



The Right Place

The Right Sunday



JANUARY 6, 2019

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INSIDE

**Cops want
to kill me
- Vuvulane
ringleader**

PAGE 5

**20
failures
at 'sex'
school**

PAGE 4

**UK expert
dissects
Eswatini
politics**

PAGES 14-15



Members of the Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) came in their numbers to pay their last respects to one of their own, Lindokuhle Nondumiso Dolly Mlangeni (INSET), who was allegedly killed by her police officer boyfriend. The funeral was held at her parental homestead in Boyane yesterday morning. (Pics: Fortune Ndlangamandla)

**MORE STORIES
AND PICS ON
PAGES 8-9**

E1M VENDORS' FUND DISAPPEARS

...Money was donated by Their Majesties
and the Manzini business community

STORY ON PAGE 3

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STORIES BY
THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Teen 'burns' house after alleged dagga binge, dies

A family is mourning the death of a teenager after a suspected vengeful fury at her home at Ka-Bhudla.

Mbali Zuma (19) met her gruesome death on Wednesday night after she is suspected to have set her grandparent's home alight. There are, however, two versions of the incident as relatives gave conflicting accounts about what happened.

She was allegedly found lying on the floor with one leg on a table by a window in a different room (not where the fire started) and it is suspected that she was trying to flee from the flames which she allegedly started.

According to first responders, the teenager was probably overwhelmed by the toxic smoke, as only her hand was singed as she was being lifted out of the room as it rubbed against a hot door frame.

Her nostrils had charcoal black soot which also tinged the froth on her mouth. Recounting events leading to the tragic incident, her step-mother Thembi Zuma said she did not know what could have led to the youngster setting her room alight, as she had recently returned from her mother's home in Matsapha.

"Mbali left home before the start of Form Five exams and went to live with her mother," said the distraught step mother, adding that prior to the incident, they were awaiting her results.

This then called for the youngster to travel daily from Matsapha to Moyeni where she was schooling. On the other hand, her younger sister, who was doing Form Two, is said to have also fled the



The house where the tragic incident occurred. INSET: This is what remained of Mbali Zuma's bed after the fiery fire burnt her room to ashes. (Courtesy pics)

homestead where they lived with Thembi and gone to live with a neighbouring family nearby. According to relatives who spoke on condition of anonymity, the two girls were said to have been allegedly wayward as they did not take their step-mother's counsel. Their father is a soldier and is usually away from home. During the festive season, both girls were still absent from home, even on Christmas Day, something which was frowned upon. It is alleged that upon schools closing, Mbali returned to the area and went to live with the neighbour where her younger sister also lived. Seeing as their soldier father was around for the festive holidays, the neighbour is said to have spoken to

him about the children's situation, necessitating a meeting at the Zuma family home, which was held around New Year's Eve. "The meeting was to ascertain how the children could be brought back home as it was becoming problematic having them spread all over and being a burden to neighbours," said a relative.

Meeting

The two sisters were not around during the meeting, according to Thembi.

However, she said she noted that they were around on Wednesday, two days after the meeting. "I was returning from the hammer mill when I heard that the two girls had been brought (presumably by the neighbour)," said Thembi,

adding that the younger one left immediately after being dropped off and said she was going to Maliyaduma, her grandmother's homestead. Thembi said she called her brother, who was also at Maliyaduma, to make sure that she had arrived, and he responded to the affirmative.

"I heard Mbali's voice at around 6:30pm and that's when I was assured that she had returned," said the step-mother. She further clarified that even though her home is within the same compound, they lived in different quarters, as Mbali stayed within her grandparent's house. "At around 8pm, Mbali came to my house to ask if she could have a light-bulb as the house was dark.



A picture of the young Mbali Zuma, who died after inhaling smoke in her burning grandmother's house at KaBhudla on Wednesday night.

We told her there was none."

Due to their strained relationship, Mbali is said to have not said much to her parents. However, she had the same look and demeanour as she usually had after smoking dagga. "Dagga has always been an issue, as it has been the source of many arguments, so we didn't talk," said Thembi. According to her step mother, it is suspected that she then went back to her room and was supposed to use a hurricane lamp which is fuelled with paraffin. In less than an hour after Mbali asked for the light-bulb, billowing smoke was noted. "Her bed had a lot of clothes on it and it looked like she first splattered the bed with the paraffin from the lamp."

...Relative offers different version

A relative, who was not present during the tragic encounter, said the father is alleged to have told Mbali that the house had an electric fault, which was caused by a storm and could only be fixed by electricians.

This is why she could not get a light bulb. Further, she is said to have left angrily without the hurricane lamp which she was told to take.

"She approached her father's house at about 8pm," said the relative. After she left, her step-mother is said to have gone to the kitchen to prepare food. As they were about to eat, her brother was sent to call her to eat and was instead met by the blaze engulfing the house.

Neighbours are said to have been called to put out the fire and this they did by entering the house for a few minutes at a time in order to

minimise smoke inhalation. The general consensus at that time was that Mbali had fled after setting the house on fire and the first emergency was to douse the flames. However, she was later found sprawled on the floor in another room separate from where the fire seemed to have started. "It seemed as though she tried to go out through the window and fell from the table she tried to stand on because her one leg was still perched up there." The relative said they believed that Mbali could

have forgotten a joint on something flammable and left it there as she slept. The relative, who was at the homestead yesterday, said the father informed them that they were still not sure of what could have caused the fire to spread in such a manner, because she did not have a candle nor a lamp in her room.

Attempts were made to resuscitate her, however, she remained unresponsive and was certified dead on arrival at the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial (RFM) Hospital.

It is suicide - Police

According to Chief Police Information and Communication Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati, they are treating the matter as a case of suicide.

She said this was because Mbali Zuma is alleged to have barricaded the door with a mattress, making it difficult to open when the fire started.

FNB denies account hacking allegations

SUNDAY OBSERVER
REPORTER

A Facebook thread which went viral at the beginning of this week has been refuted as unsubstantiated by the First National Bank.

This comes after a Facebook user alleged that her business account was hacked into and she was unable to close it due to FNB's failure to assist her remotely.

The South Africa based local tagged FNB Swaziland's official page after noting an alleged suspicious activity on her account. She said it was unfortunate that it was the second incident to occur as a previous one occurred on her personal account.

"It cannot be that I get hacked on my personal and business account in a space of two months. That's beside

the fact that I've not received a case number for my last fraud claim (my personal account two months back)," she wrote.

She stated that she suspected that what was happening was an inside job, as the only explanation why her complaints were not being attended to, even after a claim had been made.

Of note, comments on the post were made by some FNB employees, who said they were shocked that her matter was not attended to as they were aware of the issue.

"Akuhambi kahle mani. I've seen you stressing about this and even tried to assist where I could," wrote an employee. When asked about this incident, FNB Head of Marketing Zethu Dlamini said, "As a policy and for obvious reasons, specific customer information cannot be discussed with any entity

other than the customer themselves."

She, however, assured that there was no FNB account that had been hacked and could say that with certainty.

"Access to bank accounts is controlled through the use of personal information and passwords that are decided by customers. Bank staff who qualify to access customer accounts are constantly monitored and we have no inappropriate access identified at this point." Cautioning how customers could protect themselves, she said this could be done by checking the security around any channels where they will use their cards, including mobile devices and especially websites that are not secured, or ATMs that have been tampered with.

"Poorly secured websites and devices are now a common route through which customer details are skimmed

from their cards and used in other transactions." She assured that they had addressed all customer complaints that they were aware of. Should a customer have a query, this can be emailed to gethelp@fnb.co.sz.

Akuhambi kahle mani. I've seen you stressing about this and even tried to assist where I could. 🙏🙏🙏

2 days ago · Like · Reply

1

You're actually the only person inside the bank who's taken it serious since day one sis, ngiyabonga.

2 days ago · Like

The comment by the FNB employee, who acknowledged the problems faced by the customer with the bank.

"We commit to following up and giving feedback to the customer." When asked if her issue had been addressed by the bank, the businesswoman did not respond to questions posed via WhatsApp messaging.

Slight decrease in crime rate in Manzini in 2018

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The crime infested city of Manzini has realised improvements in terms of reported crime.

A one per cent decrease in crime rate for 2018 when compared with 2017 is a legacy former Manzini Station Commander Raphael 'Sikheshekheshe'

Maseko leaves with. This is what he revealed yesterday during the Manzini police end-of-the year party held at Lugogo Sun yesterday.

Added to this decrease, the former station commander revealed that there was a remarkable decrease in traffic accidents in the town during the same period as they realised a 11 per cent incidence difference.

The event also served as the commander's farewell function as he was transferred to Lubombo Region where he will be the deputy regional commander.

Maseko was promoted in September last year to his current rank of Senior Superintendent.

Maseko thanked the officers for their cooperation and dedication to work

that he said resulted in the decrease in the crime rate in the hub.

"We thank God for being with us since the beginning of the year till this day. As I said yesterday, the crime rate in Manzini has decreased in 2018 compared to the previous year similarly, road accidents have decreased by 11 per cent. All this is due to the unity and commitment that you showed working day and night," Maseko said, adding that he was proud that despite the challenges linked to the financial

status of the country his officers had been able to try all in their means to serve the public.

"They have cracked some of the crimes that were a problem which I would not like to mention as well as petty crimes for instance pick pocketing which was rife has decreased," he said.

Maseko requested the officers to work as a team and in unity with the new station commander stating that Manzini was a busy town.

STORIES BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Controversy surrounds the disappearance of money that was donated by Their Majesties and business community in 2014 to vendors in Manzini to start a fund.

The money was also said to have been targeted to help build a formal structure for the exposed vendors in the overly-populated city.

However, almost five years later none of the two intended purposes of the fund have been fulfilled, provoking the ire of the vendors.

The vendors now demand answers as to where the money has disappeared to, owing to exposure in extreme weather conditions.

"Where is the money that was donated to us by Their Majesties and the business community in 2014? Why we are still exposed to the bad weather with only umbrellas and shack to protect ourselves when the King gave us E1 million five years ago," wondered a vendor.

These are the questions that most of the Manzini informal traders known as street vendors are asking themselves each time bad weather elements that damage their merchandise.

During a business dinner hosted by Their Majesties in Manzini in April 2014, over E900 000 was reportedly raised after His Majesty King Mswati III launched a fund to aid Manzini street vendors. However, four years later the balance is said to be a lousy E233 900.20. During the dinner, His Majesty announced the good news to the street vendors, as he officially launched the E300 000 fund for them to boost their businesses.

The King implored other business people to contribute to the fund and it was reported that by the end of the night it had reached over E900 000. However, the ministry of commerce which was responsible for collecting the funds reported that the only available funds amounted to the E300 000, which was reportedly donated by the King to the vendors.

His Majesty thought it was proper to launch the fund and present it as his gift to the street vendors.

E1m vendors' Fund disappears

- Money was donated by Their Majesties and the Manzini Business Community
- Manzini street vendors demand answers after fund inactive almost five years later.



Manzini Bus Rank where vendors setup for their businesses.

"I have carefully considered which category of business people to present with this gift and have come to the conclusion that I should present it to the business people who some people call by many different names," the King said, as he hoped the fund would help vendors improve their businesses.

Fund

"The fund I'm launching today will stand at the value of E300 000. I hope the organising committee will meet with the vendors and the relevant ministry and also come to me for a briefing on how to manage the fund. I hope that by the time you come to me, the fund would have increased with other business people contributing to it in order to help small businesspeople," said His Majesty at the time.

The King said the minister of commerce and trade should also assist the vendors and devise means and ways of how the fund could be accessible to the street vendors. Fast forward to 2019, the ministry of commerce says the exact amount that was collected was E233 900.20. This is contrary to what the members of the organising committee say, they claim that the amount was over E900 000 including the E300 000 gift from the King.

Interest

This makes them believe that the fund should be sitting at least E1 million considering that it had been kept in the bank all the while and should have accumulated interest. The question that remains unanswered is if what the committee claim is true, then what happened to the rest of the money that was raised on the day? The other ques-

tion is why after all these years has the fund failed to operate as per His Majesty's vision? Different explanations have been presented to respond to the above questions by the different stakeholders. The ministry justifies the balance of the fund as the only money that was collected on the day, which suggests that some of the pledges made by Manzini businesspeople were not received by the ministry including that of the King. Furthermore, the ministry claims to have been for the past four years working tirelessly to operationalise the fund, which has up until this day not benefited a single vendor.

"Over the years the ministry has been tirelessly working on operationalising the fund for the benefit of the informal traders in the Manzini region.

To be precise some cash amounting

to E5 475 was collected at the dinner and subsequently an amount of E217 300 was collected from the pledges by the business community.

Currently, E233 900.29 is available to operationalise the Informal Traders' Revolving Fund," said Ministry of Commerce Industry and Trade Principal Secretary Siboniso Nkambule in response. Asked as to when the fund would be operationalised, the principal secretary said operational issues were still being finalised and once everything had been completed traders would be able to access the fund. "Worth noting is that as part of the requirements of the fund is a Committee for the Informal Traders and that has been formed. The ministry and FINCORP have commenced discussions with the committee in respect to the qualification criteria for traders such as proof of identity, authority to trade in Manzini, bank account," he said. Nkambule emphasised that this was a revolving fund and all loans provided to traders needed to be fully paid as this is not a grant fund. Furthermore, he said the revolving fund would be rolled out to all the regions countrywide in future. He said the current amount in the fund would be used as a guarantee for informal traders who will seek financial assistance from FINCORP, stating that in July last year a Memorandum of Understanding to that effect was signed. "Furthermore, at the outset one needs to highlight that the MoU signed is between the ministry of commerce, industry and trade and FINCORP without the inclusion of informal traders. Informal traders will be provided with financial assistance by FINCORP through the Informal Traders Revolving Fund as a guarantee," he added.

Over E900 000 was collected during dinner - Masiko

According to the organiser of the dinner, Masiko Dlamini, who was appointed Chairman of the committee that was established in 2014 to work with the ministry in mobilising funds and operationalising the fund, the money that was pledged and collected on the night of the dinner was over E900 000.

Dlamini, who is also a Manzini based businessman, said the ministry was responsible for collecting the money that was donated and pledged by the Manzini business community and

Their Majesties. "The King pledged E300 000 while the Queen Mother promised about E200 000. The business community together with Emazinyane pledged about E400 000. We went to the King to thank the gift afterwards and the ministry reported that it had already collected over E200 000 from the pledges.

We were of the idea that these funds were going to be loaned to the street vendors but the King said that the money should be used for a projects such as a commercial structure where

all the vendors could be accommodated," he said. Similar sentiments were shared by the then minister of commerce industry and trade Gideon Dlamini, who said Their Majesties' contributions alone amounted to half a million.

Pledges

"The pledges from royalty amounted to E500 000 because the Queen Mother Indlovukazi pledged E200 000 while the King pledged E300 000 and they promised to contribute once the fund had been formalised and

active. I am not sure how much we collected from the business community but we opened a bank account, where we deposited it. Some of those who had pledged had not submitted the money. Cabinet had instructed that an organisation be established and registered. I'm not sure whether it was registered or not," said the former minister.

Dlamini (Masiko) said they were hindered by the ministry from proceeding with their mandate and could not report to Their Majesties as they were told they needed to be gazetted to access the funds. He added that

the committee was reappointed to office and its new Chairman is Philemon Mnisi. He said they had compiled a strategic plan on the project that is to be constructed for the informal traders, which is yet to be submitted to the King. Mnisi when called said the former chairman was the right person to talk to regarding the matter, stating that he was engaged in some meetings.

Masiko Dlamini said the King had ordered the committee in collaboration with the ministry of commerce industry and trade to report on progress on their task on a monthly basis.

20 failures at 'sex' school

STORIES BY
THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Twenty children are set to repeat their Grade Seven after failing at Elulakeni Primary School in Mangena, near Lavumisa.

This is the same school where the school's administration reportedly said it would not intervene in a matter where a 17-year-old boy and 12-year-old girl were found engaging in sex during an examination.

The Sunday Observer recently revealed how the two children were caught in a compromising position during a practical examination after they disappeared from the home economics class.

This was not the first time the

Elulakeni Primary results

MERIT	0
FIRST	5
SECOND	47
THIRD	39
FAIL	20

two were said to have been engaged in sexual intercourse while at school.

On noting that they were no longer part of the class, a teacher is said to have instructed other pupils to look for them and they were said to have been found in various stages of undress, trying to look decent.

When the head teacher was alerted, of the incident, he is said to have said it was out of his hands



The entrance of Elulakeni Primary School, where 20 pupils failed.

as the mother to the girl is alleged to have already confronted the boy's family.

Despite that the young girl is under age, no charges were pre-

ferred against the boy for statutory rape. Of note, the girl is said to have attained a first class pass, whereas the teenager's results could not be ascertained.

School where school boy stabbed gets 100% pass

St Holy Ghost Primary, at KaShoba in the Lubombo Region has defied all odds.

Grade Seven pupils at the school were witnesses to the stabbing of one of their own a few months back as they prepared for examinations.

They watched a classmate die of stab wounds, while studying for their external examinations. Despite this gruesome tragedy, they were able to pass with flying colours. According to the results, the school had an enrolment of 32 pupils. There were two First Class passes with the rest getting Second Class passes. There were no failures. Melusi Bongiswa Gamedze (17) was allegedly stabbed by Thabiso Dlamini while he was in school on the first Monday of October. Dlamini (31) is said to have invaded the school wielding a weapon with which he stabbed him in the back as he fled. Dlamini is said to have suspected that the young boy was having an affair with his partner, and he said he had tried to resolve the matter on numerous occasions such as approaching the deceased's family. He is alleged to have justified killing him due to the boy bolting each time he tried to talk to him, and hence decided to 'pay' him a visit at the school.

Police dilapidated houses:

CEILING FALLS ON POLICE OFFICER

...Several other police houses are old and have leaking roofs

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Police officers at Zakhele Police Camp fear for their lives after a colleague cheated death by the skin of his teeth when a ceiling of his room fell on him recently.

Other officers who witnessed the incident told this publication that the officer was immediately transferred to Malkerns Police Station

after the unfortunate incident, which almost claimed his life.

The house, which has since been abandoned, has no ceiling in the kitchen and the remaining ceiling in the other rooms is also on the verge of collapse. It has been temporarily pegged back using a brown masking tape.

The collapse is suspected to be as a result of the leakages on the roof as a hole with an estimated five centimetre radius was found.

This is not the only house that has become a death trap, as several others within the camp are in

a similar condition.

This causes a headache, especially on rainy days, as the officers have to constantly shift their furniture in their squatting rooms.

Several other officers have been living in appalling conditions for the past two years, and their plight was best captured by our sister publication, the Observer on Saturday in December 2017.

Over 12 months later, there is still no improvement as the condition of the police housing units is worse than before. "The situation is now worse than it was in 2017, as some of these police houses are a sorry sight, with their ceilings posing a threat.

"In one of the houses, the door is worn out and the hinges have been detached; those sharing are as good as living in a house without a door, as it is always open and there is no means of closing it," said an officer, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The face of the Zakhele Police Camp

looks inhabitable for a police camp, with houses not maintained and rusty leaking roofing. The cracks showing on the walls of the glaringly old structures the officers use are an eyesore compared to what a few other police camps around the country have to show.

Furthermore, these pathetic structures are shared by a number of police officers. Furthermore, vintage stone, and grass thatched houses that are falling off with old and worn out tents used to cover the obviously leaking old non-maintained grass roof are still occupied by the support staff, yet the former National Commissioner of Police, Isaac Magagula, had said they were an eyesore that was to be demolished. The police mouth piece Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said they were aware of the challenges faced by officers in the houses they occupy. "We appreciate the contingency plan by government in improving their condition," she said.




One of the houses that needs to be refurbished as its door cannot be locked.



The leaking ceiling in one of the police officers' houses at Zakhele Police Camp. (Pics: Zwelethu Dlamini)



The house whose ceiling collapsed has been abandoned.



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Cops want to kill me - Vuvulane farmer

STORIES BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

In hiding Vuvulane farmers' ringleader Sithembiso Shongwe has made startling allegations against police, saying they want him dead.

Shongwe is one of the farmers at the forefront of the Vuvulane case, where aggrieved farmers are fighting both tooth and nail as they want the farm to be returned to them after they were evicted from it.

The farmers claim they were evicted from the farm by the Royal Eswatini Sugar Corporation (RSSC) and Tibiyo TakaNgwane.

However, recently, both RSSC and Tibiyo TakaNgwane disassociated themselves from the alleged evictions.

During an interview on Friday morning, Shongwe said plain clothed police officers had been to Vuvulane hunting for him. He stated that the first group of officers came on December 24, 2018 looking for him.

Luckily, he managed to escape as an insider had informed him in time that a message had been communicated that he should be killed.

Since then, Shongwe has disappeared into an unknown location, which he said he would not disclose for his safety.

However, the location is known to this publication. He decided to go into hiding after another group of plain clothed police officers estimated to be around 13 came looking for him in the same vicinity, where he's been hiding.

"Members of the Royal Eswatini Police Services (REPS) in the company of officers from the Operational Support Services Unit (OSSU) once again came on Thursday looking for me.

"When they did not find me, they attacked some middle aged men who were enjoying the New Year's vibes in one of the popular hangout spots," Shongwe said.

He said he had granted the newspaper the interview so that the world would know that should he be killed or vanish, the police would be respon-



The teenager showing an injury on his elbow which he suffered when he was allegedly assaulted by the police.

sible for it. He said his only sin was to be one of the ringleaders who were fighting that the farm should be returned to the Vuvulane farmers.

During the search, Shongwe pointed out that the police have been raiding homesteads of people he was close to.

Meanwhile, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer (CPICO) Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said police have not been looking for Shongwe.

However, she mentioned that Shongwe was on the police wanted list as he stands to answer on cases of assault.

She emphasised that police would not go out looking for Shongwe as the long hand of the law would eventually catch up with him.

Dismissed

Vilakati dismissed Shongwe's allegations that he was being pursued by police for being the Vuvulane farmers' ringleader.

"Why would you pursue someone for being a ringleader? We want him for two assault cases but we haven't

been on the street to look for him," Vilakati said.

She suspected that the allegations that police wanted to kill him were made up as a way to hide something else.

Of note, the Vuvulane issue has detailed background but of late the reports of the farmers' evictions have attracted the President of the Congress of South African Trade Unions Zingiswa Losi who offered to intervene on behalf of the farmers.

On the other hand, the Royal Eswatini Sugar Corporation (RSSC) has indicated interest to address what it called the 'one-sided story currently being propagated'. RSSC allegedly wants to meet the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) over the issue.

Former workers of the Vuvulane Irrigation Farmers (VIF) PTY LTD claim to have not been paid their benefits 12 years later.

VIF PTY LTD liquidator Sibusiso Motsa said the liquidation was underway because Tibiyo TakaNgwane had agreed to write off E27 million in debts.

Boy beaten by cops during search

An 18-year-old boy was allegedly assaulted by police during their alleged search for Vuvulane farmers' ringleader Sithembiso Shongwe.

The incident happened on Thursday at around 20:24hrs in one of the popular hangout spots at Vuvulane.

The plain clothed police officers are said to have arrived in the area and started chasing after the fun-lovers.

During the mad rush, one of the officers is said to have grabbed the 18-year-old boy and assaulted him.

More troops are said to have also joined their colleague and assaulted the boy without any provocation.

The teenager, during an interview with this publication, confirmed he was assaulted with open hands, kicks as well as fists. He sustained visible injuries on his right arm and he said he was feeling pain all over his body. The teenager said all the time he was assaulted he was handcuffed.

He said as the police were taking him to their vehicle, they said he should tell them where

Shongwe was hiding.

He said they took him to one of the teachers' quarters, where Shongwe's lover reportedly resides.

Upon arrival in the house, Shongwe's girlfriend is said to have told them that she had no idea where her lover was.

The boy said while he was in the police vehicle, he heard Shongwe's girlfriend crying and the police returned and drove away.

The police later dropped off the teenager.

"I lost my phone while my wristwatch was also damaged beyond repairs," he said.

He estimated that the cost of the lost phone and wristwatch totalled up to E3 000.

The incident was confirmed by the teenager's father, Rulf Motsa on Friday. Motsa said he was bitter over the police brutality.

He said the family was going to take legal actions against the police.

Furthermore, Motsa said police had failed to give him justifiable reasons as to why they assaulted his child.



The teenager who claimed he was assaulted by plain-clothed police officers when they were looking for Vuvulane farmers' leader Sithembiso Shongwe.

Face of Swazi Plaza Back to School Charity Drive

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Charity Drive Running 24 December 2018 - 31 January 2019

STORIES BY
THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Numerous traffic cops anger motorists

A drive anywhere is a nightmare for motorists as police officers seem to be on a mission.

When police said they would be visible, rural folk also expected to have police patrol their neighbourhoods and ensure they remained safe.

This was not to be as the most visible police officers were those situated on the roads whereas those reporting crimes were said to have been told there were no vehicles to attend to their emergencies.

The frequency of police stops and where they were situated has irked motorists who say it now smacks of desperation to make money from them for the slightest mistakes.

"I don't understand why there should be four police checks on a single stretch of road at the same time," said Sabelo Ginindza.

He alleged that he was stopped three times out of the four roadside checks he encountered while driving from Motshane to Mbabane recently.

He said it was further perplexing to have his vehicle checked for the same thing over and over again, thus delaying him. With this in mind, the Sunday Observer monitored the frequency and placement of roadside checks in most places around the country with the assistance of several motorists.

This publication was alerted of every place police officers were noted. Of bother to most motorists is that most of these checks were mounted without the necessary police apparatus like cones and stop signs.

Most times the police seemed to pop out from behind bushes, were situated at blind rises, around bends as well as behind bus stop shelters.

"It is distressing to see an officer jump from behind a bush signalling you to stop abruptly. It is very dangerous," said Mbuso Dlamini.

DECEMBER 30

From before 8am, there was a speed trap situated at Sidvashini just before Engen towards Mbabane.

By 9am there was a speed trap at the Nazarene traffic lights leading to Manzini. Before 10am there was a roadblock situated at Lonhupheko manned by female officers stopping every vehicle, it was dismantled by 11am. The afternoon rains eased things a bit for motorists as roadside checks were abandoned in most areas.

Just before midnight, a traffic vehicle with lights off was parked near Cuddle Puddle as it waylaid motorists who seemed to be driving negligently.

DECEMBER 31

By 8am, police officers with a speed camera were situated near Inyatsi Offices at Bethany.

...At the same time in Mbabane, police presence was noted at the traffic lights between Four Square, more on the turn off to the SASSCO building, another crew right next to the Spar near the new Fincorp Building, at the Mbabane Theatre Club as well as at the Mbabane City Council Traffic Circle

A roadblock was also situated at the St Andrew's Primary School gate in Malkerns.

On the other hand, motorists travelling to Mbabane from Oshoek and Pigg's Peak were stopped and searched at Mafutha, a place in Motshane. This road block was there from early morning till after 3pm. A few kilometres away at the usual speed trap place in Sidvashini, motorists were monitored by a group of four officers.

This was before 10am.

At around noon, another group of about three officers manned a roadside check at the Mbabane City Council round about where they monitored those without seatbelts as well as stopped some to check vehicle fitness.

A few metres from the traffic circle, near the Mbabane bus rank, several police officers manned another roadside check to monitor seatbelts.

Another batch was situated near the Mbabane Theatre Club checking for seatbelts and the random stop and checking for vehicle fitness as well as testing those suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol.

In Manzini, still at around noon, there was a speed trap mounted just before the traffic lights into town targeting vehicles from Matsapha.

There was also a roadblock in Hhelehhele targeting vehicles both from Manzini and towards the city. It was in place till after 7pm.

At noon, Manzini bound traffic came to a standstill at Mhlaleni as there was a roadblock with over 10 officers manning it.

In the early evening, a police roadblock was mounted at Satellite from the highway towards Corner Plaza where drunken drivers were targeted.

Another roadblock was situated near an area called Railway in Siphofaneni.

It was only when it rained heavily after 8pm that the Matsapha roadblocks were dismantled.

After 10pm, heavy police presence was noted near Stonehenge in Mbabane. The roadblock at Satellite in Ezulwini was still there just before midnight as well as at Galp Filling Station opposite Corner Plaza. This was while there was a stop and search at the Nazarene bus station towards kaKhoza where

a vehicle with lights off waited for those who would get away from those manning the roadside check. These two police checks were dismantled by 1:30am.

JANUARY 1

On New Year's Day there was a roadside check at Nkwene where suspected drunk drivers were stopped before 8am.

In Mbabane, Sidvashini, there was the usual speed trap coupled with a road side check for those on-ramping from Mbangweni towards Mbabane, they were there until after 10am.

At the EWSC bus stop in Mankayane a group of police officers were manning a road side check looking for those driving under the influence of alcohol.

On the other hand, a few police were waylaying drivers at the turn off to the Mbabane Police Station as they targeted those who failed to stop at the three-way. The officers were obscured as they were situated at the Cooper Centre.

In Manzini, the usual speed trap was at the Nazarene traffic lights targeting those going into town from kaKhoza.

At Mpaka Filling Station there was another group of officers making random stops and checks.

At around lunch time with people going to different restaurants, a group of officers was situated towards the turn off to Mvubu Falls as well as Edladleni searching randomly and seemingly targeting those who had consumed alcohol as well as checking for licences, vehicle fitness and tax discs. After 2pm, there were traffic officers situated at the usual area at White City in Hlatikulu below the sign welcoming one into the town.

At 5pm there was a speed trap targeting motorists entering Mbabane from Manzini.

At Mzimfufu-St Joseph's entrance, a road side check was mounted targeting vehicles from all directions.

At about 10pm at the Mbabane Golf Course traffic circle, there was a road side check targeting drunk drivers.

JANUARY 2

By 7:30, there was a speed trap into



Police officers manning a speed trap at the Nazarene traffic lights.



This road side check resulted in complaints from motorists who felt it was more of a disturbance to the flow of traffic than was necessary.

Manzini targeting vehicles from kaKhoza.

There was another speed trap targeting motorists travelling to Manzini on the highway after Kapola guest house.

This was while there was a roadblock along the high way just before Satellite for vehicles travelling to Mbabane.

Other officers were at the same time manning a roadside check at near the Mbabane Theatre Club with another group near the Taiwanese Embassy in Mbabane as well as at Mzilikazi near Nazarene High School.

At Ntabamhloshane bus stop waiting room, a hand full of officers hiding within it manned a speed trap while another group were situated at Matsapha opposite the Taiwan

Agricultural Mission.

Police manned a road side check at Manzini Clinic as well as Mhlabubovu. This was all before noon.

Thereafter there were officers manning a speed trap at Emseleni in Malkerns, as well as a roadside check at Stonehenge in Mbabane.

The afternoon showers scattered them away.

JANUARY 3

Motorists travelling from Mahwalala and Hilltop were welcomed by police who stopped vehicles near Stonehenge.

At Mvutjini, another group of officers seated at the waiting room were targeting vehicles which failed to stop at the stop signs. Less than a kilometre away police were stopping all vehicles at Mid-Way, near Corner Plaza

"Road side checks and speed traps are there to ensure that people learn to comply so that they don't cause accidents," this was the response by Chief Police Information Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

Explaining the strategies used to prevent accidents, she said they conduct road side checks which are ran-

Traffic officers are there as preventative measure - CPICO

dom stops without the necessary road block as well as speed traps which are used as a mitigating factor on high accident zones.

"Part of our strategy calls for the identification of high risk areas which then have random police presence

in order to make motorists more willing to comply," she said.

Speedtrap

Using the entrance into Manzini speed trap scenario, she said the area was accident prone and this was caused by motorists speeding instead

of observing the limit.

Further, she defended the presence of police officers stating that they worked in the public where there are a lot of motorists and people, such as busy areas in town.

"You might say there seems to be

more officers on the road than general duty but this is caused by the fact that they perform their duties in the open where people travel.

Officers

On the other hand, officers who respond to crime reports patrol the

doing various checks until after 6pm. On the other hand, there was a speed trap at New Village adjacent Green Field township towards Nhlanguano. At Hlatikulu, opposite the Assegai Hotel, there was a group of officers checking licence disks as well as vehicle fitness but seemingly targeting public service vehicles. This was all before 8am.

At noon, there was a speed trap situated at the Ngwenya Traffic circle with police officers using concrete barriers to remain obscure from unsuspecting motorists. At around lunch time the police at Stonehenge were still there. By 3pm, a different set of officers was situated at Mvutjini with a speed trap. At the same time, another speed trap was situated next to the Tshaneni Police Station. Meanwhile, a group of officers was situated at the Mbabane Theatre Club parking targeting drivers who turned into Msakato Street, this one was there until after 5pm.

There was also a group of officers manning a road side check at Bethany as well as near Engen Filling Station in Matsapha near the overhead bridge.

Motorists travelling along the by-pass were confounded by a roadblock situated near Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre and those who tried to avoid it and use the William Pitcher road found another group of officers waiting for them. At Nyanyali there was another group of officers making random checks.

Drivers leaving Mbabane came upon a speed trap towards Sitibeni which was abandoned at around 6pm. At 9pm, motorist in Matsapha were all stopped at the Airport-Prison junction.

● JANUARY 4

At day break, there was a roadblock at Mantabeni from Mhlambanyatsi whereas those travelling past Elangeni towards Lozitha found a speed trap in their wake.

Another one was mounted at Sidvokodvo targeting motorists from Nhlanguano. With another at Manzini Nazarene traffic lights.

At Mid-way, over 10 police officers were manning a roadside check inspecting licence disks.

At the same time in Mbabane, police presence was noted at the traffic lights between Four Square, on the turn off to the SASCO building, right next to the Spar near the new Fincorp Building, Mbabane Theatre Club, at the Mbabane City Council Traffic Circle and at the Mbabane Govt Bus stop entering the city from Manzini.

There was usual speed trap at Emseleni towards Luyengo from Malkerns.

In the late afternoon, a group was seated obscured in the Elangeni to Lobamba waiting room. Others were at Mzimphofu, stopping random vehicles while police officers manning a speed camera were at Nkoyoyo on the descent to Motshane. At about 6pm, an army of police was at Stonehenge as well as the SASCO building where the officers were found until 8pm.

At about 10pm, a battalion of officers was parked outside the Swaziland College of Technology gate stopping all vehicles and officers greeting by sticking their heads into driver's faces as means of getting a whiff of alcohol.

cities either in uniform or wearing civvies and might not be noted," she said.

Further, she stated that it was important to note that traffic officers were significantly less than general duty officers and they might not be noted because they go to areas where crime is committed such as homes which are obscure from the public when compared to roads.

Mkhulu (66) fired at Eagles Nest, hit by car next day

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

An elderly man (66), who was allegedly fired from Eagles Nest two weeks ago, was hit by a car the next day.

Zwiba Zwane is lucky to be alive after he was hit by a car soon after his alleged dismissal. He had been with the company for the past eight years.

Zwane's alleged dismissal from the company means that there are now four workers who have been released within a very short space of time.

The first one was fired around July while the other two were fired in November last year. Two of the dismissed employees believe that they were fired because they were active in luring employees to join the Swaziland Agriculture and Plantation Workers Union (SAPWU) union.

Confused

Asked about his accident, Zwane said he was confused and overthinking after what he called unfair dismissal. He said he was really surprised when he was relieved of his duty without any explanation or notice to terminate his employment.

He said while trying to come to terms with the job loss, he almost lost his life as he was involved in a hit and run accident the next day. The accident left the elderly man on crutches after breaking his right leg.

Zwane, who was employed by the Eagles Nest as tractor driver, argued that his alleged dismissal was unfair because he had apparently never previously received any warning from the company.

However, he said one of his superiors once verbally complained of his (Zwane) late coming to work.

Zwane mentioned that in the dismissal letter his superiors never gave any reasons for his dismissal.

"My bosses informed me that the retirement age from the company was 70 years. I haven't reached that age so I'm failing to understand why I was fired," Zwane said.

He said his alleged dismissal from work has really hit him hard as he did not anticipate it and the manner in which it was implemented. He said he was told to come this month to get his last salary.

Meanwhile, Labour Commissioner Siphosiphiso Tsabedze in an interview yesterday said he did task his office to investigate the allegations of unfair labour practice at the Eagles Nest.

However, he mentioned that he had not received feedback on the matter from his team.

Tsabedze said this was because he was on leave and would be able to handle the matter when he returns.

In a previous interview with this publication, regarding allegations raised by workers about the farm, General Manager Derick Chester declined to comment stating that this publication should stop calling him as he would not comment anyway.

When asked if that means this publication should publish all allegations about the company without hearing their side of the story, Chester said he was not interested in throwing his views in the newspaper as he had no interest. However, he acknowledged that it would be unethical of the newspaper to publish alle-

gations without them (Eagles Nest) being informed. Be that as it may, Chester said he had no comment.

A few days after a recent article published by this newspaper, Musa Hlophe came to the offices of the Sunday Observer to say that all labour related issues should be discussed with him.

Hlophe said he was Eagles Nest's Labour Relations Officer. However, when called yesterday to address the latest developments he said he was not aware of the subject in question.

Hlophe mentioned that he should be called 10 minutes later as he needed to contact his client.

However, less than five minutes later, Chester called to state that Zwane was not dismissed but his contract came to an end. He estimated the elderly man to be over 70 years old.

"He's old, the decision to let him go was taken up with my Work Council," Chester explained.

Chester declined to entertain Zwane's allegations that he was involved in the accident after his unfair dismissal.

He stated that he was not going to get involved in the matter. On the issue of whom the publication must call to address labour related issues at the company, Chester said he would not like the newspaper to call Hlophe every time something happened

on his farm.

"He was not supposed to come to you the first time but he went to talk to you in any case. He did not have our blessings to talk to you on behalf of the company," he said.

However, pressed further on the matter Chester admitted that Hlophe handles labour issues in his company.

"My bosses informed me that the retirement age from the company was 70 years. I haven't reached that age so I'm failing to understand why I was fired."

Auditor general's offices flood, documents soaked

STORIES BY
THEMBEKA DLAMINI

For the umpteenth time, the building which houses the Treasury Department as well as the Auditor General were flooded this week during the brief storm which occurred in the afternoon on Wednesday.

About three centimetres of water accumulated in some of the offices and according to employees, an ongoing audit is set to be compromised as records of transactions were soaked through. According to employees, the records were placed on piles on the floor and the water accumulated fast, before they could remove them. Of note, some officers were able to remove some of their documents piled on the floor and place them on boxes similar to those used during the elections. When reporters from this publication visited the offices on Friday after lunch, officials from the ministry of public works were assessing the extent of the damage on the roofs.

It was however difficult to ascertain what the documents contained save for the fact that they were in use and are pertinent for the conclusion of an audit.



The flooded Treasury data office which called for employees to wipe off the water before returning to work on Wednesday.

...Treasury department employee used to it, prepared

Officers within the treasury department have revealed that they are now used to being soaked while in their offices.

"We have even ensured that we remove everything from the floors in order to accommodate any rain that may not be caught in buckets," they said.

As though on cue, when it rained on Wednesday, employees already had a plan in place as they raised some items which were on the floor on makeshift expanded polystyrene stilts and went about their business, just taking care not to slip on the wet floors.

They said they were no longer bothered by this occurrence as it was part of their summer drill, to sweep out rain water at least several times during the rainy season. They said they grin and bear the torrents and get right back to work.

'Police are recruiting known thieves'

...Nurses sing progressive songs, toyi-toyi, Nurses President calls on unionists, residents to ensure that alleged murder cop is denied bail

STORIES BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

It was a normal vigil until nurses took to the floor and turned the whole service into a progressive meeting, as they sang reformist songs and doing toyi-toyi dances at the same time.

This was during the funeral of the slain nurse Lindokuhle Nondumiso Dolly Mlangeni, who was allegedly murdered by a cop, Sibusiso 'Bhubesi' Shongwe after he strangled her to death.

Throngs of people came in their numbers to pay their last respects to the murdered Hlatikulu Government Hospital nurse, who was killed on

December 26, 2018.

Her alleged lover, a Hlatikulu traffic cop, is behind bars and has since filed an urgent bail application at the High Court, which the Crown is vigorously opposing.

At 03:27am during the vigil, a nurse, who only identified himself as Nkomo, took to the podium and called the nurses to grant Mlangeni a befitting send off. Before the nurses joined him in song, Nkomo spoke lengthily about criminals joining the police services.

Nkomo went on to state that these criminals bribed their way into the security services.

"We've seen so many criminals getting jobs; we've seen short people recruit-

ed. While growing up, I was under the impression that short people could not be in the service, but today you find police wearing eyeglasses in the force. This is because the country is corrupt and pastors have not spoken against it," he expanded. He proceeded to blame the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration/Integrity for not commenting on the brutal murder of Mlangeni. He said what had befallen nurses was painful, especially when they come along roadblocks in the country's roads. However, he said the Bible says people should forgive those who wrong them. Also, Nkomo advised the hurt nurses to fix their eyes into the Almighty Lord.



Part of the throngs of mourners paying their last respects to the murdered nurse Lindokuhle Nondumiso Dolly Mlangeni. Mlangeni was buried yesterday at her parental homestead at Boyane, Ekudzeni. (Pics: Fortune Ndlangamandla)



The casket of murdered nurse Lindokuhle Nondumiso Dolly Mlangeni before it was lowered into the grave.



Nurses carrying the deceased nurse's casket before it was loaded into the funeral parlour's car.



Mourners carrying portraits of Lindokuhle Mlangeni yesterday.

FALSE PASTORS BLAMED FOR NOT

Today we are faced with this situation because pastors have stopped preaching the word of God but prosperity.

The pastors are no longer preaching the true gospel; they go to national events and deceive people," Nkomo said.

He went on to add that these lies led to the country's hospitals running out of medication.

"Today we're faced with this situation because pastors have failed to do their job.

Known criminals are being recruited by the police just because they're related to powerful individuals. (Namuhla nje sibhekene nalesimo lesibhekene naso sizatfu yini, bafundisi bahlulekile kwen-ta umsebeni wabo. Emaphoyiseni kucashwa bosidlani lesibatiko bafak-we emsebenitini ngoba ngumusa wabani," Nkomo said.

This statement was met by applause from the throngs who attended the vigil of the brutally murdered nurse.

Before ending his speech, Nkomo started to sing songs usually associat-



Some of the men of the cloth who shared the word of God during the service. From left: Bongani Ndzimandze, Dumisa Dlamini, Elijah Z Vilakati, Johny Dlamini, Arch Bishop M.N Mahlindza and Arch-Bishop Jeremiah Nkambule.

ed with protest actions, which he modified and included Mlangeni's name in them.

Songs

As the songs echoed in the Mlangeni homestead, the Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) President Bheki Mamba led nurses as they sang

their way around the podium.

Former Limkokwing University of Creative Technology student-turned activist Sakhile Nxumalo joined the singing and dancing.

Among other songs, he sang 'zizojiki zinto' and nurses started doing the toyi-toyi dances, blowing whistles as

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SWADNU calls unionists, residents to keep accused in jail

Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) President Bheki Mamba has called out nurses and Boyane residents to make sure that the alleged murderer cop does not get bail.

President Mamba said it was painful and unacceptable the way nurse Lindokuhle Nondumiso Dolly Mlangeni died. He asked Boyane residents to also show that they do not accept what had happened in the area.

Furthermore, he promised to rally behind the Mlangenis as the law might betray them and give the accused freedom.

Mamba went on to state that

this was because police know how to evade facing the law.

"We will be with you in the struggle to make sure that the accused person Sibusiso 'Bhubesi' Shongwe is not granted bail.

We will fight this struggle because we know they know how to trick government in such cases.

We are calling out for the residents and everyone here who's against the act to join us as we cram the court when the matter is to appear in court," Mamba elaborated.

He said SWADNU was committing itself into making sure that justice would prevail.



Nurses holding candles during the service.



A portrait of the late Lindokuhle Mlangeni.



From left: Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) President Bheki Mamba, activist Sakhile Nxumalo and Nkomo leading the toyi-toyi dance moves.

Nurses toyi-toying during the vigil of the killed nurse.



Nurses displaying their toyi-toyi dance moves before the casket of their deceased colleague was offloaded from the funeral parlour's car.

PREACHING TRUE GOSPEL

well as clapping hands. The nurses were a spectacle to watch as they captivated the mourners with their dances.

Moreover, in between songs, Nxumalo led nurses as they recited protest slogans such as 'amandla, ngowethu', 'phansi ngebabulali phansi', 'viva SWADNU viva', 'awuboshwe lomdlwembe awuboshwe', 'phansi ngekubulala bonurse phansi' as well as the 'hhay hhay songs' could be heard metres away. Other songs include 'Lindo aw'lalanga uguce ngamadolo' as well as 'noma besidubula siyaya'.

The programme director for the night was Lawyer Wandile Viwa Ngcamphalala, who said there was nothing wrong with nurses singing songs of protest in such a service.

On the other hand, activist Nxumalo, during the testimonial period, stunned mourn-

ers when he undertook to stand before them wearing a beret.

Of note, the Swazi culture dictates that men cannot stand before others wearing a hat inside a house or in church.

Noting the disgruntlement, Nxumalo said he was aware that some people were surprised to see him wearing his beret.

Clarified

He quickly clarified that the beret was going nowhere and he would continue praising God wearing it, as it was his spirit worshipping God not the beret.

Nxumalo is not new to controversy, as late last year during his graduation, he tried to graduate putting on his beret; however, his move was halted by LUCT management who talked him out of the idea.

Of note, most speakers who

were allowed to make remarks during the morning service, which started 04:30am led by Pastor Calvin Dlamini, repeated things they mentioned during the deceased's memorial service on Friday.

At 04:35, the Master of Ceremony asked the man of the cloth to go and pray inside the mourning house where the casket was kept.

At around 04:47am, the deceased casket was brought in the tent.

Thereafter, speakers took turns making remarks.

At 06:13am, nurses carried the casket of the deceased into the funeral parlour's vehicle and it was taken to the area's graveyard, where the nurse was laid to rest.

As her casket was being lowered, some relatives, friends and Mlangeni's colleagues failed to contain their emotions and burst into tears.



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OFFICE CLOSURE

We wish to inform all our clients and the general public that all our offices shall close for business on **Monday, 7th January 2019**. We shall resume for normal business on **Tuesday, 8th January 2019**.

KUVALWA KWEMAHHOVISI

Lihhovisi LeteMhlala Phansi latisa onkhe emalunga alo nesive kutsi onkhe emahhovisi alo atawuvalwa ngeMsombuluko mhlaka 7 Bhimbidwane 2019. Emahhovisi atawuphindze avulwe ngalokujwayelekile ngaLesibili mhlaka 8 Bhimbidwane 2019.

More trouble at AEC church

STORIES BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

...Mbabane branch pastor under attack

Another Africa Evangelical Church (AEC) branch pastor is under attack as some congregants have made damning allegations against the leader.

These allegations are so serious that the congregants have demanded that the man of God be stopped from preaching.

This follows that the past week, there have been media reports that the AEC Mankayane branch has been rocked by adultery, gossip and failure to account for funds allegations.

As reported in the Times of Swaziland article on Wednesday, this has led to the Mankayane branch being divided into two, with one group having its Sunday services 10 metres away from the other.

This time around, it is the AEC Mbabane branch (KaBoyce) pastor, who has been accused of ill-treating congregants.

It is alleged that the pastor is protected by the AEC KaBoyce local committee from being removed from the position.

Church

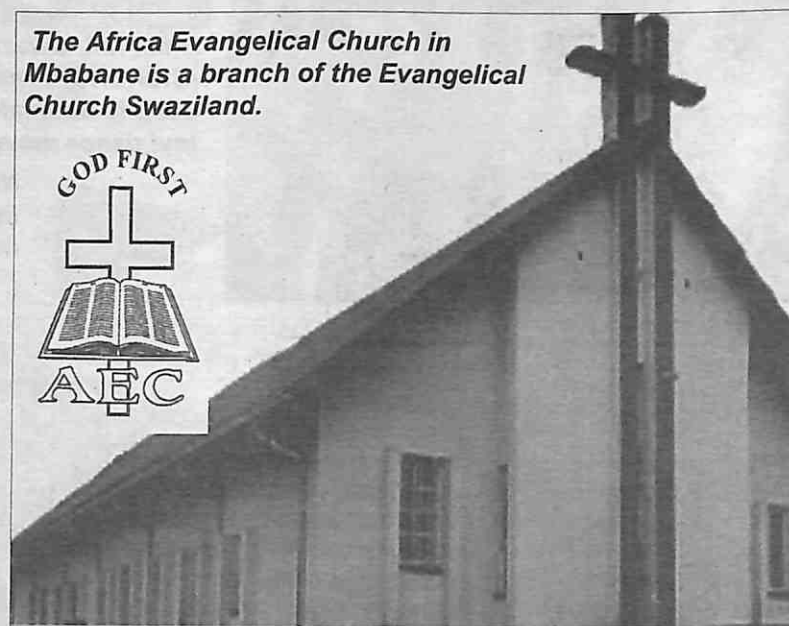
It is said when the pastor joined the church he started by eliminating everyone who might challenge his rule from positions.

"The National Executive Committee (NEC) has tried numerous times to solve, Mbabane branch issues, but the local committee has previously halted such attempts as they are elected by the very same pastor. This means that he (the pastor) is in control over them," a congregant alleged.

Another congregant went on to allege that the pastor was not new to controversy, as he left the AEC Velezizweni branch, where he was previously ministering under a similar cloud of controversy over his leadership.

The congregant further added that another thing which has led to the

The Africa Evangelical Church in Mbabane is a branch of the Evangelical Church Swaziland.



uproar was that the church recently bought him a car. The source said this was puzzling because at the time, the church was constructing new a structure.

The car, a Ford Ranger double cab, was bought in December 2018. A brand new Ford Ranger double cab is estimated to cost around E500 000, according to prices from cars.co.za.

The congregants are questioning why and how the motor vehicle was purchased. It is alleged that the motor vehicle was bought without the church's approval, which has left the congregants fuming.

"This car won't help the church, at least they should have bought a Quantum which was going to be used by the congregants," another church member said. The aggrieved congregants alleged that the whole process of buying a new car for the man of God was manipulated. Another thorny issue raised was that during a recent church meeting congregants were not allowed to ask questions pertaining the pastor's supremacy. The pastor is being accused

of barring (*kuncuma*) some members from participating in church activities from local to the church's national events.

This is so because for one to participate in national events, such should be sanctioned by the local church leader.

Furthermore, those who want to question the man of the cloth's doings are told to desist from such, as they would be cursed. This has allegedly left so many congregants with undressed complaints.

"Unfortunately, whatever ill the pastor speaks about the other saints, the very same people would come and inform those individuals about everything the pastor said about them," a source expanded. One source also added that some are of the view that the pastor should cancel his programme at the Voice of the Church (VOC). They said the issue of the radio programmes should be stopped considering the church's on-going construction, which needs funds. The programme is aired every Thursday night (9pm) and it addresses couples' issues.

Revoking transfers disadvantages women – disgruntled police

STORIES BY
THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Disgruntlement over the police transfers and those which were revoked continues unabated.

This week, officers revealed that they were still not happy about the recent transfers as they were biased and disadvantaged worthy women who were allegedly side-lined from positions of power.

They said the cancellation of the promotion through transfer of one woman to the rank of regional commissioner should have been replaced with a woman of equal substance, as there are many who could have fitted the bill.

Promoted

"Instead, a male officer new to the rank was 'promoted' into a new position, whereas there are several worthy women of the same rank who have impeccable leadership skills," they said.

Further, officers said they had hoped the Acting National Commissioner William Dlamini would improve on his predecessor's record of appointing women and instead, they accused him of allegedly disadvantaging them.

Of note, this is the observation of low ranked female officers, who said they were of the idea that they would have difficulty moving up in the organisation if people they looked up to were not considered

for positions when they became vacant. Currently, there is only one female regional commissioner, Wendy Hleta and is based in the Shiselweni Region. Prior to the recent transfers, which have seen Lubombo RHQ Regional Operation Officer Steven Dlamini promoted to be Hhohho's regional commissioner, Simangele Motsa had been previously touted for the position and will stay in her current position of Legal Affairs Incharge Litigation.

She would have replaced Lubombo Regional Commissioner Musa Magic Zwane who was transferring to take over the Hhohho post.

Lubombo Regional Commissioner Musa Magic Zwane, who was being transferred to take over the Hhohho post.

...Dissenters out of order - PICO

Those complaining about transfers and promotions within the police service are not worthy of being police officers.

Deputy Police Information and Communication Officer Nosipho Mnguni said senior officers are

aware that the executive, in conjunction with the national commissioner, are the ones who make calls on transfers and use valid reasons which they understand in the event an officer is told to stand down.

We have received reports - AEC

Africa Evangelical Church (AEC) Regional Executive Committee Chairperson William Dladu has said they have received concerns from the Mbabane branch.

Dladu said the issues reported by the congregants were yet to be dealt with by the church's executive committee. "What I can say is that we have received some concerns to that effect but they are yet to be addressed, which means we have not yet met to discuss the concerns," Dladu said. When briefed about the allegations levelled against the church leader,

Dladu declined to discuss them, stating that it would be unethical of him to discuss them as the matter had not yet been deliberated by relevant stakeholders.

Leyo ifikile kitsi, ngukhona siyoyisebenta. Ngukona lengingakushokuwe nekutsi bakhala ngani njani ini ngicela nje siyibambe lapho," Dladu said.

He said the publi-

"What I can say is that we have received some concerns to that effect but they are yet to be addressed."

cation should publish that he had confirmed that the allegations against the Mbabane Branch pastor had been reported and added that the best thing for now was to publish what the publication has gathered. This was despite being told that this publication wanted to get a balanced story on the matter. Furthermore, he declined to share contacts of the pastor whom the allegations have been levelled against.

FOREIGN EXTRA

'IF ANC CAN'T DO IT PROPERLY, WE WILL DO IT'

CAPE TOWN - The number of operational South African Police Service (SAPS) members will be increased from 194 000 to 250 000 and that number boosted with a strong police reservist force when the Democratic Alliance comes to power, DA leader Mmusi Maimane said on Saturday. "When the ANC government refused our demands for a special anti-gang unit, we did it ourselves in the City of Cape Town under the leadership of JP Smith. And finally, years later, they realised that it was the right thing to do and

reintroduced the specialised unit," Maimane told a DA voter registration rally in Bonteheuwel in Cape Town.

Properly

"If the ANC can't do it properly, we will do it. We want to decentralise policing and give provinces real power in crime fighting and community protection," he said.

DA Western Cape premier candidate Alan Winde had made it clear that he would fight for a provincial police force that could best serve the communities of the Western Cape. **ANA**

Women still not allowed to Khonta

...Swaziland Rural Women's Assembly (SRWA) slams some chiefs for defying constitution

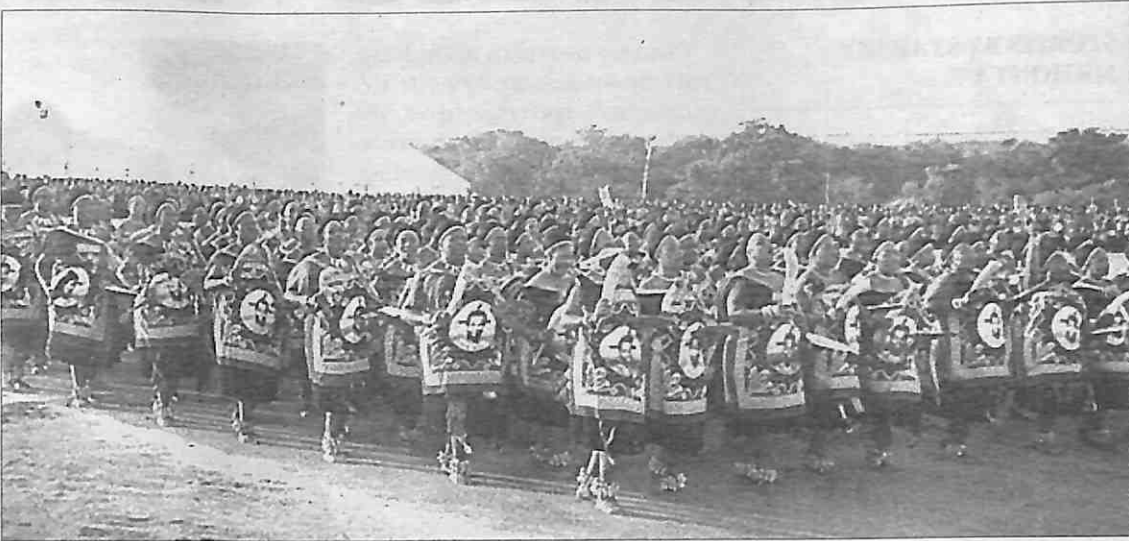
BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Despite that the Constitution provides that women have a right to equal treatment with men and that right shall include equal opportunities in political, economic and social activities, some chiefs are said to be contravening the supreme law in this regard.

"Women in our country are still denied access to rural land without a male involved when land remains the primary source of survival, this has given impetus to a large scale impoverishment of women as they cannot till their own land and survive.

It is more saddening that despite our tireless engagement with the countries' authorities including legislatures, nothing to the effect of changing this situation in this regard has been done.

It is apparent that the male dominated decision making bodies do not consider with sincerity the plight of women and their need to be independent economically and from male repression," reads part of SWRA's



end of year statement.

This is one of the issues that the assembly seeks to address in the coming year as it will be part of the 2019 programme. Apart from being unable to obtain land, Swaziland Rural Women's Assembly (SRWA) says 2018 has been a bad year for women particularly those in rural areas as they were disregarded and subjected to humiliation.

"SRWA ends this year (2018) on a very low note and with very little hope for the better in the coming year. Women in our society continue to be treated like male objects, people who cannot properly think for themselves and handle their own affairs with ease and they remain the face of poverty."

Women and Law in Southern Africa (WILSA) Director Xolani Hlatshwayo sang the same tune, saying they had

noted the issue of women being unable to obtain land (*Kukhonta*) with concern as they were aware that some chiefs still did not adhere to the provision of the Constitution.

She was however quick to state that some chiefs obliged to the Constitution and commended them, saying they encouraged such behaviour. She condemned those who defy the law stating that this was a violation of women's right to land and subsequently to economic means.

Abuse

On another note, SWRA pointed out that apart from the challenge of obtaining land they were subjected to violence and abuse.

"We have observed escalating abuse of women and in many cases to the point where they have lost their lives. Rape, physical abuse and killings of innocent women in the hands of their

so called lovers including law enforcers, continues to persist in the country despite the promulgation of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act (SODV Act)," further reads the statement.

Disappointment

In the same vein with other organisations advocating for women and children's rights, SWRA expressed disappointment that the enactment of the Act seems not to deter or reduce incidences of violence against women.

The assembly stated that it had placed great hope that with the enactment of the SODV Act such atrocities would be reduced but this has not been the case so far.

"We have been further appalled by the fact that many cases of women abuse took place within the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.

It is not our wish that the SODV Act remains just a useless paper when women increasingly experience the worst form of abuse more than any time in history.

To this end, we strongly urge all players in particularly law enforcement institutions, concerned governmental sectors and non-governmental players to come together to enforce a shift of society attitudes towards women rights," says SRWA Secretary General Cebile Dlamini.

Dlamini said SRWA has drawn painful lessons from the recent elections and is seriously concerned about the marginalisation of women in decision making bodies.

She said they had noted from their observation of the process of elections that it had elements that subordinated women to men.

"This was the case during the elections campaign where women were made to kneel down when addressing the people. This attitude could lead into women having unequal status in discussions even within Parliament itself.

Secondly, the election of only two women into parliamentary positions depicts the wider perception that society holds of women in decision making bodies, in fact the lack of trust in women for such positions is perpetuated by the heavily patriarchal norms of socialisation undertaken at all levels of society.

Lastly, the wider corrupt practices of buying votes also have a detrimental effect in women's success in elections since a majority of them are poor and without money to buy votes," she said.

Dlamini said the challenges faced by women indicated that their efforts to amplify the voice of women are countered by multi-sectoral society socialisation.

She then pledged that SRWA would continue to advocate for women's rights until the rights of women and their capacity is fully recognised.

Prince Gcokoma to summon Macetjeni, Gundvwini Royal Kraals

BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

Manzini Regional Administrator (RA) Prince Gcokoma has promised to summon representatives of the Macetjeni and Gundvwini Royal Kraals over the feud that saw two homesteads attacked recently.

A fortnight ago, while the nation was busy with the Incwala Ceremony; two homesteads which pay homage to the Gundvwini side were attacked by a faction allegedly belonging to Macetjeni.

The assailants broke windows of the houses using stones. Fortunately, nobody was reported injured from the 2am attack.

The two attacked homesteads are part of the 12 homesteads that the Macetjeni Royal Kraal is said to have told to stop paying homage to the Gundvwini Royal Kraal because the land they are built on belongs to them (Macetjeni Royal Kraal). Prince Gcokoma confirmed knowledge of the incident and said he reported it to the police. He said this was because



Ummango in an undated royal kraal meeting. This is not to say the people in this picture are from Macetjeni or Gundvwini royal kraals.

destroying properties and further threatening people's lives was a criminal act.

Busy

He said it would have been easier to deal with it if it was war as his office was going to know who started it.

"This was done strategically, at the time when we were busy with

Lusekwane," the Prince responded, when asked if he had summoned the two leaders of the royal kraals.

Summon

Now that the Incwala has ended the Prince said would summon the relevant people to talk on the issue.

The two homesteads attacked belong to Philip Maseko and Daniel Manana.

Macetjeni is under Prince Mshengu whereas Gundvwini is under the late Prince Logcogco.

According to the residents, prior to this attack, they were initially visited by the Macetjeni faction twice, in November 2017, May 2018.

They were told to stop paying homage (*kuhlela*) to Gundvwini *Umphakatsi*



Manzini Regional Administrator Prince Gcokoma.

because they had built their homesteads within Macetjeni.

However, the heads of the two homesteads are said to have questioned and vigorously opposed the suggestions from the Macetjeni faction.

FOCUS ON STANDARD FIVE RESULTS

St Theresa's best performing pupils

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI



Nimisha Nozizwe Groening (12)

Score: 79 per cent

Reaction: Very happy

Secret to success: Studying hard every day, attending afternoon classes.

Career outlook: Want to study Sciences, not sure which career as yet.

School to attend: Enjabulweni or a school in Germany.



Dlamini Owenkhosi Tibusiso (12)

Score: 77 per cent

Reaction: very excited (cried)

Secret to success: putting books and education first, making books to be my best friends

School to attend: St Theresa's High School

Career aspirations: Civil engineer and actress

Favourite subjects: Mathematics and Science



Hlobisile Mavuso (12)

Score: 77

Reaction: I am very happy and excited to be among the best in the country

Secret to success: Stopped watching TV, did not use my phone, attended morning classes and after school studying.

Career outlook: I want to be an accountant, seeing as my dad is a businessman.

MY PARENTS WERE BEHIND MY SUCCESS - TOP PUPIL

STORIES BY STARKY MKHONTA

Evelyn Baring Primary School top pupil Bandiswa Mabila, who recorded a 78 per cent mark to earn a Merit in the Standard Five external examinations, has thanked her parents for being instrumental in her success.

Mabila, who was among the best of the best pupils in the country, placed her school on the map by being placed in the top 10 pupils in the country.

She thanked her parents for having contributed to her achievement, mentioning that even in the previous classes, she has been on top of her game as she topped her classmates since Grade One.

She said her parents were fully supportive, especially when she was preparing to start writing her external exams.

She said she never stopped watching TV as something others would normally do.

"I had my own plan of studying and I did not miss my favourite TV programmes especially soapies. My mother tried but in vain to advise me against this habit of spending time glued on TV instead of being glued to my books. She would try to hide even the remote control as someone who was concerned and thinking I was going to fail.

I understood her concern but I kept assuring her that I was going to make it and look what I did. She is over the moon as I made her, my father and the whole family proud hence we have even been visited by you media people," said the 12-year-shy looking girl.

Bandiswa, who is the last born in the family, said she started using part of Sundays in her study programme plan and this worked tremendously for her.

"I used Sundays profitably as someone addicted to TV and I used to be found sleeping with books on my chest while watching it (TV)," said Bandiswa.



Bandiswa Mabila from Evelyn Baring Primary School with her mother Gcebile Mabila at home at Maseyisini.

Bandiswa wants to be a doctor when she is through with her high school education. She will be doing her secondary school at Evelyn Baring High.

On the other hand, Bandiswa's mother, Cebisile Mabila said her daughter did the family proud and she was thankful to God for being there for her.

"She has been excelling since Grade

One. She did her part and we also did our part, but on top of all, I think she has achieved all this through God's grace. It is Him who played an important part to see her being an achiever and making the family happy."

Bandiswa will be presented with an expensive smart phone for her achievement.

NGWANE PRACTISING PUPIL'S PARENTS OVER THE MOON

Ngwane Practising Primary top performing pupil Gloria Winnie Kabika left her parents in a state of confusion and excitement at the same time.

Her parents were pleasantly shocked by their daughter's achievement and this has left them without any clue as to what to buy her as a gift.

Gloria was among the top pupils in the Standard Five results.

She recorded 77 percent and became one of the two top pupils in her school and among the best, in the country. Her classmate, who also amassed 77 percent, was Phiwayinkhosi Wakhile Mkhathshwa.

Overall, the school recorded 23 merits and the two pupils scores were considered the best hence they were counted among the top countrywide.

As always the school recorded a clean sheet of passes as it usually records a 100 per cent pass rate in Standard Five results. It recorded 23



Ngwane Practising Primary top performing pupil Gloria Winnie Kabika.

merits, 26 first class, 35 second and no third or fail.

Kabika was at home when the Observer crew visited the family upon the release of the results on Thursday.

Her mother, Chantal Chihuguyu, a French teacher in the school, said

her daughter was a hard worker and stated that she (mother) was aware that she was going to make it.

"She is putting all efforts in any task given to her and as for her school work, she has been amazing," said Chihuguyu.

Celebrating her daughter's achieve-

ment, Chihuguyu was joined by other relatives and some of her teachers, all who jumped all over the yard at the teachers' quarters. "I am over the moon and never in my life have I been this happy," said the mother.

The girl's Agriculture teacher, Sifiso Nxumalo and English teacher Manqoba Fakudze said they were proud of Kabika, stating that she has been a shining star even during internal exams.

"This is not only Kabika's achievement but that of the school as a whole. We are actually pacesetters in this region as records can also prove that. We are aiming even higher and come next year, you guys from the media, we will see you coming here again to see us celebrating what this school is best at, as we are known as a school of achievers. We are no longer competing with any school but we are competing amongst ourselves now," said Nxumalo.

Mom presents daughter with E1 500 as a gift

Parents usually buy gifts to present their children whenever they have done well in their studies, particularly in external examinations.

However, a parent of a Ngwane Practising Primary pupil said she will give her daughter E1 500 as a present for excelling in the Standard Five exams.

Sibonginkosi Celumusa Shabane (12) will pocket the money as a gift from her mother, Cebisile Shabane. The excited mother said when she learned that her daughter was one of the top pupils she had no other thing in mind as a gift except to present her

with a sum of E1 500.

The family is from Elangeni. Sibonginkosi recorded 76 per cent, making her one of the top pupils in the 2018 Standard Five results.

Spoil

"I have not considered any other thing for now except presenting her with E1 500 to spoil herself on anything she wants.

"I am proud of her and the joy she has brought to the family for being one of the top pupils in the country is unbelievable," said Shabane (mother) when interviewed telephonically, shortly after the release of the results on Thursday.



Sibonginkosi Celumusa Shabane of Ngwane Practising Primary School.

2018 WAS DOOM AND GLOOM - NAWUSHI

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

NAWUSHI says 2018 was doom and gloom for the higher education sector as government increased taxes but failed to give workers Cost of living Adjustments (COLA) among other things.

NAWUSHI (National Workers Union in Swaziland Higher Education) said this in its end-of-year statement issued by its secretariat.

In the statement, concerning sectoral analysis, NAWUSHI Secretary General (SG) Fundizwi Sikhondze said this was so because while on the one hand the government introduced increased taxation percentages on basic consumer items, workers in the sector did not receive the corresponding Cost of Living Adjustments, salary reviews and job evaluations (in some cases) in the year due to financial pressure that persist in the learning institutions in the country.

"NAWUSHI further notes that some institutions of higher learning have developed a habit of using and dumping bright Emaswati minds in the form of offering fixed term contracts and then not renewing the same contracts just to spite those workers," Sikhondze said.

Benefit

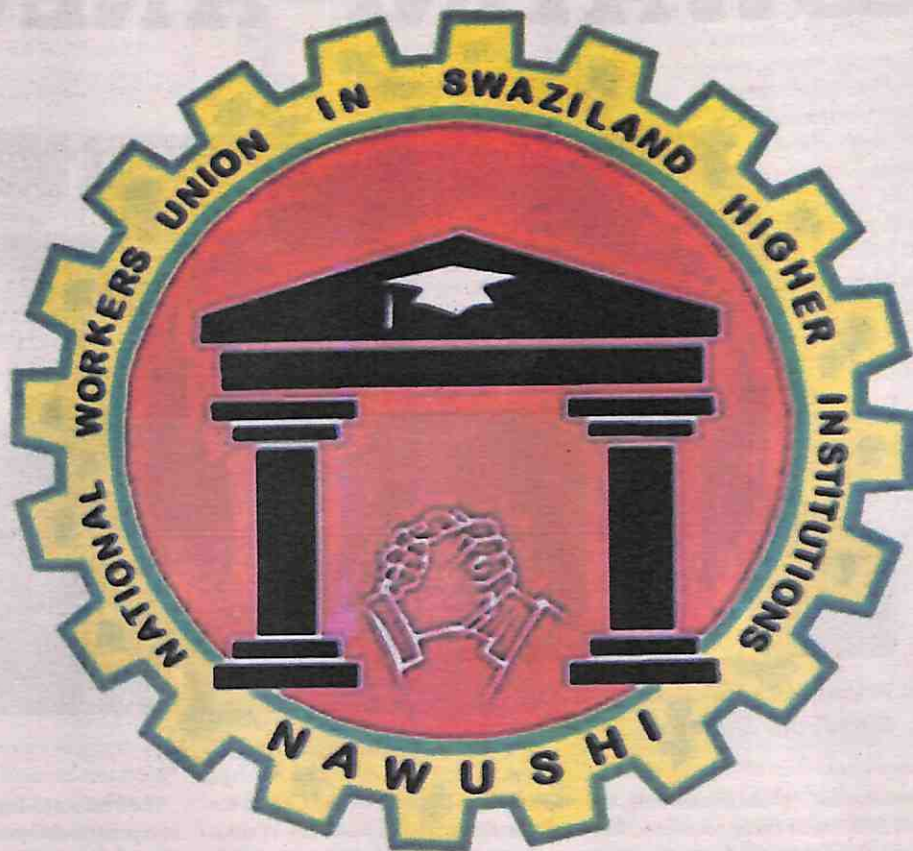
The unionist went on to state that NAWUSHI stands firm that the youth who are students in the universities and colleges benefit more from lecturers and professors and support employees who have secured tenure in their jobs.

Therefore, NAWUSHI called for the normalisation of permanent and pensionable contracts once locals have passed probation.

Furthermore, NAWUSHI called Eswatini National Provident Fund (ENPF) to open a pension scheme for expatriate workers, particularly those from African countries.

Sikhondze mentioned that these funds can then be repatriated to these individual countries (along the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and African Union (AU) frameworks) once their service ends in the country.

"The situation of expatriate colleagues when they leave Eswatini for their countries of birth after serving the country is not favourable for their lifelong social security," the SG said.



Sikhondze went on to state that NAWUSHI was increasingly concerned that some colleges and universities continuously have failed to adhere to the laws laid down by the Eswatini Higher Education Council and the Public Enterprises Unit (PEU).

He said some tertiaries were failing to adhere to the structure of management that was approved by EHEC when they applied to be registered.

Meetings

He added that in public colleges and universities, some institutions have Councils and Boards whose terms of office have legally ended but have continued to attend meetings, make decisions and to draw board sitting allowances illegally. He then called upon the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) under the leadership of Minister Lady Howard Mabuza to resolve some of these abnormalities because they let down the organisational integrity of these institutions.

Going into 2019, NAWUSHI wished to reiterate that a Sovereign Youth Fund (SYF) that

would cater for youth's needs to be launched without delay.

The fund is per NAWUSHI 2017 proposal which would collect income from designated economic activities particularly economic activities in the line of the exploration of the country's natural resources like minerals and large land mass agricultural usage.

"The fund would then disburse the funds to cater for the education and the development of the youth of the country including the con-

...NAWUSHI called for the normalisation of permanent and pensionable contracts once locals have passed probation



GLOOM: NAWUSHI Secretary General Fundizwi Sikhondze.

struction of schools, universities and youth-oriented development. To that end NAWUSHI calls upon the new Parliament to put up a legislation framework for the fund to take place in the near future," Sikhondze expanded.

Sikhondze emphasised that 2018 has been a challenging year for the higher education sector Eswatini.

Having noted the foregoing, and while being cognisant of the challenges that the country is facing, NAWUSHI is equally concerned that many of the challenges that the country faces could have been avoided through prudent fiscal discipline.

Wherein expenditure going to the most pressing of needs of the people would be prioritised and not to projects that only serve a small fraction of the society.

NAWUSHI called on the prioritisation of education, health needs of the majority.

NAWUSHI then wished all workers in the higher education sector a 2019 that would be better than 2018, one that is full of promise that tomorrow will be better than today and yesterday.

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Guest Writer

REFLECTIONS ON THE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN ESWATINI - A NEW DAWN?

It is a fundamental principle of good journalism that any written article in the public domain should be accurate, fair and well balanced.

Over the last circa 10 years, the Daily Mail/Mail on Sunday and other newspapers in the United Kingdom have continued their campaign against Ingwenyama, His Majesty King Mswati III, without any real understanding of the importance of the role of the hereditary monarchy in Swazi cultural life, nor the current political system in eSwatini, which the Daily Mail/Mail on Sunday alleges to be defined by 'rampant corruption' and to be non-democratic - 'the King is above the law, appointing all key officials and able to dictate to Parliament' (Mail on Sunday - 11th November 2011).

To the best of the writer's knowledge, His Majesty has continued to maintain a dignified silence. The writer has never met His Majesty but, the Ingwenyama the writer saw at this year's Umhlanga (Reed Dance Ceremony) in early September and also on television at the three-day Sibaya (People's Parliament) at the Royal Kraal in late October, seemed to be very much in harmony with his people and his people very much in harmony with their King.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer is not a journalist by profession but, having studied politics and law at university, does have an interest in political systems. Nor is he a citizen of eSwatini, but does have a love for the country.

The writer, therefore, has absolutely no vested interest in writing an article which either supports or criticises the current political system. The aim of the writer is to provide an independent and impartial critique of the legislative and executive political system in eSwatini post-election 2018 and having done the necessary research, to possibly reach a more balanced and more objective conclusion than the Daily Mail/Mail on Sunday.

The writer is indebted to many people for their advice, guidance and the correction of his inaccuracies of fact (but with no input whatsoever into his opinions, recommendations or conclusions), who freely gave of their time to talk openly about the election process to the 11th Parliament from the 59 'grass roots' Tinkhundla (Constituencies) to the Bayasikhulu (House of Assembly) and appointment to the Timphunga (Senate).

In particular, the writer wishes to acknowledge the contributions made by HRH Prince David (Chairperson of the Constitutional Review Committee), Honourable Moses Vilakati MP (Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs), Honourable Makhosi Vilakati MP (Minister of Labour and Social Security), Percy Simalene (Press Secretary - Government Press Office) and Sabelo Dlamini (Assistant Press Secretary - Government Office) - Siyabonga!

To avoid being accused of any obvious political bias, the writer also wishes to acknowledge the honest feedback received from the many ordinary emaSwati (too numerous to mention), happy to voice their opinions freely to the writer. The writer, who views the elections as a 'sham' ('Truth to Power' - Times of Swaziland Sunday - September 23rd 2018) was invited by email to meet up with this writer to have an input into his article, but did not respond. An opportunity missed in a political system where Article 24(1) of the 2005 Constitution protects a person's 'right of freedom of expression and opinion'.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

The Preliminary Statement of the African Union Election Observation Mission published on September 24th 2018, led by his Excellency James Alix Michel, former President of the Seychelles, concluded in the Executive Summary that, the elections had been 'peaceful and well managed by the EBC (Elections and Boundaries Commission)', 'administered in a professional manner' and that 'the voting process took place in a generally peaceful and orderly



Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini.



environment'. Notwithstanding, the AUEOM made three recommendations - a review of the formation, registration and participation of political parties in elections; a review of security of the transportation of the ballot papers from the polling stations to the central counting locations; the promotion of women's participation in the election process and gender equality in elected office.

The AUEOM also commented on 'a lack of media pluralism'. Possibly, but newspapers still need to make a profit to survive and in a small country with a low literacy base amongst the older emaSwati and with the one newspaper often shared between a few, combined with the ready availability of the news on social media, the writer wonders whether it would make economic sense?

The key findings also make reference to the fact that, whilst the electoral process had been conducted 'in a peaceful environment', it had not been entirely incident-free.

Stakeholders consulted briefed the Mission about a wage-related workers' strike prior to election day, resulting in police intervention, with the guest writer ('The brutal truth' - Times of Swaziland Sunday - September 23rd 2018), commenting that the streets of Manzini were 'turned into a warzone, with police officers on the warpath and beating to a pulp marchers who heeded the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland's call to take to the streets in a three-day protest'; not dissimilar to the Tory government's response to the one year miners' strike in the mid-1980s in the United Kingdom, led by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and also resulting in overzealous police intervention.

If factually correct (the writer was not present), it should be of obvious concern to the newly-elected government, where 'freedom to hold opinions without interference' (Article 24(2)(a)) must be an integral part of any credible democratic political system 'which includes freedom of the press and other media' (Article 24(2)).

"A free press is the most watchful sentry of the state. A 'yes' press is fatal to good government" - Tom Hopkinson,

Founding Director of the Centre for Journalism Studies (Cardiff - Wales).

A recommendation the writer of this article would wish to make to the newly elected Prime Minister, His Excellency, Right Honourable Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini, is the early passing of a Freedom of Information Act in the 11th Parliament and the appointment of a more visible Commissioner for Human Rights and Public Administration (Article 163(1)).

CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC OFFICE

So, to directly answer the first question raised by the Daily Mail/Mail on Sunday, is their corruption in eSwatini politics? Yes absolutely, ('Where corruption is rewarded' - Times of Swaziland - September 23rd 2018), as readily acknowledged by the new Prime Minister, in his submission at the Sibaya (People's Parliament) when he called for 'zero tolerance' on corruption in public office.

As evidenced by the Senate hopeful currently under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission ('Senate seat loser's cell phone with ACC' - Times of Swaziland - October 25th 2018) and the concerns of alleged voting irregularities expressed in the Ntfontjeni Inkhundla (Constituency) post-election (Times of Swaziland - November 3rd 2018). But does this necessarily make a political system non-democratic?

There is a wealth of evidence of hypocrisy and corruption in both UK and USA political life too (the so-called models for modern democracy). For example, the MPs' 'cash for questions' scandal in the UK in the 1990s and more recently, the ongoing investigations in the USA to establish whether Russia did indeed influence the result of the 2016 presidential election.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Almost without exception, there is a respect for the hereditary position of the monarchy, if not always agreement with some of His Majesty's decisions, as evidenced by the 'mixed feelings' reaction and very open discussion on social media about His Majesty's decision to delay the appointment of the new Prime Minister (Times of Swaziland - October 25th 2018).

The freedom to disagree without fear of reprisal is always a healthy barometer of any would-be democracy, as acknowledged in a statement released by President Jan Sithole of the Swaziland Democratic Party (SWADEPA) on the announcement of the three-day Sibaya (People's Parliament). "As SWADEPA, using our protected freedom of expression as enshrined in the Constitution, just as we unapologetically critique ideas, opinions and perceptions we do not agree with, we also unapologetically give credit where it is due" (Times of Swaziland Sunday - October 28th 2018).

POLITICAL PARTIES

One of the recommendations made by the AUEOM and also a criticism made by Amnesty International, relates to the absence of political parties in the eSwatini political system. The word 'democracy' comes from the ancient Greek demo = people and kratia = rule. There were no political parties in the ancient Greek 'direct democracy' system of government, nor indeed, any reference to political parties in the Declaration of Independence adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4th 1776. In the United Kingdom, there were no political parties, but only 'pressure groups', until after the passing of the Bill of Rights in 1689.

Many modern political commentators now argue (quite convincingly in the writer's opinion) that, modern day political parties are actually divisive to a modern democratic system of government because, rather than having the freedom to represent the views of their constituencies, MPs are often required to follow the party line or 'party whip'. Some modern commentators also argue that 'pressure groups' give MPs a greater flexibility to represent their constituencies with the confidence to seek to influence policy, on the individual issues which directly affect their constituents and are to be actively encouraged. In the Swazi culture, disagreements are settled by discussion and consensus and not by differences of political ideology.

In the writer's opinion, SWADEPA and the Sive Siyinqaba (National Movement) are 'pressure groups' and

not political parties (despite their choice of names), as they seek to influence policy rather than hold political office. 'Pressure groups' are not banned within the Swazi political system nor are trade unions (Ref: Swaziland National Association of Teachers).

The writer, therefore, remains unconvinced that the introduction of multi-party politics will make the Swazi political system more democratic and is not unduly concerned that the 2005 Constitution is 'silent' on the issue of political parties, even though the 1973 decree issued by King Sobhuza II lapsed when the Constitution took effect in 2006.

The aim of the specific provision made under Article 3(11) of the African Charter on Democracy Elections and Governance (ACDEG) and signed by His Majesty on January 29th 2008, but not subsequently ratified, was to strengthen political pluralism by 'recognising the role, rights and responsibilities of legally constituted political parties'. The writer acknowledges the apparent contradiction between Article 25(1) of the 2005 Constitution, which protects the 'freedom of assembly and association' and Article 79 which establishes 'individual merit' as a basis for election or appointment to public office. But, in the writer's opinion, political pluralism and the re-introduction of political parties would be a backward step in the Swazi political system. In the writer's opinion, a true democracy is 'government of the people, for the people, by the people' - Abraham Lincoln at his Gettysburg Address of 19th November 1863.

Was it 'democratic' to give the British people the opportunity to vote on leaving the European Union, based on factually inaccurate information from both sides of the campaign and the 'Brexit' fiasco that has now resulted? Was it 'democratic' during the Blair/Bush administrations to impose an illegal war on the electorate and their version of western democracy on the Middle East, despite huge opposition from all political sides in the UK and USA and the continuing bloodshed, political instability and chaos that has resulted in the region?

So, is the Swazi political system, as

suggested by the Daily Mail/Mail on Sunday, a non-democratic system of government?

WOMEN IN POLITICS

Certainly, so far as women are represented in Swazi political life, it is still non-democratic.

There was a misplaced optimism that the 'Vote for Women Campaign' and the passing of the Election of Women Act 2018 would both be a success in raising the political profile of women in the 2018 general election. The results of the secondary elections to the Bayasikhulu (House of Assembly) would suggest otherwise. Of the 45 women who contested the parliamentary elections, only two were elected MPs (Times of Swaziland Sunday - September 23rd 2018). At the time of writing this article, His Majesty has only appointed seven women to the Timphunga (Senate) when Article 94(3) of the 2005 Constitution stipulates "Twenty Senators, at least eight of whom shall be female, shall be appointed by the King acting in his discretion after consultation with such bodies as the King may deem appropriate".

When the nation recently gathered at the Cattle Byre at the Ludzidzini Royal Residence for the three-day Sibaya (People's Parliament), His Majesty readily acknowledged that the number of women voting was 'unimpressive during the counting of votes'.

The writer is of the opinion that, a greater civic responsibility and awareness now needs to be introduced into Swazi social and political life by the newly appointed Minister of Education and Training, through changes to the school curriculum during the 11th Parliament but, as an aside, is not the United States still awaiting the long overdue appointment of its first woman president?

What is very encouraging is that, although only six women are to hold a cabinet position in the 11th Parliament, for the first time, the very high profile position of Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is now occupied by a woman (Honourable Senator Thuli Dladla). A critical role in realising His Majesty's wish that, investor confidence from abroad must continue to impact in a positive way on the Swazi economy.

ROLE OF THE MONARCHY

The 2005 Constitution, drafted by the Constitutional Drafting Committee, under the chairmanship of HRH Prince David, continues to recognise the importance of the role of the monarchy in Swazi political life. "I cannot deny the fact that the constitution retained all the King's powers and I am not complaining about it because Swazis wanted it to be like that because we are a constitutional monarchy" - HRH Prince Logcogco (Times of Swaziland - September 27th 2009). The Constitution was taken to Parliament for debate and ratification prior to receiving royal assent and continues to recognise the continuing role in Swazi political life of the traditional institutions (Articles 227-235), such as the Liqogo (King's Advisory Council) and Sibaya (Swazi National Council or People's Parliament).

For the first time, the nation has played a part at the three-day Sibaya (People's Parliament) in identifying the new Prime Minister, tasked by His Majesty with stimulating economic growth and taking eSwatini to First World Status "with lightning speed". The writer shares the view put forward by the new Prime Minister, in his submission at the Sibaya that fundamentally, the current constitutional system should not be changed but should continue to be more consultative.

In the previous 10 Parliaments the

Prime Minister has always been selected by His Majesty from among his 10 appointees to the House of Assembly (Article 95(1)(b)) and has always carried the 'Dlamini' surname. But, the decision to precede the appointment of the new Prime Minister with a three-day Sibaya (People's Parliament) has been viewed by some political commentators as a step towards election by 'individual merit' (Article 79) and the further 'democratisation' of the appointment of the Prime Minister.

The constitutional purists will argue that His Majesty has diluted the powers given to him under Article 67(1) of the 2005 Constitution. "The King shall appoint the Prime Minister from among members of the House acting on the recommendation of the King's Advisory Council". The Institute for Democracy and Leadership (IDEAL) took the view that the appointment of the new Prime Minister, when not a member of the House of Assembly (at the time of his appointment), has undermined the rule of law and constitutional governance.

SWADEPA views it as a positive move towards democracy and good governance.

The writer shares the view of the former Principal Magistrate Advocate Lucas Maziya that, the spirit of the 2005 Constitution enables the Prime Minister to be chosen from the elected MPs and going forward, should not necessarily be confined to the King's 10 appointees to the Bayasikhulu (House of Assembly) but, in the writer's opinion, should most definitely be based on the ability to do the job, future potential and above all 'individual merit' (Article 79).

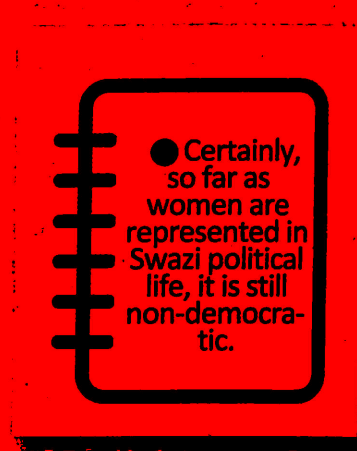
Yes, under Article 106(a) 'the supreme legislative authority of Swaziland vests in the King-in-Parliament' but, since the 2005 Constitution became law on February 8th 2006, how often has His Majesty actually used that power by declining to give royal assent to a bill passed by both Houses? The writer is happy to be corrected but, according to his research, only once has royal assent been declined when, 'Swaziland' was referred to in a bill as a 'purely Christian country' (which is not the case reference the Baha'i faith).

The writer is, however, of the opinion that, in close consultation with his new Minister of Economic Planning and Minister of Finance, His Majesty will continue to take an active interest in the future direction of economic strategy, the creative initiatives introduced to stimulate the economy and the focus of the proposed expenditure for the 2019/20 fiscal year which, in the writer's opinion, should also include tourism in addition to agriculture (Let's Ponder On This' - Swazi News - November 10th 2018).

Whilst the King's decision to seek a limited input from the nation into the appointment of the Prime Minister may, or may not, have 'consciously or subconsciously caused a shift in the country's politics' (Times of Swaziland Sunday - October 28th 2018), the writer remains of the opinion that, as in any political system, it is important to appoint the best person to tackle the country's current social, political and economic challenges. Only time will tell whether the newly elected Prime Minister is the right person for the very high profile and challenging position but, the early indications are very positive.

THE NEW PRIME MINISTER

The new Prime Minister had worked in the financial sector, before being appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Swazi MTN. In the writer's opinion, the skills learnt at the highest management level in a dynamic corporate environment, such as leadership (honesty, transparency, accountability and absolute integrity), strategic planning, fiscal discipline and a 'can do' attitude, are eas-



ily transferable to the world of politics. Early days but 'the new PM has been welcomed with hope and gratitude by most eSwatini' (Swazi News - November 3rd 2018), already instilling an early confidence that he can and will turn things around. But, to do so, the new Prime Minister must be supported by a Cabinet who share the same vision and drive.

The writer is quietly optimistic that, the newly elected Prime Minister, will be a catalyst for positive change in Swazi economic and political life, having listened very carefully to the King's words. When announcing his appointment at the Royal Cattle Byre at Ludzidzini on October 27th 2018, His Majesty highlighted the need for his new Prime Minister to 'be approachable and open to advice where necessary' (Times of Swaziland - October 28th 2018). Going forward, in the writer's opinion, that 'advice' must include the future role of women in Swazi political life and the establishment of a good working relationship with the public sector unions, based on a mutual respect and a willingness to listen to each other's point of view.

As the newly appointed Prime Minister had to remind the newly elected MPs, on more than one occasion, when officially introducing themselves (Times of Swaziland - October 30th 2018) to their Head of State, "Ingwenyama ifuna imicondvo" (The King wants solutions). A 'solution' the writer would like to offer to the new Prime Minister, as the writer's contribution to the current economic debate, is an amendment to Article 10 of the 2005 Constitution, the tax revenue raised to be used to stimulate the economy.

"When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice" - Proverbs 19:2

THE CABINET

When Cyril Ramaphosa, the South African President, recently addressed the Discovery Leadership Summit in Johannesburg, he stated that, "As a country, South Africa is in great need of leadership from people who have the commitment, vision, determination to confront the many challenges that we confront at this point in time". He could so easily have been talking about the skill set required by both the new Prime Minister and the newly appointed Cabinet in the 11th Parliament.

The constitutional purists will (again) argue that the appointment of only eight elected legislators to the Cabinet, when Article 67(3) of the Constitution states that 'at least half the number of Ministers shall be appointed from among the elected members of the House', has undermined the rule of law and constitutional governance.

The writer will (again) argue that, to have any realistic chance of achieving Vision 2022, the focus must now be on the potential to do the job, based on 'individual merit' (Article 79), where previous relevant experience (e.g. the newly appointed Minister of Education and Training is a former head teacher) is to be welcomed and being a newly

elected MP should not be a barrier to early promotion to higher public office (e.g. the newly appointed Minister of Labour and Social Security is a former labour lawyer) and is to be encouraged.

The writer is also of the opinion that there is now a good balance in the Cabinet with senior management from the private corporate world well represented (e.g. Honourable Senator Peter Bhembe, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy and formerly the Managing Director of Eswatini Water Services Corporation). The Cabinet now has to deliver and those MPs who were not successful in being appointed, perhaps need to reflect on the fact that, when delivering their submissions to the King, 'they totally missed the point of the entire exercise' ('King Saves MPs From Themselves' - Swazi News - November 3rd 2018).

THE SENATE

The Timphunga (Senate) has a maximum of 30 Senators of whom 20 are directly appointed by the King (Article 94(3)) which in the 11th Parliament includes members of royalty and 'corporate big wigs' (Times of Swaziland - October 19th 2018). In the writer's opinion, not too dissimilar in make-up to the unelected House of Lords in the United Kingdom.

Under Article 108 (2)(a) of the Constitution, a bill must be passed 'by both Houses of Parliament without any amendments or with such amendments only as are agreed to by both Houses'. In the writer's opinion, obvious similarities exist with the democratic political system in the United Kingdom on which the 2005 Constitution is partly modeled.

ROLE OF THE CONSTITUENCIES

Eswatini is a small country with a current population of circa 1 374 million. The Inkhundla (Constituency) system of government encourages participation at the 'grass roots' and the election of individuals who are well known and respected in their community. Those individuals selected as MPs are elected to fulfill the mandate of those they represent and with whom they live closely together within their communities. 'We send to Parliament the people we know and trust' - National Secretary Nhlanhla Dlamini (Times of Swaziland Sunday - October 28th 2018). "At constituency level everybody knows everybody and if they do not know their MP in person, they will certainly know their family on which to form an opinion on their suitability for public office" - Assistant Press Secretary Sabelo Dlamini.

With voting in the primary elections in the Chiefdoms to select their MP by secret ballot on a first passed the post system, the writer is therefore not entirely sympathetic to the AUEOM's view that "the prohibition of campaigning during primary elections does not allow for the thorough scrutiny of potential candidates to be elected to parliament". In the writer's opinion, the prohibition of campaigning during the primary elections actually reduces the risk of corruption.

Article 79 of the Constitution calls for a "democratic, participatory, tinkhundla-based system which emphasises the devolution of state power from central government to tinkhundla areas and individual merit as a basis for election or appointment to public office". The House of Assembly is colloquially referred to in siSwati as the 'power house' (Bayasikhulu) and the Tinkhundla (Constituencies), inspired by a policy of decentralisation of power, are "the engines of development and the central pillars underpinning the political organisation and economic infrastructure of the country" (Article 80(3)).

In the 11th Parliament, fifty-nine MPs have been directly elected from their

Tinkhundla (Constituencies) to the Bayasikhulu (House of Assembly). Whilst a spokesperson for the Elections Boundaries Commission has confirmed to the writer that, the final figures are not yet available, the writer is of the opinion that the voting returns will indicate that, the election turnout could and should have been higher (particularly in urban areas and particularly amongst women).

But, some high profile candidates, who had been Members of Parliament representing their Tinkhundla (Constituencies) for many years, have lost their seats in the 11th Parliament ('Giants Crash Out' - Times of Swaziland Sunday - September 23rd 2018). In a democratic society, re-election to Parliament should never be an assumed automatic right.

CONCLUSION

When writing this article, it would have been very easy for the writer to have reached the same conclusion, put forward by the Daily Mail/Mail on Sunday that, eSwatini is an 'absolute monarchy'. But, western society does not have sole 'ownership' of the term 'democratic government' and too often has hidden behind the word 'democracy' to extend its political and economic influence around the world (Ref: the 2003 illegal invasion of Iraq).

Democracy can take many forms but should always be flexible enough to adapt to any given socio-political or cultural situation. Democracy as defined in western society is not the only legitimate form of democratic government.

So, the conclusion that the writer has reached, on the evidence available, is that whilst His Majesty continues to retain his legislative authority as Head of State, there is without doubt a new dawn in Swazi political life, with a move towards a more benevolent constitutional monarchy and a bicameral parliamentary legislative system with an appointed Timphunga (Senate) and a mainly elected Bayasikhulu (House of Assembly), which does allow the ordinary eSwati, through their directly elected MPs, to have a voice in the political decision-making process. And where, early appointment to higher public office, must now be based on "individual merit" and not just the surname 'Dlamini'.

Supported by a written constitution, which is in tune with the Swazi culture and as importantly, the unquantifiable importance given by the Swazi people over many centuries to the role of their monarch. The current political system seeks to embrace the social structures, ideals and customs of the Swazi people but hopefully going forward, the 11th Parliament will also take on board the need for an even more consultative political system and a more transparent financial accountability to discourage corruption in public life, as recommended by Sive Siyinqaba (National Movement).

The current political system may not be perfect but, in the writer's opinion, the Swazi constitutional model is a better model than many other so-called 'democratic' countries. Can the autocratic Kim Jung-Un really refer to his country as the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea? The writer thinks not.

It successfully reflects current Swazi society, traditions and culture. It also represents the deep spiritual link between the Swazi people and their close kinship with their King, re-affirmed annually at the Incwala or 'First Fruit Ceremony' (What's Happening Eswatini - November 2018).

It is also the writer's hope that during the 11th Parliament, the Cabinet will work very closely with their new Prime Minister and Parliament, to introduce a shared innovative programme of economic reform to improve eSwatini's ailing economy. The 59 directly elected MPs to the Bayasikhulu (House of Assembly) also need to be aware of their own individual responsibility to assist and support their Prime Minister and newly appointed Cabinet in finding creative solutions to their country's current economic problems and not just to focus on personal issues, such as the benefits package for newly elected MPs ('King Saves MPs From Themselves' - Swazi News - November 3rd 2018).

Of one thing the writer is very certain. Having a hereditary Head of State has contributed significantly to the continuing peace and political stability in this small independent African nation, which is certainly not the case in other surrounding African states - Bayethe wena Waphakathi.

December 14th 2018

Phenomenal woman:

Dr Gcebekile Dlamini stays grounded despite ambition

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

‘Do what scares and makes you happy’. These are the words by which Dr Gcebekile Tikhokhile Dlamini lives and strives.

Despite the seriousness of the title, she does not let it stifle her as she has over the years kept her wit and humorous disposition.

To this end, she says PhD stands for ‘permanent head damage’. Dr Dlamini attained her PhD in Construction Management in 2014.

Not only is she the first local woman to achieve this feat, she seems to be the only one with such a qualification locally.

“I have four degreed qualifications, in a non-conventional fashion,” says the Construction Industry Council Operations, Procurement and Compliance Manager. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Law, BA Honours Sociology, Master of Arts Development Studies and PhD Construction Management.

“I can never study the same thing twice,” she admits, as an explanation for her wide-ranging qualifications.

She always intended to have a career in the socio-

economic development space. “Golden thread. Human beings. Development. Programming and Management.”

She views construction as a complex but fascinating industry and a combination of the latter concepts. Despite achieving all this at a relatively young age, 34, she did not always know what she wanted to do as dreams changed according to circumstances and influence she encountered.

Construction

Asked how she came about to find herself in the construction industry, she responds, “That has been an interesting journey.”

She recalls her St Michael’s High School Science Teacher Mrs Mensah, who impressed on her that she could be a

doctor.

“Not only did I excel in sciences, I was always in the top five of the class.” She says she was motivated by the stiff competition, as well as the fact that monthly test scores were read out at assembly.

“My name had to be there. So, the buzz professions where ‘doctors, lawyers and scientists.’”

Despite this impression to embark on any of the careers which were at that time thought to be top-notch, her fancies changed.

“Somewhere along the line, I realised that I loved cooking and that being a dietician or nutritionist was a worthy career path.”



Dr Gcebekile Tikhokhile Dlamini.

Life-long learner and teacher

Her PhD is not the pinnacle of her existence. Dr Gcebekile Dlamini believes she cannot be complacent as long as God gives her life; “I love learning, I learn very quickly, I am progressive, I am persistent, I am a dreamer and I am very curious. I often say what if God has blessed you with 80 years of life, what are you going to do with it?”

To that end, she believes one can choose to be anything every 10 years, “...and that’s eight lifetimes. Evolution is intrinsic to human nature, so one cannot be complacent.” Of her handful of qualifications, her PhD, which she refers to as ‘permanent head damage,’ was life changing as it taught her to really use her brain as opposed to breezing through the motions. “I learnt that nothing good comes easy. It’s a lonely journey, albeit a journey of self-discovery and persistence. It came at great expense and loss. Quitting was an option.”

It impressed on her that education is not just about the qualifications. “It is about one’s ability to absorb knowledge, use it and effect decisions in personal and professional spaces and most importantly; how you impact on people’s lives.” While embracing that she has a lot to learn, she imparts her knowledge at a local college, where she is a part time lecturer. Seeing as she had great mentors through-out her schooling, she believes mentorship is vital as one needs people outside your norm to validate your dreams. It is in this regard that she assists and runs a mentorship programme for young men.

How an F changed to B

Getting an F in SiSwati was one of the defining moments which caused Dr Gcebekile Dlamini to have ambition to do better in high school.

She started her primary education at Mananga and Enjabulweni Primary Schools. She later went to St Michael’s Primary and High Schools.

“Honestly, I was a very playful child in primary school. I was average.”

Unlike children in primary school today, she doesn’t remember thinking about career choices.

“I think I went to school because of my parents. If I had a choice, I would play.”

The Grade Seven results were the turning point for her. She passed with a merit, but was shocked by her dismal results in SiSwati.

Career

“In the midst of A’s and B’s I got an F in SiSwati. I knew then that high school had to be different. I was going to think about career choice at that point.” With this resolve, she got a B in her O’levels.

Recounting her high school experiences, she describes her time at St Michael’s as where she met multiple personalities, experienced group dynamics, adolescence, curiosity, doctrine and authority; “All girls’ high schools are raw and unadulterated. Boarding school was enjoyable but intense.”

With her sound upbringing, she was able to swim, instead of sink in the environment which

shaped her character and honed life skills.

She was selected head girl at the end of Form Four; “It’s a process that resembles American politics. Pupils were always highly emotive about it. It was a huge responsibility, balancing school policy and pupil needs whilst excelling academically. I remember though that, I had a great team of prefects.”

Admits

Retrospectively, she admits that the biggest lessons she learnt were that integrity is peaceful, that leadership is humane authority and that no matter how different human beings are, they all have various points of convergence.

The school also offered her the opportunity to explore faith and belief systems.

“I believe in God. Over the years, that belief has progressed into personal accounts of grace, favour, the magnitude and profoundness of God.”

She admits that her parents were, however, not the type to be obsessed nor pressure her to get good grades. “In hindsight, my parents just wanted us to get an education.”

To ensure this happened, her mother would have tea with the headmaster or the teachers just to monitor her progress.

“If you crossed the teachers, she would tell them to exercise school policy on you.”

This paid off because two of her five siblings hold MA degrees.

learnt of the value of work-life balance.”

At the SOS Children’s Villages, exposure to heart-breaking experience and too many injustices to children made her more sympathetic to people of different circumstances. Her first touch within a male dominated environment was at Sappi Usutu, where her Programme Management skills were honed, and she learnt to hold her own among her peers. Being a consultant was very demanding but rewarding and she loved the creative space.

Venturing into construction made her realise that she could not be anything other than a professional and skilled woman in the male dominated space.

... Maths stops her ambition, leads her to law

Having set her mind to pursue a science degree, her O’level mathematics denied her that opportunity.

“After a careful debate between my parents; my mom thought humanities would offer a stable job for life, whereas my dad wanted his daughter to be a lawyer. My dad chose law for me,” says Dr Gcebekile Dlamini.

By her second year, she says she knew the course was not for her and tried to change courses but her parents called for her to be relentless. “My parents’ words were ‘Finish this course first, after that you can study anything you want.’” Despite this motivation, she found herself supplementing one subject every year after results were released. “It was a painful experience. Graduation day was a relief.” This was her ticket to study what she wanted. The next two qualifications were a breeze for her because she was inclined to Social Sciences.

Family life: Feisty like her mother

Her resolve to succeed despite hurdles on her path was bestowed to her by her parents’ persistence and example.

Dr Gcebekile Dlamini’s formative years were spent intermittently between Manzini and Vuvulane until she was 14, then her family moved to Malindza, their current residence. She was raised by both parents until her father’s passing in 2004. She says her father was a patient, soft spoken and stern, whereas her mother was the complete opposite. “She was outspoken, feisty, hardworking, persistent, resilient and the most ‘step upping’ person I know. They say I take up after her.” With both parents coming from humble but secure backgrounds, this became the foundation of her own upbringing.

“Completing high school for them was a massive achievement. In fact, my father started primary school at 13 or 14 years and held on until he completed high school in his 20s.”

She supposed that her parents decided to break the cycle for their children and as a result education was at the core of their upbringing. She recalls how her parents ensured to provide everything necessary for not only a sound home but a good education as well. “No frills, no luxuries. For Christmas, instead of fancy presents we would get new school shoes and stationery,” she says, adding how her mother was very strict. “I think God blessed her with great children, because we never saw the need for rebellion.”

... Her sage advice

Summarising her driving force; “In the words of Sho Madjozi: ‘Know yourself, pick a struggle and then be persistent.’”

Dr Gcebekile Dlamini advises that one should make the most of opportunities and remain cognisant that failure is inevitable. “It is a catalyst for success. We need to fail to gain perspective. You cannot grow without failure or difficulties. Be patient with yourself. Be happy! Life will unfold as it should. Have a healthy support system. I am cocooned by a very supportive family and friends.” She lives by this as she spends much of her free time outdoors and doing everything that she loves. “I love outdoors, cooking, travelling, music and just being happy.”

LESSONS AT EVERY TURN

Each and every role Dr Gcebekile Dlamini has played taught her lessons she embraces and uses going forward. Immediately after high school, she had a stint teaching English to Taiwanese nationals. This taught her patience; “It was difficult. They didn’t understand English. Imagine having to explain the meaning of ‘The’ to an adult.” During university holidays while enrolled at the then UNISWA, she worked at Ackermans. There, she learnt that customer

service will make or break an organisation; “We spent most of the time picking after customers. We couldn’t scold them because we needed their money to achieve sales targets.” She went on to work with the USA Peace Corp, where patience was a virtue as she taught American Volunteers. While engaged with Anglican HIV/AIDS, she was equipped with programme management skills and learnt that she could achieve a lot by exercising humility and being flexible, “I also

MFABANTFU ROYAL FIELDS WEEDING



A section of the throngs of regiments who were at Mfabantfu Royal Fields for the weeding on Friday morning. Thousands of regiments came from near and far to take part in the royal duties. (R). Regiments going about their duties. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Umbutto Mafutselive, Khandlela Mdluli and Sandile Nkondlo Nxumalo also attended the weeding.



Tibiyo Taka Ngwane Main Committee Chairman Prince Fipha, who is also a chief at Nkhungwini in the Shiselweni region was also at the Royal Fields.



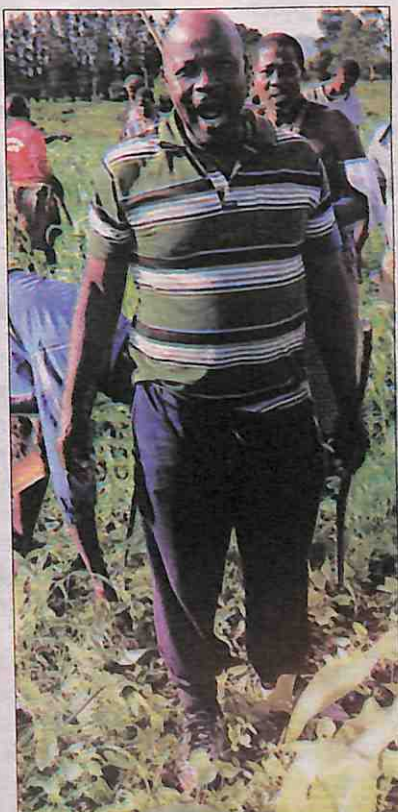
Sabatha Dlamini, Sigayo and Mjuluko captured at work.



Ingaja going about with the work for the day.



ACC Deputy Commissioner Maphevu Mkhathswa flanked by Ndunayashaka and Mpondweni, all from Lwandle.



Also present at Mfabantfu was seasoned artist Mshikishi Mndzebele, aka Fishodlabantwana.



Umbutto Maphatsatibi taking words of wisdom from his Chief Nkamane Ndwandwe of Lwandle. (R) Lugedlemba communicating with the Ingaja.



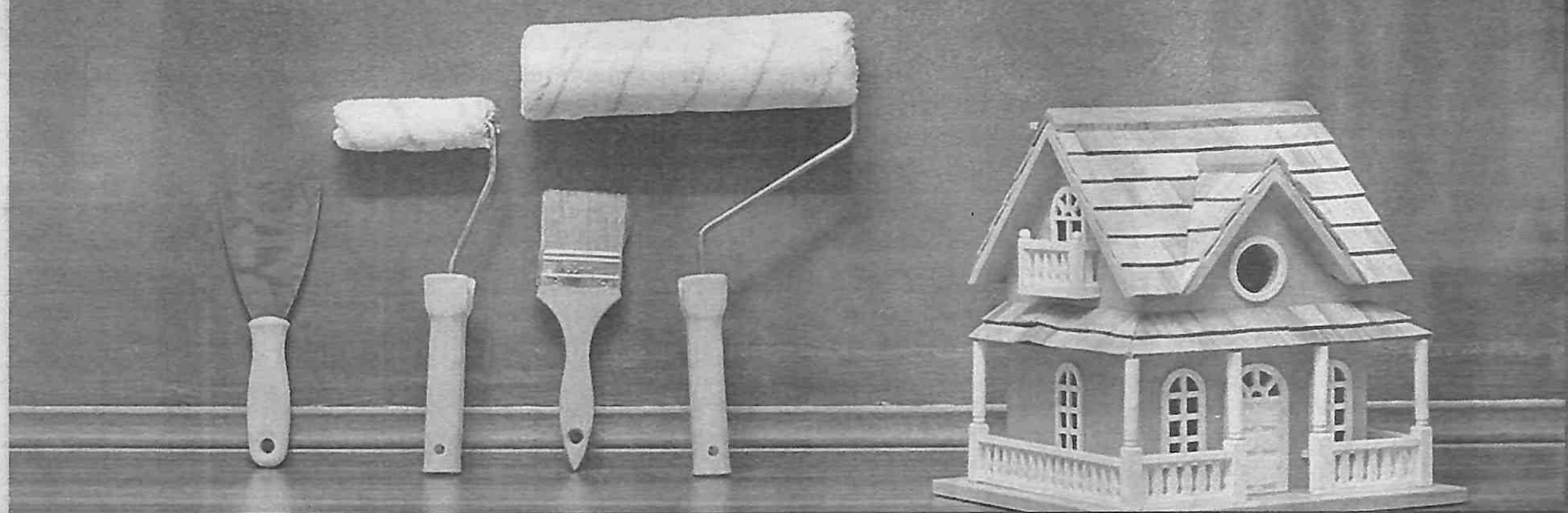
The jubilant Ingaja having a good time at the Royal Fields.



Umbutto Sihlobo among the many regiments present on the day.



HOME MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST



START THE YEAR ANEW AND CLEAN HOUSE!

Given the option, few of us would volunteer to spend a Sunday on a ladder pulling leaves out of a roof gutter.

But when your home is your biggest investment, as it is for most people, maintaining it is a must. Home maintenance can feel like a daunting chore, particularly for a new homeowner with no handyman experience, but it doesn't have to feel overwhelming. Entering the new year, we often make resolutions about what we would like to improve about ourselves, so why not extend that same courtesy to your property? If you've still got a few leave days left and some extra hands from visiting family members and children not yet back in school, why not give your home a thorough cleaning and start the year off right.

Outside

Start outside, raking up any dead leaves. This is a good time to lay down mulch in your flowerbeds and beneath any hedges; a thin layer of mulch will protect your plants from drought and keep weeds at bay. Check your outside taps and sprinkler systems for damage.

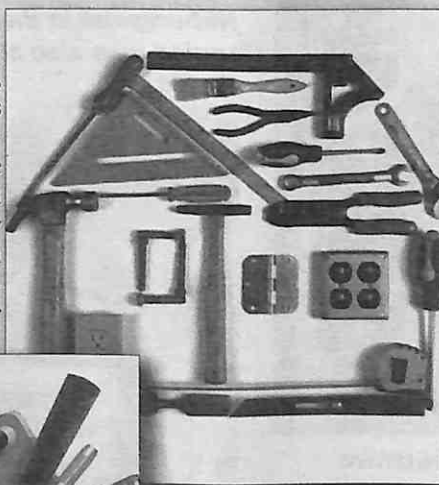
Walk around the outside of the house: Are there cracks in the concrete? Is the driveway in good condition? Check the roof for signs of loose or broken shingles. Look up at the chimney for signs of wear, and check the facade and foundation for cracks

or signs of water pooling.

Your gutters control the flow of rainwater on your house, protecting your roof, siding and foundation. Clogged gutters can cause a roof to leak or water to infiltrate your house. Clean them at least twice a year, or more frequently, depending on how many trees surround your property and hang over your roof. Also, check them for damage and repair any as soon as possible. Once the summer rains come in, your gutters could be the difference between an awesome, trouble-free summer, and a new roof.

If you clean them yourself, be very careful on that ladder. According to the

World Health Organisation (WHO), each year an estimated 646 000 individuals die from falls globally, making it the second leading cause of unintentional injury death, after road traffic injuries.



Look for signs of peeling or chipping paint; you may need touch-up or a fresh coat. If you plan to hire a professional, schedule the job in the spring so the work gets done by the end of the summer and before winter sets in again.

This is a good time to give the house a good scrub, washing all the grime away. Have the windows washed, inside and out. Sand and grit stuck to the facade of your home can damage paint and masonry over time, so scrub, scrub and scrub away.

To clean your house's exterior, close all

the windows and doors, and cover the ground and hedges with plastic sheeting. You can attach a power cleaner to your garden hose, but it probably won't be necessary. Spray the house down with water and then use a cloth or soft sponge dipped in some soapy water to scrub. Rinse with the hose and you're done.

Inside

For homes with air-conditioning systems, call your technician to schedule the system's biannual checkup and servicing. A technician should check the ductwork for signs of damage, and clean and service the furnace and A/C compressor.

Give your plumbing a good once-over too, checking under sinks to make sure there are no signs of leaks. Look up at your ceilings for water stains, a sign of a leak in the wall. Check taps for drips and the flapper in the tank of your toilet to make sure it has not worn out. Once the flapper starts to go, expect your toilet to run more frequently. Fix what you can yourself, and call a plumber for what you need help with.

Even if you do not regularly use the fireplace, the chimney still needs a regular checkup. A chimney carries dangerous gases from your fireplace out of your home, helping to keep the air inside breathable. It should be inspected annually, and cleaned periodically depending upon how often you use it.

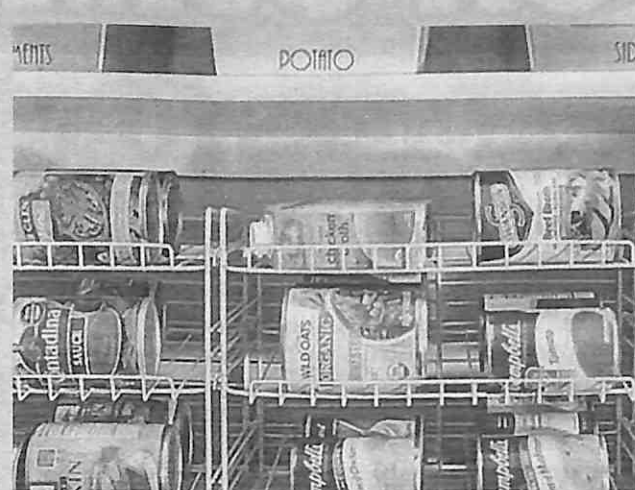
Closet and Drawer Organisation Tips

Even if your house looks organised, you might still have some work to do.

Surface-level cleaning is easy and often necessary, just find a place to hide any and all visible clutter.

That philosophy works for a quick cleaning fix if you're short on time or have unexpected guests, but it probably means you have several junk drawers and chaotic closets. A solution to this problem is making sure you have storage containers within storage containers. Give everything a designated place. If you have a large closet, put baskets on shelves so you can assign belts, hats or shoes to a specific basket, for example.

For an office space, instead of



dropping push pins, paper clips, sticky notes and extra staples all in one drawer, use upcycled egg cartons or muffin tins to organize these smaller items before placing in a drawer. Storage with-

in storage will not only help keep clutter out of sight, but it will also ensure items will be in the same place every time you go to reach for them.

www.diynetwork.com



YUMMY STUFFED MEATBALLS

I love this recipe because these meatballs are so versatile.

They go great with pasta, buy my favourite way to eat them is to recreate the feeling of a cheeseburger pie and wrap them in pastry.

Believe me when I tell you that you haven't lived until you've bitten through a homemade, flaky pie crust and discovered a juicy, cheesy meatball inside. It's an amazing experience that isn't as tough to create as you may think. Making short crust pastry takes ten minutes, and you can cook and cool the filling while your dough chills in the fridge.

Even better, you can prep your pastry and meatballs in the morning, then cook both when you get home from work.

Cheesy meatballs | Makes 12 medium meatballs

Prep time: 10 mins Cook time: 20 mins

Ingredients

- 500g mince meat
 - 1/8 cup seasoned breadcrumbs
 - 12 feta cubes
 - 1 tsp salt
 - n1 tsp onion powder or onion soup
 - 1 tbs Robertsons Steak and Chops spice
 - n2 tsp minced garlic
 - n1 tsp black pepper
 - n1 tbs chopped fresh parsley
 - n2 eggs, lightly beaten in separate bowls
 - n2 tbs oil or butter
- Tools**
- Large bowl
 - Baking sheet
 - nFork
 - Rolling pin

Directions

Step 1

Preheat your oven to 220°C and grease your baking sheet with oil or butter.

Step 2

Combine all the ingredients except the feta and second egg in your bowl.

Step 3

Divide your meatball mixture in half and then divide each half in half again. Divide each quarter into thirds, then shape one third of meat into a ball around one cube of feta and set on the baking sheet. Continue doing this until all your meatballs are done, then bake for 20 minutes, turning halfway.

Step 4

Once the meatballs have cooled completely, it's time to roll out your pastry. Lightly flour your clean, dry work surface and hands. Unwrap the pastry and cut in half, then in half again. Roll out each quarter, starting from the middle, until you have a flat piece of pastry big enough to cut two saucer sized rounds out of. You should end up with eight rounds in total.

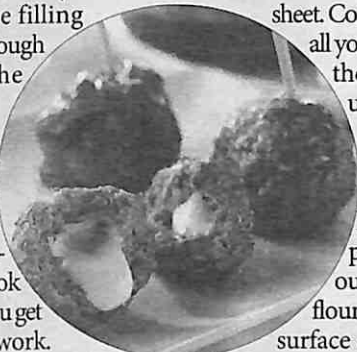
Step 5

Preheat your oven to 220°C. Grease your baking sheet and lightly dust with flour.

Place one pastry round on the tray and place three meatballs in the centre. Dip your finger in the egg and run it along the edge of the pastry, then cover the meatballs with another round. Press the edges together with a fork. Repeat with the remaining pastry, making four pies.

Step 6

With the tip of your fork, poke a hole in each pie to let out steam. Cook for 20 minutes and serve with tomato gravy and a side salad.



HOMEMADE CHICKEN STRIPS

I love chicken. There's so much you can do with the versatile protein, and you can pretty much infuse it with whatever flavours you like.

I won't go into the gospel of fried foods because I feel like we all agree that whoever was the first person to take a piece of meat, coat it in flour and dip it in oil was a genius deserving of a Nobel Peace Prize. Anyway, back to the recipe. Chicken strips are a hit with children of all ages, and so easy to make. It only takes half an hour and like I always say, making them yourself means you can control what you're consuming. This recipe is very simple and you'll have crispy, juicy and tender strips in no time.

Chicken Strips | Serves 6

Prep time: 30 min Cook time: 5 min

Ingredients

- 1 pack chicken Breasts, cut into strips

- 1 cup buttermilk (or 1 cup milk with 1 tbs lemon juice)

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 2 tsp Ina Paarman's Rosemary and Olive spice

- 1 cup vegetable oil
- Tools**
- Large heavy-based skillet
 - 2 large bowls
 - Tongs or slotted metal spoon
 - Brown paper or paper towels
 - Clean plate
 - Clean cloth

Directions

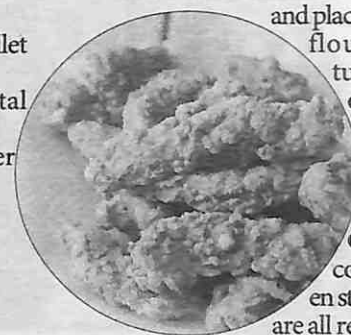
Step 1

Start by rinsing and drying your chicken strips with a clean cloth. Next, in a bowl submerge the chicken strips in buttermilk for 15 minutes. In another bowl combine the flour and spice and mix together well. Add about 1/4 to 1/2 cup of buttermilk into the flour mixture and stir lightly with a fork as you add it,

creating lumps.

Step 2

Heat the vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Remove a few of the buttermilk-soaked strips and place them in the flour mixture, turning them over to coat them thoroughly. Place them on a plate. Continue coating chicken strips until they are all ready to cook.

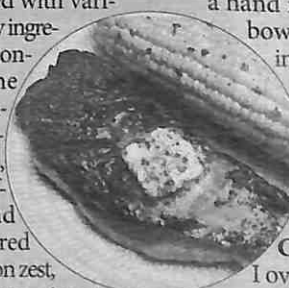


Step 3

When the oil is sufficiently heated, begin cooking the strips a few at a time. Cook them for about a minute and a half or so on each side. When golden and crispy, remove and place on brown paper or a paper towel-lined plate. Serve hot.

COMPOUND BUTTERS

Nothing goes better with fresh baked bread than generous lashings of butter. When that butter hits the warm bread and melts is a sight to behold, making mouths water all around the table. So what exactly is compound butter? It is softened butter, mixed with various sweet or savoury ingredients. While the concept is simple, the potential flavor combinations are endless. Pair scones, rolls, pancakes, waffles or fresh bread with butters flavored with orange or lemon zest, maple syrup, honey, cinnamon or garlic. Pair your meat, vegetables, fish and bread with butters mixed with herbs, spices, cheese or citrus zest. Here are some of my favourite compound butter recipes; I have a roll of the first one in the fridge right now!



Method

Start with unsalted butter so that you're able to control the amount of salt when you add the seasonings. This is particularly important with sweet compound butters. To achieve the fluffiest butter, you can whip it with a hand mixer, but I prefer to use a bowl and a fork to blend in the ingredients. Once you've combined everything, spoon your butter onto a sheet of plastic wrap and shape into a log, then store in the fridge or freezer.

Cayenne Pepper Butter

I love, love, love spicy food, so of course I had to find a way to incorporate a little heat into my butter. Combine half a cup unsalted butter, one tablespoon minced fresh rosemary, one teaspoon cayenne pepper and half a teaspoon salt. Dollop on top of cooked steak, chicken or fish, sauté shrimp in the butter, serve with grilled corn on the cob at your next

braai or brush melted on grilled vegetables.

Cinnamon Maple Butter

This butter makes a delicious addition to pancakes and French toast. Combine half a cup unsalted butter, one tablespoon maple syrup and three-quarters of a teaspoon ground cinnamon. You can also spread this on your toast.

Garlic and Herb Butter

Perfect for spreading on fresh baked bread, this is my go-to compound butter for most recipes because it makes a great flavour base for almost any type of meal. Combine half a cup unsalted butter, two tablespoons chopped fresh herbs such as parsley, thyme, rosemary and oregano, half a teaspoon salt, one minced garlic clove and half a teaspoon fresh cracked black pepper. Serve with dinner rolls, dollop on top of chicken or steak, serve with steamed, roasted or grilled vegetables or use to fry eggs and stir fry's.



OPTIMISM OVER ANC MANIFESTO

DURBAN - As the ANC prepares to celebrate its 107th birthday on January 8 and launch its election manifesto on January 12, its tripartite alliance partner in KwaZulu-Natal, COSATU, expects the events to unite the movement and erase factions and divisions that have rocked the province.

Edwin Mkhize, COSATU KZN provincial secretary, said that they were thankful that KZN has been trusted with hosting the big national event.

"This shows that there is confidence in us and that we have the capacity to host an event of this

magnitude.

"We expect that the programmes will unite us in particular as the tripartite alliance. We would like to move on from the problems of divisions and factions in KZN," Mkhize said.

He said COSATU anticipated that the ANC's manifesto launch would tackle issues such as unemployment. "We are facing a crisis. Many

people are without jobs. We need to know how this will be addressed. We also expect to hear how the ANC

will improve the conditions of workers to make their lives better."

Mkhize said they also expected the manifesto to lay out the ANC's plans to avert the privatisation of state-owned enterprises and the outsourcing of government work to private companies.

"We want the ANC's manifesto to reassure us that the issue of returning the land to the people does not end up just being a dream because we are clear, as COSATU, that there should be an amendment of the Constitution if we want to realise this objective and commitment to return the land to the people. "We also expect clarity on several issues, including the issue of our stagnant economy and what the ANC will do to boost growth in the country," he said.

KZN is known to be former president Jacob Zuma's stronghold.

While it is unclear if tensions will rise ahead of President Cyril Ramaphosa delivering the keynote for the party's celebrations, Zuma supporters said they were angry that the ANC's top brass had taken a decision to delay Moses Mabhida region holding its conference before elections - an indication that the national executive committee might be in for a hostile reception in the coastal city.

During its rally, the party will also probably have to emphasise its commitment to protecting the rights of women after an embarrassing recording involving its National Chaplain General, the Rev Vukile Mehana, who was slated for making derogatory remarks about women in a private conversation with fellow Methodist Church member Raymond Sibanga.

Citizen

Mayor distances himself from appointment of 'unqualified' acting city manager

PRETORIA - Tshwane Mayor Solly Msimanga has distanced himself from the appointment of Previn Govender as acting city manager.

Msimanga said that it was the prerogative of city Manager Moeketsi Mosola to name someone to act in his place while he was away.

Msimanga told News24 on Friday he would have queried the appointment with the City's council, but it was already in recess when the decision was made.

"There is a report which will be tabled to council soon, and some of those queries will be engraved in it for its consideration," Msimanga said.

Earlier this week, the ANC in Tshwane accused the DA-led city of not taking the provision of services seriously when appointing the acting city manager.

The ANC caucus said it was "dismayed, disappointed and horrified that the corrupt DA-led administration has released a memorandum to staff and appointed a fake, unqualified and incompetent chief of emergency Previn Govender to be the acting city manager while the embattled Dr Moeketsi Mosola is on leave".

The party accused Govender of faking his qualifications. "Govender has misrepresented his emergency and fire qualifications and the institution in the United Kingdom has indicated to the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) that Govender's qualifications as outlined in his CV are fake," the ANC's Lesego Makhubela stated. The party claimed Govender was hired as part of the multi-party arrangement of the DA and the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP).

Msimanga responded by saying that he had previously raised issues surrounding Govender's qualifications and accused the ANC of politicking.

"This is not a new issue, and the ANC knows it." In May 2018, former councillor Marietta Aucamp was forced to resign from her position as chief of staff at the City after it was found she lied about having a degree. **News24**



The Economic Freedom Fighters leading a protest in Strandfontein against gang violence on Friday.

EFF calls for more police visibility in Strandfontein

CAPE TOWN - With the national elections just a few months away, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) in the province has handed over a memorandum to Strandfontein police calling for more officers and visible policing.

A group of party members and residents took to the streets in protest on Friday.

They marched through the area and handed over a list of grievances at Strandfontein Police Station.

The EFF is demanding more police visibility, more foot patrols, regular crime prevention programmes

and community meetings.

The party's Banzi Dambuzza says gang violence and drugs are some of the issues residents deal with on a daily basis.

He says more officers are needed. "The amount of police you see today, you won't see tomorrow. They won't be here [and] they won't protect you when you call the police. It will take hours for them to arrive."

The party is giving the station 14 days to respond to their concerns.

The station commander accepted the memorandum and says he will give the party feedback soon.

News24

... CPF welcomes EFF involvement

CCAPE TOWN - The Strandfontein Community Policing Forum (CPF) cluster says it welcomes the Economic Freedom Fighters' (EFF) involvement in demonstrations to address crime in the area.

Mitchells Plain CPF cluster Chairperson Lucida Evans says the cluster has invited the EFF to form part of its safety structures: "We value the fact that the march happened, and they've brought us information. We, together with the station

commander, will follow up on some of the cases that have been flagged."

Sandy Schuter, the Chairperson of the Strandfontein CPF, says they value the march and will look into the concerns with the station commander: "They've raised certain grievances, which is a concern for me, as a chairperson. I'll definitely make sure that services do get delivered, also visibility. As CPF, we'll strive to ensure that police presence is stepped up, as well as patrols."

EyeWitness

'ANC not ruling out Parly return for ill-disciplined or corrupt members'

DURBAN - African national congress (ANC) deputy secretary-general Jessie Duarte has not ruled out the return of certain members to Parliament, despite them being viewed as individuals who could cost the party votes.

This comes as senior party members meet in Umhlanga for a second day on Saturday morning to select candidates who will represent the organisation in Parliament after the elections. Part of the criteria that the list committee needed to follow when considering candidates is whether that member has a history of ill-discipline or corruption. Duarte says 800 names have been put forward to go to the National Assembly, however, only 200 will be chosen and the remainder will be deployed to the provincial legislatures and National Council of

Provinces.

Duarte says the main thing that would disqualify a candidate from being sent to Parliament is if they have a criminal record: "Where a person hasn't been judged criminally, and there's no decision by a judge finding him/her guilty or has been sentenced to a jail term. There's very little that we do, in term of the broader perspective that might emerge around particular individuals." Duarte says the conference has so far seen constructive debates around who should represent the party in Parliament: "People do debate names and motivate why a certain person shouldn't be moved lower or kept her on the list."

The party is expected to wrap up its national list conference on Saturday in order for the ANC's national executive to hold its ordinary meeting over the next two days. **News24**

Angry community members call for Prophet Bushiri to leave SA

JOHANNESBURG - Community members in Pretoria are calling for controversial to pack up and go.

On Friday, a group of angry people blocked the entrance to his Enlightened Christian Gathering Church. Stopping congregants from attending the regular Friday service. This comes after the church was charged with defeating the ends of justice and interfering with police work for moving the bodies of three women who died during a stampede in the church last week.

The police also accused the congregation of moving the bodies

of the victims to a private mortuary without reporting the incident to the police.

"We cannot have a situation whereby this Nigerian prophet doesn't make money in his own country and decide to come here [South Africa]. If they are prophets, they must go back to Nigeria and make money there. Enough is enough; we cannot lose our loved ones, people who die like their animals. He can't even apologise to South Africans," said South African National Civic Organisation Tshwane Treasurer Abram Mashishi.

News24



Prophet Shepherd Bushiri.

SundayObserver Scene



● Making resolutions is a cleansing ritual of self-assessment and repentance that demands personal honesty and, ultimately, reinforces humility. Breaking them is part of the cycle. — Eric Zorn



WRITER'S NOTE:

Finally we in 2019 and we back to reality.

It's back to work, back to grinding even though school are not opened yet but everything is just back in order as the year starts.

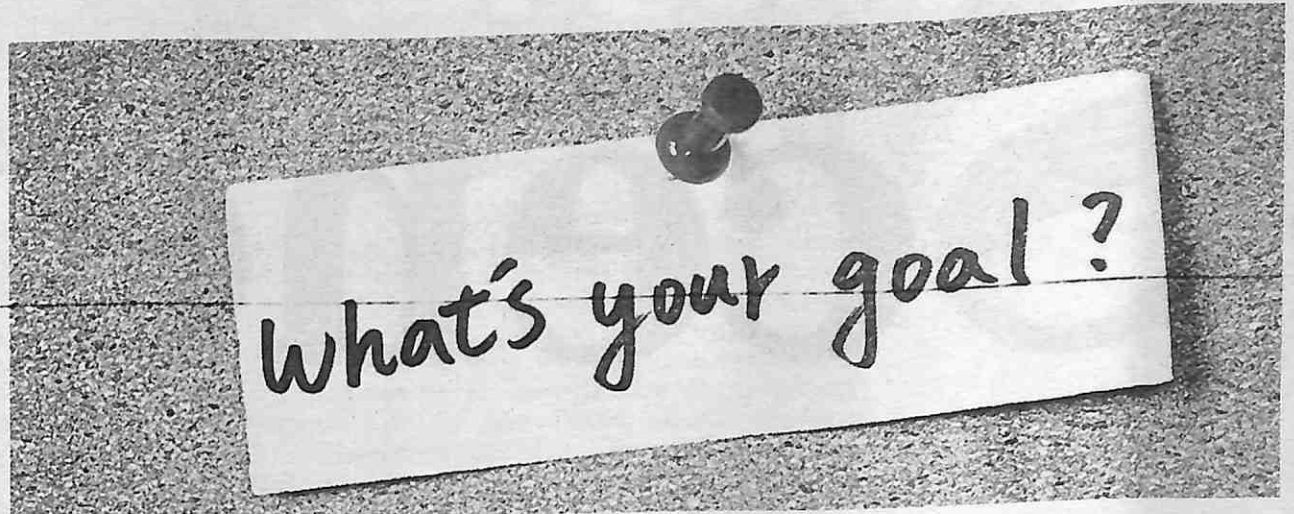
Scene decided to look into how people can start the New Year on a clean slate. Surely it is a refreshing year, we all have different resolutions and how we want to start our year. We have different expectations on what the year has in store for us. Some of our expectations are high some are just ready to accept life as it comes. But through it all we should expect a great year.

On pages 2-3 you will read and find how one can start their year with fresh atmosphere as we all know after you celebrate New Year's Eve, it's time to get to work on those New Year's resolutions! If you are looking for a way to start the New Year fresh, consider changing your look, tidying up your life, and setting goals and intentions. Not leaving out things to do as you start the year and remembering that starting on a new year doesn't only mean you need to lose weight because of the fat you've been eating all festive but you can just do things that will make you wake up the next morning looking forward to.

On pages 4-5 as it is a refreshing year I spoke to different artist on how they planning to start up their year and they gave us their wish list that they would like to share it with their supporters and everyone around them. Reading you will be so proud of how your best Eswatini artists have best interest in heart for their fans such that in the wish list they don't just talk about themselves but included the country as a whole. You will also find what they are hoping to achieve in the year of 2019.

I hope you guys enjoy my article. Till next week!

Please follow us on Instagram @Sunday_scene



After you celebrate New Year's Eve, it's time to work on those New Year's resolutions!

If you are looking for a way to start the New Year fresh, consider changing your look, tidying up your life, and setting goals and intentions.

You can do things like get a haircut, donate unworn clothing, start a workout routine, or perform more random acts of kindness. Having a schedule is also important for you to help stay on task to achieve more, have an organised day, and stay positive which can help you feel happy. Little changes can affect those around you positively, so choose wisely. Whatever approach you prefer, it's great to start the New Year feeling refreshed and focused, so you are ready to take on the year ahead. These are methods you can use to start up your year:

POLISHING YOUR LOOK

1. Get a haircut to freshen up your face. Schedule an appointment with your stylist early into the New Year. You can get a trim for a subtle upgrade or go for a bold new hairstyle for a totally different look. This way, you'll feel fresh for the year ahead.

● For instance, if you have long, straight hair, consider chopping it to shoulder-length and adding some layers.

STARTING 2019 ON A CLEAN SLATE

By Phetsile Mamba

● If you have a short hairstyle, consider cutting the sides even shorter for a subtle change. For example, if you have a pixie cut, you can take it even shorter.

2. Experiment with your look by trying something new appearance-wise. Doing something new with your appearance can help you feel confident as you enter the New Year. You can do things like rock a bold lip colour, get a new facial piercing, or upgrade your current glasses style. Find what works for your style and budget, and go for something new.

● You can also dye your hair a bright colour, go on a shopping spree for new clothing, or invest in a new pair of shoes.

3. Start a fitness routine. Think about your current health and your overall fitness goals, and make a plan to improve your health based on where you are. For instance, you can start taking a 20-minute walk after work every day, or you can train to run a marathon in the fall. Start simply and gradually so you can stick with your goals.

● If you are new to exercise, you can find a gym in your area and start going three times a week. Walk on the treadmill for 20 minutes each time to get started.

● If you are a fitness enthusiast, make a goal to improve your BMI or get a six-pack by the end of the year, for instance.

UPDATING YOUR ATTITUDE

1. Practice gratitude every day to fill your life with kindness. Practicing gratitude can boost your mood overall and improve your outlook on life. Each day before you go to sleep, write down three things you are grateful for. In addition, express your gratitude for the people in your life by telling them you appreciate them.

● For example, you can just wake up and look forward to things that bring out the best in you, like if have a pet or anything just make that your priority.

2. Include a positive affirmation in your daily routine. Positive affirmations refer to a simple, short sentence that you can use as a reminder throughout your day. Using positive affirmations can boost your self-esteem over time, which is helpful when starting off a new year. To work with positive affirmations, find a phrase that works for you, like "I am worthy," or "I am capable of challenges." Tell yourself this first thing in the morning and throughout your day as you start to doubt.

● Tailor your affirmation to your particular life and circumstance. For example, if you are working on being a more supportive friend, your affirmation can be "I am fun and loyal."

3. Do random acts of kindness as often as possible. Random acts of kindness are small, deliberate actions performed to bring happiness to other people's day. Do these actions without expecting to get anything in return, but rather to brighten someone's day. This is a great way to start off the New Year on a positive, compassionate note.

● You can do things like giving generous compliments, smiling at strangers, and volunteer for charities.

● Pick up trash on the side of the road; help an elderly citizen cross the road, or give food to the homeless.

● You can also pay for the next person's coffee or give your server a large tip.

TIDYING UP YOUR ENVIRONMENT

1. Start your spring cleaning early to tidy up your space. Shortly into the New Year, clean up your room, kitchen, bathroom, and/or basement. Tidy up any cluttered areas, throw away garbage, and put away items that are out of place. This way, you'll enter the New Year feeling neat and organised.

● It is also helpful to clean out your car. Get rid of any trash, and sort through your center console and glove box, for instance.

A REFRESHING NEW YEAR

Making a new year's resolution doesn't mean lose weight.

Instead, there are tons of other ways to actually restart your mind and body this month. It's not only about picking up healthy new behaviours, but also considering some unhealthy habits you might want to let go of.

1. Reset your problem-solving: Take a walk.

The basic act of going on a walk can bring so many positive benefits to your life. Getting outside and walking increases your brain function and is linked to improvement in mood and reduced cancer risk and is a great way to boost your overall heart health. It might even protect against dementia and add years to your life.

But taking a walk can also serve as a "reset" and help you solve a problem you're struggling with. Walking is often where people do their best thinking, and it's a good catalyst for brainstorming. Something bothering you? Take a quick walk to get some perspective.

2. Reset your anxious thoughts: Learn to meditate.

With each passing year, the list of meditation benefits grows longer and longer. Expect better mood, better sleep, and a stronger immune system as well as lower blood pressure and stress levels (traffic? No biggie).

A daily meditation practice is like a restart for your mind almost like wipers on a rainy car window and you feel refreshed and ready to face the day each time you practice. Even five minutes a day can make a world of difference.

There are many misconceptions about meditation and it can be daunting trying to figure out how to get started, so we made you a guide.

3. Reset your vices: Cut out something for one week.

This isn't about losing weight. Cutting out a substance that's been overused in the last few weeks like sugar, caffeine, or alcohol can

2019

be a great refresher for your body. There's no need to cut something out for a whole month; try limiting that substance for just seven days. The intention alone might change your future behaviour. A recent study showed that those who even attempted to stop drinking for a month reported a decrease in alcohol consumption over the following six months.

4. Reset your diet: Focus on adding one thing in.

Instead of obsessing over trying to cut out bad foods from your diet, focus on one thing you'd like to incorporate more. For example, flaxseed oil is great for your health and is rich in omega 3s.

5. Reset your to-do list: Write it all down.

This time of year, many people feel stressed with the sheer number of tasks at hand. Returning holiday gifts, doing a big grocery store run and other bothersome errands plus regular work tasks are enough to make us all feel bogged down. One quick way to refresh your brain is to make a list.

The act of writing down everything you need to do can help quiet your mind and make things feel more organised before you've even done a thing.

No need to complete all of the things on the list this week or even next week. Just get them all down on paper and out of your head as a first step.

6. Reset your mood: Do something that makes you laugh.

No joke laughter improves our health and boosts happiness. The simple act of laughing has been proven to boost our mood and our immune system as well as relieve pain and lower stress.

We usually feel refreshed after laughing it's why we so often let out that long sigh after a good laugh. Make an effort to see friends who make you giggle or watch a Netflix comedy instead of a drama this month. Your mind and body will feel lighter.

7. Reset your relationships: Make plans with an old friend.

We are all guilty of losing touch. Genuine catch-up time with friends can spread to weeks, months and sometimes even years. It's easy to let an email sit in your inbox as you whiz right past it, thinking, and "I'll respond when I have more time."

Reconnecting with a friend can invigorate your mood and bring a nice sense of calm. Pick one friend to reach out to and schedule a time to get together, talk on the phone or connect over Face Time a great option because it feels more like an in-person visit.

8. Reset your schedule: Make time for the "fun stuff."

Know the difference between doing something you enjoy versus doing something productive.

These are not the same things. Physically block off some free time for the fun stuff in your calendar or else the productive stuff will always bully its way in. Want to binge-watch a show? Great. Dying to sip some wine and listen to an album start to finish? Go you. Setting aside time for things that make you feel good might bring about more balance and joy in your life.

9. Reset your happiness: Start a gratitude journal.

The benefits of cultivating gratitude are plentiful it can open up more relationships, enhance empathy, increase self-esteem and can even improve your physical and psychological health. In other words: shifting your focus to the positive can dramatically improve your happiness. But the key is consistency.

For example, try out a five-minute gratitude journal. Answer the quick questions first thing in the morning or right before bed and notice your mood shift this month.

10. Reset your creativity: Try a dream journal.

If you have trouble remembering your dreams, or are interested in examining them in a deeper way, try jotting a few things down the moment you wake up. Over time, you might notice your recall improving and you may also find that you feel more creative during the day.

Writing is therapeutic; studies have shown that journaling can increase emotional health and you might just learn a little bit more about yourself.

11. Reset your productivity: Vow to organise just one thing.

This can be a kitchen cabinet, a single drawer, the trunk of your car, your computer desktop, or that devilish Gmail inbox. Crossing one of these things off your list can go a long way in decreasing stress and increasing your feelings of productivity.

12. Reset your imagination: Give up on that book you've been lumbering through.

It's okay to bow out of something if you do not love it. More than halfway through a book? Who cares? Find a great new book to start instead and never look back. Life is short. Be specific with where you put your energy.

2. Sort through your clothes and get rid of those you don't wear often. The New Year is a great time to take inventory of your wardrobe and get rid of items that no longer fit or suit your style. Take out the clothing in each of your drawers, and create one pile for clothing to keep and one pile for clothing to rehome. Then, fold your clothes neatly and return them to your dresser or closet. This helps you declutter your space and freshen up your style.

● After you create a "rehome" pile, consider giving your items to your friends or family members, or donating them to a thrift store or consignment shop.

3. Add a fresh coat of paint to your walls to freshen up your room. Consider repainting the walls of your home early into the year. Cover the floor and your furniture with a drop cloth, and use a paint roller to apply indoor house paint to your walls. You can pick a new colour for a change of pace, for instance.

4. Purchase a few new decorations to revamp your space. Visit a local thrift or home supply store, and pick out a couple

new items to redecorate with. For example, you can get two-three decorative throw pillows, a rug, a lamp, or a new bookshelf. Adding a few new items can make your home feel fresh and new.

● You can also get small items like paperweights, vases, and magnets.

SETTING GOALS AND INTENTIONS

1. Aim to try 1 new thing every month. In addition to your personal resolutions, it is helpful to strive to get out of your comfort zone at least one time each month. You can schedule one new thing each month, or you can pick a few things and choose when the time comes.

Regardless, choose to do something you've never done before or learn about something brand-new to expand your horizons and grow as a person.

● Trying a new thing can be as simple as eating a cuisine you've never tried before.

● You can do active things like going kayaking, horseback riding, or skydiving.

● Other ideas include taking a language class, joining a yoga studio, or planning a

camping trip.

2. Make a bucket list of 20-50 things to try in the upcoming year. Shortly into the beginning of the year, sit down with a notebook and write out several things you want to do throughout the year. Choose simple, easy things such as "eat more vegetables" or specific, realistic goals like "Go back to college." Add as many items to your list as you feel compelled, and check them off as you complete them throughout the year. The list provides a visual reference, helpful when trying to set goals.

● You can use this list to help get ideas of new things to try each month.

● Ideas for your bucket list could include visiting New York City, picking your own pumpkin,

Adopting a dog, taking a cooking class, and traveling to the beach.

3. Update your resume so you're ready for new opportunities. Shortly into the New Year, open up your resume, read it over, and look for ways to improve it. For instance, if you started a new job at the end of the year, add it under your "employment" sec-

tion. You can also update the dates to reflect the New Year.

This way, if you want to apply for a job, you are ready when the time comes.

● You can also update your contact information or address.

4. Strive to improve your sleep habits. When the New Year rolls in, getting more meaningful and restful sleep is a great goal to add to your resolution list. You can aim to relax more before you go to sleep, such as taking a bath, drinking chamomile tea, and reading a book.

You can also go to sleep and wake up around the same time each day to get into a natural rhythm. Improving your sleep will, in turn, help you feel focused and energised throughout the year.

● You can also use white noise or nature sounds to help you fall asleep.

● Consider taking a melatonin supplement if you have trouble sleeping. Melatonin is a hormone produced in your brain that helps regulate sleep cycles. By adding 1-3 mg a day, you may get more restful sleep over time.

CELEBRITY WISH LIST OF 2019



By Phetsile Mamba

AMANDA MO

Amanda Mo would firstly like to wish everyone a happy and a prosperous new year.

More importantly her fans, those who have been supporting her throughout her journey.

"Words cannot explain how grateful I am for having you, my heart is full of gratitude and happiness. We have achieved a lot in 2018 and we have great plans for 2019 and I am so excited and can't wait to see all the plans coming together." She said.

2019 will be a year of reaping rewards; we will be promoting my debut album 'Sitsandzile'.

The album is out on all music stores locally (Mgavuzi record bar in Mbabane and Sdeez music shops in Mbabane and Manzini), in the Southern African diaspora and on all music digital platforms. We have been receiving a lot of love and we appreciate the support.

"I wish my fans will sustain the support they have been giving me as I will continue churning out good music.

They should watch out for major features in 2019, and some exciting music videos! It is going to be a great year," she said.



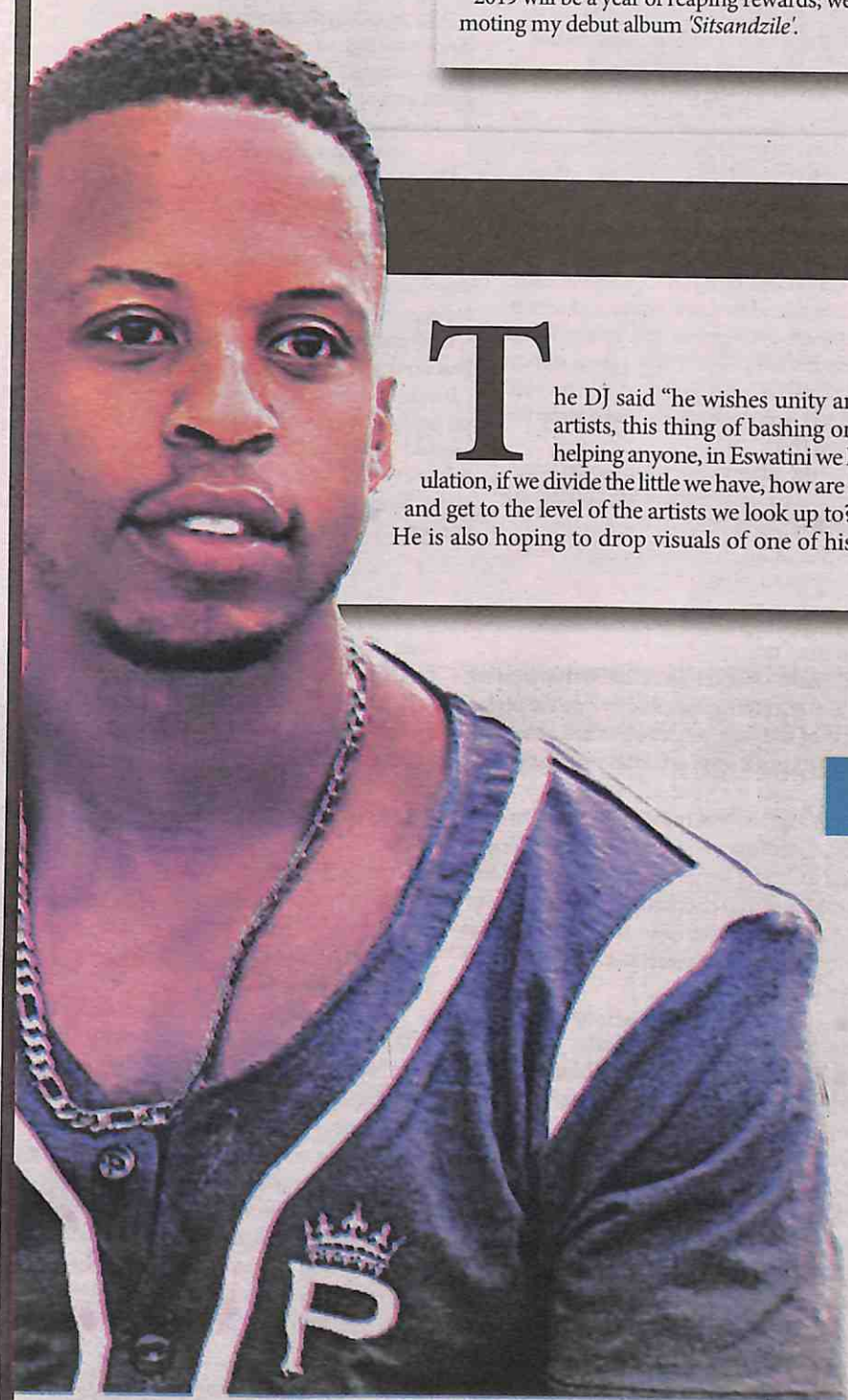
MASTER P

The DJ said "he wishes unity amongst Eswatini artists, this thing of bashing one another is not helping anyone, in Eswatini we have a small population, if we divide the little we have, how are we going to grow and get to the level of the artists we look up to?" He is also hoping to drop visuals of one of his songs from his

album. He would like to have a video that won't just end up on YouTube, but get airplay from big channels like MTV base and Channel O.

"I wish for the Master P brand to grow beyond just the African continent and become a global household name, I also wish for a new car and to finish my structure (house) that I have already started building at home, he shared.

He added that he hopes for a great year filled with more achievements and a lot of surprises. As he walks in this journey in the entertainment industry.



WANDILE THE SCIENTIST

Firstly we would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year. As the year begins our wish list and achievements would be:

- To see more growth in the brand locally and internationally.
- To release more music with local and international artists.
- To perform in the biggest festivals hosted in the country like Bushfire and more.
- To travel a lot more to countries and places we have never been before, continue raising the Swazi Flag and music higher.



MMELY OF THE ANTIDOTES

Mmeli Hlanze, I'm A&R and label manager for Antidote Music & Antidote Indie.

He has over five years' experience in the music industry managing music and artists. Also a freelance writer and music industry analyst for Nusoulhub Radio & TRUE Africa. Towards the end of 2018 we launched

Antidote Indie, a sister label to Antidote Music, to focus on a variety of genres besides house music. My wish is to see us grow it into one of the leading music labels in the country and Africa as a whole.

This year we'll be releasing more quality local music and Mzwaa's EP is the first project. We hope to showcase just how music talent Eswatini has and that we can compete globally in terms of the quality of the music. More than anything I hope to see local producers and artists step it up in terms of their creativity and delivery. 2019 is the year of glory.

ZOE GENESIS

Her top five items on her 2019 wish list that she would like to share with her fans:

● **Physical and emotional health**

It's funny how people assume I'm in shape because of how petite I am, but in all honesty, I haven't been the kindest to my body as far as my physical health is concerned. I want to start being more cautious of what I eat because that affects my instruments (my vocals) and my overall performance delivery. Exercising is something I need to do more as well. I also want to channel good energy only.

● **Breaking into the international scene**

Some people misinterpret this for changing your identity. For me breaking into the international scene will be about showcasing my passion and where I come from, Eswatini taking the forefront. So at the end of the day it'll be Eswatini that is getting the most recognition. Actually this is something I'd like to see happen not only for myself but all Eswatini artists! The stage has been set for us, the world is ready to receive us!

● **More visuals**

I'm a sucker for a good storyline, as much as I'm a sucker for fun visuals. I want my brand to be associated with these two. I'm hoping to put out at least three visuals this year.

● **Host my first solo show**

I've been brainstorming on this for now and I feel the time is right now. I won't let out much of the details, but I'm super excited about it.

● **Debut project**

I've started working on my debut EP that'll showcase my diversity as a singer and songwriter, and help me test the market for my brand.

DJ PONTON



My name is Zwelibanzi Matsebula well known as DJ Ponton.

I am part of the MoB Deep Entertainment Crew, resident DJ at Coolrunnings. A new year usually comes with new possibilities and opportunities.

As a DJ I am hoping for growth in the industry. I would love to increase my network and work with different DJs and producers in the Kingdom.

I am also planning on releasing a single towards the end of the year.

MELUSI 'ZOX' DLAMINI

“

For the year 2019 I look forward to hearing more local content being played by DJs at events and clubs.

I also look forward to seeing more producers collaborating and working together on remix projects and special edits, especially in the dance music side of things where it's an important part of the culture,” Dlamini said.

He wishes Swazis can embrace the culture of supporting local businesses.

“We need to eat the food our farmers grow, wear the clothes our brothers and sisters make, buy and listen more to local music, travel more locally, explore what our kingdom has to offer in terms of tourism and so on and so forth. It's not a hard concept to live by if you appreciate quality because you won't spend simply because it's local. I think there is so much hope for our economy and I believe we have a collective

responsibility to stimulate our own economy.

I wish we could also celebrate each other more often, there are so many great Swazis doing amazing work in different industries within and beyond our borders, there is so much great news about our country, so many milestones and I wish we could find a way to tell those stories ourselves to ourselves and to everyone else because the world will not do us that favour” He shared.

“The youth is hungry for inspiration and we don't really have to look far and wide to find that. Personally for me it's all about my journey back to God. Everything else will fall into place after that.

In the entertainment front we will continue advocating for local arts. There is still a long way to go but we have covered so much ground together, it's impossible to stop now” Dlamini added.





BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA

FUNTOWN FLEA MARKET ENDS 2018 ON A HIGH

2018 proved to be a great year for the house music scene. I would love to take this oppor-

tunity to thank everyone who contributed in this amazing journey.

On the 28th of December the Beat On Beats team was invited to the last Funtown event of 2018! What a vibe. A special shoutout

to DJ Cybos for the invite. A happy new year to all our readers, and may you be blessed with good music and we hope for nothing but good music from all the artists involved in the industry.



Fun-lovers came out in their numbers during the last Funtown Flea Market which was held December 28 at Fontein, Mbabane.



Food and drinks were sold on the day with revellers helping themselves through the night.



Cheese Masinga and a female friend having fun.



ISooks and Czar pose with SA based DJ Benji after his set.



DJ Mbo and Cybos in matching MBO merchandise.



Deenox dished out fine, chilled soulful tracks on the night.



Local boys Vuma Shabalala and Sukokuhle ISooks' Dlamini couldn't miss out.

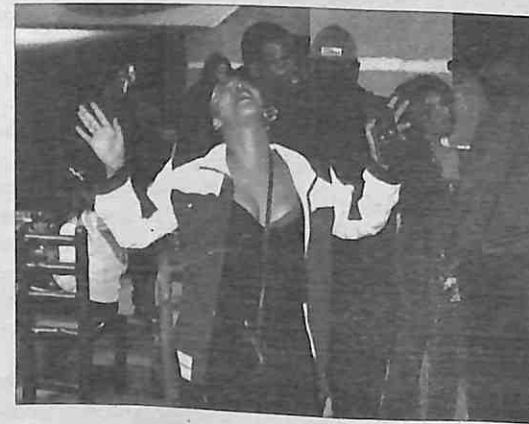


DJ Cybos entertained those in attendance with his perfect selection of old school rnb, hip hop and kwaito.



DJs Proper_Ganda, Czar and ISooks pose for the camera.

WHEN THE MUSIC TAKES CONTROL.





BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA

2018 HIGHLIGHTS FOR HOUSE MUSIC IN ESWATINI



1. S-TONE FEATURED ON SUN-EL MUSICIAN'S DEBUT ALBUM, AFRICA TO THE WORLD

Certainly no stranger to South Africa's house music and entertainment industry, S-Tone had a great resurgence in 2018 featuring on Sun-EL Musician's award-winning and critically acclaimed debut

album. Sifiso 'S-Tone' Magagula features on two songs, Umalukatane and No Stopping Us. The latter of the two was chosen and the second official single off the album and included a music video which graced our TV screen for the first half

of 2018, mostly, and currently sits on about half a million views on YouTube. Most recently, S-Tone has been featured on Simmy's debut album - Tugela Fairy. We can safely say he has cemented his place as a vital member of the El World Music family. We look forward to the possible release of his album in 2019.

3. BEST HOUSE ARTIST/GROUP THE MOST VOTED FOR CATEGORY AT THE 2018 MTN SWAMA AWARDS

After the inclusion of the first category exclusively dedicated to house music, the Best House Artists/Group category went on to outperform all other categories in terms of the number votes accumulated from the public voting system.

Ordinarily, this wouldn't be a big deal, however, this showed how much of a following house music has in the kingdom. Moreover, I hope this will open doors for house music to land a couple more categories as this would speak to not only the popularity of house music but also its growth in terms of the quality of local production.

Best House Artist or Group 2018.

Vote for your favorite nominee.

SMS: 'Category, Name' to 6161. E1.00/ SMS. It's bigger, it's better. #Eswatini everywhere you go



4. SLOTTA WINS THE INAUGURAL BEST HOUSE GROUP/ARTIST



Without a doubt, Nicholas 'Slotta' Dlamini is one of Eswatini's greatest talents.

The multi-talented Producer/Singer/Photographer became the first ever winner of the Best House Artists/Group at the 2018 MTN SWAMA Awards and many would agree that Slotta certainly deserves of such an honour. In 2018, he released 16 songs which included his Wired Deep EP with Stellar Disco Records, Sweet Temptations EP The Remixes with Deeper Shades of House and remixes for +268 Recordings and Antidote Music, locally.

5. THE RETURN OF DJ SIMZA

After what seemed to be a hiatus to work behind the scenes with budding artists, the veteran DJ/Producer returned to the spotlight with his signature sound.

DJ Simza featured on +268 Recordings remix package of Narno Tarne's Storm In My Heart which also featured Slotta

and C.9ine.

To the average Joe this may not seem like a highlight but to those who know the history of house music in Eswatini, having one of the founding fathers of the scene release music adds to the current resurgence of house music in the country.

7. !SOOKS FEATURED ON SELECTIVE STYLES BEST OF 2018 SHOW

!Sooks had a groundbreaking year. From being interviewed by Kid Fonque live on 5FM, to being featured on the Stay True Sounds Vol. 1 compilation, he was certainly a standout performer both locally and in South Africa. Personally, the biggest highlight of the

many wins he bagged in 2018 is having his song 1962 being featured on Kid Fonque's Selective Styles Best of 2018 show on 5FM. On the show Kid Fonque played 45 songs which he were the biggest and best songs featured on his show on 5FM throughout 2018 and 1962 by !Sooks landed at number 7. I'm sure you might be feeling like we left some out and we

might have a difference of opinion on some of the highlights mentioned here but all that speaks to the activity and renaissance currently taking place in Eswatini's house music industry and that is something all music lovers in the kingdom can be pleased about. Looking at how 2018 went, 2019 promises bigger and better.



2018 has set over the horizon and 2019 has dawned upon us.

The local house music scene continues to grow in leaps and bounds and we recap on some of the highlights from the year gone by with regard to Eswatini house music, in no particular order.

2. CZAR & S-TONE'S LET IT BE TOPS iTUNES MUSIC CHARTS

Czar and S-Tone released their collaborative single in July 2018 which featured remixes by Slotta and Gruv Basement.

The first milestone was during the first week of release when the single was charted number 25 on Traxsource's Soulful Essential charts. Traxsource is the leading digital music store for house music worldwide. Another milestone was reached when 'Let It Be' was charted number 1 on the local iTunes Dance Music chart, the only local song on the Top 10 at the time, ranking above well-established artists such as Black Coffee and Prince Kaybee. The hit single also charted at number 40 on the iTunes music chart, across all genres.



6. APPLE GULE & !SOOKS NOMINATED FOR THE 2018 DANCE MUSIC AWARDS SOUTH AFRICA

On the 22nd August, the nominees for the 2018 Dance Music Awards South Africa (DMAA) were announced and two of Eswatini's very own were amongst that list.

The DMAA are an audience-based awards event in which users get to nominate and vote for their preferred candidates purely through the DMAA website. Aphelele Gule, who goes by the stage name Apple Gule, and !Sooks were the two emaswati that were nominated and the beauty of it is in the fact that the awards are audience-based meaning that the two mentioned artists are definite fan favourites in South Africa. Apple Gule was nominated under the Best Male Vocalist of the Year and !Sooks was co-nominated with Pierre Johnson for their collaboration, Miles Away, which earned a nomination for Best Underground Record of the Year. They are the first ever emaswati to be nominated for these awards and though they were not eventually winners of their respective categories, this milestone symbolises the amount of recognition local producers and artists are getting in neighbouring countries.



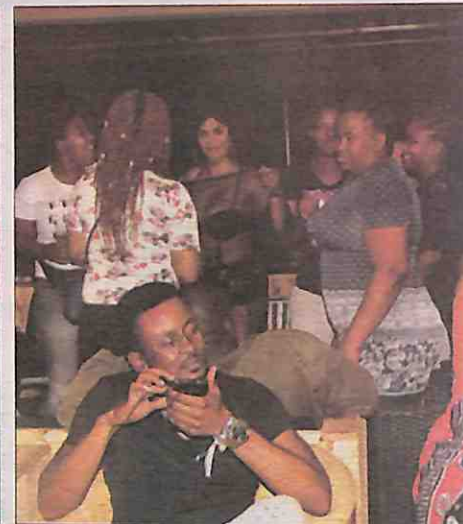
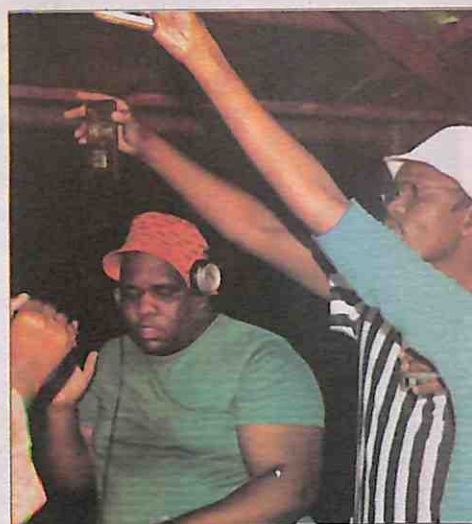
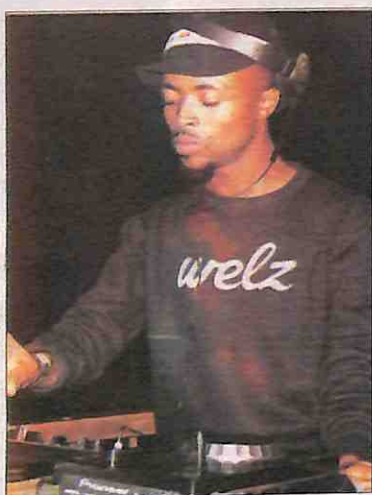
2018/19 CROSSOVER

24HR CROSSOVER PARTY



The annual 24-hour cross-over party themed 'Colour Your Soul' was a success as fun lovers came in numbers to enjoy the event which was held at Esibayeni Lodge on December 31.

EMFULENI LIFESTYLE



Chilled vibes, good music and good company were the order of the day at the Emfuleni Crossover party.

SOLANI'S SHISANYAMA



Fireworks lightened up the mood at the Solani's Shisanyama crossover event.

Key political dates to look out for in 2019

Undoubtedly, the highlight of South Africa's political landscape in 2019 will be the sixth national and provincial elections scheduled for sometime in May.

Electioneering by political parties will be at an all-time high as the much anticipated elections draw ever closer, with parties attempting to sway voters by all manner and promises.

But it is by no means the only key date in the first half of 2019. City Press takes a look at the other key political events to look out for leading up to the elections.

January:

The ANC broke the ice on the first day of the New Year and launched its elections campaign on Tuesday in KwaZulu-Natal, flying a massive banner attached to a chopper.

The banner was also an invitation to citizens countrywide to join the party for its January 8 celebrations, which marks the ANC's 107th birthday, taking place in Inanda, according to Mhlabuzima Memela, national media relations manager for the ANC.

On January 11, the ANC will be hosting a preview of the manifesto launch which will take place at the Nkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre.

The party's manifesto launch, which is expected to kickstart its election campaign will take place on January 12 at Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban.

On Wednesday, DA Leader Mmusi Maimane and the party's candidate for Gauteng premier, Solly Msimanga, launched the DA's 2019 voter registration poster at the Baragwanath Taxi Rank in Soweto.

The party raised awareness among residents of the looming final voter registration weekend, which will be on January 26 and 27.

The parliamentary calendar has set aside January 7 to 28 as the constituency period for its members. This time is for parliamentarians to spend in their communities doing electorate work.

Former mayor and DA member Patricia de Lille last year announced that her new political movement, Good - which will be contesting elections this year - will announce its policy position and launch its manifesto sometime this month.

The state capture commission is also expected to recommence in January after it adjourned for the festive session.

Testimonies from those who have appeared before the commission have painted a worrying picture of the ANC's role, or lack thereof, in the alleged capture of the state - meaning the commission and the revelations made before it will surely influence how the electorate votes.

February:

The EFF will hold their own manifesto launch on February 2 at the Giant Stadium in Soshanguve.

The party's leader, Julius Malema, is confident over his party's prospects during the upcoming elections saying that his party was going into the "boxing ring hoping for a win".

After delivering his debut State of the Nation Address (SONA) in 2018, shortly after the resignation of former president Jacob Zuma, President Cyril Ramaphosa is expected to deliver his second SONA on February 7, a day that will also mark the opening of Parliament.

This second SONA for Ramaphosa will be a significant one for the incumbent president, as citizens will be anxiously awaiting how he will tackle the current political and socio-economic issues the country faces leading up to the elections.

Also scheduled for February will be newly appointed finance minister, Tito Mboweni's much anticipated budget speech.

Having painted a bleak picture of the country's fiscus during his medium-term budget policy statement in October, attention will turn to Mboweni's plans to boost growth and prevent debt from spiralling out of control during his first budget presentation.

The national budget is also expected to be a key pressure point in determining how a lot of South Africans vote in May.

News24

Analysis & opinion

STARTING 2019 FULL OF OPTIMISM



BY KENNETH DLAMINI

Was there a good story to tell in 2018? It's very difficult for me to look back at the past year without memories of the high profile deaths that occurred during the year being evoked.

Perhaps, there's a good story somewhere but unfortunately not in my books. Hence, I can say with authority that I was one of those who were happy to see the 'back' of horrible 2018.

There's no denying that 2018 will go down as one of the most horrific years due to the high profile deaths.

It makes you wonder, therefore, if we should look at 2019 with an air of optimism of what will become of it.

However, we are built on hope and full of optimism. We are taught not to dwell on the negative things in life but focus our energies on those that will bring renewed energy and hope.

It is on this premise, therefore, that I believe 2019 will not come anywhere near what the past year was. Thus, we can all start afresh in terms of expectations for the New Year.

The start of a New Year is supposed to present a new dawn, renewed hope and full of possibilities for everyone.

This, in a nutshell means, that as we begin 2019, we should all be reinvigorated in following our dreams.

I know a lot of people start each year by coming up with resolutions, which are intended to play the role of a roadmap for the year in terms of the things they want to accomplish.

Personally, I'm not a fan of New Year's resolutions, but it's a good thing to follow a certain guideline in life.

Achieved

One of the reasons for my dislike for resolutions is that often people make them but they are not achieved. In fact, according to research by the University of Scranton, only eight per cent of people who make resolutions achieve them. That's pretty low.

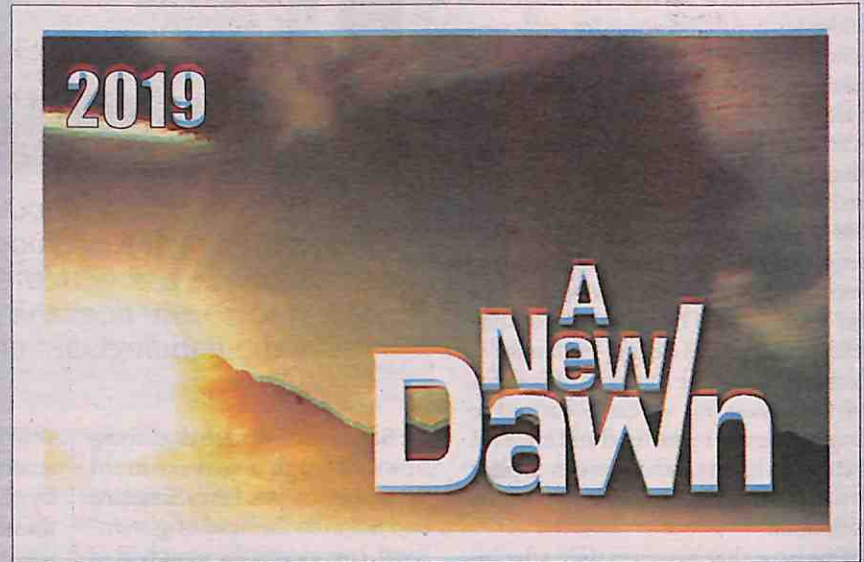
Besides accomplishments, New Year's resolutions could also be intended to change certain unwanted behaviours by individuals who want to start the year on a clean slate.

There are numerous behaviours that we acquire in our daily lives, which most often than not develop into habits.

These are some of the undesirable things that you may want to set targets for in order to discard in life.

It's a fact that in our lifetime, we acquire a lot of excess baggage and these are the things we must try to get rid of at some stage.

It may be a long time habit like smoking, drinking, gambling, drugs and many others.



● *There's no denying that 2018 will go down as one of the most horrific years due to the high profile deaths. It makes you wonder, therefore, if we should look at 2019 with an air of optimism of what will become of it. However, we are built on hope and full of optimism. We are taught not to dwell on the negative things in life but focus our energies on those that will bring renewed energy and hope.*

So, you may want to throw yourself a challenge as the year begins and embark on a road to kick out the bad habit.

You may also want to discard your friends in the New Year because life throws different challenges as you go about things.

If your friends inhibit your growth, be it career-wise, business-wise or any development in your life, then you may consider changing them. I know it sounds crude but it's just as simple as that.

I laughed the other day reading someone's Facebook, in which she claimed to have already lost some of her friends in the New Year because of her career aspirations.

Time

It's a fact; we cannot keep friends that have clearly become liabilities in our lives for the sake of friendship. Hence, it is important that from time to time we sit down and evaluate if our friends make any valuable and meaningful contribution in our lives.

I know this may sound bordering on extremism but believe me it's a simple dose for success in life.

People who like clinging on wrong friends end up with their lives a complete mess all in the name of friendship.

People may also want to set a resolution for improving their health status, because it's a fact that we live in an era where our health has become a serious concern. *Imphilo seyintengente*.

This means it's not a bad thing to set goals about improving our lifestyles. It may be a resolution to start gym or to start exercising, including doing roadwork or walking.

If this will help improve your health, then it's not a bad resolution to start the year with, because people are sick out there.

There are too many illnesses that are wreaking

havoc and killing many of our brothers and sisters. Most of these go unnoticed, mainly the non-communicable diseases.

These include cardiovascular diseases (like heart attacks and stroke), cancer, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructed pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes.

Then, perhaps other people can consider coming up with a resolution to make money or start a saving in the new year.

Salaries in the country are generally low but we must reach a stage where we are able to supplement our little salaries with extra income and also learn the culture of saving.

Emaswati generally are not educated on savings, yet this is a very important aspect of working.

Habit

We may also want to embark on a strict diet in the new year just to keep our bodies in shape, because generally Emaswati eat a lot of junk. Yet, we know that junk has a habit of increasing the weight.

It may also be a resolution for some people to change a job this year for many different reasons. They may have grown tired doing the same job or they may have grown tired of earning peanuts. Some people may want to make a resolution of growing spiritually during the current year. We know many souls are lost out there and it is upon individuals to grow spiritually.

There could be many resolutions being crafted by people but the most important thing is to achieve them. It's no use coming up with resolutions every year only to fail to achieve any of the things you set out to do. This often draws criticism and ridicule from friends and a lot of people who thrive on negativity.

So, it is important that as people set goals these must be both reasonable and attainable.



By Comfort Mabuza

The late Premier, Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, served our Kingdom of Eswatini with great distinction and honour.

He started as a Finance Minister, and under his tenure this country witnessed economic growth before he resigned to take a lucrative post with International Monetary Fund (IMF) overseas. He then returned home to serve as premier and remains the longest serving prime minister of this country. We cannot be blind that as a leader who commanded so much respect, he could be treated with such disrespect immediately after his demise. Like any leader even if he made a lot of mistakes and enemies during his tenure as Prime minister of the Kingdom of Eswatini, having passed on, we cannot afford to drag his dignity in the mud and erase his memory in history with ill-conceived plans to have him appear as if he is not worthy of honour.

One issue that has since risen after his demise late last year that should concern us all, not merely us human rights defenders but the entire populace, is that at the close of 2018, Percy Simelane, the Government spokesperson, issued a shocking statement on behalf of government concerning his retirement home that was to be built by government. One was hoping that taking into consideration the status of the late premier, perhaps a senior person rather than a government spin doctor could shed more light, and should have been the one to issue any statement relating to this issue. It is such a huge embarrassment of the highest order that the Dlamini family had to learn through a government spokesperson's comments that government will no longer honour its commitment of building "the retirement home." This of course was a benefit package that was due to him after having served the Kingdom so remarkably. Now, how on earth can the family and

WHEN GOVT DOES NOT HONOUR ITS COMMITMENT, WE MUST BE VERY AFRAID



● *Emaswati citizens should be reminded that we are a constitutional Kingdom, as such supremacy, the Constitution, must be respected. The Constitution as the supreme law and has a bill of rights and as a matter of fact so no one does this as they so wish without consulting what it says about individuals' protections that should be respected by all*

the nation learn of such disturbing news through a Government Spokesperson, one Percy Simelane and not even the head of government, considering the sensitivity of this matter? A bad precedent is being set here, and I am afraid government's commitment to respecting its own policies is being put to test here, let alone the poor handling of this matter. Can the Premier come out and speak, we certainly cannot believe that a mere government spokesperson could be the final authority herein. Mr Prime Minister, sir, speak out please, we are keenly awaiting to hear your voice on this very sensitive matter.

PARLIAMENT NOT IN SESSION

Emaswati citizens should be reminded that we are a constitutional kingdom, as such supremacy the constitution must be respected. The Constitution, as the supreme law and has a bill of rights and as a matter of fact, so no one does this as they so wish without consulting

what it says about individuals' protections that should be respected by all. As the pillar that underpins the rule of law in this kingdom, no one is above the constitution, who can on their own decide on matters affecting rights of others. Parliament as the highest institution when it comes to upholding the constitution must ensure that respect of people's human rights and fundamental freedoms is guaranteed. What trash is this then we are hearing that while the parliament is still to officially start its this very year, government can unilaterally so decide to stop what was legally due to Dr Dlamini? I thought the handling of this matter should at best be discussed by the parliament in a joint sitting for that matter, not just a government alone, which is still on a learning curve for that matter.

Where is the rule of natural law and respect of the very constitution and other relevant laws on such a salient national public interest mat-

ter when violating the rights of a respected citizen who has served this country so well? Could we not have waited for Parliament to be on session and officially constituted? Why the rush on such a sensitive matter and the making of a pronouncement which as far as we are concerned is way above the office of a government spokesperson, who is far junior? It surely needed an appropriate and collective response. This certainly touches on the very constitution as the supreme law of the kingdom and the rule of law and justice is surely being put to test.

THE RETIREMENT PACKAGE AS ACCORDING TO LAW

It is true that the Circular containing these benefits was controversial, but it was ultimately passed and should now be respected. The excuses that Dr Dlamini is no longer with us, and purported silence of the Circular in the event of death of the beneficiary, hold no water -

government's obligation is a contractual one related to his employment as a government official. Consequently, now that he has passed on, these benefits must accrue to Dr Dlamini's estate where they will be appropriately distributed in accordance with the law of administering deceased estates. Government is a debtor in this case and cannot unilaterally decide to renege on its obligation. We have seen this in the past and are worried if the new government seeks to similarly abuse its power.

RESPECT DLAMINI FAMILY DIGNITY

Dr Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini, though now deceased has a family and heirs who should by right be beneficiaries of all that was rightfully his retirement package and retirement gratuity. He was legitimately married to a wife early last year, and has fathered children, who by law are entitled to any benefits from his very retirement package that by law were due to him. No sane leadership then can in a twinkling of an eye decide to deprive this family of such entitlements. For goodness sake, we are not blind that all these people are alive and well, and have not vanished but are still with us. Where is the wisdom to deprive them in what I would call day-time robbery by a government that was served with honour and distinction by the late Premier? Who are these hawks and hyenas with hearts of a stone that can abuse and violate the dignity of the family and play with the feelings and emotions of those who remain? Whatever happened to human sensitivity and dignity - *buntfu*, where we are to give high respect for the family still in mourning and in the difficult process of winding the estate of the deceased? It is a violation of the highest order to deprive the widow and the family of what is rightfully and legally due to them through the late Premier.

Just accord respect and be sensitive to the dignity of the Dlamini family and treat this matter of such public interest with due respect. Government must stop playing dice and act so irresponsibly on this matter, the family must be accorded due humane dignity- *Kutekani!!*

Evang. Wilton Mamba



As begins yet another year, it is in order to thank God, the creator and possessor of heaven and earth, in the name of the Son Jesus, for keeping His promises.

In the Holy Bible, God makes no less than 10 specific promises concerning believers, and He keeps them all. While many eat, binge and drink in celebration of their achievements in the year that was, others have nothing to celebrate, as they lick the wounds of misfortune suffered in 2018. For many it's back to the drawing board as they draft new-year resolutions with the determination to do better this time around. Yet others scorn at this old-fashioned practice, opining that almost all new-year resolutions never see the light of day. But if no amount of plan-

ning is good enough to help one take control of a new year, what is? There is absolutely nothing wrong with planning. Everyone is free and has the ability to plan. In fact, everyone must plan. Don't they say when you fail to plan, you are planning to fail? The problem lies in failure to execute whatever your plan is. We all set out with the best of intentions every year, but emerge on the other end with nothing. As far as it depends on him, man has many ways of killing a cat. No matter how many times man fail, he will always find other ways, no matter what it takes, to survive. Many have found fame and wealth through clandestine means; but who says the end should justify the means? In a debased

society that is driven by greed and consumerism, it is increasingly becoming clearer that the line between business and corruption is thin and fading. To find a place for your child in a good school, you have got to know someone; if you don't, you must find ways to make 'friends' with someone within the system before it is too late. You need to know someone to get a business loan, win a tender or even purchase an empty drum of oil at the CTA. But all of man's schemes have a short shelf-life, often back-firing when least expected. How many so-called role models have fallen from the grace of wealth while at the peak of their success? As new-year resolutions are made and dumped, many have

come to the conclusion that all there is to life is futility. As the rich fall from their precarious perch every so often, many are discouraged and prefer to remain in paucity. They do not see the point of life. An increasing number of people no longer celebrate their birthdays. Why celebrate when you are growing in the wrong direction - towards the grave? The level of depression in the world today is growing at an alarming rate as people, especially the youth, lose the plot and purpose of life. I agree that the world is spinning dangerously in some kind of vicious cycle that has one sure end - eternal death - until we find the purpose of life. I suggest that, for a change this year, do lay off your

pen and draw no list of new-year resolutions. Ask yourself what the purpose of life is, and determine what your role in it would be. This is the purpose of life: Love. Yes, the purpose of life is love for your neighbour. To love your neighbour is to love God. It is written, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved,

MAKE JESUS YOUR 'NEWYEAR RESOLUTION'



JOY
NDWANDWE'S
LEADERSHIP
ZONE

Sleep deeply at 98 years going for 99, Mnguni Mfanawemthwayo Albert, first-born son, Lisokancanti laMgobeya the son of Lomcayi, grandson of Madanga the father of Ndalahlaza, the father of Dinane, the father of Zwide, the father of Madzanda, the father of Mtwana Ndalahlaza of Thunzini Royal Kraal, eNkambeni.

My condolences to Indlunkhulu yebeMnguni, the descendants of Madanga, brother of Queen LaZidze, the son and daughter of King Zwide or Zidze of the Ndwandwe's, who were placed at Bulandzeni (the place of in laws) and later Nkambeni. BoNdwandwe, Nxumayo, ninebaseGudu, abaguda inkomo nethokazi lawo, abaguda imbuzi nethoyeyayo, nine bembuzi nethoye, Nkaba yeNkosi, boNkoyane yeNkosi, boNkabanhle zombile, enye izaya eMakhosi, enye izaya eMazinyane ebenguni, aniqedva, uyeye uMnguni obeniyezeze, uyeye ubuthongo baphakade.

My condolence to the Magagula maternal family for the loss of Mnguni Mthwayo, whose birthing cemented the unity and family relationships between eMathombeni nebeMnguni. As we continue to have healthy tensions with peaceful coexistence, like all neighbourly families united by bloodlines that run deeply within these two families.

PRE-INDEPENDENCE LEADERSHIP

Babe Mthwalo, fondly known within the family, born 1920, during the interwar period, that is, after World War I before World War II. This year 1920, an embryonic period of the anti-colonial sentiments, and his father Mgobeya, historically quoted as being in the forefront of this activism. Mkhuyu Mgobeya, a traditionalist during this era, when colonialists were using the divide and conquer, even appointing their own chiefs and *indunas* when they encountered resistance. Thus, Mnguni Mthwalo nurtured during an epic period in Swaziland history, when African nationalism and anti-colonialism was snowballing towards the overthrowing of colonialist.

This Second World War veteran experienced the devastating exploitation, racism and inequality that manifested during and

TRIBUTE LISOKANCANTI LAMKHULU MGCOYEBA

● The name, Mfanawemthwayo, appropriate for this first-born son of Mkhuyu Mgobeya, has carried the Prince Madanga descendants as a family leader. He was the Ndwandwe family history mobile library and preserver of Nguni language, Kuyeyezza, in every speech reminding us on how, *siyizinkebeyeye*. Within the context of royalty without geographic kingdom, whilst adamantly stressing how *siBukhosi*, therefore we do not contest kingship as it is in our DNA.



after war like many young Africans of this era. Upon return after the war, to face false promises, colonialists had dangled as carrots enticing their participation in World War II.

Mnguni Mthwalo experienced the great depression that prevailed after the Second World War, which resulted in European nationalism exerted on African colonies. Thus, defenders of African independence during the post war and depression era, faced with the underlying imperialism as a system. Colonial rule became the de facto situation to the extent that some authors have referred to the interwar period as the golden age of colonialism in Africa.

Evidently, in pre-independence Mnguni Mthwalo was an anti-colonialist activist within the Swaziland Progressive Party (SPP), led by JJ Nquku and Dr Ambrose Zwane before the formation of the Nguni Liberatory Congress (NNLC). Babe Mthwalo stayed with his mentor Nquku after this breakaway, SPP stumbled in 1964 elections and demolished in 1967 elections.

Mnguni, a trained male nurse,

which were the elite positions of this era, however, his political convictions always became his obstacle. Particularly as most Second World War veterans experienced the bitter reality of how their African nationalism was incompatible with the imperialist African nationalism rooted within exploitation of human, natural and mineral resources manifesting greed, materialism and corruption of colonialists.

FAMILY LEADER

The name, Mfanawemthwayo, appropriate for this first-born son of Mkhuyu Mgobeya, has carried the Prince Madanga descendants as a family leader.

He was the Ndwandwe family history mobile library and preserver of Nguni language, *Kuyeyezza*, in every speech reminding us on how, *siyizinkebeyeye*. Within the context of royalty without geographic kingdom, whilst adamantly stressing how *siBukhosi*, therefore we do not contest kingship as it is in our DNA.

His leadership rooted the Ndwandwe identity embedded within language and royalty, the

embodiment of Prince Madanga kaZwide kaYanga, found by the Masilela's presented to the Magagula's, who announced his presence to King Mswati II. Prince Madanga identified by Queen Mother LaZidze, as her brother the crown prince of King Zwide kaYanga.

Hence, descendants of Prince Madanga, pre-dawn burials in mountains, and after birthing the children and mothers wear eMatinta, the royal fertility necklace.

This family leader always empowered Ndwandwe's never to contest who they already are, emanating from undisputable experienced of being an intergenerational leader.

Who witnessed three *weTibhimbi*, the installation of Zwide his brother, Madzanga his son and lastly Mtwana Ndalahlaza his grandson whom he was overjoyed to have witnessed. During *Sibhimbi seMtwana Ndalahlaza*, I reordered eNdunkhulu his historical record of the Ndwandwe family, he was a unifying but controversial leader. Mnguni, lisokancanti of Mkhuyu Mgobeya, who had between 30 to 40 wives, and his mother being

among the first experienced many mothers, boMaMa. Therefore, he had volumes on the birthing of his siblings many who departed before him, as he outlived many family members.

Family knowledge he carried within him as he also witnessed the birthing of his children, the grandchildren of Mgobeya and his direct progeny. Mnguni Mthwayo's infamous, *siyikebeyeye*, revealing being a centre of controversy with information overload on everybody's birthing including scandals, hence he carried all this with dignity embodied within his name.

Every announcement on our burials he carried whilst ensuring the children of Lomcayi, buried in the appropriate and sacred family mountain. Endowed with mental records of who were, buried within which sacred spaces, this always fascinates me as my royal family buried in mountain cleavages, thus, unmarked graves. Mnguni Mthwayo knew the mountain pathways that lead to the burial spaces, evidently an institutional memory of the children of Madanga kaZwide, KaYanga.

Conclusion

In conclusion, my condolence boNdwandwe nationally on the loss of this family hero let us remain consoled by acknowledging that we stand on the shoulders of a giant.

His simple lifestyle enabled him to witness the transition of this country from pre-colonial to independence and the most recent 50/50 celebration. We must all draw strengths and lessons from his leadership as being an intergenerational leader is God's grace, and he was a committed Christian and Lidodana lase A.M.E, the Ndwandwe family church. Mnguni Mthwalo laid to rest in sacred mountain as a senior and revered leader of the Ndwandwe Family, eNkambeni. According to his historical records, named by Ndalahlaza waMadanga kaZwide, after King Mbandzeni had refused for him to move the family to eNkambeni in White River, Mphumalaga, South Africa.

if God loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." (1 John 4:7-16). Anything that does not achieve love is not worth pursuing. But love is an elusive thing. Many have fallen into the trap of self-love while claiming to love others. I fell in love once, and because I did so for 'falling

in love's sake', I was trapped in jealousy and lived a violent, unrewarding life that was doomed for hell-fire. But once I found Jesus, the key to love and meaningful living, the true meaning of love opened its arms and embraced me. When you find the love of God, and pursue his plan - wanting the same things as God - you find the true meaning of life. Once this happens, no amount of discouragement, hurt or failure will ever keep you down. Problems will become the fuel that propels you to dig into your Godman reserves to bring about solutions to your challenges and some of society's problems. You will salivate when problems are thrown in your direction as you will make a hobby of solving them.

You must meet Jesus this month, and fix your relationship with Him.

He is the only reason we live, and there is no other. You see, turning your life to Christ does not mean you will then have to adjust to a boring life. Not at all. When I found Jesus, I found a new me; a man with limitless talent and abilities. I found a musician, a song writer, poet, prose writer, sportsman, a football coach, a mentor, an evangelist, a life coach, a community builder, a family man, a broadcaster, an editor... I found so much untapped talent lying under a labyrinth of hurt, grudges, unforgiveness and every sin under the sun. When we find Jesus we walk by the Spirit, as Apostle Paul exhorts us to in Galatians 5:16-25, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition against one

another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one

Wilton Mamba is an Evangelist and founder of David Goliath Spiritual Solutions, a sanctuary that provides spiritual solutions to practical problems, counselling and life coaching, cutting-edge Bible study and spiritual exercises through works of faith.

If you have been blessed by reading this article, or seek clarification on some of the issues raised here, contact Evang. Wilton Mamba on 7677 9312 or 7977 0952 or 2404 5284. You can send an email to mambawilton.multimedia@gmail.com. Fellowship with us today at 10am at Multimedia, Corner Somhlolo Road and Mbhilibhi Street in Mbabane opposite ICAP.

another." There you are; drop the long list of new-year resolutions, and find Jesus and it shall be well with you in 2019, whether you live or die, as well-articulated by Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:21: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

ANC members who have not been found guilty of criminal wrongdoing by a court of law will be allowed to remain on the party list, including those who have matters pending before court.

Addressing the media on the sidelines of the party's national list conference, which is doubling up as an extended sitting of its national executive committee, deputy secretary-general Jessie Duarte said the party could not act against those who were "perceived" to be involved in any wrongdoing.

Responding to a question about perceptions around some individuals returning to or being deployed to Parliament with a cloud hanging over their heads, particularly in an election year, Duarte said: "Where there is no criminal judgment, where a person hasn't been judged criminally and there is no decision by a judge which says you are found guilty of X, Y and Z, and you are sentenced, there is very little we can do in terms of the broader perspective which might emerge around the individuals because I think that is making a judgement outside of a court and there are already individuals who have chosen not to be on the list.

"But I think I understand where you are coming from and I think it is only fair to say that where people are criminally charged in a court of law, definitely those matters are taken quite seriously and discussed in that room today," Duarte said.

"It is a subjective issue and it depends on your own personal view point, but all those matters will be discussed."

The extended sitting, which includes national office bearers of the ANC's alliance partners, will wrestle with names which appear on the national list.

Arguments will be made for and against individuals being placed higher up or lower down on the list.

"At this level we try to seek consensus on the final list for the ANC's national-to-national list for the National Assembly and also for the provincial-to-national list, [as well as] people who serve in the national council of provinces and all the legislatures in the nine provinces.

"What we look for here is demographic representation and gender parity, which is

ANC NATIONAL LIST CONFERENCE UNDERWAY DESPITE NORTH WEST LIST OUTSTANDING



quite important.

We also are going to be making sure that the ANC's national democratic revolutionary gains are in fact represented in the people who will be on this list. In other words, a truly non-racial list will have to be the outcome of the discussion that we have here today. What will ultimately happen is that we will end the list at 200 for the National Assembly. There have already been 800 names put forward. What happens now is that the people with the highest number of votes tallied

across the country, who make it into the top 25% of the list, those names remain untouched. Below that we begin to discuss what the needs are of the ANC in the various parliaments. We look at skills and we look at experience. We want to be able to retain 50% to 60% of people with experience who have been in Parliament and legislature before."

Duarte did not rule out the list conference being challenged in a court of law. The embattled North West will host its list conference

on Saturday, even though the national one is already under way. This, however, could lead to a legal challenge later on.

"Because we live in a democracy, anything is challengeable. But we believe that we have run the process fairly, fairly openly and fairly transparent. In fact, the Western Cape had to have rerun because we weren't satisfied that they had followed all the guidelines. Similarly this is why the North West is doing it this way."

She said the outcomes of tomorrow's conference in the North West

won't have a great impact on the national-to-national list.

"It could marginally change people's numbers on the list, depending on whether there are people already on the list that will now go on to the North West list, which is sitting tomorrow. They might have to be reassigned, but the main bulk of the list won't change. The North West will focus on the legislature in the North West. It is unfortunate that the situation has unfolded in the North West as it has."



By Lisa Mongelli

WHAT IS HAPPINESS?

is within you". "Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven and all you desire shall be added unto you". What these Bible verses state categorically is what you think and how you feel creates happiness.

Every Great Master that ever lived has taught the same thing "Happiness comes from within you".

The way to a happy Life begins with innerjoy. When we become more aware of what we have to be grateful for the universe sends us more of the same. More love, more abundance, more peace, more happiness. Whatever it is that invokes a positive thankful state of mind in you will definitely bring in more of the same.

The big question here is; do you feel grateful and loving; are you thankful for what God has already given you?

Or do you see yourself as a victim living in an unfair and diffi-

cult world? Do you shy away from the present feeling incapable of directing your energy into creating a better now? Are you in constant pursuit of seeking your happiness in a future that may never come? What is the power of your thoughts attracting into your life? What are you perpetually creating? Peace, joy and wellbeing or unhappiness frustration and despair?

The Law of Attraction is always working, whether we believe it or not.

The truth is we live in a universe that is in a constant state of motion and we as the human race are part of that creative process. As a part of God force, we are also creators and we create our lives with our thoughts.

The law of attraction states that whatever thoughts you are holding in your mind, you are attracting to you. The relevant question here is what are you attracted to?

When your thoughts continually focus on what you don't want, you will surely attract more of the same.

The problem with most of us is, we are constantly thinking about what we don't want and get confused and upset when it keeps showing up. We express this generally through worry! Oh I'm worried about money or my child or my job or my fill in the blank. Actually there is nothing noble about worry. Constant worry is creating harmful stress on the mind and body. See yourself with the good you deserve believe it's possible for you and have the Faith to know it is there.

The Law of Attraction states what you think about most you attract. One of the most important guidelines to knowing what you are attracting into your life is your emotions. How are you feeling? Feeling good, keeping a good thought

is so important. There are only two types of emotions really we call them all kinds of things, but the bottom line is, you either feel good or you feel bad.

If you're thinking about attracting a brilliant new job and you keep focusing on, and speaking about how unhappy and disempowered your current job makes you feel, you are definitively on the wrong track. When you speak about your life do it in a positive context. Words have power, and can set not only the tone of your intention but of your whole reality.

Attracting what you want comes about through intention, simply put this means focusing on what you want, intending it, feeling you deserve it, and believing it has already happened. A thought holds an electrical charge or a vibration. That vibration sends out a signal to creation helping you to manifest your desire.

Every thought you think is a Creation. Whether that thought is positive or negative.

Learning to adjust your thoughts

“

Happiness does not depend on what you have or who you are, it solely relies on what you think," said

Buddha.

The pursuit of happiness is a full time pre-occupation, yet very few of us know how to be truly happy.

Most of us have no idea how to consciously attract the happiness we seek so we are constantly looking for happiness outside ourselves only to be disappointed. We externalise our hopes, wishes and dreams thinking happiness is something we can attain outside ourselves; then when our happiness doesn't materialise, we become discouraged, depressed and even angry. Many of us go a lifetime and never understand that the pursuit of happiness begins from within.

The Christ said, "The Kingdom of Heaven

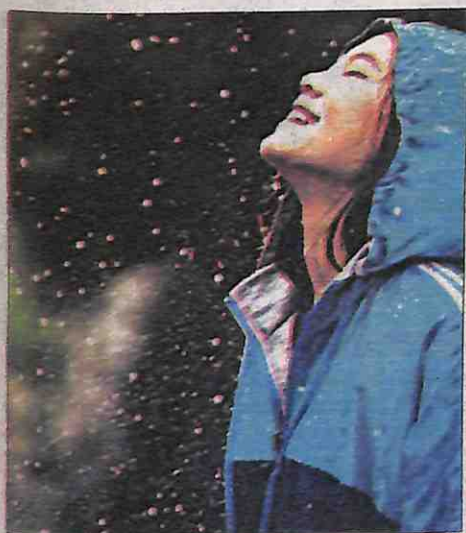
ZUMA'S NOMINATION IS A CONTINUOUS ATTEMPT BIRDCAGE THE POTENTIAL OF YOUNG LEADERS

The nomination of Jacob Zuma to return to Parliament is not only a disregard to ANC's ordinary voters but also an attempt to ensure that deployment to senior leadership roles within the ANC remain hegemonized by corrupt retirees who have less or no interests of changing the lives of South Africans for the better.

While majority of South Africans are set to vote for representatives to fight and eradicate national enemies such as high unemployment rate, corruption, poverty, inequality and crime among many quandaries the ANC necessitate to use the voters' power to fight personal political war that will never in millions of years benefit people of South Africa.

The least embarrassing part of this issue is that while the same government believes that at the age of 60 and 65 public servants should be released from their duties through normal retirement, the ANC believes at the age of 70 and above it is then normal for one to get an opportunity to snore in parliament benches.

The worst part is to see the excitement of youth within ANC branches getting excited that the reappearance of former president Zuma will offer him a chance to frustrate his enemies. It is strange that our youth fail to understand their leadership potential and existence beyond Zuma's satisfaction. They normalize their own challenges like unemployment and exclusion from positions of power that have the potential of producing new ideas that help may resolve the challenges of the youth. If we believe Zuma need a comfortable space to fight back and frustrate his enemies as he alludes, home is a perfect space to do, particularly his controversial Nkandla.



and actions to a positive mindset isn't always easy. Let's face it if you get up on the wrong side of the bed it is pretty easy to spiral down and have a bad day.

This is where choice comes in, a shift in your awareness can change your resonance, uplift you to a positive mindset, and the catastrophe that began your day ends up being just a minor hiccup.

Self worth is so vital in the creative process. Allowing the Universe to give you what you want isn't always easy it has a lot to do with



TOURISM & TRAVEL

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The Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs last week invited BBC journalists, who were in the country, to come and enjoy the country's Umhlanga (Reed) Dance in order to have first-hand experience of one of our well-kept unique secrets that have kept us together as a nation.

BBC Africa was in the country to look at how our unsullied culture assists tourism and if there were plans to take full advantage of the country's decision to revert to the name 'Eswatini' to repackage our tourism products and sell them internationally as the reconfigured 'Brand Eswatini'. Minister Moses Vilakati said the country had huge plans to take the Eswatini brand far and wide and convince the global community that indeed Eswatini was an ideal place to visit, mentioning that the new name for the country provided an impetus to rebrand the country and sell it with renewed purpose.

Vilakati was asked if his ministry was considering advertising or announcing the dates of our national events like the sacred Incwala, to which he said it was impossible to do so meaningfully because the actual date could not be foretold as it was determined by the position of the moon in the galaxy amongst other considerations.

He pleaded ignorance to the intricacies involved as only a handful knew what to consider to determine the appropriate date for Incwala. However, he said Umhlanga (Reed) Dance could be foretold, mentioning that it was known that it takes place from the last week of August to early September. The minister did not delay to express his desire to have the BBC team attend the event this year. "You are invited to attend Umhlanga in August," he told the BBC journalists, who graciously accepted the invitation.

When asked whether or not the country considered commercialising traditional events in order to maximise its economic gains, the minister said whilst it was important to maximise gains from such events, it was extremely important to avoid tempering with their essence and meaning of the Emaswati people's cultural norms. He said it was important to protect the people's sacred nature.

He said it was the purity of our culture that makes Eswatini brand sellable internationally because it is what set us apart from other nations. Vilakati said his portfolio had a huge

MINISTER EXTENDS UMHLANGA INVITE TO BBC AFRICA



task before it and that was to creatively repackage tourism and cultural products to present a strong case for Eswatini internationally. "Eswatini as a cultural destination does not have to do much because the culture we are selling is what we do every day as a people; all we need is to be vigilant in marketing our uniqueness to the global audience to maximise our share of visitors year on year."

The minister said there were already products and merchandise associated with our national cultural events, mentioning that a lot of entrepreneurs were getting good business from the throngs who attend these events, apart from restaurants and hotels.

He said his ministry was aware of the role tourism played in the country's economy and vowed to pull all stops in making sure the sector grew in leaps and bounds until the number of tourists was at least double the size of the population, which he said his ministry and its stakeholders aimed to achieve within the next five years.

The BBC team noted the welcoming atmosphere on arrival and further observed that Eswatini was far better than what they had imagined. They observed that the country was cleaner and more orderly compared to most countries they had visited. They spent some time in Mbabane

and noted the city was functioning in an orderly manner. They visited the Mbabane main market handicraft section and they were awestruck by what they found. They noted that the level of literacy was exceptionally high, even among vendors. The general cleanliness of the CBD and properly arranged street vending stalls also caught their eye. "We did not expect this," they said, adding that they observed that every section of the capital city was filth-free.

The team also observed that Emaswati were welcoming, accessible and willing to go the extra mile. This was after meeting several government and traditional authorities without much hustle, which they said was a big plus for the country. Minister Vilakati gave the team all the time in the world to ask all questions to their total satisfaction, so was Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane, who decided to drive all the way to Mantenga Cultural Village to meet them there, instead of them looking for him in Mbabane. Simelane was also asked about the country's name change, whether or not it had an impact on exports. In response, he told BBC that the country had always been referred to as Eswatini by the population and its neighbours; and that there was no envisaged negative impact on trade whatsoever. The same was the view of the Swaziland Business Community President Tum

du Pont, who said Emaswati had always called their country 'Eswatini'. Like Minister Vilakati, du Pont said selling the country as a cultural tourist destination was a necessity, but cautioned against commercialising the essence of culture, which he advised must be kept pure.

The BBC team had the privilege of watching the regiments weed one of the King's fields at Esihlabeni and were owed by the joy and commitment accompanied by song and dance as the weeding progressed. "I feel challenged to reconnect with my own culture. This is inexplicable," one was heard commenting, adding that one needed to see Swati culture with their naked eye to fully appreciate its depth and meaning.

Minister Vilakati later wished tourists a fulfilling time as the holiday season approaches the end, adding that his ministry was excited to note that no sinister incident affecting any of our visitors had been reported so far. He appealed to all Emaswati to continue treating visitors with kindness so that they would leave with fond memories about our country. He said his ministry would love to see our visitors return because that would be a sign that the country was doing the right thing in the tourism sector.

The BBC programme will be televised before the end of the month across Africa.

● *The truth is we live in a universe that is in a constant state of motion and we as the human race are part of that creative process. As a part of God force, we are also creators and we create our lives with our thoughts. The law of attraction states that whatever thoughts you are holding in your mind you are attracting to you.*

what you think you deserve. Remember the Universe will always give you the best life you are prepared to give yourself.

Putting the brakes on a negative way of thinking isn't always easy; when circumstances don't change

quickly enough sometimes life becomes overwhelming.

At this juncture it is important to realise change always comes about with time. Quiet the disbelieving voice, believe you deserve life's abundance, and allow yourself to receive

it.

So what is Happiness? Happiness comes as the result of taking responsibility for what you think and feel, and using your thoughts to manifest the life you truly desire.

The universal truth is, happiness

is a gift we give to ourselves, and it can only come from within. Choose to be Happy, take pleasure and be grateful for this Amazing Life God has given us, it is truly beautiful.

God bless you and enjoy your Sunday.

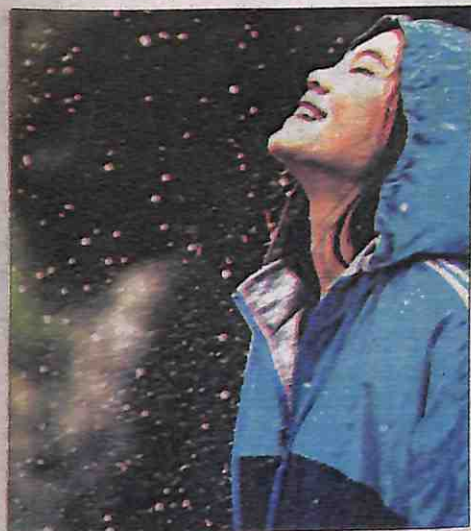
ZUMA'S NOMINATION IS A CONTINUOUS ATTEMPT BIRDCAGE THE POTENTIAL OF YOUNG LEADERS

The nomination of Jacob Zuma to return to Parliament is not only a disregard to ANC's ordinary voters but also an attempt to ensure that deployment to senior leadership roles within the ANC remain hegemonized by corrupt retirees who have less or no interests of changing the lives of South Africans for the better.

While majority of South Africans are set to vote for representatives to fight and eradicate national enemies such as high unemployment rate, corruption, poverty, inequality and crime among many quandaries the ANC necessitate to use the voters' power to fight personal political war that will never in millions of years benefit people of South Africa.

The least embarrassing part of this issue is that while the same government believes that at the age of 60 and 65 public servants should be released from their duties through normal retirement, the ANC believes at the age of 70 and above it is then normal for one to get an opportunity to snore in parliament benches.

The worst part is to see the excitement of youth within ANC branches getting excited that the reappearance of former president Zuma will offer him a chance to frustrate his enemies. It is strange that our youth fail to understand their leadership potential and existence beyond Zuma's satisfaction. They normalize their own challenges like unemployment and exclusion from positions of power that have the potential of producing new ideas that help may resolve the challenges of the youth. If we believe Zuma need a comfortable space to fight back and frustrate his enemies as he alludes, home is a perfect space to do, particularly his controversial Nkandla.



and actions to a positive mindset isn't always easy. Let's face it if you get up on the wrong side of the bed it is pretty easy to spiral down and have a bad day.

This is where choice comes in, a shift in your awareness can change your resonance, uplift you to a positive mindset, and the catastrophe that began your day ends up being just a minor hiccup.

Self worth is so vital in the creative process. Allowing the Universe to give you what you want isn't always easy it has a lot to do with



TOURISM & TRAVEL

BONGANI DLAMINI

STA Marketing Manager

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The Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs last week invited BBC journalists, who were in the country, to come and enjoy the country's Umhlanga (Reed) Dance in order to have first-hand experience of one of our well-kept unique secrets that have kept us together as a nation.

BBC Africa was in the country to look at how our unsullied culture assists tourism and if there were plans to take full advantage of the country's decision to revert to the name 'Eswatini' to repackage our tourism products and sell them internationally as the reconfigured 'Brand Eswatini'. Minister Moses Vilakati said the country had huge plans to take the Eswatini brand far and wide and convince the global community that indeed Eswatini was an ideal place to visit, mentioning that the new name for the country provided an impetus to rebrand the country and sell it with renewed purpose.

Vilakati was asked if his ministry was considering advertising or announcing the dates of our national events like the sacred Incwala, to which he said it was impossible to do so meaningfully because the actual date could not be foretold as it was determined by the position of the moon in the galaxy amongst other considerations.

He pleaded ignorance to the intricacies involved as only a handful knew what to consider to determine the appropriate date for Incwala. However, he said Umhlanga (Reed) Dance could be foretold, mentioning that it was known that it takes place from the last week of August to early September. The minister did not delay to express his desire to have the BBC team attend the event this year. "You are invited to attend Umhlanga in August," he told the BBC journalists, who graciously accepted the invitation.

When asked whether or not the country considered commercialising traditional events in order to maximise its economic gains, the minister said whilst it was important to maximise gains from such events, it was extremely important to avoid tempering with their essence and meaning of the Emaswati people's cultural norms. He said it was important to protect the people's sacred nature.

He said it was the purity of our culture that makes Eswatini brand sellable internationally because it is what set us apart from other nations. Vilakati said his portfolio had a huge

MINISTER EXTENDS UMHLANGA INVITE TO BBC AFRICA



task before it and that was to creatively repackage tourism and cultural products to present a strong case for Eswatini internationally. "Eswatini as a cultural destination does not have to do much because the culture we are selling is what we do every day as a people; all we need is to be vigilant in marketing our uniqueness to the global audience to maximise our share of visitors year on year."

The minister said there were already products and merchandise associated with our national cultural events, mentioning that a lot of entrepreneurs were getting good business from the throngs who attend these events, apart from restaurants and hotels.

He said his ministry was aware of the role tourism played in the country's economy and vowed to pull all stops in making sure the sector grew in leaps and bounds until the number of tourists was at least double the size of the population, which he said his ministry and its stakeholders aimed to achieve within the next five years.

The BBC team noted the welcoming atmosphere on arrival and further observed that Eswatini was far better than what they had imagined. They observed that the country was cleaner and more orderly compared to most countries they had visited. They spent some time in Mbabane

and noted the city was functioning in an orderly manner. They visited the Mbabane main market handicraft section and they were awestruck by what they found. They noted that the level of literacy was exceptionally high, even among vendors. The general cleanliness of the CBD and properly arranged street vending stalls also caught their eye. "We did not expect this," they said, adding that they observed that every section of the capital city was filth-free.

The team also observed that Emaswati were welcoming, accessible and willing to go the extra mile. This was after meeting several government and traditional authorities without much hustle, which they said was a big plus for the country. Minister Vilakati gave the team all the time in the world to ask all questions to their total satisfaction, so was Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane, who decided to drive all the way to Mantenga Cultural Village to meet them there, instead of them looking for him in Mbabane. Simelane was also asked about the country's name change, whether or not it had an impact on exports. In response, he told BBC that the country had always been referred to as Eswatini by the population and its neighbours; and that there was no envisaged negative impact on trade whatsoever. The same was the view of the Swaziland Business Community President Tum

du Pont, who said Emaswati had always called their country 'Eswatini'. Like Minister Vilakati, du Pont said selling the country as a cultural tourist destination was a necessity, but cautioned against commercialising the essence of culture, which he advised must be kept pure.

The BBC team had the privilege of watching the regiments weed one of the King's fields at Esihlabeni and were owed by the joy and commitment accompanied by song and dance as the weeding progressed. "I feel challenged to reconnect with my own culture. This is inexplicable," one was heard commenting, adding that one needed to see Swati culture with their naked eye to fully appreciate its depth and meaning.

Minister Vilakati later wished tourists a fulfilling time as the holiday season approaches the end, adding that his ministry was excited to note that no sinister incident affecting any of our visitors had been reported so far. He appealed to all Emaswati to continue treating visitors with kindness so that they would leave with fond memories about our country. He said his ministry would love to see our visitors return because that would be a sign that the country was doing the right thing in the tourism sector.

The BBC programme will be televised before the end of the month across Africa.

● *The truth is we live in a universe that is in a constant state of motion and we as the human race are part of that creative process. As a part of God force, we are also creators and we create our lives with our thoughts. The law of attraction states that whatever thoughts you are holding in your mind you are attracting to you.*

what you think you deserve. Remember the Universe will always give you the best life you are prepared to give yourself.

Putting the brakes on a negative way of thinking isn't always easy; when circumstances don't change

quickly enough sometimes life becomes overwhelming.

At this juncture it is important to realise change always comes about with time. Quiet the disbelieving voice, believe you deserve life's abundance, and allow yourself to receive

it.

So what is Happiness? Happiness comes as the result of taking responsibility for what you think and feel, and using your thoughts to manifest the life you truly desire.

The universal truth is, happiness

is a gift we give to ourselves, and it can only come from within. Choose to be Happy, take pleasure and be grateful for this Amazing Life God has given us, it is truly beautiful.

God bless you and enjoy your Sunday.



START THE NEW YEAR COVERED

● Speaking of resolutions, it is that time again when we have to make new ones. Some people say they do not want to be tied down by resolutions – life should just unfold as it should. It is important to sit down and chart the way you would like your life to go. Without a clear plan of action for your life, it is easy to be washed away by the tide of life.

capitalising on your failure to make your own solid ones.

When people make resolutions, it is usually to improve their lives and become better versions of themselves.

In 2019, which people are calling “20 Nice Things”, we would like you to consider your lives and that of your families by ensuring that you are insured. Do not let life’s uncertainties catch you flat-footed.

It is important to have funeral policies so that should the inevitable happen, you do not have to take your begging bowl to your relatives and friends asking for assistance in giving your loved ones a decent burial.

Plan in advance so that as United Holdings, we do all the running around in the event of loss in the

family.

This should be a time to try and get as much peace as possible in order to cope with your loss, not worry about the stressful financial requirements associated with funerals.

While more and more people are increasingly considering funeral policies, which is a good thing, it is also important to remember that we also need to be taken care of while we are still living. We cannot just focus on making plans for what should be done should we, or our relatives, pass on without thinking of how to ensure that we do not suffer premature death as a result of not getting the right healthcare.

Consider getting United Health insurance in 2019 so that your medical needs are sufficiently taken

care off.

The festive season usually sees a spike in road accidents, which is something motorists and pedestrians alike should be working to avoid.

It was a relief to note that there were no road fatalities on Christmas day this year. However, in the event that you have been involved in an accident, United Health will come to the rescue. It offers up to E600 000 General and Accidental Hospital Care.

United Health insurance enables you to also get medical assistance in South Africa should you need it.

All you need to do is to produce your United Health card. It also enables you to access dental, vision, casualty, maternity, and chronic medical care. You are also able to

get vaccinations for the family and assistance for HIV and AIDS-related issues.

We would like to wish you an amazing and successful 2019, and hope everything you set out to do turns out well.

May you and yours be in good health, with a little help from our health products. We look forward to fostering our existing relationships with our customers and starting new ones as well.

Please do give us a call on 2505 2028 to find out about all United Holdings products you can benefit from in the New Year.

You can also send queries to ugienquiries@dupsigroup.com, www.facebook.com/Unitedhdsd, www.unitedholdingswaziland.com or pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlangano, Mbabane, Pigg’s Peak and Siteki. Have a safe crossover into the New Year and make resolutions that count. Happy 2019!

As we close the 2018 chapter, we would like to thank our valued customers for their unwavering support this year.

We hope that you all have some positive memories to carry forward into 2019, and that everyone learned some important lessons in 2018. How did you fare with your resolutions?

Speaking of resolutions, it is that time again when we have to make new ones. Some people say they do not want to be tied down by resolutions – life should just unfold as it should.

It is important to sit down and chart the way you would like your life to go. Without a clear plan of action for your life, it is easy to be washed away by the tide of life. Sometimes other people will achieve their own goals by

Demography Today With Ndumiso

YOUTH (GIRLS) EDUCATION VS ECONOMIC GROWTH

Education is a fundamental aspect and requisite for all governments.

It is, therefore, every nation’s duty to ensure smooth and available education facilities to its population.

Swaziland Population and Housing Census (2007) and Inter Census Demographic and Housing Survey (2012) found that the literacy rate is 91 per cent which implies that Eswatini in as far as education is concerned the country is doing well.

The Swaziland Population and Housing Census, (2007 & 2012) also asserted that females are lagging behind in as far as literacy is concerned.

Initiatives have put in place to try and divert from traditional beliefs which put girls subordinate to boys and hence seeing no need for girls

● Initiatives have put in place to try and divert from Traditional beliefs which puts girls subordinate to boys and hence seeing no need for girls to undergo the education fraternity. As a result of this inclination of girls empowerment and education initiatives Eswatini has seen a high proportion of girls outshining boys in JC results and even Higher education and which enhances their employability nature.

to undergo the education fraternity. As a result of this inclination of girls empowerment and education initiatives Eswatini has seen a high proportion of girls outshining boys in JC results and even Higher education and which enhances their employability nature. In generally, there are more young girls aged 25-35 years who are occupying high profile positions in all sectors of the economy whether private or public in the world and Eswatini is no exception.

These girls through acquiring education get to be able to make sound and proper decisions including decisions concerning whom to marry, how to marry and they make decisions on TFR

as to how many children they want and with whom to have children with.

Increases

Also education of the girl child increases production capacity as more and more of the girls get to be swallowed by the public and private sector. Education plays a vital role in human development, which is one of the key determinants of sustainable socio-economic development

Education information is useful to policy makers for formulating public policies such as poverty reduction, gender equity and health policies. Furthermore, girl’s education (empowerment) has helped most girls free from diseases such as

HIV/AIDS, STIs and other diseases. As they are now able to use protective measures when engaging into sexual intercourse and they tend to avoid risky behaviours and through education young girls are able to find possible means of family planning techniques which helps in reducing TFR, poverty.

Poverty is reduced as girls now also have jobs which makes them able to sustain themselves even when the men have left them with the children now unlike in the past girls are able to find good paying jobs which reduces the high dependency ratio and now a high majority of the girls are independent as a result of education.

This time of year and the anticipation of new beginnings generally inspires reflection within us. Whether the previous year has been good or bad, we look forward to a better future with the incoming year. It is a time where people make new year's resolutions. These typically seek to enhance or strengthen operation or activity in various areas of life, usually where there has been weakness, but resolutions also inspire the pursuit of new things. Regardless of motivation, we all seek to do better in an effort to improve our lives.

SETTING NATIONAL PRIORITIES

In the context of the 'life' of this country, there is a need to do better in addressing developmental deficits. It is widely acknowledged that the cumulative effect of the actions of previous governments has been to leave us with serious socio-economic, cultural and political challenges. While it is important to understand this and the systemic flaws that have resulted in our current state, we do need to move forward now. We are where we are and the blame game won't fix anything - let us learn the lessons and make a concerted effort to address the issues. The country has set itself ambitious development targets, and with 2022 around the corner, there will have to be a heightened level of seriousness and cohesion within all sectors and at all levels if any progress is to be made. Otherwise this vision, already hanging on the slimmest of threads, will be a mere pipedream.

ENDURING CHALLENGES OF POVERTY AND HUNGER MUST BE ADDRESSED

From a human rights perspective, the people must be at the centre, hence it is critical that the factors that impact on human development are prioritised. Issues that remain painfully agonising are poverty and hunger, both of which are amongst the global sustainable development goals (SDGs) to which Eswatini has committed.

The majority of our people live in abject poverty and many continue to skip meals in order to survive; many of these are on medication because of the state of their health.

According to USAID, the 'Swaziland Annual Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis report projected that that approximately 177 000 people—more than 15 percent of the population—would be in urgent need of food assistance during the 2017/2018 lean season—when food is most scarce.' This level of food insecurity, which inevitably fuels other social ills, cannot be left unattended. As we examine such statistics, we need to remember that the numbers reflect actual human beings. When visiting poor rural communities, one is confronted with the urgency of putting in place national programmes aimed at addressing the inequalities in our society.

ECONOMIC GROWTH DOES NOT EQUAL POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Luckily for us, the new government seems determined to make a clean break with the past and invest in a new national development agenda. Much is being said about improving economic growth, with the minister of commerce, industry and trade talking about making a turnaround within two years.

But economic growth does not necessarily result in poverty alleviation or reduced inequality. Eswatini is ranked amongst countries with the highest inequality in the world where the gap between the rich and the poor, already vast, continues as a steadily widening chasm.

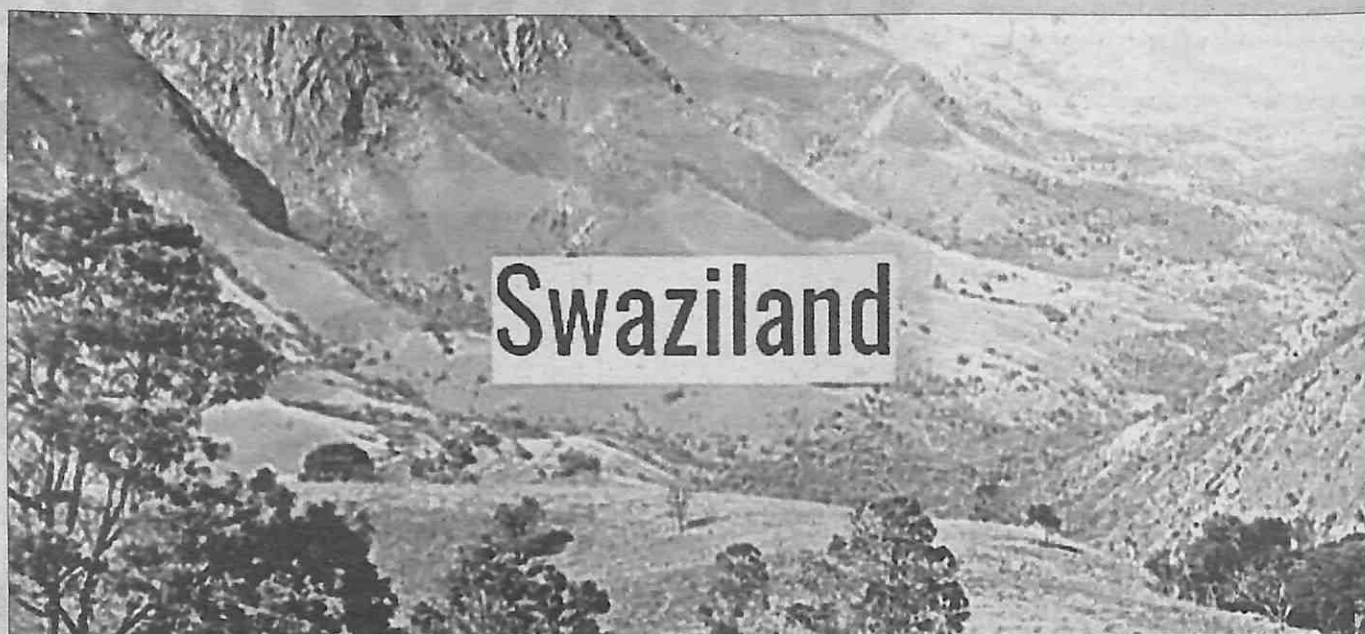
It will therefore not help the situation if economic growth will continue to line the pockets of the already rich, making them richer at the expense of the 'have not's', who will continue to get poorer. Therefore, even as means are made to revitalise this sick economy, we must ensure that poverty alleviation is a core priority.

As investors are wooed and business environment strengthened, there must be deliberate programming to ensure that economic recovery also translates to poverty reduction

SDG 5 - GENDER EQUALITY

LEGACY: "ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU - ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY JFK

(A HURISWA initiative supported by UNESCO to promote gender equality in Eswatini)



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outcomes that tangibly improves people's lives.

This will not only mean ensuring that resources are equitably distributed, it will also mean monitoring business practice to ensure that human rights are not violated in pursuit of profit.

BUSINESS VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS: MTN SWAZILAND AND AGOA

Take MTN, for instance. It is widely acknowledged that ICTs are an important driving force for economic growth. Access to these is also a human right. Yet MTN was allowed to maintain an indefensible monopoly over a period of 20 years severely affecting access to communications.

The logical conclusion is that MTN in turn negatively affected economic growth during this. We only need to observe the immediate and sharp drop in prices that accompanied the advent of Swazi Mobile to understand just how much MTN was exploiting us. Take AGOA also. While manufacturing firms boomed, positively impacting the economy, what of the workers - mostly women - and the impact on their lives. Low wages, lack of policy and legal protection, and lax monitoring and oversight of business practice has led to vulnerability to HIV and AIDS, gen-

der-based violence and the perpetuation of the cycle of poverty amongst women and their families. There are many more examples. Whatever policies, laws and other gaps allowed eSwatini to be abused by such business practices must be reviewed.

UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Understanding the power of business, the UN has developed guiding principles which set out the duties of States and businesses in ensuring the protection, respect and fulfillment of human rights. According to these principles, "In meeting their duty to protect, states should:

(a) Enforce laws that are aimed at, or have the effect of, requiring business enterprises to respect human rights, and periodically to assess the adequacy of such laws and address any gaps;

(b) Ensure that other laws and policies governing the creation and ongoing operation of business enterprises, such as corporate law, do not constrain but enable business respect for human rights;

(c) Provide effective guidance to business enterprises on how to respect human rights throughout their operations;

(d) Encourage, and where appropriate require, business enterprises

to communicate how they address their human rights impacts.

In the context of eSwatini, research is needed to more fully understand the impact that business is having on either advancing or impeding human rights. Nonetheless, government will have to ensure that in its quest to grow the economy, it does not allow business to ride roughshod over these rights.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP REMAINS AN ISSUE

And then of course is the gender dimension. Feminisation of poverty is not just a catchy phrase - it is real.

Most of the people affected by poverty are women, yet they are still expected to care and feed their families. Not only are women poor, they are the majority of the unemployed and even when employed, they occupy the lowest rungs of employment, with the lowest incomes.

The informal sector, largely populated by women, is not adequately supported at the levels policy or access to finance yet it drives the economy.

We also cannot overemphasise the continuing gaps in representation of women at all levels of decision-making. Inasmuch as there was a focus on elections this year, this is not the only sector where women's

meaningful participation and leadership are necessary. There are many advisory bodies, boards, commissions and committees still to be appointed.

Those responsible must make such appointments with the gender parity principle in mind. The country's economy and the condition of her people will not make any significant progress if women are not involved!

HURISWA'S COMMITMENT IN 2019

As 2019 starts, HURISWA commits to pursuing a vision of social justice, wherein Eswatini is a nation that fully embraces human rights - political, economic, social, cultural and environmental - without any form of discrimination. We all have a role to play in promoting the peaceful and sustainable development of the country, a role which is also recognised in the duties of the citizen outlined in section 63 of the national constitution.

HURISWA aims to strengthen capacity of the country's citizens and civil society organisations to promote and protect all forms of human rights and is therefore looking forward to working together with all relevant stakeholders, both within and outside of government to ensure that we attain the various development goals we have set ourselves.



WEEKEND REVIEW

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Happy 2019 readers!

Welcome to the very first 2019 edition of your favourite youth section on the land, where we ASPIRE to INSPIRE young people to be the best of whatever they Aspire to be.

We appreciate your support and the feedback is forever humbling, and it brings tears down my ears when I think about the fact that ASPIRE's third anniversary is coming up soon. Without you, this journey wouldn't have been possible, thank you very much.

Now, let me get to today's subject matter and review the crossover event I attended last week. So, thanks to the New Year's Eve holiday, I finally happened to get my one day off work and met up with family and friends for a good time.

For the first time since the Umdabula bluff, I went out and about for New Year's Eve, and this time, I wanted to see the strictly Eswatini artists on stage and to see and feel how the crowd would relate.

I'll break down the journey into parts, from accommodation, to the artists and so forth;

ACCOMMODATION; Esibayeni lodge offered quite affordable charges for this event and this was a good plan to get everyone in. I doubt, I would have attended personally were it not for the accommodation package, so I think it was a good strategy and it worked. Most of my friends also got rooms and it made the fun much easier because everyone met up and started having a good time by the afternoon hours. Great package with the rooms and the tickets, really loved it. More event organisers in the country should consider working with hotels and guest houses and try out such packages.

TICKET SALES AND ENTRY; I was impressed with the sales front. They had a couple of foot soldiers who did all the groundwork and those who weren't sure until the last minute (as most Swazis always are (sighs)). I was, however, not impressed with the entry. It was rather too slow and I didn't understand what was going on.

Again, right in the middle of the storm, there were still patrons who were trying to get in, and they deserved to be in swiftly. I don't know what the delay was and I couldn't really ascertain because of the heavy downpour (I really just was trying to drop Andile's tickets and get back to the room - ASAP), but the number of people who were outside getting wet in the rain didn't deserve it. They should have been more rewarded or their loyalty, and again, a stampede could have happened, so whatever happened should be fixed. I never understand delay; the system should just be free-flowing.

PERFORMANCES: Unfortunately, I didn't have my team fully and I was much more caught up in the fun to give a detailed review of each and every performance. Remember, there were over 60 acts and three different stages.

From the Kings and Queens of tomorrow stage, I had a couple of friends from Botswana who watched Zoe Genesis' performance and said she brought the house down, noting in particular her stage presence, how she com-

THE BIG FIVE CROSSOVER SHOULD NOW BE A FESTIVAL!



Party animals captured dancing during the Big Five Crossover show at Esibayeni Lodge recently.

mands attention with her choreography also needs to be applauded. I only came when she was about to finish, but I met up with her later and gave her my words on it. It's interesting how her career has

grown in just the past year.

I really was just caught up in the fun to be clear with the stage vibes, but the people on the other hand were having a time of their lives. Big ups to the Eswatini artist who did well on that stage, the tunes that were dished out even got me dancing to gcom and I think everyone was proud of being in an event where all proceedings were to fellow Emaswati.

GOING FORWARD

I think Mthunzi 'Shadow' Zwane and the whole BIG FIVE team should start appreciating and giving themselves a pat on the back for what they have done.

Emanating from the need to realise

dream of identifying, developing, promoting and celebrating home-grown aptitude, the collaborative initiative of these celebrated entertainment giants in resulted in the birth of a fresh and exciting concept, THE BIG FIVE, where the five entertainment stables vowed to direct their efforts and resources to celebrating a PROUDLY SWAZI crossover party, where there's strictly no international act on stage

Well, my two cents is, you guys already have the crowd, the loyal fans. People just want to come out and have fun, why limit them to one day. I mean it's a crossover and it's a holiday the next day, why not be maximised and grow the

brand into a festive? You could see from the people's faces that they still wanted to go on and have fun. A lot for them checked out and went of swimming, just to still wind time and all. To me it should at least be a two-day thing next year. We want to have fun for two days, which also makes business sense for Esibayeni. I'm sure all those rooms weren't booked like they were on the 31st. We want more time together as a nation; there are only a few events of this kind in our country, so let us build our industry together.

Big ups, but I challenge growth next year. They don't even need to add the artists, I mean if there's over 60 artists performing in one day, what can stop them from doing that in a period of two days and getting to 30 artists per day.

ABOUT THE BIG FIVE

The past couple of decades saw optimal dominance of borrowed talent in the local entertainment scene. Visiting artists were afforded preferred slots and treatment, while home-brewed aptitude was, for the longest of time, being sidelined or if considered, remained supporting acts and occupied the filler spaces on posters.

This, therefore, necessitated the need to develop ideas of growth, to try and position local arts at a stage, where they are celebrated at the same level as their visiting counterparts. It was duly noted that such can only be achieved through collaborated effort, and resulted in a historic merge of a major attribute to the instant success of the concept has been the tremendous support received afforded by the masses. Having started off with a total attendance of about 2 000 people on inception, the concept realised tremendous growth, reaching a record breaking 4 000 in the preceding year. This grows to show the extent at which Swazi ARTS have grown, and how Emaswati are committed to supporting their own. Other attributes to the success of the concept include;

CREDIBILITY - Whilst so many people might have had doubts at first, the event now has a reputable corporate endorse. Our efforts in the second year of existence gave us legitimacy.

TRUST - Followers of the show over the years have been built on trust. People trust the minds behind the concept and they trust the quality of events that they host all year through.

CONSISTENCY - The concept is going into the third year of existence. This shows that the foundation has been set and the pillars of sustainability are in place, thereby ensuring a consistent recurrence.

NEW INTRODUCTION

The introduction of THE KINGS & QUEENS OF TOMORROW STAGE has been brought to life to accommodate and give a chance to the young upcoming stars, while mentoring them to be better entertainers tomorrow.

Having realised the massive emerging talent presented by the future generation, it remains vital to afford a chance to them, allow them to serve a dose of current and future smashes and stay in touch with the emerging patrons. To add to the fun while aligning with this year's theme, a colour splash has been organised, hence patrons are encouraged to be in white T-shirts for colour visibility.

HEART'S INTENTIONS



With Mukelo Tembe

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude.

You can always find another way to do something or change your circumstances, if not in the way you ideally want to, then away from the way you don't want them to be. We alone have the right and ability to control our lives and make them what we want them to be.

Fate and destiny are one's-old names for coincidence, rather than people having the urgency to go out and change their lives on their back and of their own volition. Decide what you want from life and go and think about what you can do – what achievable goals you can consider – and go out there and do them. It might take a while, it might be a hard road, but if you believe in your dreams, passions, and desires, and are willing to get over the victim 'I can't change a thing because...' mentality, there's nothing you cannot do. I've learnt that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Ultimately, our emotions are what drive us as human beings. Yes, we may use logic and reason and intuitive abilities, but our emotions, whether consciously or unconsciously, have a significant amount of sway over what dictates our behaviours, attitudes, and responses to daily events. Therefore, we must always try and take others into consideration; after all, we might not remember what someone said to us, but how we feel about that person.

Sometimes even the most non-committal of words and conversations can bring about a strong positive or negative response. Always make sure that people remember you for the right reasons, rather than the wrong ones. Being a great positive influence around people ensures that everyone feels better and gives you the kind of reputation that people actually care about.

We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated.

Don't give up, just because you've hit your first stumbling block or obstacle. These things happen to every single person on their journeys in life, and while some of us have smoother paths than others, it is how we deal with the little setbacks that truly define us.

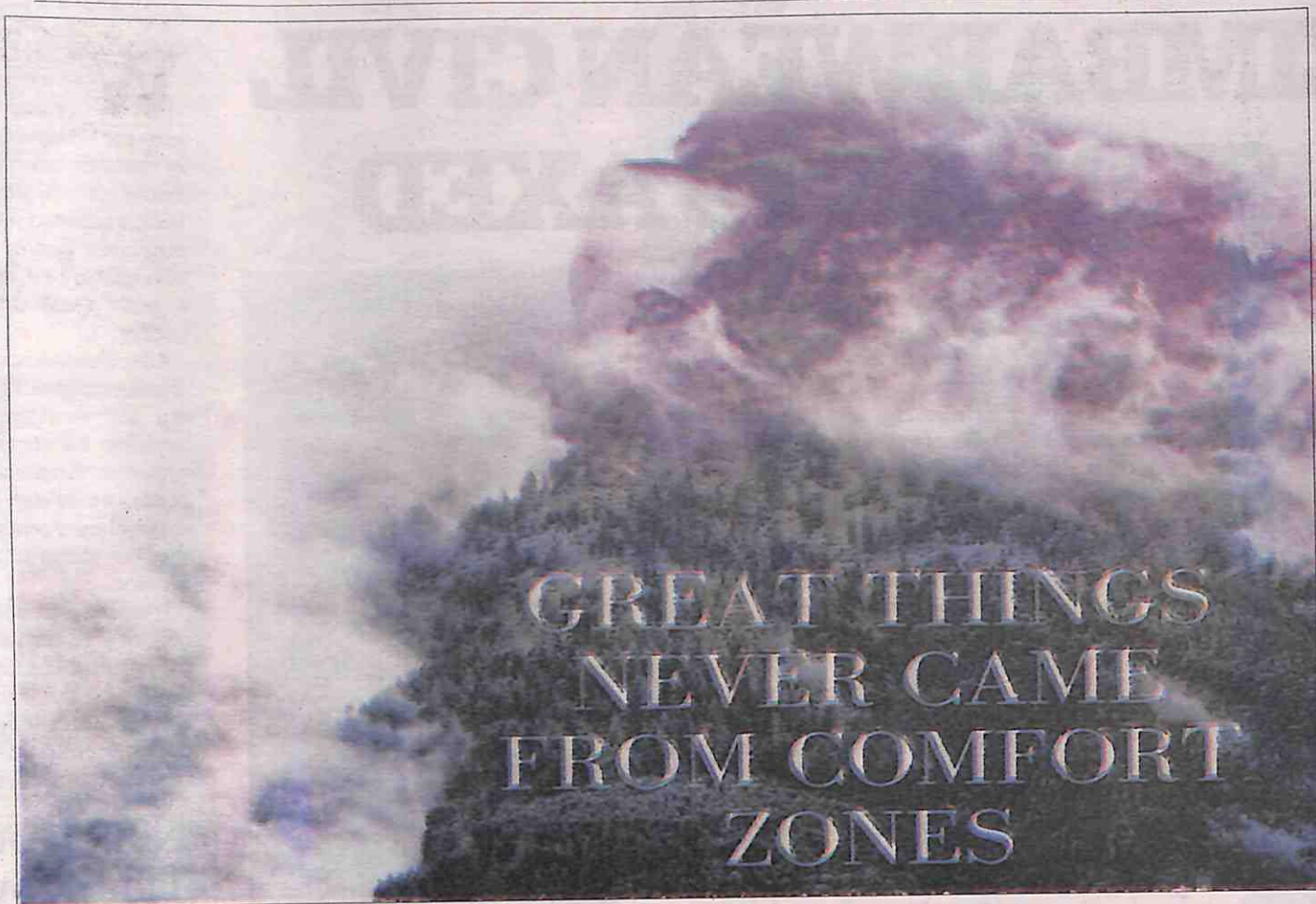
If we gave up at the first sign of trouble or at less-than-smooth sailing, we wouldn't achieve anything of value or really important. These tests of endurance define as human beings, not only in how we react to falling down, but also in how we pick ourselves back up, dust ourselves off, and try again.

Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage.

Bravery is one of those most common of desired virtues, despite the fact that most people have the potential to be brave in their day to day life. Saying no to peer pressure, standing up for someone in a vulnerable position, being brave enough to put yourself out there in your professional and personal spheres... people are brave every day. Practise courage and bravery every day.

Cultivating courage is a skill, really, because

CHANGE



our culture and media tells us that everything is to be feared – crime statistics, political battles, stories of troubles in other countries, heartbreak and divorce and betrayal. True courage is accepting the fear about a situation and doing the right thing anyway. Courage is not an absence of fear – instead it is overcoming it regardless.

...All great achievements require time

Things take time. Good things come to those who wait. We all know about the virtue of patience, even if few of us actually exercise it, particularly in the modern world where everything is done quicker and faster and with a lack of patience or willingness of wait for anything. In the grand scheme of things, we're all just shuffling up our own personal mountains and it takes a long time to climb a mountain.

So often these days, we're unwilling to put in the hours that it takes to actually accomplish our goals and work towards the dream. We're used to seeing cute twenty-somethings in dramas on TV seemingly have it all without even trying or breaking a sweat. Keep working towards those dreams and goals – the business you want to start, the book you want to write, the play you want to star in – and know that even if it all falls apart, you can rebuild it and keep going.

A wise woman wishes to be no one's enemy; a wise woman refuses to be anyone's victim."

Something has to be said for the person who gets their head down and works at making themselves the best, most well-rounded and loving person they can be. The fine line between confidence and arrogance, between strength and brutishness. Working on yourself as a human being means working on confidence and strength and compassion, whilst stopping from crossing the line.

Your energy and strength should always be focused on the most compassionate and strong way of living that you can achieve. That means

that focusing on your 'enemies' is a waste of time, energy and resources, as is letting anyone walk all over you in order to live an easy life at the cost of your self esteem. Balance – don't channel your strength into becoming someone who invokes enemies and 'haters', but don't diminish it for the sake of letting other people walk all over you.

...be a rainbow in someone's cloud

Life can be extremely hard and painful. We all know this. However, something positive that we can all try to do is to try and be a compassionate, beneficial influence in someone's life. The way that our actions and attitudes have far-reaching repercussions, like a pebble in a pond causing waves. Therefore, it's always best to make those ripples positive and helping to create a chain reaction of positivity. Always try and choose the positive way to talk to, speak to, and be with people. Becoming a positive influence and force in someone's life, helping to keep them motivated and positive and looking forward can be a massively important, powerful thing, and by doing that for someone, you'll be enhancing their life, and enhancing your own. Be the change you want to see, and a positive one at that.

Bitterness is like cancer. It eats upon the host. But anger is like fire. It burns it all clean.

Holding onto bitterness is one of the toxic and dangerous things you can do to your psychological self. It poisons your daily life and infects everything in it – your work, your relationships, how you treat other people and expect to be treated in return. Let go of the bitterness and use the anger you feel, channelling it into something productive – writing, reading, singing, creating. Use that anger to cleanse yourself of the bitterness and the hurt and use it as a transformative process, allowing you to move forward in your life and become the person you are meant to be. Rather use your anger as a tool and a catalyst for your own sake. Use it wisely.

If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded.

Cynical human minds tend to gravitate humanity towards the side of cruelty rather than kindness, but there is a little more optimistically – that humanity is full of kindness and compassion, if intrinsically flawed.

Caring for other people is something everyone should strive to do in their personal lives. Compassion awakens the heart, allowing you to experience life in a much more open, honest, and enjoyable way.

Everyone out there wants to be cared for and loved, and receiving that will allow them to return it in kind without fear.

It's one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself, to forgive. Forgive everybody.

The act of forgiveness can bring to someone, and also yourself. Choosing to forgive someone is an extraordinarily powerful gift, one that helps to alleviate weeks and months of toxic guilt build up from both parties, and help everyone move forward in their lives and look at the big picture. There's something inherently strong in being able to say, 'I forgive you', and truly mean.

That isn't to say every slight can be erased with those words; but for those silly grudges and spats, being the bigger person by forgiving the other person can have so many positive benefits. You can regain a friendship or relationship you once thought lost, you gain back some of your energy that was focused on hating the other person, and many more. Much as you can.

The best way to truly appreciate life is to make sure that you maintain focus and commitment to every aspect of it. Work hard at your job, and when you're working, give it all; but when it hits home time, leave it behind and go and spend time with the people you love, doing the things you love. Life is too short – the blink of an eye to Mother Nature – so spending it in a daze and not comparing about what you're doing is a sheer waste.



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

MORE THAN 3 000 ZIMBABWEAN CIVIL SERVANTS AXED

HARARE - Zimbabwe has laid off more than 3 000 youth officers from the public service as part of its effort to streamline the wage bill.

Zimbabwe's public service wage bill has been gobbling 90 per cent of the country's US\$4 billion national budget.

The retirement of youth officers, who accounted for 13.8 per cent of the wage bill, saves the country a substantial amount at a time when the investment-hungry nation's economy is limping.

The laid-off youth officers held various posts in the youth, sport, arts, and recreation ministry and did not "possess the requisite qualifications to be engaged as public officers".

"The youth officers will be paid their cash in lieu of accrued days leave and cash in lieu of notice," Public Service Commission Secretary Jonathan Wutawunashe said in a statement on Friday.

To appease those rendered jobless, most of whom are Zimbabwe national

youth service graduates, Wutawunashe said government would empower them through vocational training and access to finance for entrepreneurial programmes.

He said the retirement of the youth officers was in line with the transitional stabilisation programme as announced by Finance and Economic Development Minister Mthuli Ncube in the 2019 national budget last November. At the time, Ncube proposed a raft of actions as wage bill containment.

The measures, Ncube said, "will yield annual financial savings to be channelled to critical areas of health and education, as well as infrastructure".

President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government is under pressure to improve the economy, which has been in free fall since he won the elections in July 2018. To repair the economy, Mnangagwa and his finance minister have repeatedly said they will not hesitate to implement austerity measures.

African News Agency



Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

May's 11th-hour bid to break Brexit deadlock

LONDON - Theresa May is set to offer MPs a 'double lock' on her Brexit deal in a last-ditch bid to reassure them the UK could not be trapped in a customs union indefinitely.

The Prime Minister is pursuing two safeguards designed to ensure the controversial Irish 'backstop' could not last for more than 12 months.

The drive is the focus of efforts to turn around a massive Tory rebellion ahead of a crunch vote this month on the PM's Brexit deal. But Government sources last night acknowledged the initiative would require more EU concessions than Brussels has so far been willing to grant.

And leading Eurosceptics said there

were 'no signs' that resolve was wavering among more than 100 MPs who have vowed to join forces with Labour to defeat Mrs May's deal.

Last night it emerged that the PM is to take personal charge of no-deal planning, as the March 29 deadline for Britain's exit from the EU approaches. Until now the Cabinet committee charged with ensuring the UK is ready for Brexit has been chaired by Mrs May's deputy David Lidington.

But Downing Street sources said that from Monday a new committee known as EUXT (Preparedness) would focus on ensuring the UK is ready to leave on March 29, regardless of whether a deal has been approved or not.

Sources last night insisted securing a

deal remains Mrs May's primary focus.

To achieve this she is now pursuing a twin-track approach - described by one ally as a 'double lock' - designed to reassure MPs the Irish backstop cannot last indefinitely.

The backstop, which has been demanded by Brussels and Dublin, is designed to prevent the emergence of a hard border on the island of Ireland if trade talks falter. But critics believe it could leave the UK trapped indefinitely in a form of customs union - which prevents us negotiating trade deals with non-EU countries. The amendment would rely on provisions in the Vienna Convention, which govern countries' rights to withdraw unilaterally from international treaties. *Daily Mail*

Trump threatens years-long govt shutdown

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump threatened to keep the US government partially shut for months or years on Friday after he and Democratic leaders failed to resolve their dispute over Trump's request for \$5.6 billion (4.4 billion pounds) to build a wall on the Mexican border.

After Democratic congressional leaders refused Trump's requests at a meeting in the White House Situation Room, the Republican president threatened to take the controversial step of declaring a national emergency and building the wall without congressional approval.

Trump is withholding his support for a bill that would fully fund the government until he secures money for the wall. As a result, around 800 000 public workers have been unpaid, with about a quarter of the federal government

closed for two weeks.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said Democrats had told Trump during the meeting to end the shutdown. "He resisted," Schumer said. "In fact, he said he'd keep the government closed for a very long period of time, months or even years."

Trump confirmed that comment but painted a more positive picture of the meeting, the first since a new era of divided government began when Democrats took control of the House of Representatives on Thursday.

"We had a very, very productive meeting, and we've come a long way," Trump said.

According to a source familiar with the White House discussion, Trump opened the meeting with a speech that lasted at least 15 minutes in which he insisted on the need for billions of dollars to fund a border wall.

Daily Mail

New House Democrat Rashida Tlaib vows to impeach Trump

WASHINGTON - A Democratic congresswoman kicked off her term with an expletive-laced vow to impeach Donald Trump, testing her party's discipline and earning a chiding Friday from the president.

As a clip of Michigan Democrat Rashida Tlaib's animated comments circulated widely on social media, Trump tartly dismissed the threat of impeachment, while the newly elected Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi appeared loath to reign in the congresswoman's language.

"How do you impeach a president who has won perhaps the greatest election of all time?" Trump said on Twitter, saying Democrats only consider impeachment "because they know they can't win in 2020."

At an event, hours after her swearing-in on Thursday, Tlaib told supporters that "we are gonna go in there and we're gonna impeach the motherf---er."

The crowd roared, and Tlaib hugged supporters.

Salty language by US lawmakers - or presidents, for that matter - is nothing new.

Trump, hardly the paradigm of verbal decency, last year derided African nations as "shithole" countries, after all.

But when Trump was asked about his critic's comments, he said they were "disgraceful," and "highly disrespectful to the United States of America."

"I think she dishonoured herself and I think she dishonoured her family, using language like that," he added.

Daily Mail

BRIEFS

Zim doctors snub disciplinary hearings

HARARE - Striking junior medical doctors in Zimbabwe who were scheduled to appear before disciplinary hearings at their respective workplaces on Friday have disregarded the process, insisting they will turn up only once their demands have been addressed. "None of our members attended the hearings [on Friday]."

They were all in the comfort of their homes because they are on industrial action. They cannot go to work when their issues are not met.

Reuters

World must wait for DRC results

PRETORIA - South Africa's Ambassador to the United Nations (UN) Jerry Matjila says the world must wait for the electoral commission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to announce the results of last Sunday's election. He was speaking as he went into a closed session of the United Nations Security Council on the poll designed to give the Congo its first democratic change of president in history. France's Ambassador to the UN, Francois Delattre, says the fact that the world organisation's powerhouse is meeting on the subject means it's keeping a close watch on vote counting in the DRC.

Reuters

Iran has found new oil buyers

TEHHRAN - All countries that were granted waivers from the United States to continue buying a certain amount of Iranian oil imports are complying with US sanctions, a senior Iranian energy official said, noting that Tehran was hopeful to find new buyers. The United States withdrew from a nuclear deal with Iran last year and snapped sanctions in place to choke Iran's oil and banking industries, while temporarily allowing eight customers to keep buying crude from the Islamic Republic.

Reuters

'Take advantage' of refugee crises

DODOMA - Tanzanian President John Magufuli on Friday urged his ministers to "take advantage" of refugee crises and make money by selling food to international aid organisations. The country hosts around 300 000 refugees, mainly from Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo, largely in three camps in the north-west of the country, according to the Norwegian Refugee Council. Speaking in Dar es Salaam, Magufuli celebrated the signing of a contract to deliver 36 000 tons of maize to the UN World Food Programme (WFP) for around \$9.1 million. *Reuters*

Bale injury not expected to be serious - Solari

MADRID - Real Madrid coach Santiago Solari believes the calf injury that Gareth Bale sustained against Villarreal on Wednesday is not serious.

Bale will undergo tests on Saturday to diagnose the extent of the problem after being forced off at half-time at the Estadio de la Ceramica, where Real Madrid drew 2-2.

"We think the injury is not too serious," Solari said at a press conference yesterday. "He will go through tests today and we all hope he is back with us quickly."

Expectations were high for Bale this season following the departure of Cristiano Ronaldo last summer but his rhythm has been disrupted by fitness issues.

He has made 22 appearances for Real this term but played 90 minutes only five times.

Bale's absence could mean a reprieve for Isco, who has been out of favour since Solari took charge but replaced the Welshman against Villarreal.

Real Madrid host Real Sociedad in La Liga today and, speaking ahead of the game, Solari seemed positive about the prospect of Isco coming in.

"Isco is so good he can play wherever, in any position on the pitch," Solari said.

"Sometimes it's not all about speed.

You can be effective with your creativity, imagination and technical ability. Every player has different characteristics."

The draw against Villarreal leaves Madrid fourth in the table, seven points adrift of leaders Barcelona. Madrid have 30 points, which is the club's lowest total after 17 games in 13 years.

Solari, however, insisted 'you cannot underestimate draws', and added: "The important thing is to keep climbing the table. To get from ninth to fourth has been difficult and we want to keep going. La Liga is long and in times of adversity, you see character."

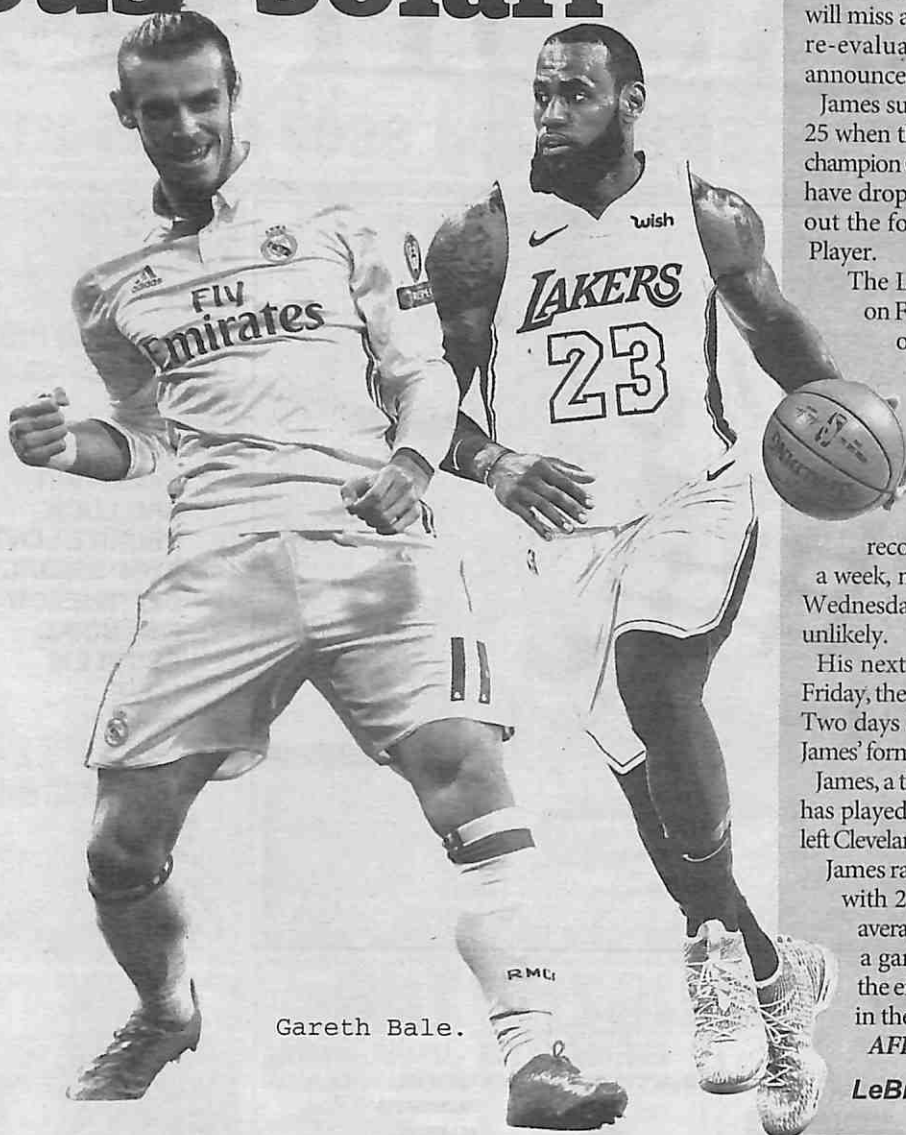
Marcelo has been among those criticised, with the defender at fault for Villarreal's opening goal in mid-week. He has returned after suffering a hamstring injury in October.

"Marcelo has had a very difficult injury and it has not been easy for him," Solari said.

"He is getting his rhythm back and he is a fundamental player for the team and the club. Over a season you can have good and bad games, but we must look after Marcelo."

As well as Bale, Marco Asensio, Marcos Llorente and Mariano Diaz are all recovering from injuries and expected to miss the game on Sunday.

Goal



Gareth Bale.

Injured LeBron to sit out three more games

LOS ANGELES - NBA superstar LeBron James, who has already missed four games with a strained left groin, will miss at least three more before being re-evaluated, the Los Angeles Lakers announced on Friday.

James suffered the injury on December 25 when the Lakers beat defending NBA champion Golden State 127-101. The Lakers have dropped three of four games without the four-time NBA Most Valuable Player.

The Lakers said James will not play on Friday at home against New York or travel on the club's road trip to Minnesota today and Dallas tomorrow.

James, who has been receiving daily treatment by the Lakers training and medical staff, is making progress on his recovery and will be re-evaluated in a week, making his availability for next Wednesday's home game against Detroit unlikely.

His next evaluation would come next Friday, the same day the Lakers visit Utah. Two days later, the Lakers will entertain James' former club, the Cleveland Cavaliers.

James, a three-time NBA champion who has played in the past eight NBA Finals, left Cleveland in July to sign with the Lakers.

James ranks fifth in the NBA in scoring with 27.3 points a game, and is also averaging 8.3 rebounds and 7.1 assists a game. At 21-17, the Lakers hold the eighth and final playoff position in the Western Conference.

AFP

LeBron James.

Maradona released from hospital after health scare

CLINICA OLIVOS - Diego Maradona was seen smiling as he left hospital on Friday following a health scare.

The former World Cup winner had returned to Buenos Aires for a routine check-up at the Clinica Olivos, although reports in Argentina claimed that stomach bleeding had been detected.

Maradona's daughter Dalma dispelled any notion that the Argentine legend was in danger, however, insisting that the reports were 'wrong' and that her father would soon be returning home.

She wrote in response to an Argentine journalist on Twitter: "You are saying things that are wrong!"

"I do not know who gives you the info but it is serious, when it is something about health, that you say something that is not true!"

She added: "To all those who are really worried about my dad, I tell them that it is okay, that Gianni (another of Maradona's daughters) is there with him and that in a while he goes home."

"I would publish the photo they sent me but it is not my style to publish everything."

Indeed, Maradona was later released from hospital and seen smiling at journalists and photographers as he departed.

This is not the first time Maradona's



Soccer legend Diego Maradona.

health has been a cause for concern, however. Last summer he required medical attention after Argentina's 2-1 victory against Nigeria in the World Cup after suffering a drop in blood pressure.

He has also used a walking stick for most of this season due to arthritis in both knees.

The 58-year-old's latest health concern means he will miss Dorados' next match, which takes place against Celaya on Sunday.

The news also comes just hours after his agent Matias Morla took to Twitter to confirm that Maradona would be remaining with the Mexican second-tier side next season.

Goal

Poor attitude cost me Brisbane semi-final - Osaka

BRISBANE - Reigning US Open champion Naomi Osaka said her poor attitude cost her during her 6-2, 6-4 loss to Lesia Tsurenko in yesterday's Brisbane International semifinals.

Osaka went into the match as firm favourite but looked flat from the outset as Tsurenko raced through the match in just 65 minutes.

The Japanese star, who burst to prominence with her eventful US Open final win over Serena Williams, made 26 unforced errors and was broken three times in a disappointing display.

She said after the match that she didn't know how to cope once things started to go against her.

"If I'm being really frank, I just feel like I had the worst attitude today," she said. "I feel like I didn't really know how to

cope with not playing well.

"I was sulking a little bit, and like there are moments that I tried not to do that, but then the ball wouldn't go in, and then I would go back to being, like, childish and stuff."

"I feel like last year I did a lot of that," she added.

"I'm trying to change it more, and I think I have."

But Osaka said yesterday's loss was probably a better learning experience than if she had made the final.

"I think today I learned... what I can do to improve the situation," she said.

The 29-year-old Tsurenko, who will now rise to a career-high world ranking of 24, said she had adopted a new game plan during the off-season.

"I feel better with my serve and that I am moving well," she said.



US Open champion Naomi Osaka.

"I feel more strong now, so I can kind of handle every kind of pressure on court, even when someone like Naomi is playing really strong."

"I can really stay there and I can be aggressive also."

Tsurenko will play either fifth seeded Czech Karolina Pliskova or Croatia's Donna Vekic in today's final. **AFP**

Nishikori powers through to Brisbane final

BRISBANE - Japanese star Kei Nishikori was in superb form as he demolished Jeremy Chardy 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinals of the Brisbane International yesterday.

The 29-year-old gave his French opponent no chance as he put on a commanding all court display to advance to the final for the second time in three years.

After his impressive straight sets quarterfinal win over Grigor Dimitrov, Nishikori said he had set his sights on returning to the world's top five after falling to 39 last April due to a wrist injury at the end of 2017 that required

time away from the tour.

And he showed all the qualities of a top five player in his 66-minute demolition at the Pat Rafter Arena.

He only served two aces compared with the 11 sent down by Chardy, but Nishikori returned superbly and pressured the Frenchman's serve throughout, breaking him twice in each set.

Nishikori also moved around the court well, his speed not noticeably affected by the injuries that hampered him last year. "Everything was working

well today," Nishikori said.

"I felt like I was too fast on the court today - I felt very good."

"Physically and tennis-wise I think it was perfect. I served well, I returned well - I think that was the key today - and I was moving well, that was fantastic."

Nishikori was runner-up to Dimitrov in 2017 and will go into today's final against either fourth seeded Russian Daniil Medvedev or Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga as firm favourite. **AFP**



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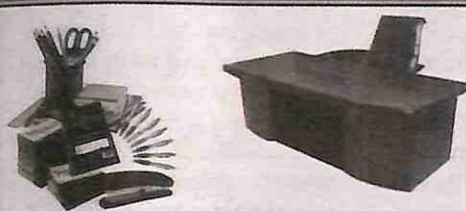
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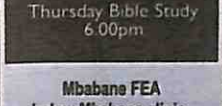
Main Service
10:45am - 1:00pm

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Mondays Couples 6:00pm -
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Thursday Bible Study
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Women 2:00pm-3:30pm

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Prayer 6:00pm - 7:30pm

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ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



Man United make it five in a row under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Man U make it 5 wins with FA Cup victory

MANCHESTER - Manchester United maintained their 100 per cent record under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after defeating Reading 2-0 to advance to the FA Cup fourth round.

Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez returned to the line-up, while Paul Pogba, David de Gea, Nemanja Matic and Luke Shaw were given a rest, while former Ajax Cape Town goalkeeper Anssi Jaakkola started for the visitors.

The hosts enjoyed a lively start to the encounter, but they were unable to carve out a serious opening in the early stages of the first half.

Lead

However, the Reds were awarded a penalty on 20 minutes after the referee had consulted with the Video Assistant Referee (VAR). Juan Mata, who won the penalty, stepped up to convert and hand his side the lead.

Reading did manage a couple forays into the final third, but they were

let down by their decision-making on both occasions.

The lead was eventually doubled on the stroke of half-time as Sanchez played in Lukaku, who rounded Jaakkola before slotting into an empty net.

The second half got off to a lively start, as Reading's Sone Aluko forced goalkeeper Sergio Romero into a fine save just moments before Lukaku had an effort blocked.

Daily Mail

Pochettino explains why he brought rested Kane on

LONDON - Tottenham Manager Mauricio Pochettino explained that he brought Harry Kane on at 6-0 up against Tranmere as a show of respect for Spurs' opponents, and the FA Cup.

The England striker was rested for the fixture as Fernando Llorente was given an opportunity to lead the line, and he duly delivered with a hat-trick, with a Serge Aurier brace and a Son strike effectively ending the game as a contest.

However, on 76 minutes Kane was introduced despite the 6-0 scoreline and

the Englishman notched a seventh six minutes later. Pochettino defended his decision to risk his top scorer for the final stages of the game, insisting he felt Tranmere were entitled to see one of Europe's top marksmen in action.

"It was respect," Pochettino said after the game. "Respect the people, respect the opponent. They're not going to have many chances to see Harry Kane play here in a competition like the FA Cup."

"I think it was a great atmosphere. For different reasons, I decided to make a change and put Kane on the pitch but

one of them is that. "It's important to show respect to the people here so they could see Harry Kane, who is an icon in English football. It is difficult in that division to see it. It was important to see him in action." Pochettino also asserted the seriousness with which the club is approaching the FA Cup, with Tottenham desperate to end a barren run of 10 seasons without silverware since an extra-time League Cup victory over Chelsea in 2008.

Goal

Break the bank for him, Sarri urged to re-sign Costa

LONDON - Peter Crouch has suggested that Maurizio Sarri "breaks the bank" to bring striker Diego Costa back to Stamford Bridge.

The Stoke City striker is adamant that the return of the Brazil-born Spain international would remedy their current problems up front.

He believes that if a top striker is not signed before next season, the Blues will not be title contenders due to their poor goal return.

I have concerns about whether they will mount a proper title challenge next season," Crouch told the *Daily Mail*. "Chelsea have scored the fewest goals of the top six sides. A return of 38 from 21 matches isn't enough to win you a title, no matter how good your defence is. "The one thing you need is someone

to score you 30 goals and they do not have a player like Harry Kane, Mo Salah or Sergio Aguero. "Not so long ago, they did. Diego Costa would absolutely transform Chelsea's fortunes and, if it was down to me, I'd break the bank to re-sign him."

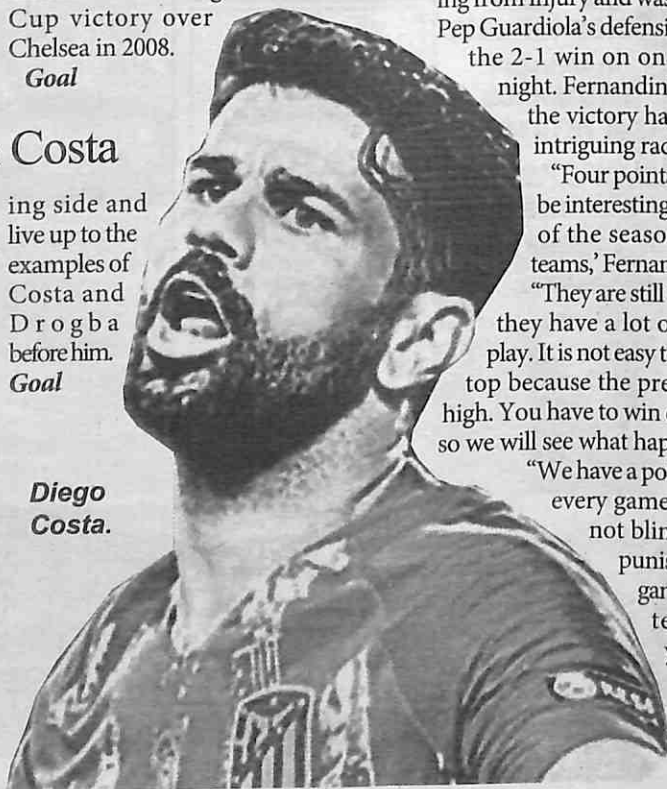
"You can talk about Gonzalo Higuain or Karim Benzema, but I think Costa would be the one to take Chelsea where they want to be." Costa won the Premier League twice in his three seasons at the club but fell out with former boss Antonio Conte, who sold him to Atletico Madrid in 2017 for £59.4 million (\$76m).

And Crouch questioned whether the current crop of strikers - Alvaro Morata in particular - would be able to carry the goalscoring burden of a title-chas-

ing side and live up to the examples of Costa and Drogba before him.

Goal

Diego Costa.



Arsenal have £63m bid accepted for Bundesliga playmaker

LONDON - Arsenal have had a big-money bid accepted for Bayern Munich star James Rodriguez, a sensational report claims.

Recent reports suggested that Rodriguez is set for talks with Bayern Munich over his future, amid continued interest from Manchester United and Juventus.

The Colombian star joined the Bundesliga giants on a two-year loan deal from Real last summer. The agreement was worth €10m, with Bayern also possessing a €35m option to buy at the end of that spell.

A number of reports have also claimed Rodriguez could still move to the Premier League with United long-term admirers, seek to return to the Bernabeu or try his luck in Italy.

Don Balon even reported that

Liverpool have entered the race to sign the former Monaco star having seen him fall out of favour under boss Niko Kovac.

However, the same outlet now reports a stunning twist, with Arsenal having reportedly had a £63million bid for Rodriguez accepted.

There are doubts over the future of Mesut Ozil, who has had a difficult time under Unai Emery after finding himself dropped on several occasions. The 30-year-old penned a £350,000 a week contract less than a year ago, but he has struggled with injury and form this season. With rumours that he could depart for Turkey in January, Rodriguez would be a more than adequate replacement in the creative department.

Team Talk



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah.

Liverpool will crack says Fernandinho

LONDON - Fernandinho has warned Liverpool that Manchester City are ready to eat up ground in the title race as pressure mounts on the leaders.

The 33-year-old has injected life back into City's midfield after returning from injury and was integral to Pep Guardiola's defensive shape in the 2-1 win on Thursday night. Fernandinho believes the victory has set up an intriguing race.

"Four points is going to be interesting for the rest of the season for both teams," Fernandinho said. "They are still leaders and they have a lot of games to play. It is not easy to stay at the top because the pressure is so high. You have to win every game so we will see what happens."

"We have a point to prove every game. You cannot blink. You get punished, all the games are high tension, so you have to be

careful all the time."

City found a different way to win against Jurgen Klopp's side, defending courageously late on to preserve their lead.

Leroy Sane, who scored the winner with 18 minutes remaining, hailed the 'special' grit Guardiola instilled into his players.

The German indicated that sort of attitude will stand them in good stead as City look to become the first team in a decade to defend their crown.

"We need to keep playing the way we play and we did that, but the way we ran and fought was a little bit special," Sane said. "We want to show we can do it both ways."

"We ran a lot and wanted to fight. If you don't win the duels against Liverpool, they create chances. You could see that, especially in the first half, we won a lot of duels, important duels, too."

"You need the confidence to play like this. We have put more pressure on Liverpool."

"We're just four points behind them and they know it."

Daily Mail

VRIES HOWLER HANDS DOWNS VICTORY OVER KAIZER CHIEFS

JOHANNESBURG - Mamelodi Sundowns maintained their unbeaten record in the Absa Premiership this season after defeating Kaizer Chiefs 2-1 at the FNB Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Khama Billiat returned to the Chiefs line up and Virgil Vries deputised for the injured Itumeleng Khune, while Anthony Laffor was handed his first start of the league campaign for the visitors.

It was Laffor who opened the scoring for Masandawana as early as the third minute after beating Willard Katsande on the far side inside the box to striker a low shot into the far corner.

Katsande then brought Chiefs level in the 14th minute with a free-header after lurking at the back post after some poor defending by the Sundowns defence.

Six minutes later, Laffor should have made it 2-1 for Pitso Mosimane's charges after arriving late inside the box, but his strike was blocked on the line by the lurking defence.

The pace of the game slowed down after half-an-hour in the heat at FNB Stadium after a frantic start, which led to a lack of chances at both ends.

The chances were few and far between towards the end of the half and the sides went to the break level pegging at 1-1.

Ernst Middendorp made a double substitution at the beginning of the second stanza with Godfrey Walusimbi and Hendrick Ekstein making way for



Sundowns' Anthony Laffor and Chiefs player Lebogang Manyama. Sundowns won 2-1.

Bernard Parker and Teenage Hadebe.

Parker almost made an instant impact for Chiefs moments later with a diving header at the near post that sailed narrowly wide following a cross from George Maluleka.

Laffor had an opportunity to restore the lead for the visitors on the hour-mark with a half-volley at the back post that was swallowed by Vries.

Parker had another chance to grab the lead for Amakhosi in the 68th minute with a glancing header at the near post that sailed slightly wide at the far post.

Mosimane made a double substitution of his own in the 72nd minute, bringing on Sphelele Mkhulise in place of Jeremy Brockie and Lyle Lakay in place of Mosa Lebusa.

Lebohlang Maboe restored the lead for

Masandawana nine minutes before time after Vries mistimed a high ball that bounced, which allowed the former Maritzburg United man to tap into an empty net.

Middendorp's troops were probing for the equaliser but Sundowns defended in numbers and managed to hold on for the win.

soccerladuma

Bissouma on target as Brighton eliminate Bournemouth

BRIGHTON - Yves Bissouma scored his first goal of the season to help Brighton and Hove Albion defeat Bournemouth 3-1 in yesterday's FA Cup tie.

After a 2-2 stalemate with West Ham United last Saturday, the Seagulls bounced back to winning ways against Eddie Howe's men to progress to the fourth round of the competition with the midfielder playing a vital role.

In the 31st minute Anthony Knockaert opened the scoring for visiting Brighton.

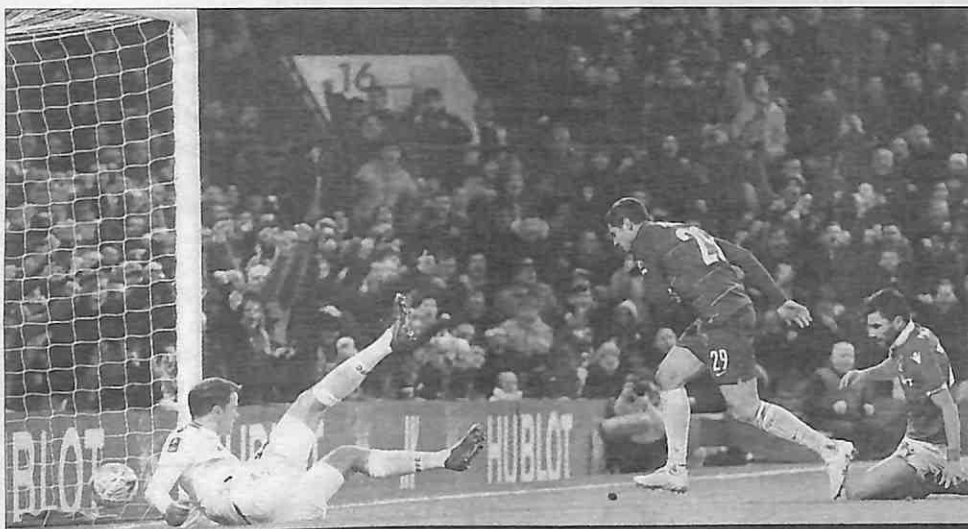
Three minutes later, the Mali international, on his 18th appearance this season, doubled the lead - scoring his first goal since joining the side in July 2018.

Marc Pugh reduced the deficit in the 55th minute before Florin Andone sealed victory nine minutes after.

Bissouma featured for the entire duration of the game along with Nigeria international Leon Balogun.

The midfielder will hope to impress once again when Brighton play host to Liverpool in their next Premier League game at the Vitality Stadium on January 12.

Goal



Morata at the double as emotional Fabregas bids farewell

LONDON - Alvaro Morata scored a brace to help holders Chelsea into the FA Cup fourth round with a 2-0 victory over Nottingham Forest as Cesc Fabregas missed a penalty in what appears to be his final game for the club.

Maurizio Sarri named Ruben Loftus-Cheek in his starting line-up and made Fabregas captain for the day, but it was Morata and Callum Hudson-Odoi who impressed for the Blues as the pair combined for both goals at Stamford Bridge.

Fabregas had the chance to bow out with a goal before his rumoured move to Monaco, but had his first-half spot-kick saved. Morata struck twice inside 10 second-half minutes, aided by the impressive Hudson-Odoi, whose own future has been at the centre of intense speculation this week amid confirmed interest from Bayern Munich.

Loftus-Cheek was replaced after just 42 minutes as he struggled with a back injury on an afternoon of mixed fortunes for Chelsea's players on an indi-

vidual level, while Sarri's men comfortably dispatched Aitor Karanka's well-organised Forest side.

Morata's struggle to find the net this season was summed up after 12 minutes when Davide Zappacosta's cross afforded him a free header from six yards out and the Spaniard headed straight at Luke Steele despite having the whole goal to aim at.

Morata appeared to be brought down by Claudio Jacob when the Forest defender was the last man only for the referee to wave Chelsea's appeals for a free-kick away, and, moments later, Jacob made a vital block to prevent Hudson-Odoi from opening the scoring.

When Loftus-Cheek was hacked down by Danny Fox on the half-hour mark, the moment looked made for Fabregas, but his staggered run-up to the penalty failed to fool Steele, who dived down to his right to push the ball around the post.

Hudson-Odoi showed why he is one

of the Premier League's hottest talents when he burst down the right side of the penalty area four minutes into the second half and whipped in a cross that Morata met with an instinctive side-footed finish at the near post to give Chelsea the lead.

The teenage winger almost got one himself when he danced into the box only to see his shot blocked by a good low save by Steele. But he was unstoppable on the wing just before the hour when he sent a cross sailing to the far post where Morata looped a header beyond Steele to double Chelsea's lead and put the game beyond Forest, who were toothless in attack and showed no sign of mounting a comeback.

The afternoon's last notable moment saw Fabregas given a standing ovation as he left the field in the 85th minute, the Chelsea faithful rising to acknowledge a man who helped the club to two Premier League titles in a trophy-laden four-and-a-half years at the club.

AFP

Alvaro Morata is able to tap in a great cross from Callum Hudson-Odoi to get Chelsea's opener in the FA Cup game against Nottingham Forest. Chelsea won 2-0.

Leaders Wits down Stars at Goble Park

BETHLEHEM - Bidvest Wits extended their lead at the top of the Absa Premiership table after rallying from behind to beat Free State Stars 2-1 at Goble Park.

New Ea Lla Koto coach, Nikola Kavazovic was in charge of his first game in the league after Stars parted ways with Luc Eymael in November.

Stars drew first blood in the first minute of the match through Congolese striker Harris Tchilimbou who headed home at back post after goalkeeper Darren Keet could not collect a long cross.

After a quiet period in the half, Wits found the equaliser on the half-hour mark thanks to a close range header by Zimbabwean Terrence Dzukamanja.

Goalkeeper Badra Ali Sangare kept Kavazovic's men in the game six minutes before halftime, denying Deon Hotto the lead for the visitors after the Namibian had unleashed a powerful strike from inside the box.

The pace of the game slowed down towards the end of the first stanza as the sides went to the break level.

Wits had the ball in the back of the net a minute into the second stanza after defender Buhle Mkhwanazi bundled the ball home, but the referee disallowed the goal for a foul on the goalkeeper.

Hunt made his first change in the 66th minute after bringing on midfielder Daylon Claassen in place of goalscorer Dzukamanja.

soccerladuma

Polokwane edge AmaZulu in thriller

POLOKWANE - Polokwane City edged out AmaZulu FC 3-2 in a thrilling Absa Premiership match at the Old Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane yesterday afternoon.

The victory took Rise and Shine to third place on the league standings, while Usuthu remained 10th on the table. Rise and Shine got off to the perfect start as they broke the deadlock against Usuthu just a minute into the encounter.

Bongile Booie was the man who beat AmaZulu goalkeeper Siyabonga Mbatha to make it 1-0 to Polokwane.

The hosts looked dangerous every time they pushed forward in the opening stages of the game and they managed to double their lead in the 17th minute.

This time it was Walter Musona who scored to make it 2-0 to Polokwane as Usuthu struggled to contain the home side. However, Usuthu grew in confidence with the half-hour mark approaching and they managed to pull one back through Bonginkosi Ntuli.

The striker scored his fourth goal in three league matches when he beat Polokwane keeper George Chigova to make it 2-1 in the 28th minute.

AmaZulu then tried to level matters with the halftime break fast approaching and in the 41st minute, Chigova had to make a great save to deny Ntuli.

The visitors were left to rue that wasted chance as Polokwane restored their two-goal lead when Musona grabbed his brace to make it 3-1 to Polokwane on the stroke of halftime.

Polokwane were leading 3-1 at the interval following an enthralling first half. *SuperSport*



INGWENYAMA CUP 2018/19



STORIES BY
SIBUSISO
DLAMINI

MADLENYA LOOKING TO SLAY YET ANOTHER GIANT

Malanti Chiefs vs Madlenya
(3:30pm; Killarney Sports Ground)

SOCCER – Madlenya were the first team to remind the whole soccer fraternity what makes the Ingwenyama Cup so interesting. The richest cup tournament on the land makes sure to bring the David vs Goliath battles, and this time, David slayed Goliath to death. The team began their quest by kicking-out the richest team on the land currently in runaway log leaders Green Mamba, who have been rampaging in the big league.

Caleb Ngwenya boasting of a front-line, including the likes of marksman Musa Dlamini, Solomon Oladele and Mthunzi 'Xavi' Mkhontfo could not go past Madlenya, who owned the hot-as-a-furnace Big Bend's Mayaluka Stadium.

Today would be a total different story for the Lubombo based outfit as they have to travel to the north to face an opposition that has rich cup pedigree.

The stage is set for Madlenya to prove that their famous victory over Green Mamba was not a fluke by conquering the tricky opposition at their own fortress.

Now, by their nature Malanti Chiefs are cup specialists.

The gold and black side, albeit not being a household name in elite league football,

have claimed the EswatiniBank Cup and reached a couple of finals in the same tournament, as well as the Castle Premier Challenge previously and they would want to taste the Ingwenyama Cup glory, which comes with a lucrative E1.3 million as first prize cheque. The Pigg's Peak-based ensemble have the players to do the job in the likes of Malawian goal machine Binwell Katinji, who has found the back of the net at least on six occasions in the league. This will be a very interesting clash, kick-off is 3:30pm down at the Killarney Sports Ground.

Flyers looking to fly past Manzini 'Downs

Sundowns vs Ubombo Flyers
(4pm, Somhlolo National Stadium)

SOCCER – By their nature, Ubombo Flyers produce killer soccer players. From the likes of Banele 'Pupu'

Sikhondze to the 'terrible' Royal Leopard twins in Fanelo and Lungelo Tsabedze, the team is filled with talent.

Playing in the Lubombo Super League, they will fancy their chances against elite league Manzini Sundown's after they brushed off Sea Birds in the opening round of the four-year-old knock-out competition.

Actually, the former Premier League side will be fancying their chances against Sundowns, who have been rather inconsistent, albeit boasting starlets in their squad.

The Lubombo-based side hogged headlines during the last 16 after displaying a gallant performance that eventually saw Sea bite the dust in the tourna-

ment blending football with culture.

They will be once again expected to pull another upset at the expense of the 'Kappa Boys', who are still trying to find their formula under the tutelage of Zimbabwean mentor Julius Chakupewa.

Stubborn

The hub side had to dig deep into their reserves to knock out a stubborn Mbabane Citizens, thanks to a Linda Maphalala solitary strike.

Chakupewa will be relying on his experienced troops such as Phumlani Dlamini, Ndumiso 'Sikhokho' Shongwe and Linda Nkambule to rise to the occasion and transport the 'Kappa Boys' to the quarter-finals.

Can Tinyosi sting Citizens?

Citizens vs Tinyosi
(2pm, Somhlolo National Stadium)

SOCCER – Tinyosi are currently placed second on the MTN first Division log standings and face off against a struggling Mbabane Citizens, who managed to beat Hlathikhulu Callies in the preliminary round.

The Lobamba-based side hat boasts of talented players and they are still dreading the fact that they narrowly missed out of promotion to the elite league to the very Citizens last year.

Mbabane Citizens are dilly dallying with the relegation chop in the Premier League and will use the Ingwenyama Cup as a chance to prove what they are really made of. Under a new mentor, the team will be looking for progression to the last eight as a success to a rather downhill year. The capital city side will be aiming at another good run in the competition after reaching the semi-finals of the previous edition.

They have to put their boardroom



Mbabane Citizens players taking instructions from their former South African coach Humphrey Mlwane.

squabbles aside, which saw the team sideline South African mentor Humphrey Mlwane and roped in veteran Malawian mentor Charles Manda. It is yet to be seen if Manda will pass his first test by transporting the side to the next round.

The seasoned coach, Manda needs no introduction to local football after previously leading the likes of Manzini Wanderers, Malanti Chiefs and Mbabane Highlanders.

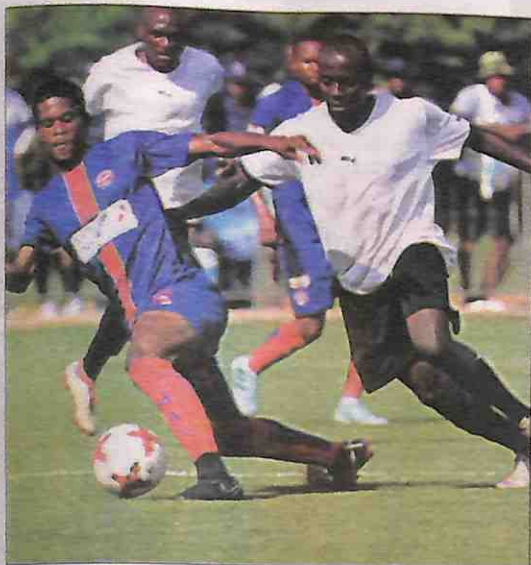
Manda will have to produce a proper plan in order to eliminate the stubborn opposition that is also out to make its name in local football.

Manzini Sundowns defender Phumlani Dlamini





INGWENYAMA CUP 2018/19



Mbabane Swallows' Njabulo Ndlovu winning the ball from Rangers' Ndumiso Dlamini during the Ingwenyama Cup last 16 clash played at the King Sobhuza II Stadium. Swallows won 2-0. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



Mbabane Swallows officials watching the game.



Swallows supporters celebrating one of their goals.



Mbabane Swallows supporters in song and dance during the match.



Swallows players taking instructions from the technical bench led by interim coach Musa Manyatsi.



Swallows captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze and defender Richard Sewu captured after the match.



A Swallows fan leading his counterparts in song.



Rangers Mbongiseni Tfwala tussling for the ball with Siboniso Ndzabandzaba.



A misbehaving fan being whisked away by the police.



Swallows coach Musa Manyatsi giving instructions to captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze next to Physiotherapists Isaac Dlamini.



Rangers' Mncedisi Mhlanga being sand-witched by Stevy Nzave and Ndumiso Ndaba.



Sizolwethu Shabalala being challenged by Mncedisi Mhlanga.



Rangers players react after conceding one of the goals.

'Madze' challenges sporting sector to improve in 2019

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

SPORTS – Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga has challenged the sporting sector to

improve in 2019.

The minister acknowledged yesterday that 2018 was a very challenging year for sports in the country hence was looking for a better performance in the New Year.

"The year 2018 was a challenging

one for the sporting sector in Eswatini. Despite some good performances by a few individuals and teams, in general, sporting standards in the country were disappointing.

"We have a challenge to improve performances across all sporting

codes.

The year 2019 provides each and every one of us in the sporting sector with a fresh opportunity to do better.

"I would like to urge each and every athlete, coach, administrator, spon-

sor, supporter and every other stakeholder to all work together to achieve sporting excellence in the New Year," he said.

The minister wished the sporting fraternity a happy and fruitful New Year and further wished them the best in their endeavours.

"As we edge ever closer to realising His Majesty's Vision of becoming a First World Country by 2022, I am excited and looking forward to all the opportunities that the New Year will bring us as a sporting fraternity," he concluded.



Participants of the RSSC 1800 Siyakha programme posing during the recent clinic held at Zandondo Sports Ground. (Courtesy pics)

Charles Manda graces Zandondo football festival

STORIES BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCEr – Mbabane Citizens coach Charles Manda graced the RSSC Siyakha 1 800 Programme recently held at the Zandondo Sports Ground.

The veteran Malawian mentor, together with Manzini Sundowns goalkeepers Lwethu Simelane and Siyabonga Ginindza conducted coaching clinics on Boxing Day.

The event which is a brainchild of local coach, Thembele Dlamini saw the involvement of RSSC Siyakha programme which provided most of the playing material on the day.

It was a day of excitement for the players and spectators alike as sheer football artistry took centre stage courtesy of the energetic participants. Under the watchful eye of renowned coaches in Mbabane Citizens mentor, Manda, RSSC Siyakha coordinator Barnes Dlamini and Thembele Dlamini who is currently attached to MTN National First Division side, Milling Hot Spurs Siyabonga Ginindza and Lwethu Simelane who are Manzini Sundowns goalkeepers, the players were equipped with the relevant football skills including passing and support, shooting, control and endurance. There were no restrictions on the par-



One of the outstanding youngsters receiving his prizes from a member of the coaches panel.

ticipants as every player was allowed irrespective of which team they play for and/or age limit.

Impact

After the day-long event, it was the reaction from the participants that ensured positive impact of the programme as it appeared that they were excited. Random interviews from some of the participants suggest that there is a dire need for such events to be conducted regularly. Most of the players admitted they were not used to such exposure, hence the positive impact this exercise has had on their footballing career cannot be underrated. The coaches also observed some

positives and hoped much more of such events not only at Zandondo but in other parts of the country as well.

The RSSC Siyakha programme is a football developmental initiative inceptioned in the Lubombo region three years ago, and has made tremendous improvement over the years. Having been established to cover places within the sugar belt and surroundings, the programme is now spreading to cover other places, all in the name of football development. This is according to Lubombo Regional Football Association (LRFA) Sicelo Nene, who was also part of the event.

One-day-tournament for RSSC Siyakha juniors

On Tuesday December 25, when Christians around the globe were celebrating Christmas, a day whose significance is the birth of Jesus Christ, junior players under the RSSC Siyakha 1 800 programme were sweating it out inside the field of play in contention for honours. This was during a one-day tournament held at Mafucula

Sports Ground whereby Under-15 teams were competing for the prizes at stake.

Action

After the action packed tournament, it was Boys to Men FC who had the last laugh as they beat Dryers FC 2-0 in the final to clinch the trophy. For their effort the champions were awarded with a trophy and medals while

their runners up were awarded with medals. The prize presentation was conducted by head of RSSC Siyakha programme, Sifiso 'Barnes' Dlamini who thanked the teams for taking part in the tournament. Dlamini also encouraged guardians and/or parents to continue supporting the children in such events as this impacts them positively.



Eswatini Royal Insurance Corporation January monthly mug champion Bafana Hlophe appreciating his prize from the sponsor assistant General Manager Mandla Dlamini and Mbabane Club captain Genius Sihlongonyane. This was during the competition held yesterday at Mbabane Club. (Pic: Sibusiso Masilela)

Bafana Hlophe wins first ESRIC 2019 Mug

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

GOLF – Lanky golfer Bafana Hlophe started the New Year on a high note after winning the first installment of the Eswatini Royal Insurance Corporation monthly mug.

Hlophe scored a nett score of 66 points to become the champion of January yesterday at the Mbabane Club.

He managed to beat professional golfer Meshack Zwane to the highest podium as Zwane won the gross category with 66 points.

Coming second was former soccer player Sandile Choncho with 68 points on a countback and he was followed by Kenneth D Nkambule who came third with the same number of points.

The champion dedicated his success to hard work throughout the entire competition when interviewed after the prize presentation.

"I am happy that I emerged victorious on the day after having a

perfect day in the golf course where I did everything correct. This is a motivation for me since I will be out of action for five months due to academic commitment but I am confident that I will continue doing well when I return to the sport," he said.

Meanwhile, Eswatini Royal Insurance Corporation assistant General Manager Mandla Dlamini thanked the golfers for attending the competition in their numbers.

"We would like to thank the golfers for coming out in numbers to honour the competition and we further commend the level competition displayed by the golfers in the golf course. We would like to congratulate all the winners of the day," he said.

The longest drive went to seasoned golfer Valentine Maziya who also walked away with the novelty section of 9/18.

Other novelty winners were Ndzingeko Dlamini and Mandla J Dlamini who won the 2/11 and 8/17 respectively.

FULL LIST

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Bafana Hlophe - 66 points nett | 11. Mncedisi Ntombini - 71 points |
| 2. Meshack Zwane - 68 points gross | 12. Siboniso MAKhwana - 72 points count back |
| 3. Sandile Choncho - 68 points on a count back | 13. Qiniso Dlamini - 72 points |
| 4. Kenneth Nkambule - 68 points | |
| 5. Steven Mavuso - 69 points gross | |
| 6. Vusi Dlamini - 70 gross | |
| 7. Thami Selbea - 70 points | |
| 8. Sam Richards - 71 points on a count back | |
| 9. Valentine Maziya - 71 points count back | |
| 10. Xolani Dlamini - 71 points count back | |

NOVELTY SECTION

- Longest Drive : Valentine Maziya
- Nearest to the pin : 2/11 Ndzingeko Dlamini
- Mandla J Dlamini : 8/17
- Valentine Maziya : 9/18

'Koki's' Weslians booted out of Ingwenyama Cup

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Royal Leopard.....(1)2
Manzini Wanderers.....(0)0

SOCCER - Manzini Wanderers new mentor Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati lost his first match of the Ingwenyama Cup when his side Manzini Wanderers crashed out of the tournament with a 0-2 loss to Royal Leopard.

This was during their Ingwenyama Cup last 16 fixture played at the Mayaluka Stadium yesterday.

Vilakati who was leading the maroon and white outfit for the first time since being unveiled as coach of the hub giants suffered a huge loss before kickoff as the team's skipper Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya limped off the field after sustaining an injury during warm-up.

Royal Leopard controlled the match from the onset and kept winning the ball in midfield.

This resulted in them breaking the deadlock in the 27th minute with a stunning volley from about 20 yards-out from Bongane 'Ngc' Ndzimandze to put the police side on the front foot.

Wanderers tried to make something happen, when tricky winger Mike Dombo who was subpar by his standards was set free on the left-flank, firing the ball over the bar, and failing to trouble Phephisani Msibi, who was manning the Leopard poles.

The match went to recess with the police side enjoying a slender lead.

After the break, Leopard still dominated and as Wanderers tried to throw numbers upfront, Lungelo Tsabedze finished the game off just before the hour mark with a fine finish after a million dollar pass from Ndzimandze. In search for the equaliser, coach Vilakati tried to bring in the likes of Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe and Sifiso 'Tjovitjo' Maseko who tried to create chances, but they still failed to get an equaliser until the referee blew the whistle for full-time to send Royal Leopard to the last eight condemning the struggling hub giants to another loss.

THE TEAMS

Leopard

Phephisani Msibi, Mlamuli Msibi, Sikhumbuzo Ntimane Siboniso Sigudla, Machawe Dlamini, Sifiso Nkhambele, Fanelo Tsabedze, Bongane Ndzimandze, Muzi Dlamini (Mxolisi Lukhele), Sifiso Matse, Barry Steenkamp (Melusi Mkhwanazi)

Wanderers

Banele Dlamini, Menzi Gamedze, Nkosiya Maphosa, Mthobisi Mdluli, Willie Ekwe, Sicelo Simelane, Mancoba Maseko (Mfanafuthi Bhembe) Mfanfikile Mdzimandze, Mcebo Mdluli, Mike Dombo.

Manzini Wanderers coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati.



Buffaloes scrap through to quarterfinals at Tambuti expense

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Tambuti.....(0)0
Young Buffaloes(0)0
Y Buffaloes won 3-0 on penalties

SOCCER - Army side Young Buffaloes have made it through to the last eight of the Ingwenyama Cup after scrapping through on penalties against Tambuti in a grueling encounter played at the Mayaluka Stadium yesterday.

The Dominic Kunene's charges needed three crucial strikes from the spot kick which were converted by Banele Mkhabela, Sandile Gamedze, and Nhlanhla Gwebu to book their place in the four-year old prestigious competition.

Tambuti busted the bubbles in the lottery shootouts as they missed all their penalties.

The game started off with both teams having a go at each other and it was Young Buffaloes who were the first to create a clear cut chance in the 13th minute through Wandile 'Skosh' Shabangu who linked up well with Sandile Gamedze in the right flank, but, Tambuti's shot stopper Mlamuli Makhanya was up to the task and saved the ball for a fruitless corner-spot.

Tambuti were also not letting their guard down and were threatening in the left flank through skillful winger Msimisi Motsa who eliminated Sibonelo Sibandze, but then his final ball went

straight into the hands of Nhlanhla Gwebu who was manning the Young Buffaloes post.

The match went into recess with both sides still tied at 0-all.

After the break, Young Buffaloes came back hard as they searched for the elusive equaliser, and Fanelo 'Order' Mamba and Sandile Gamedze linked up well with quick one-two passes, but Ndoda Mthethwa's final touch was bravely saved by the young Mlamuli Makhanya on the Tambuti goal-post. After a rather frustrating afternoon for Buffaloes in front of goal, 'Amathole Ezinyathi' as the team is affectionately known then introduced Nhlanhla 'Mshengu' Kunene, for Sibonelo Sibandze to throw more man upfront but then Tambuti was till resilient and the match subsequently finished off at 0-all.

THE TEAMS

Buffaloes

Nhlanhla Gwebu, Sibonelo Sibandze (Nhlanhla Kunene), Linda Mkhonta, Wandile Maseko, Siboniso Mamba, Siboniso Ngwenya, Fanelo Mamba, Sandile Gamedze Ndoda Mtsetfwa (Banele Mkhabela) Alie Matse (Sanele Ngcamphalala), Wandile Shabangu

Tambuti

Mlamuli Makhanya, Siyabonga Vilakati, Siboniso Shiba, Gabriel Goshen, Sebenele Masuku, Roy Mamba, Ishmael Zwane, Siqineso Ndlangamandla, Simanga Dlamini (Sabelo Ndwandwe), Mcondisi Nxumalo, Msimisi Motsa.

Matsapha United thump Bucs in Ingwenyama Cup

BY JONGILE XUBA

Matsapha United..... (0)1
Moneni Pirates..... (0)0

SOCCER - Matsapha United managed to capitalise on a wasteful Moneni pirates to beating them 1-0 and advancing to the quarterfinals of the Ingwenyama cup yesterday at the Nsukwansukwa Stadium.

It was a nervous opening couple of minutes in the first half as both teams tried to find their rhythm. Moneni showed more threat going forward getting more possession and chances.

The 'Sea Robbers' best came in the 30th minute when striker Akhona Sibandze missed the goal after being put clear from a through ball.

He shot wide as the defence closed

him down. No other clear chances presented themselves as the teams went into the break level.

The second half saw Matsapha come out with more fire power.

Ghanaian striker Johnson Mensah was a constant threat on the flank sending crosses with no one to connect them.

Pirates almost broke the deadlock after 70 minutes when Phila Dlamini sent a floated ball into the box which was headed over the bar by striker Akhona Sibandze.

Sibandze had another chance to grab the lead after substitute Bonkhe Myeza set him up with a defence splitting through ball that he shot wide.

It took a moment of luck and predatory timing for Matsapha United's

Sandile Magongo to break the deadlock.

He latched onto a blocked shot by Thami Zulu which he slotted into the bottom left corner to beat a helpless Siyabonga Zwane after 85 minutes.

Moneni continued to hassle and hurry but failed to click in the final third. Matsapha hung on to win the match despite the ten-minute added time.

THE TEAMS

Matsapha

Innocent, Mancoba, Dino, Sihawu, Ayanda, Johnson, Nhlanhla, Sifiso, Baba, Mcebo, Thami

Pirates

Siyabonga, Thabo, Mthunzi, Samkelo, Siboniso, Nhlanhla, Mbongeni, Zombodze, Phila, Akhona, Mpucuko.



'Birds' scrape past Rangers into quarters

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

Rangers FC..... (0)0,
Swallows..... (1)2

SOCCER - Mbabane Swallows spurned a flurry of chances before doing just about enough to beat Rangers FC 2-0 and qualify for the quarterfinals of the Ingwenyama Cup.

The game was played at a rain soaked King Sobhuza II Stadium in the Shiselweni region yesterday, and the result means the 'Beautiful Birds' are on course to make history by winning the tournament four times in a row.

The game appeared even in the early stages as Rangers showed a level of con-

fidence that would have not been expected by the throngs of Swallows fans who crammed the King Sobhuza II Stadium for the match.

However, it was the visitors who created the early chances, notably through striker Sandile Hlatjwako, whose header after only five minutes hit the upright and rolled across the goal-line before going wide. It was an extra-ordinary miss! Hlatjwako had two more chances to score inside the opening 10 minutes when he shot wide unmarked inside the box in the seven minutes in, and thereafter failed to direct his header towards goal while inside the six-area box when he headed over the cross bar unmarked.

Swallows were in the ascendancy at

this point as they threatened to bury their opponents under an avalanche of goals. They eventually found the breakthrough in the 15th minute when Sandile controlled well inside the box and laid the ball to an on-rushing Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko who finished coolly with a deft chip over Rangers' goal-keeper, Mduduzi Mngometulu.

The First Division side managed a rare attack into Swallows' danger area in the 16th minute, and were rewarded with a free kick. Innocent Dlamini's well struck effort was well saved by Sandanezwe Mathabela. Sandile missed another glorious chance 22 minutes in. Tony 'TT' Tsabedze was next in line to miss a gilt-edged chance for Swallows when he was

thwarted by the keeper with no one marking him. Rangers recollected themselves and managed to sustain their opponents' attacks for the remainder of the first half, taking only the 0-1 deficit into the interval. Rangers' coach, Thokozani Ndzinisa made a double change three minutes into the second half in a bid to change the result to favour his team. The players he brought on, Sandile Thwala and Sicelo Simelane gave his team stability as they limited the opposition to a few chances, whilst launching forays of their own. It was, however, Swallows who got the first chance when 'TT' broke free in the 51st minute only to see his shot skid narrowly wide. 'Samba Jive' then hit the crossbar when he followed up Sizolwethu Shabalala's shot in the 76th minute. It was a lucky escape for Rangers, but it did not last long as Sandile

eventually made amends for his first half misses when he struck from a rebound a minute later to give the 'Birds' a 2-0 cushion. Rangers offered little to change the score-line thereafter, with the heavens opening its shower in the latter stages of the game. The referee, Mbongeni Shongwe blew his final whistle with the visitors comfortably in the lead.

TEAMS

Rangers FC - Mduduzi, Innocent (Sandile), Mbongiseni 'Talos' Tfwala, Mncedisi, Simo Mntshali, Senzo Mntshali (Sicelo), Xolani Msibi, Ndumiso, Nkosilenhle, Mndeni Mamba, Nkosingiphile Zikalala.

Mb. Swallows - Sandanezwe, TT, Richard Sewu, Stevy Nzambe, Ndumiso Ndaba, Siboniso Ndzabandzaba, Njabulo Ndlovu, Wonder, Sizolwethu, Sandile, McCreesh.

Results

INGWENYAMA CUP RESULTS

Matsapha United	1	Moneni Pirates	0
Highlanders	0	Vovovo	0
(Match abandoned)			
Y. Buffaloes	0	Tambuti	0
(Penalties: 3 - 0)			
M Swallows	2	Rangers	0
R. Leopard	2	M Wanderers	0

ABSA PREMIERSHIP

Kaizer Chiefs	1	Mamelodi Sundowns	2
Polokwane City	3	AmaZulu	2
Free State Stars	1	Wits	2
Highlands Park	2	Orlando Pirates	2

FA Cup

Bournemouth	1	Brighton	3
Manchester United	2	Reading	0
West Ham	2	Birmingham City	0
Burnley	1	Barnsley	0
Chelsea	2	Nottingham Forest	0
Aston Villa	0	Swansea City	3
Everton	2	Lincoln City	1
Gillingham	1	Cardiff City	0
Derby County	2	Southampton	2
Newcastle	1	Blackburn Rovers	1
Blackpool	0	Arsenal	3
Crystal Palace	1	Grimsby Town	0
Bristol City	1	Huddersfield	0

Fixtures

INGWENYAMA CUP

Somhlolo National Stadium			
Tinyosi	vs	M. Citizens	2pm
M. Sundowns	vs	U. Flyers	4pm
Killarney Sports Ground			
Malanti Chiefs	vs	Madlenya	3.30pm

Absa Premiership

Baroka FC	vs	Black Leopards	3.30pm
Golden Arrows	vs	Maritzburg United	3.30pm

Bucs' title hopes dented after thrilling draw

TEMBISA - Orlando Pirates lost further ground in the Absa Premiership title race after dropping points away to Highlands Park in a thrilling tie in Tembisa last night.

The Lions of the North came to the game looking to keep their spot in the top eight, while Bucs were aiming to reduce the deficit in second place to three points behind leaders Bidvest Wits, who defeated Free State Stars earlier yesterday.

The Soweto giants started the brighter of the two sides, pressing Highlands high up the pitch but after 10 minutes there were no clear chances.

Tendai Ndoro had a chance to open the scoring for Owen Da Gama's charges in the 17th minute after getting on the end of a cross at the far side of the box, but his close range half-volley was parried away by goalkeeper Siyabonga Mpontshane.

Sphiwe Mahlangu had a glorious chance to break the deadlock for the hosts in the 33rd minute after going through on the right side of the box but he shot straight at Mpontshane.

Chances continued to fall for Highlands, as Mlungisi Mbunjaba also almost found the breakthrough for Highlands three minutes later after a goal-mouth scramble inside the box but he struck his effort wide.

Pirates recovered after weathering the storm and were threatening to go ahead in the last five minutes, but the Lions of the North defence was solid and the sides went to the break goalless.

Thembinkosi Lorch almost broke the deadlock five minutes after the break with an improvised shot from the outside of his right boot but his effort hit the side netting.

Mahlangu, who squandered two chances in the first half, was clinical for Highlands two minutes later as he broke the deadlock with a low strike from a diagonal angle into a bottom corner, 1-0.

Lorch quickly equalised for Milutin Sredojevic's troops immediately after the restart with a close range finish after the hosts lost concentration at the back, 1-1.

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Ingwenyama Cup upset



WANDERERS CRASH OUT

...Hub giants handed a 2-0 bashing by Royal Leopard at Mayaluka Stadium

INSIDE:



Downs beat Chiefs in ABSA Premiership game - Page 35



Ingwenyama Cup Previews - Page 36



Bull, Vovovo match called off - Page 39