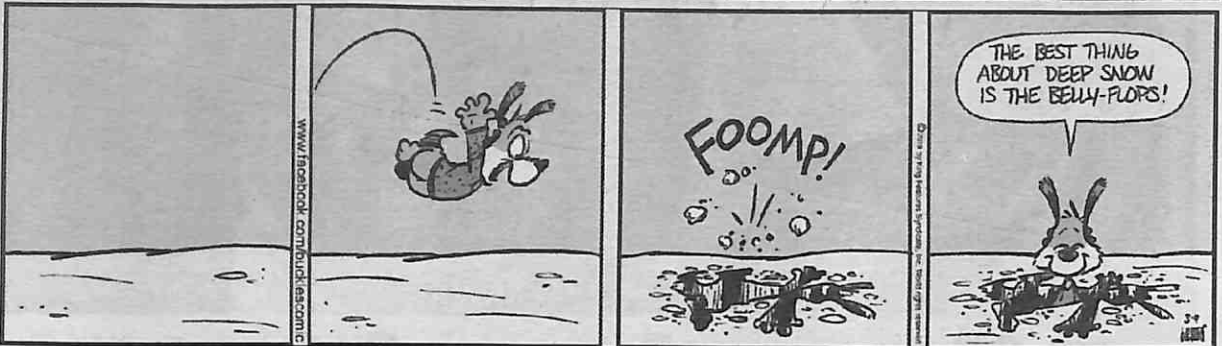
**Capricorn December 22 – January 19**  
A lot of unfinished tasks may need doing around the home today, Capricorn. You might decide to ignore some of the work that desperately needs to be handled in favor of a project that you think you will enjoy more. Don't stick family members with the boring stuff! If you pull together to get the worst out of the way, then you can all have fun with the more interesting tasks.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

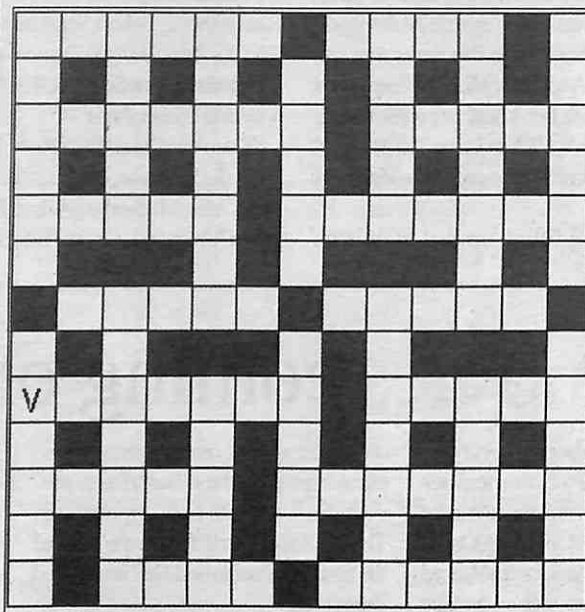


HOME WORD SEARCH

PUZZLE CHOICE

Alpha-Cross 11

The first letter of each answer is written next to its clue in alphabetical order. One letter has already been entered. Can you find the words then fit them correctly into the grid?



- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| O. Frequently (5)          | A. Loathe (5)                |
| O. Mediterranean fruit (5) | A. In front (5)              |
| P. Asian temple (6)        | A. Athletic field (5)        |
| P. Practical jokes (6)     | A. Bird sanctuary (6)        |
| R. Roof beams (7)          | A. Affirm (4)                |
| S. Seedy (6)               | C. Altered (7)               |
| S. Regular (6)             | D. Negotiable instrument (5) |
| S. Certain (4)             | E. Decree (5)                |
| U. Below (5)               | F. Afraid (7)                |
| V. Stringed instrument (5) | G. Harvested (7)             |
| V. Bird of prey (7)        | G. Gruesome (6)              |
| W. Lifting device (5)      | H. Doglike mammal (5)        |
| W. Squirm (7)              | I. Malady (7)                |
| Z. African equine (5)      | K. Kind of energy (7)        |

WOMAN AT MENTAL HOSPITAL

There is a woman at a mental hospital who is told to go out into the world and find out something new about it. After about three hours, she goes back to the hospital and tells the manager what she has learned. The woman goes up to the manager and puts a large spider on the table and shouts, 'BOO' and the spider scurries under the table. She then picks up the spider,



pulls all of its legs off and shouts, 'BOO' but the spider can't move. The manager then looks strangely at the woman and asks her what she has learned about the world. The woman replies, "When I pull all the legs off a spider it can't hear me!!!!!!"

USELESS FACTS

- There are only four words in the English language which end in 'dous': tremen-dous, horrendous, stupen-dous, and hazardous.
- Tigers not only have striped fur, they have striped skin!
- In most advertisements, including newspapers, the time displayed on a watch is 10:10.
- On the ground, a group of geese is a gaggle, in the sky it is a skein.
- To ensure promptness, one is expected to pay beyond the value of service - hence the later abbreviation: T.I.P.

BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

YESTERDAY'S BRAINTEASERS

1. I act like a cat, I look like a cat, yet I am not a cat. What am I?

Answer: A kitten

2. A horse is tied to a rope nine metres long and the horse's food is 17 metres away from the horse. How does the horse reach the food?

Answer: He walks over to it. The rope is tied to the horse but nothing else.

TODAY'S BRAINTEASERS

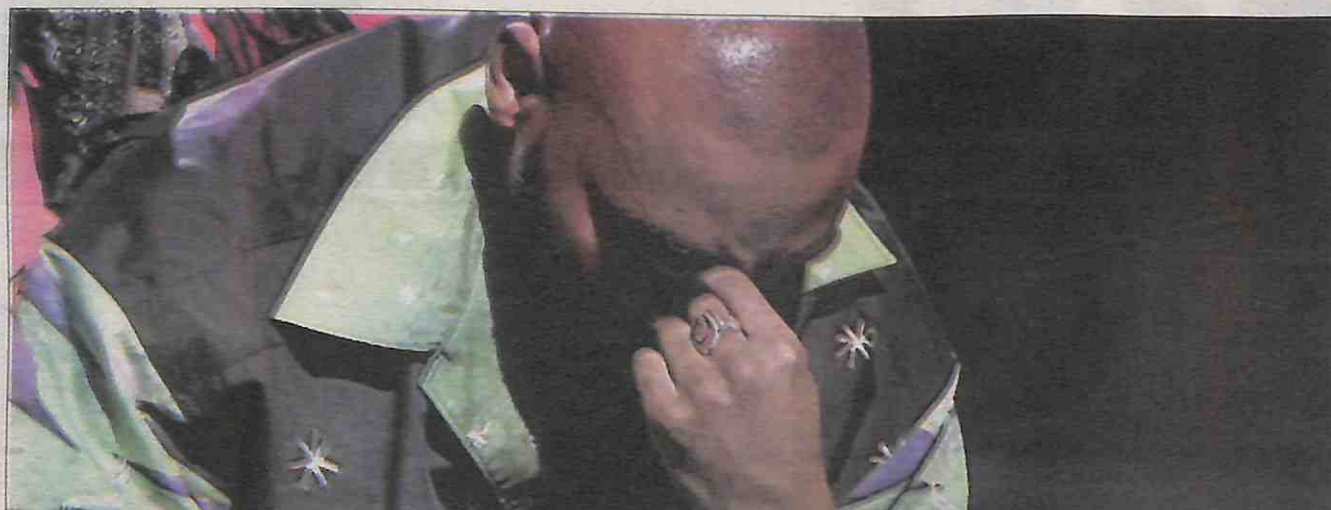
1. You kick a ball 30 feet away from you and without any help from anyone else or any device the ball comes right back to you. How is that possible?

2. You are trapped in a room and the only way to get out is by one of two doors. The first door leads to a room with a pool of boiling water that will boil you in seconds. The second door leads to a room with solar powered laser beams that will cut you to pieces. Which door should you go to?





## THE VOICE SA:



## Riky reduced to tears after this week's blinds

**COACH Riky Rick broke down in tears in this week's dramatic episode of The Voice South Africa Season 3 after a powerful performance from the 10th artist to join #TeamRiky.**

Riana Nel also managed to swell #TeamRiana to 10 members last Sunday, and Francois van Coke caught up fast with two new singers, bringing #TeamVanCoke up to seven members – only one act less than #TeamLIRA's eight singers.

The show opened with an incredible four-chair turn for the first duo of the season: 20-year-old music student Fentshe Nkabinde and 24-year-old music teacher Mapula Mahlo, known as 'Aura'.

Their stirring harmonies on Miriam Makeba's 'Lakutshon' Ilanga had Riky Rick and Francois van Coke turning their chairs simultaneously, followed shortly by Coach LIRA and, at the last possible moment, Riana. With their choice of all four coaches, Aura threw their lot in with #TeamRiky.

Jamal Shinobe (32) is a dancer and choreographer based in Johannesburg who has competed internationally with his art – but,

'music goes hand-in-hand with dancing', he says, and this was his time to shine. Unfortunately, the Coaches couldn't see the dancing that had the audience on their feet in his rendition of Zayn's 'Pillowtalk', and no chairs turned.

Queenstown cop, Nosiphiwo Ganya (34) said she wants to show people that police officials also have dreams. The studio audience loved her passionate performance of the Amanda Black hit, 'Amazulu' but the Coaches were getting more picky as their teams are filling up, and Nosiphiwo headed back home to Queenstown disappointed. "We're looking for something that gives you goosebumps. It can't just be something good," LIRA explained.

Anele went on a road trip to Richard's Bay to surprise 24-year-old Vuyisile Mdlolophane at her job in a bank with the news that she made the Blind Auditions. Vuyisile impressed the Coaches with her vocal prowess taking on David Guetta's, 'When Love Takes Over' becoming #TeamRiana's second addition of the night.

The teams are filling up fast now, with

coach Riky and Coach Riana's two gains each tonight bringing #TeamRiky and #TeamRiana up to 10 acts each. Francois strengthened #TeamVanCoke to seven members with his two new singers, and #TeamLIRA is holding steady at eight members. That means Riky and Riana only have two more spots available on their teams, and LIRA still has four, with #TeamFrancois nipping at her heels with five empty spots left.

#TeamRiky: Joel Zuma, Keanu Harker, Amy Tjasink, Joshua Parker, Sabelo Mthembu, Christiaan Baartman, Morgan Beesley, Katlego Makgotlwe, Aura, Eon Claude le Roux

#TeamLIRA: Ross Charles, Petro De Villiers, Mo George, Krista Jonas, Rayleen Padayachee, Lora Joplin, Nicky van Niekerk, Yahto Craft

#TeamRiana: Greunen Parker, Lelo Ramasimong, Felicia Seoehele, Verona Goslett, Siki Jo-Ann Qwazi, Francois Viljoen, Ilan van Staden, Shane Sonkind, Wade Bezuidenhout, Vuyisile Mdlolophane

#TeamVanCoke: Sade Ross, Tasché Burger, Chezelle Shahadat, Richard Bamard, Matthew Reid, Mia Malherbe, Ashur Petersen

The Voice SA airs on Sundays at 17:30.

## HBO, M-Net invite Game of Thrones fans to Bleed for the Throne

**WHAT would you do for the Throne? Prove your devotion and Bleed For The Throne – join the global Game of Thrones blood donation promotional effort.**

In partnership with HBO, M-Net, the South African National Blood Service (SANBS) and the Western Cape Blood Service (WPBS), the broadcaster is inviting all Johannesburg and Cape Town fans to prove their devotion and 'Bleed For The Throne'. In a gesture worthy of one of the biggest shows on television, this event is designed to harness the cultural power of Westeros to help end blood shortages in the real world.

M-Net will be kicking off Bleed For The Throne in Cape Town at the N1 City Mall on Saturday, March 16 from 09:00 until 14:45, and then in Johannesburg at The Zone in Rosebank Mall on Saturday, March 23 from 10:00 until 16:00. In a show of support for this good cause, MultiChoice staff will also be joining in on the global campaign with an inhouse blood drive activation.

Donating blood during this time also means that fans will receive an exclusive Bleed For The Throne T-shirt (while supplies last).

This impactful initiative will bring together fans from the global Game of Thrones community, including Norway, Sweden, Kenya, Ghana, Botswana, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece and Croatia, so be sure to join in on this excellent cause.

The eighth and final season of Game of Thrones premieres on Monday April 15, Express from the US at 03:00 and in Prime Time on the same day at 22:00 on M-Net 101 on DSTV. Additionally, in honour of the epic finale, M-Net will also be hosting GOT fans for the season's premiere episode at 03:00, where they'll have an opportunity to dress up as their favourite characters. M-Net will announce venues for this screening via promos on M-Net channel 101, on M-Net's Twitter/Facebook pages and to the media at a later stage. Like M-Net channel 101 on the official M-Net Facebook page, be part of the conversation by following M-Net on Twitter @MNet (#MNet101 #GameOfThrones #BleedForTheThrone). For more information on the final season of Game of Thrones visit mnet.tv.



## Sizzling heist movies coming on M-Net

**T**he hottest heists in Hollywood. What kind of movie do you expect when you hear the title Den of Thieves? If you said, 'heist movie' you'd be correct. And that's exactly what we're bringing you this weekend for your Sunday night movie on M-Net 101.

Before we watch Gerard Butler trying to stop a break in at the Federal Reserve in Den of Thieves, let's crack down on some of our favourite heist movies.

### A FISH CALLED WANDA

Should you find yourself in a heist movie, there are a few things to look out for. One of the most important is a double-crosser, which in the case of

this movie is just about everyone. Written by Monty Python member John Cleese, it's a fun and funnier take on the heist movie that led to an Oscar nomination for Cleese's script shared with Charles Crichton, who was also nominated for Best Director. Kevin Kline took home a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his not-stupid performance as Otto West.

Fierce Creatures, the sequel to A Fish Called Wanda airs this March on M-Net Movies Smile.

### HEAT

Michael Mann packs the heat (yes, we went there) in this '90s crime classic. Acting giants and method extraordinaires Robert De Niro and Al Pacino

are pitted against one another as one plans heists and the other tries to prevent them. Despite both appearing in The Godfather Part II, this movie marked the first time Pacino and De Niro shared the screen.

### INSIDE MAN

A clever caper by director Spike Lee – who recently won an Oscar with his co-writers for BlackKkKlansman – features a stalwart cast that includes Clive Owen, Jodie Foster, Christopher Plummer, and Lee regular Denzel Washington. It's all about a bank robbery that's not really a bank robbery, all executed by the bad guys who are out to catch the good guys who are actually the bad guys. Expect diamonds.

### OCEAN'S ELEVEN

A fresh, fun remake of the '60s movie of the same name, it's packed full of Hollywood stalwarts, including George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, and Julia Roberts.

Clooney plays the title character who brings together a motley crew of characters to pull off the ultimate casino heist. A box-office success, it was followed by two sequels and a female-led reboot.

### RESERVOIR DOGS

The film that shot Quentin Tarantino to fame, it also features some diamonds. And a lot of really great actors sporting colourful names – literally.

Mr Blonde, Mr Blue, Mr Brown,

Mr Orange, Mr Pink, and Mr White bungle a diamond heist and have to hide out in a warehouse trying to figure out what went wrong – all while making a bloody mess (again, literally) while they're working things out. Awesome soundtrack included. But don't expect tips.

### THE BANK JOB

Jason Statham shows a more serious side in this '70s set crime caper based on an actual true story. Don't worry! It's not a stuffy old drama. There's plenty of action and suspense to keep you on your toes.

But if you're not a fan of the all-action Stath (does such a person exist?) you'll get to see real meat on the bones of this action piece, along with sexy cars and an even sexier exposé of the royal family.



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## INDEX

1. NOTICES
  - General Notices
  - Legal Notices
  - Church Notices
  - Announcements
  - Change of Surname
  - Sales & Foreclosure
  - General Items
  - Auctions
2. BUSINESS SERVICES
  - Special Services
  - Businesses Opportunities
  - Restaurant, Catering & Office
  - Equipment
  - Garage sale
  - Other Business Items
  - Maintenance & Construction
  - Motoring and Transport
3. JOBS or VACANCIES
4. MISCELLANEOUS
  - Medical & Natural Healing
  - Tuition & Courses
5. HEALTH & BEAUTY
6. PETS & PET ACCESSORIES
  - Pets & Adoptions
  - Cats & Kittens
  - Dogs & Puppies
  - Birds & Poultry
  - Fish & Aquarium
  - Other Pet & Accessories
7. ELECTRONICS
  - TV's, DVD Players, Decoders & Satellites
  - Household Appliances
  - Music Equipment, Amplifiers, Equalizers & Speakers
  - Mobile Devices, Smart Phones & Tablets
  - Computers, Laptops, Cameras & Optics
  - Games, Gaming Consoles & Software
8. HOUSEHOLD
  - Domestic
  - Clothing
  - Baby and Kids
  - Furniture
  - Hobbies, Model Toys, Handcraft
  - Wanted
10. BUILDING, GARDENING & DIY
  - Woodworking
  - Machinery & Tools
  - Plumbing & Electrical
  - Other Building & DIY
  - Plants, Trees & Flowers
  - Garden Furniture & Appliances
  - Other Gardening
11. FARMING EQUIPMENT & SPARES
  - Car Spares or Parts
  - Bike Spares
  - Truck, Bus and Trailer Spares
  - Stripping for Spares
  - Farming Equipment & Machinery
  - Livestock
  - Other Farming
12. LEISURE, SPORT & EVENTS
  - Fitness
  - Tennis & squash
  - Watersport
  - Karate, Boxing & Judo
  - Angling & Cycling
  - Other Sport
  - Caravans, Campers and Trailers
  - Leisure, Community and Events
  - Music and Instruments
  - Camping and Outdoor
13. PROPERTY
  - Residential
  - Commercial
  - Farms and Vacant Plots
  - Holiday & Accommodation
  - Apartments / Flats / Houses to Rent
14. VEHICLES
  - Cars
  - Bikes
  - Classics and Custom Builds
  - Trucks
  - Buses Farming
  - Trailers
  - Aircraft
15. DEATH NOTICES

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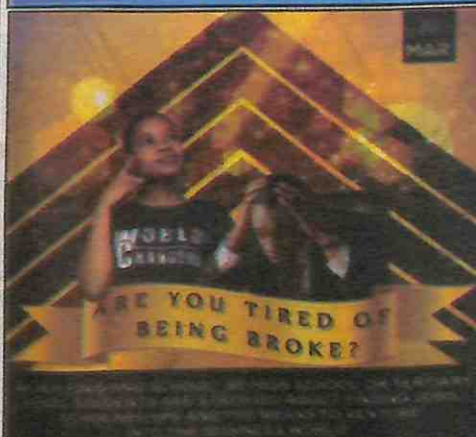
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# UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



## Kane holds key to Spurs' European ambitions

LONDON - Harry Kane insists Tottenham will shake off their Premier League collapse as the England star looks to fire his team into the Champions League quarter-finals against Borussia Dortmund today.

In the space of seven days, Tottenham's hopes of winning the Premier League have been shattered by defeats at Burnley and Chelsea and Saturday's north London derby draw against Arsenal.

It was just the latest Tottenham failure when the stakes have been at their highest since Mauricio Pochettino took charge five years ago.

Only a last-minute Hugo Lloris penalty save from Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang prevented Arsenal

inflicting Tottenham's third successive loss.

But Kane is convinced Tottenham are capable of recovering from a painful week and he challenged his team to use their Champions League last-16 second leg in Dortmund as fuel to speed up their revival.

"Two disappointing results in a week, this was the perfect game, a north London derby to show passion and show fans we are ready to fight for the rest of the season," said Kane, who scored their penalty equaliser against Arsenal.

"It's a point, we wanted three but it stops the losing streak and we can focus on Dortmund and then Southampton."

*Super Sport*

## UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FIXTURES

|                           |    |                   |
|---------------------------|----|-------------------|
| <b>Today</b>              |    |                   |
| 22:00 Real Madrid         | vs | Ajax              |
| 22:00 Borussia Dortmund   | vs | Tottenham Hotspur |
| <b>Tomorrow</b>           |    |                   |
| 22:00 Porto               | vs | Roma              |
| 22:00 Paris Saint-Germain | vs | Manchester United |

## Solari insists he's not worried about Jose

MADRID - Under-pressure Real Madrid coach Santiago Solari says he is not worried about stories linking Jose Mourinho to his job.

"This club has always had more suitors than Julia Roberts," Solari told reporters in the press conference ahead of Real Madrid's meeting with Ajax tonight.

Certain media in Madrid have been keen to push the possibility of a Mourinho return in recent weeks and the same media asked the coach yesterday: "There is a lot of talk of Mourinho, does it bother you?"

The 42-year-old coach's answer raised a laugh, as did his reply to a follow-up question that if Madrid is Julia Roberts and she has to

choose between Solari and Mourinho who does she pick. He said: "Good question. You would have to ask her." Solari is expected to leave Gareth Bale out of his starting line-up for today's second leg but

confirmed that the Wales international is fit and ready for the game. Luka Modric was also questioned about Bale and told reporters: "We cannot forget what he has done for this club."

It seems people forget very quickly. "Maybe he is not in his best form at the moment, but we all

go through these moments in our career and he

wants to work hard and get back to his best for the rest of the season."

Real Madrid have a sizeable goals deficit this season and as they start to crash out of competitions they are beginning to feel the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo.

*Daily Mail*



UNSHAKEN: Real Madrid coach Santiago Solari.

## Crunch time for Solari

MADRID - Santiago Solari's future is likely to hinge on Real Madrid again winning the Champions League but two defeats by Barcelona in four days have brought old problems back to the surface.

After being knocked out of the Copa del Rey and effectively deemed irrelevant in the title race, a third loss in as many games could see Madrid's season wiped out in a week.

"We have to react," said defender Dani Carvajal.

"It's probably been one of the toughest

est weeks in my time here."

Ajax deserved more from the 2-1 loss in Amsterdam that, in theory, puts their opponents firmly in charge ahead of the second leg today.

But three consecutive defeats at the Santiago Bernabeu for the first time in 15 years means Madrid will be feeling the heat.

Solari too, the coach that was handed a contract until 2021 when appointed only five months ago but who might not last the season should Ajax do the unthinkable and reach the quarterfi-

nals. Jose Mourinho's criticism as a pundit for bEIN Sports on the latest Clasico will be seen as opportunistic but the reality is he is still well-regarded at Real.

Unlike other potential successors, he is also available to start immediately. Still, Solari will know Madrid have been here before.

Last season, Zinedine Zidane's team crashed out earlier in the Copa del Rey and to Leganes, not Barcelona.

They were adrift in La Liga too.

But victories in Europe over Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus blurred those failures while beating Liverpool in the final seemed to extinguish them almost completely.

*Supersport*

## Likes of Billiat still adjusting to Kaizer Chiefs pressures

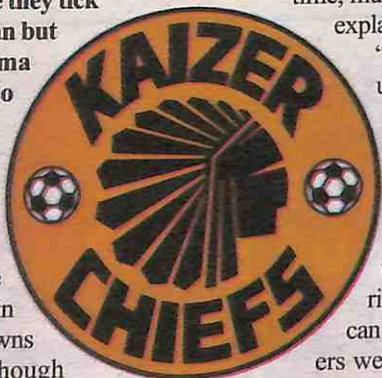
JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp believes his side still need to improve before they tick the way he feels they can but says the likes of Khama Billiat and Leonardo Castro need time.

Chiefs have undergone a rollercoaster season thus far under two different managers and find themselves some way off the pace in comparison to main rivals Mamelodi Sundowns and Orlando Pirates. Though Middendorp has brought change since the departure of a tactically inept Giovanni

Solinas, the German tactician has admitted he still needs to build up a formidable side over time, much in the way Pitso Mosimane explained of Sundowns' rise.

"I found one quote from our valued colleague Pitso [Mosimane], he said it took him three years to find the Khama Billiat, Keagan Dolly [and Leonardo Castro combination]," explained Middendorp. "I hope it will not take that long for us [to find the right combinations]. I think we can do a bit better, but a lot of players were brought into Chiefs in the beginning of the season."

*Kick-Off*



## DORTMUND ARE READY TO SPRING A CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SURPRISE

DORTMUND - Marco Reus warned Tottenham that Borussia Dortmund have rewritten history many times in the passionate atmosphere of the Westfalenstadion and they are out to do it again.

Spurs lead 3-0 after the first leg of this Champions League last-16 tie and have an eye on a place in the quarter-finals for the first time since 2011.

But Dortmund are taking inspiration from their illustrious past and in particular a 4-0 home win against Atletico Madrid in the group stage of this season's competition.

"We have played many games in this stadium where we've

written history and we are in position to achieve the impossible," said Germany striker Reus.

"It is important to believe in ourselves, and give a great performance."

"We need to find the right balance between defence and attack. We need to reach our peak, and score the goals in the right moment. But we believe in ourselves."

Tottenham have not won in three games since the first leg at Wembley but Dortmund have also hit poor form, with only one win in six games which has enabled Bayern Munich to close the gap at the

top of the Bundesliga.

"We're not satisfied with results at the moment," said 29-year-old Reus.

"Generally, we are in a good situation, especially in the Bundesliga, but in the last few weeks we've lost unnecessary points because made too many mistakes."

"It is important to be positive and really work hard and stop the mistakes because we know we can always score in attack. We have to be stronger, come out stronger; have the right mentality. We've shown that, I think we'll come out of this situation."

*Daily Mail*



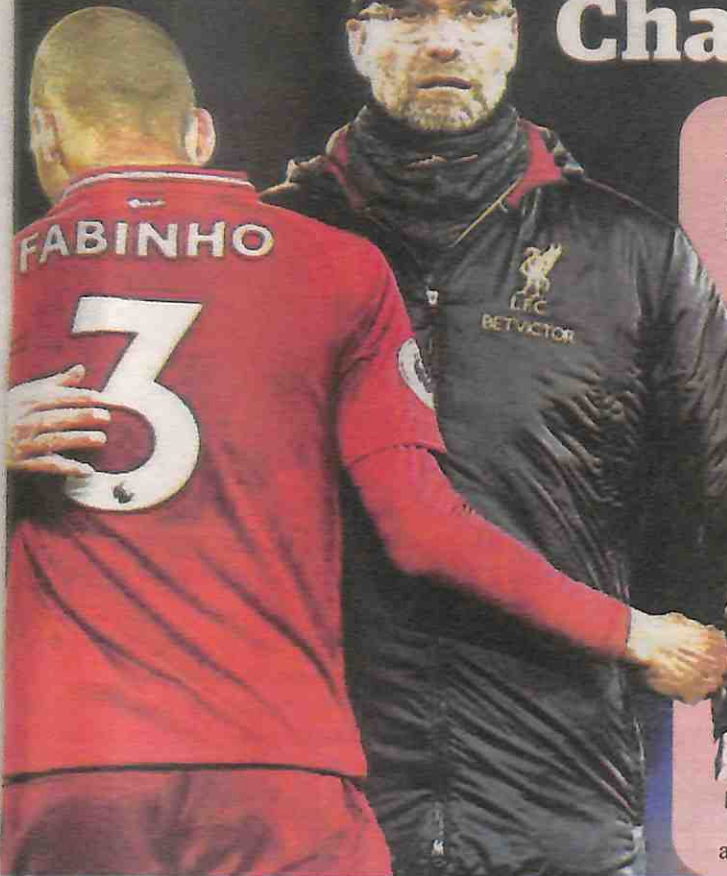


BARCLAYS

## ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



## 'Reds should forget Champions League'



**LONDON** - Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp should give himself a "clear run" at trying to win the Premier League by going out of Europe, according to Gary Neville.

The Reds were unable to reclaim top spot from Manchester City when they were held to a goalless draw by Everton at Goodison Park on Super Sunday, meaning for the first time since December 7, Pep Guardiola's side sit in pole position having played the same number of games.

The tense stalemate represented a fourth draw in six Premier League matches while they have failed to score in two of their last three.

Were it not for an imperious performance from Virgil van Dijk, matters might have been worse against what Klopp described as "wild" opponents. Liverpool now

sit one point off City in second place with nine games remaining, and they face Bayern Munich in the second leg of their Champions League last 16 tie in-between their next two Premier League games against Burnley and Fulham.

Having drawn 0-0 at Anfield in the first leg last month, Neville believes Klopp should be encouraged to make the pursuit of leaders City their priority. Speaking on the Gary Neville Podcast, the former Manchester United defender said: "Getting points on the board is a big advantage. I always thought that if Liverpool could win the league this season then they'd need a clean fixture list.

"I'm going to say it: go out against Bayern Munich. That sounds like madness. "Of course, you'd never play to lose a game but it will be in Liverpool's favour if they have a clean run as they can get everyone fresh. City have got a couple of FA Cup games, where Liverpool could go five or six points in front." *Sky Sports*

## 'Selling Fellaini proves Solskjaer has the mettle for Man Utd'

**MANCHESTER** - Rio Ferdinand has banished the notion that his former team-mate Ole Gunnar Solskjaer lacks the steel to succeed as Manchester United's permanent manager, suggesting one of his first big decisions as Old Trafford boss highlighted his ruthless streak.

The smiling Norwegian has lifted the mood around United since he replaced Jose Mourinho as the club's manager in December, with Ferdinand revealing Solskjaer was a leader during his time at the club and should be handed a long-term contract to guide the club's future.

Speaking exclusively to Goal, BT Sport pundit Ferdinand has given insight into Solskjaer's winning mentality, as he suggested the decision to sell Marouane Fellaini to Shandong Luneng in January was evidence of his desire to make clinical decisions.

"With Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, we can all sit here and say he is the baby faced assassin, but that is just the guise he uses," states Ferdinand. "Behind that, there is a coldness to him. He won't shirk responsibility, he won't shirk a one-on-one to tell someone you are not for me.

"Look at Fellaini." *Goal*

## 'Tottenham were better two years ago'

**LONDON** - Mauricio Pochettino's Tottenham side were stronger two years ago, according to the club's former manager Harry Redknapp.

A 1-1 draw against arch-rivals Arsenal at Wembley on Saturday left Spurs 10 points behind Premier League leaders Manchester City in the table, with nine matches remaining this season.

The Gunners were unlucky not to emerge with all three points on the day, as Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang squandered a golden late chance from the penalty spot.

Tottenham have dropped seven points out of a possible nine in their last three outings, having also suffered damaging away defeats at Chelsea and Burnley.

Pochettino's men had looked like genuine title contenders for much of the 2018-19 campaign, but they are now in real danger of being dragged into the battle for a fourth-placed finish. Dele Alli has been out of action since January with a hamstring injury and Redknapp believes that Spurs have suffered in his absence, with Harry Kane and Christian Eriksen shouldering too much pressure going forward. The ex-Spurs boss also discussed the impact of selling Kyle Walker and Mousa Dembele, which has ultimately left Pochettino's squad lacking strength in depth. "I honestly think Tottenham were better two years ago when Kyle Walker was playing right-back and absolutely on fire, Danny Rose was in his pomp absolutely flying and Dembele was top drawer," Redknapp told TalkSport.

"They were absolutely incredible then. Rose has had his injuries and has not been quite the same, Walker obviously moved on and Dembele has moved on.

"But I'm sure they will regroup again in the summer, one or two, a little bit of tweaking and they will be strong again next year."

*Goal*

## Sanchez fears a two-month absence

**MANCHESTER** - Alexis Sanchez fears he could miss up to two months with knee ligament damage suffered on Saturday.

The Manchester United forward was forced off seven minutes into the second half of the 3-2 win over Southampton after a collision with Jan Bednarek.

Chile's national team physio, Pedro Onate, claimed Sanchez is likely to miss between six and eight weeks. "We spoke to the player and he had scans on the injury (on Sunday)," Onate told El Mercurio.

"He will be available for the Copa America, but he will be unavailable to play for between six and eight weeks. "The medial ligament strain is an annoying injury but not such a complex one." Sanchez's absence represents a significant blow for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who could be without up

to 10 stars for tomorrow's Champions League date with Paris Saint-Germain.

Paul Pogba is missing through suspension, while Juan Mata, Antonio Valencia, Ander Herrera, Nemanja Matic, Jesse Lingard and Matteo Darmian are all injured. Phil Jones has been unwell, while Anthony Martial is unlikely to be risked.

Sanchez's form has been troubling for United, with the striker having only scored twice for the club since last April.

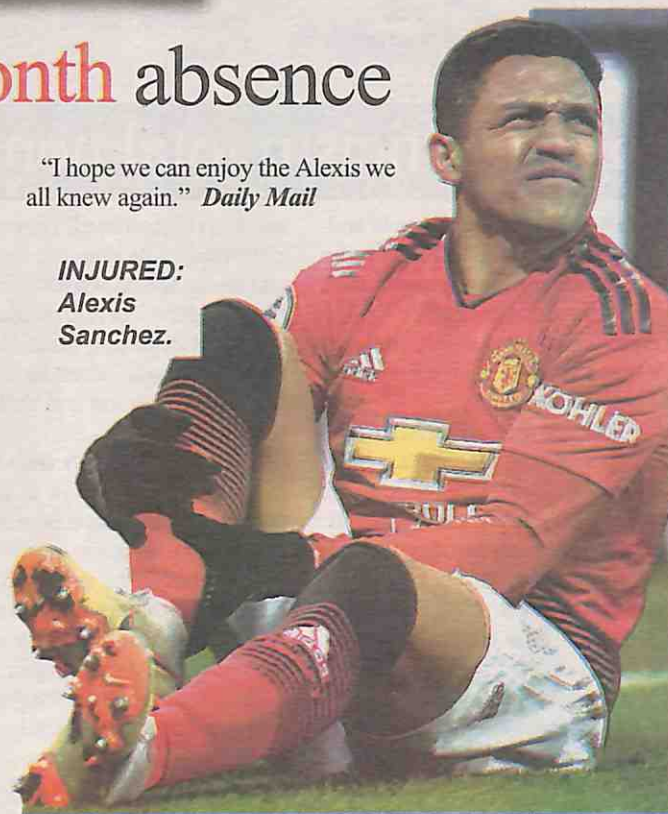
Chile boss Reinaldo Rueda has expressed his concerns as well.

"For sure it's very worrying," Rueda said. "These are situations that happen in football.

"We hope he overcomes this very quickly because he has all the quality, a track record, experience and quality to assert himself.

"I hope we can enjoy the Alexis we all knew again." *Daily Mail*

**INJURED:**  
Alexis Sanchez.



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## 'We can't complain for 10 years'

**MADRID** - Luka Modric admits Real Madrid miss Cristiano Ronaldo but backed Gareth Bale to help his side recover from back-to-back defeats at the hands of fierce rivals Barcelona.

The reigning Champions League holders go into the second leg of their Champions League last-16 clash with Ajax smarting from successive home losses to Barcelona, who sit 12 points above them at the top of La Liga.

Santiago Solari's men have lost three of their last four matches in all competitions, and Modric was asked whether the absence of Ronaldo, who joined Juventus before the season began, was taking its toll on his team-mates.

Modric told reporters: "He's a player every team would miss. Looking for a replacement for Cristiano is almost impossible. What he's done for this club... of course we miss Ronaldo. "What the club



tried was for other players to fulfil his role, which was divided between the attacking players. And that's not easy. Cristiano scored 50 goals and you can't find someone who scores so many.

"Some had to take a step forward and, not scoring 50, but for three players to score at least 15-20 or 10 goals. And we don't have that. That's why I think it's our biggest problem this year.

For example, in the Copa against Barcelona, we had a lot of chances but an opponent with so much quality punishes you."

Modric pointed to the wealth of attacking talent already in Madrid's squad and said the club must unite around them to ensure a difficult campaign ends on a high.

The 2018 Ballon d'Or winner also backed Bale - whose agent launched a stinging attack on fans who booed the Wales international during Saturday's Clasico defeat - to return to his best after a torrid period in which his future has been the subject of media speculation.

**Goal**

# JUVE PUT ONE HAND ON TITLE

**NAPLES** - Juventus closed all talk of a challenge to their Serie A dominance after coming through a second-half onslaught at Napoli to win 2-1 in an engrossing match that saw each side have a man sent off and stretch their lead at the top to a huge 16 points.

Massimiliano Allegri's unbeaten leaders have now as good as sealed their eighth straight Serie A title after a match that looked dead at half-time with Juve two goals and a man up, but sparked back into life when goalscorer Miralem Pjanic was sent off for handling a Napoli pass and picking up a second yellow card just after the break.

"I fell asleep, I should have replaced Pjanic when he had the first card. He was at risk, but I didn't expect him to handle," said Allegri, whose future at Juve is uncertain after what will be five seasons in Turin. "I already said we'll sit down to talk about this season and the next. I am very happy to be at Juventus." Midfielder Pjanic swept home his free-kick opener in the 28th minute, which came immediately after Napoli were reduced to 10 men, thanks to goalkeeper Alex Meret slicing down Cristiano Ronaldo after the Portuguese nipped in



**CAN SMELL IT:** Juventus all-but-sealed their eighth straight Serie A title after winning 2-1 at Napoli to go 16 points clear at the top. (AFP)

to intercept a terrible Kevin Malcuit backpass. Emre Can added the second from a corner 11 minutes later after substitute David Ospina tipped away Pjanic's stinging shot, but the Bosnian's red card gave Napoli a glimmer of hope.

They were back in the game in the 61st minute when Jose Callejon tapped home a pinpoint Lorenzo Insigne cross, and then piled the pressure on a suddenly creaking Juve, with Piotr Zielinski

twice forcing fine saves from countryman Wojciech Szczesny.

It looked as though the hosts were set to launch a final assault when they were given a penalty six minutes before the end for a controversial handball decision against Alex Sandro given by VAR, only for Insigne to crash his spot-kick against the post and let the champions off the hook.

**AFP**

## Pogba criticism total nonsense - Ferdinand

**LONDON** - Rio Ferdinand has branded the criticism aimed at Paul Pogba earlier this season "total nonsense", with the former Manchester United star claiming to have never had any doubt that a World Cup winner would come good.

Despite helping to lead France to global glory on Russian soil in 2018, a highly-rated midfielder struggled to make his mark on a domestic scene when the current Premier League campaign got underway.

Reports of a rift with then Red Devils boss Jose Mourinho did Pogba's cause few favours, with the 25-year-old stripped of vice-captaincy duties before eventually being unceremoniously dropped to the bench.

Questions were asked of his form and future as the January transfer window approached, but United acted before the turn of the calendar year to relieve Mourinho of his duties and draft in Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Pogba has thrived under a member of United's 1999 Treble-winning squad, with United's £89 million (\$118m) record signing now delivering the talismanic performances expected of him.

Ferdinand believes such a turnaround was always likely, with the ex-Red Devils defender telling Planet Football: "A lot of people wrote Pogba off, said he wasn't trying hard enough, said he was not good enough to play for United, but I knew that was nonsense, total nonsense.

"This is a guy who has already won so much in his career, who scored in a World Cup final last summer and people were saying he wasn't up to the task of play-

ing at the highest level? Give me a break.

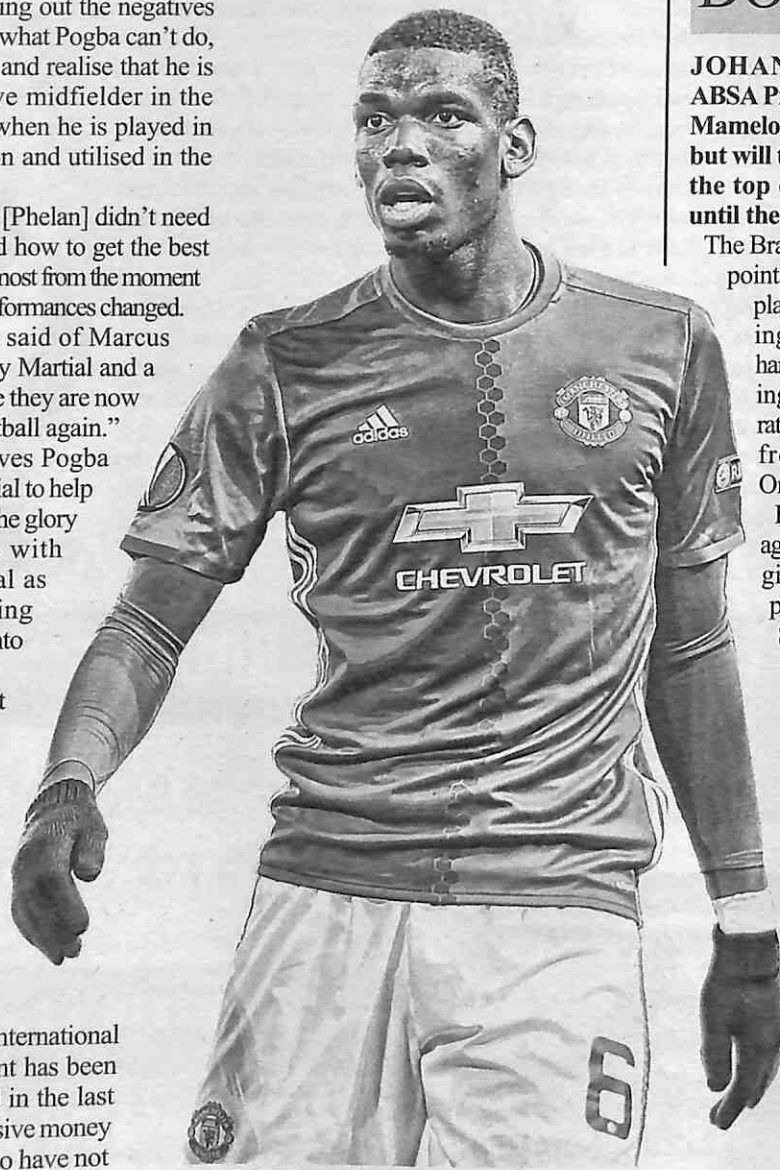
"Instead of picking out the negatives and trying to find what Pogba can't do, find the positives and realise that he is the most effective midfielder in the Premier League when he is played in his proper position and utilised in the right way.

"Ole and Micky [Phelan] didn't need long to understand how to get the best out of Pogba and almost from the moment they arrived, his performances changed. The same can be said of Marcus Rashford, Anthony Martial and a few others because they are now enjoying their football again."

Ferdinand believes Pogba now has the potential to help United rediscover the glory days of the past, with Solskjaer's arrival as interim boss having breathed new life into the club.

He concedes that a number of mistakes have been made in recent seasons, particularly in the transfer market, but there is now the promise of better times to come.

The ex-England international added: "Recruitment has been an issue for United in the last few years, with massive money spent on players who have not worked out. **Goal**



**SLAMMED:** Paul Pogba.

## HOW LONG CAN DOWNS STAY ON TOP?

**JOHANNESBURG** - The ABSA Premiership title is now Mamelodi Sundowns' to lose, but will they be able to stay at the top of the log from now until the end of the season?

The Brazilians, who are on 40 points, are currently in first place on the league standings, with one game in hand, although, while having just one point separating the Tshwane giants' from second placed, Orlando Pirates (39).

If Pirates secure a win against Celtic, the Soweto giants will move to 42 points, which means that Sundowns will need nothing less than three points against City, in order to keep their number one spot.

"This is the first time we're on top if we apply our experience of being there because we have been there before. Normally when we're there, we don't come back," Pitso Mosimane said after their win over Cape Town City last week. However, Sundowns

will have to travel to the Mother City tonight, where they will be welcomed by a confident City side, who secured a victory over Bidvest Wits on the weekend, which saw the Students subsequently drop to third place on the log.

Despite securing a 3-2 win over the Citizens last week, the Brazilians know that it won't be an easy visit to the Mother City, having previously lost 1-0 to the Citizens at the Cape Town Stadium in the semi-finals of the MTN8 competition.

If Sundowns want to remain on top, they will need to secure maximum points over the Citizens this evening, should Orlando Pirates also secure a win over Celtic on the same night.

However, before they can focus on their next ABSA Premiership fixture, the Brazilians will welcome Lobi Stars in the CAF Champions League on Saturday and travel away to Morocco to face Wydad Casablanca on March 16.

Indications are that Sundowns will then have two games in hand, as their scheduled fixture on March 16 against Maritzburg United in the ABSA Premiership is also expected to be postponed.

**Soccer Laduma**



# Weekend Sports Results

COMPILED BY JONGILE KUBA

**ESWATINI BANK CUP RESULTS**

|                 |   |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Senior men      |   |                 |   |
| Matsapha United | 1 | M. Highlanders  | 0 |
| M. Sundowns     | 2 | M. Wanderers    | 0 |
| L. Killers      | 0 | Green Mamba     | 6 |
| M. Citizens     | 0 | Young Buffaloes | 4 |
| Black Swallows  | 0 | Malanti Chiefs  | 1 |
| Tam Calles      | 0 | Vovovo          | 1 |
| Monari Pirates  | 0 | R. Leopard      | 2 |
| Tambuli         | 0 | M. Swallows     | 3 |

**UNDER 20**

|                |   |                  |   |
|----------------|---|------------------|---|
| Vovovo         | 0 | Mbabane Swallows | 4 |
| Tambuli        | 1 | Royal Leopard    | 0 |
| Buffaloes      | 4 | Citizens         | 0 |
| Black Swallows | 0 | Malanti Chiefs   | 1 |
| Calles         | 0 | Vovovo           | 1 |
| L. Killers     | 0 | Green Mamba      | 6 |
| R. Leopard     | 2 | Monari Pirates   | 0 |
| Tambuli        | 0 | M. Swallows      | 3 |
| Malanti        | 4 | M. Sundowns      | 3 |

(Malanti forfeited match due to age cheating)

|             |   |              |   |
|-------------|---|--------------|---|
| Green Mamba | 1 | Y. Buffaloes | 0 |
|-------------|---|--------------|---|

**ESWATINI BANK'S WOMEN'S LAST 16**

|              |    |              |                |
|--------------|----|--------------|----------------|
| Y. Buffaloes | 11 | Mbekweni     | 0              |
| Sileki       | 2  | Divas        | 1              |
| Roses        | 0  | Leopard      | 15             |
| Mhlume       | -  | M. Wanderers | (did not play) |
| Happy Girls  | 0  | Langeni      | 5              |
| Swallows     | 3  | Sikhuphe     | 1              |
| Kappa Ladies | 1  | Green Mamba  | 0              |
| Ilovo        |    | OlympAfrica  | (did not play) |

**SWAZI TRAC HHOHO SUPER LEAGUE E77 000**

|                      |   |               |   |
|----------------------|---|---------------|---|
| <b>Southern Zone</b> |   |               |   |
| Kupheleni            | 2 | PMT           | 3 |
| Billy Ocean          | 1 | Burning Spear | 0 |
| Shooting Stars       | 1 | Umbelebele    | 0 |
| Wizards              | 1 | Imbumbi       | 4 |
| Swazi Sun            | 3 | Sibovini      | 1 |
| Community            | 2 | Emajukukuku   | 2 |

**Northern Zone**

|             |   |            |   |
|-------------|---|------------|---|
| N. Swallows | 1 | Khanjani   | 1 |
| Sigodo      | 0 | Machibini  | 1 |
| M. Arsenal  | 1 | Manchester | 3 |
| Msahweni    | 1 | Mvuma      | 1 |
| Pachanga    | 3 | Vultures   | 1 |
| Kappa       | 2 | Horo       | 2 |

**MANDLA MAHEWU MBABANE LEAGUE E70 000**

|                 |   |             |   |
|-----------------|---|-------------|---|
| Pinevalley      | 1 | Sandia      | 1 |
| Classic         | 1 | Supersport  | 2 |
| Myakweli        | 0 | Corporation | 1 |
| Mbabane Arsenal | 0 | Real Tec    | 2 |
| Mbabane Celtics | 2 | Interstars  | 2 |
| Amawele         | 3 | Sidwashini  | 1 |
| Double Action   | 2 | Pot O Gold  | 4 |
| Veni            | 1 | White City  | 3 |

**B. DIVISION**

|                  |   |             |   |
|------------------|---|-------------|---|
| Mangwaneni       | 0 | Free Style  | 7 |
| Royal Dynamos    | 1 | Mpolonjeni  | 1 |
| Lusoti           | 2 | D. Darkies  | 2 |
| Humane           | 4 | Movers      | 0 |
| Manisholo FC     | 2 | Mphalali    | 7 |
| Mbabane United   | 2 | Junction    | 1 |
| Manisholo Utd    | 2 | The Walkers | 5 |
| National Rangers | 0 | FC Vaal     | 3 |

**MP MABULALA & GONGZ MAPHALALENI LEAGUE E60 000**

|                       |   |               |   |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|---|
| <b>Eastern stream</b> |   |               |   |
| Thuluzobona           | 0 | Professionals | 0 |
| Liselesele            | 2 | Killers       | 1 |
| Luvunjelo             | 4 | Holspurs      | 1 |
| Young Stars           | 2 | Manchester    | 3 |
| Barcelona             | 0 | XI Experience | 5 |
| Khulungwane           | 1 | Young Lovers  | 6 |
| Umkhokha              | 0 | Blue Birds    | 0 |
| Junior Stars          | 2 | Rangers       | 0 |

**TEE & JAY LOBAMBA LEAGUE E90 000**

|               |   |             |   |
|---------------|---|-------------|---|
| KO Top 8      |   |             |   |
| Power Stars   | 1 | Killers     | 0 |
| Fast Reaction | 1 | Emaselesele | 0 |

|               |   |            |    |
|---------------|---|------------|----|
| L. Wanderers  | 1 | X-Eleven   | 0  |
| Kasi Warriors | 0 | L. Sunrise | 12 |

**SOUTH STAR MDZIMBA LEAGUE E65 000**

|                  |   |              |   |
|------------------|---|--------------|---|
| <b>Promotion</b> |   |              |   |
| Arsenal          | 3 | Cosmos       | 3 |
| Killers          | 1 | Rebels       | 2 |
| Africa Stars     | 2 | Highlanders  | 0 |
| Drikoppies       | 1 | Rhinos       | 5 |
| Sundowns         | 1 | Chiefs       | 1 |
| Bush Bucks       | 2 | Timbungulu   | 5 |
| Sibuyeni         | 2 | Rangers      | 0 |
| Rhumba Stars     | 2 | Barcelona    | 1 |
| Monaco           | 0 | Blk. Mashuba | 0 |
| All Stars        | 2 | Top Centre   | 2 |
| Swallows         | 2 | Kasiko       | 1 |

**BUY CASH PIGG'S PEAK LEAGUE E50 000**

|               |   |              |   |
|---------------|---|--------------|---|
| Mangwaneni    | 2 | Bush Bucks   | 4 |
| Phophonyane   | 0 | Ndeva        | 1 |
| White Killers | 0 | Rise & Shine | 5 |
| Maguga        | 2 | Thuluzobona  | 1 |
| Holspurs      | 2 | Citizens     | 0 |
| Rockville     | 4 | Supersport   | 1 |
| Darkies Utd   | 3 | 19 Celtics   | 1 |
| Mhlutane      | 1 | Peak City 0  |   |
| Citizens      | 0 | Thuluzobona  | 3 |

**FUTIS NKHABA LEAGUE E30 000**

|                 |   |             |   |
|-----------------|---|-------------|---|
| Majotini        | 2 | Bafana      | 1 |
| Ngwenya Utd     | 4 | Nkoyoyo     | 2 |
| Superstars      | 2 | Barcelona   | 0 |
| Nkoyoyo Jnr     | 1 | Fast Movers | 3 |
| Celtics         | 2 | Kasi XI     | 4 |
| Dribbling Stars | 3 | Real Rovers | 1 |
| Crocodiles      | 3 | Maryisa Utd | 1 |
| Lubhedze        | 3 | Atletico    | 7 |

**MP NELSON MAMBATIMPISINI FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

|                  |   |              |   |
|------------------|---|--------------|---|
| <b>Promotion</b> |   |              |   |
| Stone Breakers   | 3 | Ndlatlambi   | 0 |
| H. Pirates       | 3 | Kudwaleni    | 4 |
| Vusweni          | 0 | Malsamo      | 4 |
| Golden Arrows    | 1 | Mv. Sundowns | 1 |
| Ngonini          | 5 | Gunners      | 2 |
| Blue birds       | 1 | Njakeni City | 3 |

**B. DIVISION**

|                |   |           |   |
|----------------|---|-----------|---|
| Mv. All United | 3 | Sikheleni | 1 |
| Juventus       | 0 | Besutwini | 6 |

**OUPAMHLANGATANE LEAGUE E50 000**

|                       |   |            |   |
|-----------------------|---|------------|---|
| <b>Western stream</b> |   |            |   |
| Fast Movers           | 2 | Lonhlalane | 2 |
| Democracy             | 1 | Celtics    | 2 |
| Hofflighters          | 1 | Arsenal    | 0 |
| Mpofu Aces            | 0 | City Stars | 0 |
| M. Professionals      | 2 | Zinyane    | 2 |
| Weima Cosmos          | 4 | Manchester | 2 |
| Thuluzobona           | 3 | Chelsea    | 1 |

**EASTERN STREAM**

|                |   |            |   |
|----------------|---|------------|---|
| Mighty Bombers | 0 | Makhweya   | 3 |
| H. Defenders   | 0 | Xi Men     | 3 |
| Liverpool      | 1 | Manjengeni | 2 |

**SHEBZA NTABINEZIMPISI LEAGUE E50 000**

|                  |   |                 |   |
|------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Seven Stars      | 1 | Special Killers | 1 |
| Y. Professionals | 4 | M. Sundowns     | 2 |
| Russian Bombers  | 2 | Manchester      | 1 |
| City Cosmos      | 7 | Hungry Lions    | 1 |
| Golden Arrows    | 2 | Superstars      | 1 |
| Fontolje Utd     | 2 | City Stars      | 1 |

**BHULANE RESORT NDZINGENI LEAGUE E50 000**

|                          |   |            |   |
|--------------------------|---|------------|---|
| <b>Bulandzeni stream</b> |   |            |   |
| Sweet Banana             | 0 | M. Aces    | 2 |
| Young Stars              | 3 | Arsenal    | 5 |
| Liverpool                | 4 | Roman UTD  | 2 |
| Young Chiefs             | 3 | Supersport | 1 |
| K. Celtics               | 2 | B. Rebels  | 0 |
| Winners Park             | 0 | White City | 1 |

**MVUMA STREAM**

|            |   |             |   |
|------------|---|-------------|---|
| M. Madrid  | 7 | Volcano     | 0 |
| M. Celtics | 4 | Tihlabani   | 1 |
| Happiness  | 9 | Zizweni Utd | 1 |

|            |   |            |   |
|------------|---|------------|---|
| Academy    | 1 | Super Aces | 1 |
| Gebhulas   | 3 | Tsunami    | 1 |
| D. Darkies | 1 | KK Ajax    | 1 |

**MP SOMPISI NTFONJENI LEAGUE E50 000**

|            |   |             |   |
|------------|---|-------------|---|
| Nkonjaneni | 1 | Ntintinyane | 1 |
| Suncity    | 6 | Chelsea     | 0 |
| Trounge    | 1 | Casino      | 2 |
| Express    | 1 | Mbabatane   | 2 |
| Seven Up   | 3 | Teenagers   | 1 |
| Pirates    | 6 | Barcelona   | 0 |
| Zibonele   | 1 | R. Madrid   | 1 |
| Foster Utd | 8 | Y. Tigers   | 2 |
| Liverpool  | 0 | Sidwashini  | 4 |
| Hellenic   | 1 | Gunwane     | 6 |

**SWAZI TRAC LUBOMBO SUPER LEAGUE**

|               |   |                |   |
|---------------|---|----------------|---|
| Juventus      | 6 | Peacemakers    | 1 |
| CK Survivors  | 1 | All Stars      | 0 |
| Mauritus      | 2 | Ntengenyane    | 1 |
| Ubombo Flyers | 3 | Ilovo          | 2 |
| Samampela     | 5 | Bhelebane      | 2 |
| Magwanyane    | 1 | Malaheni       | 0 |
| Sikhalo       | 1 | Crookes United | 0 |

**LUBOMBO WESTERN ZONE**

|                |   |                      |   |
|----------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Kukhanyeni     | 1 | Mamisa Professionals | 2 |
| Vultures       | 2 | Kubuta Celtics       | 0 |
| Tawern         | 1 | Sea Birds            | 1 |
| Manchester     | 1 | Gucuka               | 2 |
| Sithobela      | 1 | Red Lion             | 0 |
| Stone breakers | 3 | Heroes               | 1 |
| Bekela         | 1 | Bombers              | 4 |
| Mamisa United  | 2 | Black Swallows       | 1 |
| Mbuzzana       | 1 | Mighty Birds         | 3 |
| Typers         | 1 | Barcelona            | 2 |
| Nkunzemnyama   | 0 | White City           | 0 |
| Young Aces     | 0 | Peacemakers          | 2 |
| Bhunumall      | 2 | Junior Stars         | 1 |

**RSSC SIYAKHA 1800 NORTH - WEST**

|                |   |              |   |
|----------------|---|--------------|---|
| Revelation     | 1 | Skyline      | 0 |
| Professionals  | 1 | Equator      | 3 |
| Njakeni United | 2 | Tabankulu FC | 1 |
| Youngkillers   | 5 | Tonggat      | 1 |

**RSSC SIYAKHA 1800 NORTH - EAST**

|               |   |           |   |
|---------------|---|-----------|---|
| Free at Last  | 1 | Bacambi   | 2 |
| Professionals | 0 | Cosmos    | 1 |
| JB            | 1 | Summerise | 4 |
| Juventus      | 0 | Rhinos    | 2 |
| Zamalek       | 5 | XI Stars  | 2 |

**MBUSO MASEKO MALINDZA FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

|                 |   |             |   |
|-----------------|---|-------------|---|
| Promising Stars | 4 | Mshana      | 0 |
| Black Mamba     | 3 | Highway     | 1 |
| Liverpool       | 3 | Black Mamba | 2 |
| Umseshi         | 2 | Juventus    | 1 |
| Zamalek         | 1 | Juventus    | 1 |
| Dvokodweni      | 1 | Calabash    | 1 |

**SHISELWENI SWAZI TRAC SUPER LEAGUE**

|             |   |                    |   |
|-------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Southern    |   |                    |   |
| JB Tigers   | 2 | Nsingizini H Spurs | 1 |
| All Nations | 2 | Manchester         | 0 |
| Mahlalini   | 0 | Mazomba            | 1 |
| Mvela       | 3 | Mashekesheni       | 1 |
| Piano       | 1 | Ngwane College     | 0 |

**NORTHERN**

|             |   |          |   |
|-------------|---|----------|---|
| Power Stars | 1 | Amalanda | 3 |
|-------------|---|----------|---|

**NHLANGANO PROMOTION LEAGUE**

|                   |   |               |   |
|-------------------|---|---------------|---|
| Inter Milan       | 1 | NEDSO Arsenal | 2 |
| Mashobeni         | 2 | Sibovu        | 3 |
| Vusweni Killers   | 5 | Home Affairs  | 0 |
| NHO Sun           | 2 | Fast XI       | 4 |
| Mkhitsini Killers | 2 | City Stars    | 1 |
| Sprinters         | 2 | Manchester    | 2 |
| Makhwelela        | 1 | Sibovu        | 2 |

**HLATHIKHULU PROMOTION**

|             |   |                  |   |
|-------------|---|------------------|---|
| Black Aces  | 1 | Red Swallows     | 1 |
| New Classic | 0 | Assegai Killers  | 2 |
| Liverpool   | 0 | Real Tigers      | 1 |
| XI Star     | 5 | Free State Stars | 3 |

**DABULAMANZI CIVIL WORKS & IRRIGATION MANZINI SUPER LEAGUE**

|                           |   |                  |   |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|---|
| Masundwini Royal Swallows | 1 | Current Toasters | 0 |
| Villa Stars               | 1 | Nsuka United     | 0 |
| Bad Boys                  | 0 | Stumbo's XI      | 2 |
| Moyeni United             | 1 | Luve Cosmos      | 1 |

**MANZINI PROMOTION LEAGUE**

|                 |   |                     |   |
|-----------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Wonderful Touch | 3 | Mallyaduma United   | 1 |
| Fairview Chiefs | 2 | Two Sticks Comrades | 1 |
| FC North        | 3 | Home Sparrows       | 0 |
| Manzini United  | 3 | African Chiefs      | 0 |
| Young Tigers    | 1 | The Pones           | 0 |
| Superstars      | 0 | Siboniso Selwandle  | 3 |
| Combine Stars   | 0 | Green Way           | 1 |

**KPMG MANZINI FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE**

|                     |   |                |   |
|---------------------|---|----------------|---|
| Bradford University | 4 | God's Property | 0 |
| City Eagles         | 4 | Big XI         | 2 |
| New Generations     | 2 | Brema United   | 2 |
| Nhlambeni United    | 2 | Ngwane Park    | 0 |
| Helaling Boys       | 1 | Chaos LTD      | 2 |

**OK FOODS KWALUSENI PROMOTION LEAGUE**

|                    |   |                       |   |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Zombodze United    | 1 | Ntunja Arsenal        | 0 |
| Sacrament          | 1 | Fashion International | 2 |
| Gooweni Trompies   | 2 | Mhlane United         | 0 |
| Supersport         | 3 | Kwaluseni Rebels      | 1 |
| Real Professionals | 0 | FC Logoba             | 2 |
| Kwaluseni United   | 6 | Zama United           | 1 |

**OK FOODS KWALUSENI FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE**

|                     |   |                  |   |
|---------------------|---|------------------|---|
| Zero Boys           | 2 | FC Matsapha Town | 2 |
| Manila Stars        | 3 | Boyane United    | 6 |
| Mhlaleni Superstars | 1 | AFC Heroes       | 2 |
| Swazi Wire          | 3 | Ludzeludze Kicks | 2 |

**S & S MALKERNS PROMOTION LEAGUE**

|                  |   |                 |   |
|------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Golden Arrows    | 1 | Geben           | 0 |
| Don Don          | 3 | Cutter Cosmos   | 1 |
| Vuka Aces        | 2 | Ndinda Volcano  | 1 |
| Phondo           | 2 | Power Sparks    | 2 |
| Swazi Can United | 2 | Troublemakers   | 1 |
| Star Point       | 0 | Vickery Nomads  | 1 |
| Makhungutsha     | 1 | Mahlanya United | 0 |

**MALKERNS FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE**

|                   |   |                |   |
|-------------------|---|----------------|---|
| Survivor          | 2 | Ntandozi       | 3 |
| Arsenal           | 2 | Red Swallows   | 3 |
| Usutu Rangers     | 0 | Home Boys      | 7 |
| Dynamite Hotspurs | 2 | Mpofana United | 1 |

**PREMIER BAKERIES MKHWEINI PROMOTION LEAGUE**

|                    |   |                     |   |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Luve Stars         | 1 | Mbashehi Brothers   | 2 |
| White Killers      | 4 | Luve Classic        | 1 |
| Manchester United  | 3 | Bantu City          | 2 |
| Manishonga         | 0 | Sangcofo            | 2 |
| Ngonini Young Aces | 2 | All Stars           | 1 |
| Luve Suncity       | 2 | Step Ahead          | 0 |
| All Nations        | 1 | Colani United       | 2 |
| Zama United        | 5 | Luve Home Defenders | 0 |

**CORBAN MAFUTSENI PROMOTION LEAGUE**

|                     |   |                         |   |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| Madubula Rovers     | 2 | Supersport              | 2 |
| Dynamos             | 2 | Timbutini Combine Stars | 0 |
| Young Cannibals     | 2 | Ntabamhoshana           | 0 |
| Timbutini All Stars | 0 | Mlamuleni United        | 6 |
| Mlamuleni United    | 1 | Supersport              | 0 |

**KUKHANYENI PROMOTION LEAGUE**

|                |   |                    |   |
|----------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Submarine      | 0 | Bhekinkhosi        | 3 |
| Louis XIV      | 1 | Umsina We-Dortmund | 0 |
| Nyaknei United | 2 | Ngwazini           | 1 |
| Mphola Celtics | 1 | Estate Classic     | 0 |
| Brave Lion     | 1 | Nyakeni Trompies   | 1 |
| Young Killers  | 0 | Kukhanyeni         | 3 |
| Nyakeni Heroes | 2 | Mdayane            | 2 |
| Nyaknei Cosmos | 3 | 1995 Mbuluzana     | 2 |

**PHUNGA PROMOTION LEAGUE**

|          |
|----------|
| Holspurs |
|----------|



# MTN Premier League 2018/19 PRELIMINARIES



## GREEN MAMBA'S CHANCE TO RECLAIM TOP SPOT

STORIES BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

**SOCCER – The MTN Premier League returns, amid a big chance for Green Mamba FC to reclaim top spot on the log with victory over high flying Mbabane Swallows.**

In another game, Tambuti FC will have a chance to move clear of the relegation zone if they can beat Vovovo FC, who can lift themselves out with victory. Below we analyse what might transpire as two of the seven mid-week fixtures take centre stage.

**Mb. Swallows vs. Green Mamba FC**

**Somhlolo Stadium, 7pm**

This is a big, big game by all accounts, especially for Green Mamba FC as they will dethrone Royal Leopard at the top of the standings if they beat Mbabane Swallows here. Green Mamba led the standings for much of the campaign and would surely desire to return to the summit after a fortnight's absence.

### Ambition

They go into this game against Swallows with a chance to go back where they belong as they have shown so much promise under coach, Caleb Ngwenya this season.

For Swallows, their ambitions of returning to the CAF Champions

League hinge on a good result in this game as their run against the teams above them begins.

### Champions

If Swallows beat Green Mamba, they would be only three points off pace setters, Royal Leopard, who have a tough game against Manzini Wanderers at the Mavuso Sports Centre tomorrow.

The league is beginning to shape, and this game will go a long way in showing us who might become champions at the end of the season.

That having been said, it was Green Mamba that prevailed the last time the two teams met in the league. The score was 2-0 in favour of the

Correctional Services side back in September.

### HOW THEY HAVE FARED IN 2019

Mb. Swallows – Played: 11 Won: 8 Drawn: 1 Lost: 2  
Green Mamba – Played: 8 Won: 4 Drawn: 3 Lost: 1

### KEY PLAYERS

**Mb. Swallows** – Paito Dube, Tony 'TT' Tsabedze, Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu  
**Green Mamba** – Banele Mdluli, Sanele Tshawuka, Njabulo Tfwala

### COACHES

**Mb. Swallows** – Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe  
**Green Mamba** – Caleb Ngwenya.

Who wants it more between Tambuti and Vovovo?

**Tambuti FC vs. Vovovo FC**  
Mayaluka Stadium, 6:30pm

**THIS** is a massive game at the bottom of the MTN log as both teams are deeply involved in the relegation scrap.

Vovovo FC lost form at the wrong time of the season, and find themselves in an undesirable position with very few matches remaining.

They are second from bottom with 17 points, and have a poor goal difference compared to their opponents, Tambuti.

It is a must win for Gcina 'Magiyane' Dlamini's charges if they do not want the gap between where they are and the safety positions to increase. Beating Tambuti FC in this game would mean both teams are equal on 20 points, and it would draw Matsapha United back into the dog-fight with Vovovo temporarily out of it.

Alou Badara's Tambuti FC, however, have performed well lately. This being a home game, they would be confident of getting all the three points at stake.

Should they manage to win, Tambuti would have created daylight between themselves and the relegation zone. Thus, the importance of this game to both teams cannot be overstated.

Back in November, Tambuti won the reverse fixture 1-0.

**HOW THEY HAVE FARED IN 2019**

**Tambuti FC** – Played: 9 Won: 3 Drawn: 1 Lost: 5

**Vovovo FC** – Played: 9 Won: 2 Drawn: 1 Lost: 6

### KEY PLAYERS

**Tambuti FC** – Zwakele Dlamini, Siciniseko Ndlangamandla, Muntu Mamba

**Vovovo FC** – Leon Manyisa, Sibusiso Thwala, Bheki Dlamini

### COACHES

**Tambuti FC** – Alou Badara  
**Vovovo FC** – Gcina 'Magiyane' Dlamini

## TAMBUTI OUT TO REEDEM THEIR IMAGE TONIGHT

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

**SOCCER – TONIGHT'S MTN Premier League clash between Tambuti FC and Vovovo is the survival of the fittest as both sides are fighting to stay clear of relegation with seven games to go.**

Both teams are flirting with the dreaded relegation axe as they are lying shamefacedly at the bottom of the log table. In fact, both teams have to start collecting points in order to give their supporters something to cheer about. Tonight's clash slated

for Mayaluka Stadium, will be a survival of the fittest. It's now or never for both teams.

The Lubombo based outfit have played two games without scoring. They lost 0-1 to Young Buffaloes in the MTN League, a week ago and succumbed to 0-3 defeat to Mbabane Swallows in the EswatiniBank Cup. Tambuti have lost the killer instinct that saw them beating much fancied teams in the league. This could be attributed to the fact that they lost their key players to some of the big Premier League teams.

It's high time the Alou Badara-led charges start collecting maximum points in order to survive relegation that is slowly but surely hovering above their heads. The return of playmaker Gabriel Goshen could inspire the team to victory tonight.

However, Tambuti are up against a tricky team in Vovovo FC. The Gcina Dlamini-led side is motivated after quietly storming to the quarter finals of the EswatiniBank Cup at the expense of Tambankulu Callies. They are expected to add more woes to the Lubombo based outfit when

they clash tonight.

Vovovo FC Public Relations Officer Stan Dlamini said they would fight tooth and nail tonight in order to move out of the relegation zone.

"We need to save ourselves and no else can do that. The spirit is high in our camp, except for a few players who have some knocks. However, we are hopeful they will recover on time to face Tambuti. I would also like to invite the Lubombo people to come in their numbers to watch this game as it promises to be a thriller," he said.

...We need to save ourselves and no else can do that. The spirit is high in our camp except for a few players, who have some knocks.



# ESWATINIBANK CUP 2019

## ESWATINIBANK CUP WOMEN'S LAST 16



**GIVING STRATEGY:** Young Buffaloes coach Simephi Mamba instructing one of her players during their 11-0 win over Mbekelweni FC last Saturday at Lobamba Technical Centre in the EswatiniBank Cup Women's last 16. (Pics: Jongile Xuba)



**TAKING TO THE PITCH:** The teams exchanging the customary handshake before the match began.



**ALL WHITE:** Southern Divas pose for a team picture before their EswatiniBank Cup last 16 match.



**GETTING READY:** Young Buffaloes players warm up as they get ready for substitutions.



**GOAL KICK:** Mbekelweni's Nomagugu Mamba prepare for a goal kick during the match.



**IN GREEN:** Siteki FC ladies team take a group picture before their match against Southern Divas, who they beat 2-1.



**TIGHT MARKING:** Mbekelweni's Nosipho Dlamini marks Young Buffaloes' Ncobile Dlamini during the match.



**SCRAMBLE:** The ladies all fighting for possession of the ball during the match.



**THE OFFICIALS:** Match officials of the day Sipheshile Sibeko, Lungile Nxumalo and Happy Simelane ready for the match.



**GET HER:** Mbekelweni keeper Philile Tshabalala watches as Gabsile Shabangu tries to stop Buffaloes' Celiwe Nkambule from making a shot.



## FOOTBALL TALK

All your latest WORLD FOOTBALL News

● Liverpool want Celta Vigo and Uruguay striker Maxi Gomez, 22, in a £35m deal after former Reds forward Luis Suarez recommended his compatriot. (*Sun*)

● Paris St-Germain and Brazil forward Neymar, 27, says he is "happy" at the French champions but "any player linked with Real Madrid would feel attracted to play there". (*Globo TV, via Marca*)

● Arsenal are interested in Ajax's 26-year-old Argentina international Nicolas Tagliafico or Celtic and Scotland defender Kieran Tierney, 21, as a replacement for Spain left-back Nacho Monreal, if the 33-year-old leaves for Barcelona. (*Mirror*)

● Manchester United and Liverpool are keen to sign Real Madrid's 26-year-old Spain midfielder Isco. (*Tuttosport - in Italian*)

● New Leicester City Manager Brendan Rodgers wants to sign Aston Villa's Scotland midfielder John McGinn, 24. (*Birmingham Mail*)

● Liverpool are still linked with RB Leipzig and Germany striker Timo Werner, despite interest from Bayern Munich in the 22-year-old. (*Liverpool Echo*)

● Inter Milan are interested in signing Manchester United's Italy right-back Matteo Darmian, 29, for £9.5m. (*Football Italia*)

● Arsenal want to sign Belgium winger Yannick Carrasco, 25, from Chinese side Dalian Yifang after failing to secure a loan deal in the January transfer window. (*Express*)

● Wales forward Gareth Bale's transfer value has dropped to £63m, meaning Real Madrid are set to make a £30m loss if they sell the 29-year-old in the summer. (*Mirror*)

● Liverpool still need to find a replacement for 26-year-old Brazil attacking midfielder Philippe Coutinho, who left for Barcelona in January 2018, says former Reds defender Jamie Carragher. (*Mirror*)

● Scouts from top German teams are coming to England to watch Arsenal and Chelsea academy players in an effort to find "the next Jadon Sancho", the 18-year-old England winger who left Manchester City for Borussia Dortmund in 2017. (*Sun*)

● Arsenal fans are putting pressure on the club to recall Calum Chambers, 24, from his loan spell at Fulham, with the English defender-turned-midfielder impressing for the Cottagers this season. (*Express*)

● Former Manchester City defender Joleon Lescott does not think England Under-21 midfielder Phil Foden, 18, should leave the Etihad on loan. (*Manchester Evening News*)



# THE SICKER PUNCH POW!

...with Mphikeleli Msibi [STRIKING, STRAIGHT AND STRENGTHENED]

## 8 TEAMS LEFT, 1 TROPHY

**'SOLO INJE'!** 16 became eight teams in the exhilarating EswatiniBank Cup as the tournament enters the quarter-finals stage.

Mbabane Swallows, Royal Leopard, Young Buffaloes, Green Mamba, Manzini Sundowns, Matsapha United, Malanti Chiefs and Vovovo advanced to the 'Solo Inje' Cup quarterfinals over the weekend.

The tournament has once again brought its surprises with the biggest being giants Mbabane Highlanders and Manzini Wanderers' elimination from the tournament at the hands of Matsapha United and Manzini Sundowns, respectively.

It was a weekend of joy and pain, seeing that two of the big teams in the country are out of this tournament.

There will be no seeding this time around, which means anything is possible in the next round.

With a whopping E1.2 million winner's prize at stake, surely the football lovers must brace themselves for more entertainment.

### Producing

I must say that the EswatiniBank Cup has once again lived up to expectations of producing upsets.

The main attraction was the Sunday games at Somhlolo featuring Mbabane Highlanders against Matsapha United while Manzini Wanderers clashed with Manzini Sundowns.

The first match saw Matsapha scoring early in the second half and protected their lead until the end of the match.

Both teams were determined to go through to the next stage but it was Matsapha, who eventually got the ticket to the quarterfinals.



This is a game of football and anything is possible. It was, however, not pleasing to see some Highlanders fans not accepting this result. Some of the fans hurled insults at the referee after the match and one would have been forgiven to think they had actually lost a final.

### Joy

While things did not go well at the black and white part of the capital, the red and white side was full of joy as they advanced to the last eight with an emphatic 3-0 win over Tambuti.

The other match at Somhlolo saw Sundowns get their sweet revenge against Manzini Wanderers.

This was another end-to-end stuff where the team that utilised their chances on the day won.

It was a bitter pill to swallow for the 'Weslians' as they were looking at advancing to the next round of the tournament and go all the

way since their standing on the log table currently cannot guarantee them the league title at the end of the season.

The games started on Saturday where defending champions Young Buffaloes beat Citizens 4-1, with Royal Leopard brushing aside Moneni Pirates 2-0 while Green Mamba thrashed Ludzeldzwe Killers 6-0. Other games on Saturday saw Malanti Chiefs edge Black Swallows 1-0, with Vovovo also beating Tambankulu Callies 1-0 while Swallows won 3-0 against Tambuti.

It did not end there as we also witnessed the EswatiniBank Cup Under-20 and the EswatiniBank Cup Women games where we saw great action. It was indeed an action-packed 'Solo Inje' weekend.

We are now patiently waiting for the quarterfinals draw to see how the teams square up in this round.

It has now narrowed down to eight teams. 'Solo Inje'.



## Missed opportunity to impress national team coach

**WHEN Sihlangu national team coach, Kostadin Papis drove all the way to Killarney Sports Ground in Pigg's Peak to watch the town's derby, he probably anticipated filling up some of potential holes in the national team set up, but it all came to naught.**

You see the Pigg's Peak derby had been hyped in the build-up almost creating a carnival atmosphere on the terraces but alas on the playing rectangular green, both sets of players failed dismally to live up to the pre-match hype.

With it they missed the opportunity to impress our national team 'Bill Clinton' and not surprising at all that he drove off "to the next assignment" on the hour mark,

surely had he been impressed he would have stayed on until the final whistle or even beyond.

Apart from Papis, while we would like pay tribute to the huge turnout at Killarney Sports Ground, I express my displeasure on one or two bad apples.

### Violent

The first one is that halftime violent brushes near the dressing rooms. Yes we agree there was tension but that was unnecessary.

Then there's one thing that I simply can't understand this, just a few weeks after Pigg's Peak Black Swallows were hauled before the league disciplinary committee to answer charges pertaining to their fans behaviour, their fans were at it again.

If anything they could count themselves very lucky if they escape this one, when one of their fans went to heaven then hell with verbal ballistics against Mbongiseni Fakudze and to make matters worse, this was a hand stretch away from the Pigg's Peak Black Swallows director, Charles Matsebula.

You see, not to discredit effort to double a premiership dose in this town and give an increase to such tense derbies, I thought Mkholo had an obligation to step in and bring the club fan into line, thus probably plugging the sink hole to stop financial drain through avoidable fines. We know sometimes some say football, the most beautiful game, is a game played by gentlemen watched by hooli-

gans but I refuse to buy that notion given the few bad apples from the terraces from where some of us came from before the newsrooms.

One such moment, Fakudze received a verbal ballistic was when he beautifully applied the advantage rule allowing play flow before pulling back play after the Swallows player lost possession awarding a free kick in the opening half.

The ballistics grew heavy both in tone and weight when Fakudze correctly adjudged Allen Mabuza offside. By the way a kindest reminder to Ntolo as well, as the custodian of the game's time please please, I beg you to arrive on time, professionalism frowns both hurtfully and hatefully at the 15 minutes delays to kick off time.



# Sihlangu panic as Felix out injured

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

**SOCCER – SIHLANGU** is sweating over the fitness of star mid-fielder and Mbombela United's captain Felix Badenhorst ahead of their AFCON qualifier against Tunisia.

The match is scheduled for Tunis on Friday March 22nd.

AFCON is the acronym for Africa Cup of Nations. Although this is a dead rubber match for Sihlangu, as they can no longer qualify for the 2019 AFCON finals, it is an important game for Tunisia who are tied at the top of Group J with Egypt on 12 points.

Felix last played for Mbombela three weeks ago in a league match against their promotion rivals, Stellenbosch FC.

They drew that match 0-0, and he captained his side under Papic's watch. However, the player has since missed two

...Sihlangu's coach Kostadin Papic adamant he will be fit for Tunisia match

matches in a row for Mbombela, the first being the Nedbank Cup round of 16 match against Cape Umoya, which they lost 4-2 on penalties, and lastly Sunday's 0-1 loss to Richards Bay FC in the league.

Interviewed yesterday, Papic, who had earlier indicated that he was in touch with all international players, said he expects the player to be fit to face the Tunisians. "I expect him to be ready for Tunisia. Injury is not too serious," said Papic.

The coach added that he would announce his official squad today, and expects to start camp as soon as possible in preparation for the match.

Papic recently stated that the encounter against Tunisia would give him a good picture on the direction he wants the team to take. He said they would approach the game without fear, as they have nothing to lose.

Eswatini Football Associations (EFA) Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe said it would be premature for him to comment on the player's fitness as he did not know if he was part of the squad or not.

"I am not aware of his injury. Perhaps,



**INJURED: Felix Badenhorst.**

it would be prudent to comment on his availability once we are certain of his selection," he said.

Asked on when the team shall report for camp, Radebe said he was last informed of March 6th as the date for Sihlangu to start camp.

A text sent to Mbombela United's twitter account had not been replied to at the time this report was compiled yesterday.



**GOAL: Well-beaten Wanderers' goalkeeper Ncedo Mamba as Sundowns scored their first goal.**

**'Solo Inje': 20 goals in 8 matches!**

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

**SOCCER – INCREDIBLE!**

The EswatiniBank Cup never ceases to amaze, as the drama continued over the past weekend with a total of 20 goals scored in the eight last 16 round fixtures.

Leading the charge was Green Mamba FC, who helped themselves to half a dozen goal against Manzini Super League side Ludzeludze Killers, and then Young Buffaloes found the net four times against premier league rookies, Mbabane Citizens FC.

Mbabane Swallows helped themselves to three of the lot when they dispatched Tambuti FC 3-0 at King Sobhuza II Stadium,

whilst Royal Leopard and Manzini Sundowns both netted doubles for their victories over Moneni Pirates and Manzini Sundowns, respectively.

The lowest scorers were Matsapha United and Vovovo FC, who both recorded 1-0 wins over their opponents.

In total thus far, a total of 76 goals have been scored in the two rounds, putting into account the 56 scored in the opening round.

"Goals bring spectators to the games, and we hope to see more as the tournament continues. We also applaud fans for the good conduct displayed so far," said EswatiniBank Cup's Management Committee Secretary Simanga Nhleko.

## EswatiniBank Cup exit good for Citizens

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

**SOCCER – MBABANE** Citizens coach Charles Manda has noted that his team's exit from the EswatiniBank Cup was a blessing in disguise as they can now focus on the league.

Citizens were bundled out of the competition by defending champions Young Buffaloes at Somhlolo

National Stadium last Saturday with a 4-0 reverse.

Speaking soon after the match, Manda said they had hoped to get something out of the cup, but the defeat means they can focus on the MTN league, where they are faced with a fierce relegation battle. Manda said he did not want to be misunderstood as having said the cup was not important.

"We lost to a very good team and cannot complain about the defeat. We have to swiftly move forward from this as we are in a very pre-

carious position on the log," he said.

Asked if he blamed his goal-keeper for his mistake that led to Buffaloes' first goal, Manda said they lost as a team.

"I cannot pinpoint to any one mistake that led to us losing the game because we lost by more than one goal in the end.

"We have to accept that Buffaloes were better than us in this game, and they deserved to win," he said.

Citizens' next league game is against Mbabane Highlanders at Somhlolo National Stadium tomorrow.

## 'Waga Waga' loss a tragedy – SNSRC

BY NOMY NYANDZENI

**"THE sports movement in Eswatini has been dealt a terrible blow".**

These were the exact words of the Swaziland National Sport and Recreation Council (SNSRC) Media Officer Dumisani Ntiwane.

Ntiwane was reacting to news that long serving Darts President Hamilton 'Waga Waga' Nxumalo was late.

"It is with sadness and great shock to have learnt of the death of Mr Nxumalo. He spent the better part of his life serving sports and his passing on is a blow to the sports movement in Eswatini".

Ntiwane noted that it will be extremely hard to find a perfect replacement for Nxumalo.

"Born leaders like Mr Nxumalo are born and never made. It could be another lifetime before we have such quality leadership.

"Our condolences go to his wife, his entire family and relatives at this sad time. We will dearly miss him and he will always be remembered fondly," said Ntiwane.



**THE LATE: Darts President Hamilton 'Waga Waga' Nxumalo.**

## Undefeated 'Buffs' have to improve - Dominic

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

**SOCCER – YOUNG Buffaloes** coach Dominic Kunene says the aim of his team is improve in every game.

The coach was speaking ahead of his team's game against Manzini Sundowns in the league tomorrow. He said it did not matter how many goals they scored in a game, but the target was to improve against all opposition.

Buffaloes are undefeated in 2019; a run of 11 consecutive matches if their 4-0 win over Mbabane Citizens in the EswatiniBank Cup over the past weekend is included.

"We take all our games seriously because we know that there are no more easy games.

**IMPROVE: Young Buffaloes players celebrating one of their goals during their first game of EswatiniBank Cup.**





| FIXTURES                |    |                     |        |
|-------------------------|----|---------------------|--------|
| <b>CHAMPIONS LEAGUE</b> |    |                     |        |
| Dortmund                | vs | Tottenham           | 10pm   |
| Real Madrid             | vs | Ajax                | 10pm   |
| <b>ABSA PREMIERSHIP</b> |    |                     |        |
| Cape Town City          | vs | M Sundowns          | 7:30pm |
| Orlando Pirates         | vs | Bloemfontein Celtic | 7:30pm |

## POLICE FINE UNRULY SUPPORTER E500, NO RECEIPT

SIFISO DLAMINI

**SOCCER - A Mbabane Highlanders supporter claims she was made to pay E500 for misconduct at Somhlolo National Stadium this past Sunday and was not issued with a receipt by the police.**

The supporter in question is the woman who was hauled away by police during the team's 1-0 loss to Matsapha United after a can appeared to have found its way onto the pitch after referee; Leticia Vienna, failed to award a penalty when Thabiso Mokenkoane was brought down inside the box in the second half. Highlanders' supporters were in the process of assaulting the female supporter when police came to her rescue and led her away through the royal box enclosure. Police disappeared with her beyond the stands as they alleged she had too much to drink and was behaving in a disorderly manner. Interviewed later, the woman acknowledged the police warning and said she obliged and left the stadium. However, before she could go, the police allegedly ordered her to pay a fine of E500, which she said she paid. "They even refused to allow me to take my shoes, hence was forced to leave the stadium barefoot," she said. The supporter, who declined to have her name published for fear of victimisation, added that when the referee made a decision against her team, she did not agree with it. "I agree that throwing the can onto the field was wrong. I agreed to pay the fine because I was afraid that they would arrest me or ban me from the stadium if I did not," said the supporter. The supporter says she wondered as she travelled back home to Manzini if the police had not taken the money for their own benefit. When contacted Assistant Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Nosipho Mnguni said there was nothing on record with the police. She also stated that police who are stationed at the stadiums were only there to maintain order and safety. "They do not make a person to pay fines as that is the responsibility of the football authorities." She further advised the said supporter to report the matter to the police so that investigations could be made.

# SPORTS

**BSERVER**  
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Tuesday March 5, 2019

## BIRDS INJURY CRISIS



## 'D4D', 'SAMBA JIVE' DOUBTFUL

BY JONGILE XUBA

**SOCCER - MBA-BANE Swallows duo of Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu and Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko are likely to miss tonight's MTN Premier League clash against Green Mamba at Somhlolo National Stadium.**

The pair picked up knocks against Tambuti last Saturday, while Sifiso Mabila and Mandla Palma did not feature as they were nursing injuries.

The potential loss of these key performers could come as a blow to the Birds.

Mbabane Swallows Public Relations Officer (PRO) Jackson Dlamini said the pair, along with

Sabelo 'Skhali' Ndzinisa picked up knocks over the past weekend.

"The feedback we've had, although they still need to check, is not very promising."

He said 'Skhali' had, however, returned to training with the rest of the team, while 'D4D' and 'Samba Jive' would have to pass a late fitness test ahead of the game.

### Points

"The two players will have to be assessed by doctors before we can decide to play them. 'Skhali' is ready for selection and has been training with the squad. So, these are all things that we have to go back and check and monitor."

It remains to be seen when Mabila and Palma will return from their long lay-off injuries.

Coming to the match, Dlamini said it was a crucial match for them and they needed to get three points after losing the corresponding fixture. "They beat us in the first round and we cannot let that happen again. The boys are motivated for the game and know how crucial it is

that we win it," he said.

He then urged the team's faithful to make their way to the stadium and be the 12th man for the team.

"Transport will leave Mbabane at 5:30pm at Swallows corner. I urge fans to wear the club's colours and support the team," he said.

Meanwhile, Green Mamba CEO Thami Phakathi said they would not be complacent after beating Swallows in the first round, and that title talks were not in their minds at the moment.

"We are playing a new game today and won't dwell in the past result. This is a new team we are facing after the changes they went through, so we are approaching it like a new game. We still have to play a few games, so it would be reckless to start talking about title hopes," he said. He said the good thing was that they had an injury-free squad going into this match.

Mbabane Swallows are fourth on the log with 36 points, while Green Mamba are second with 39 points.

# Solo inje!

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