

Man dies with his two dogs

PAGE 2

Swazi OBSERVER

www.observer.org.sz

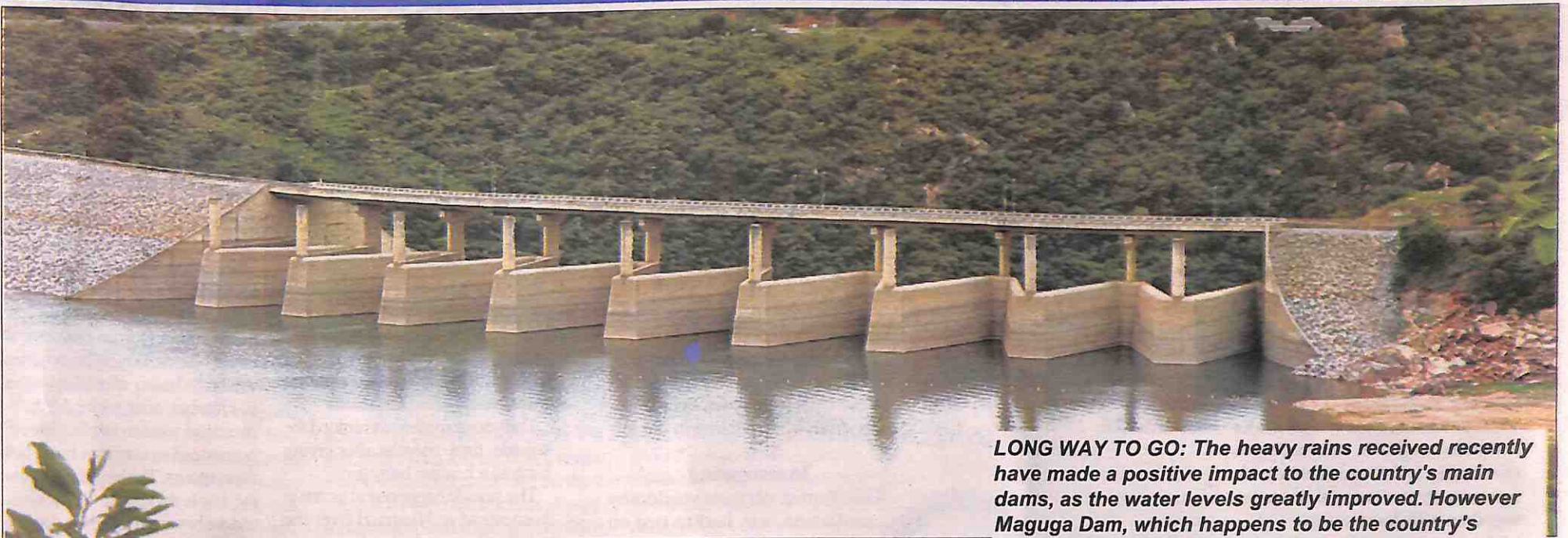
Top pupil has no money for Form One fees

PAGE 8

MONDAY JANUARY 7, 2019

REVIVED, RELIABLE AND READ

PRICE: E6.00 (VAT INCLUSIVE)



LONG WAY TO GO: The heavy rains received recently have made a positive impact to the country's main dams, as the water levels greatly improved. However Maguga Dam, which happens to be the country's biggest dam, made little progress towards reaching its full capacity. This was the situation at the dam yesterday. **MORE PICS ON PAGES 4-5.** (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

ANOTHER EXAMS COUNCIL BLUNDER...

MERIT PASS GIRL NEARLY KILLS HERSELF



... Council omits her name from list of Std 5 results, which made her the solitary failure

PAGE 3

SUPER SPECIALS!!

REINFORCE R8 x 6m E34.90	REINFORCE R12 x 6m E69.90
REINFORCE R10 x 6m E49.90	REINFORCE Y10 x 6m E49.90
REINFORCE Y12 x 6m E69.90	REINFORCE Y16 x 6m E149.90

Build it E&OE

MBABANE
SOZISA ROAD/ BYPASS ROAD
P.O.Box 4012, Mbabane
Tel: 2405 0183/7 2404 9149/6
Fax: 2404 5396/ 2404 9158

NHLANGANO
4th Street, Nhlanguano
P.O.Box 243, Nhlanguano
Tel: 2207 7815/ 2207 8600/1
Fax: 2207 2007



Eswatini Telecom Wi-Fi

100 GB SUMMER DEAL

Enjoy **100 GB** of data over a period of 3 months and only pay a once-off fee of **E399**.

For more info visit your nearest TeleCentre or call 800 2000. www.sptc.co.sz

Promotion ends 31 March 2019

Terms & Conditions Apply

Eswatini Telecom
Limited

800 2000

2 NATIONAL NEWS

Soldiers find decomposing crocodile near barracks

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

MEMBERS of the Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force made a grisly find of decomposing remains of a large crocodile near Nsingizini Barracks.

The reptile was found without its head, tail and feet.

The discovery was made over the weekend near the Mlumati River.

Demand

Speaking to this publication yesterday sources said the crocodile's parts are in high demand among traditional healers, especially the liver which is believed to be highly poisonous and efficient in eliminating enemies.

"The dead crocodile was discovered

by two soldiers who smelt the reptile's decaying body near the Mlumati River at the barracks.

"The soldiers then investigated the source of the putrid smell. After this, the soldiers then phoned the police to report the find. The police then drove to the scene and removed the decomposing animal. It is believed that the reptile was killed by professional poach-

ers. The poachers then removed the essential parts to sell to traditional healers or collectors," said the source.

Important

"It is important to note that traditional healers pay a lot of money to obtain animal parts on the illegal black market. Crocodiles are protected by law, so members of the public are not allowed to kill them.

Unfortunately traditional healers use animal parts in their remedies on a regular basis and this drives the market for illegal animal parts.

"Police once told me that a crocodile's brain can be used as a poison to kill somebody, but this is just theory but if animals are being killed in strange ways, it is hard to argue with this logic," they added.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the find.

MAN DIES WITH HIS TWO DOGS

Melusi Mlota
Mbabane

THE community of Gilgal in the Lubombo region is still reeling in shock after Gift Siphon Dlamini, 51, mysteriously died last week Saturday together with his two dogs.

It has been reported that hunting was Dlamini's hobby. It occurred that on January 2, during the day, Dlamini went out to the mountains with his two dogs, which he so dearly adored. A reliable source said Dlamini came back later on the day with one dog and retired to sleep.

The source said the following day, the family grew suspicious when Dlamini was still not awake, yet it was already late during the day.

It is said this prompted the family to knock on his door, but there was

no response. A family member forced an entry on the locked door.

The source said the family was shocked to be met by a dead person inside the flat.

Incident

Police officers from Siphonfaneni were called to the scene.

A family member, who refused to be named, confirmed the incident. He said Dlamini's two

dogs also mysteriously died.

The family member said they suspected that the deceased together with his two dogs were bitten by a poisonous snake while hunting in the forest.

Investigating

Gift Dlamini, who was a builder by profession, was laid to rest on Saturday at Gilgal.

Chief Police Information and Communication Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident and said police were still investigating.

INVESTIGATING:
Chief PICO
Superintendent
Phindile
Vilakati.



Teenager kills herself after lover calls other women

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

A young mother (17) committed suicide by ingesting two weevil tablets after her boyfriend and father of her child (25) started asking for other women's phone numbers.

The young mother committed the suicide three months after giving birth to a healthy baby girl.

The suicide happened at a certain homestead at Nkamazi over the weekend.

Due to the fact that the deceased is a minor, this publication has withheld her identity for ethical reasons.

Speaking to this publication yesterday police said the deceased felt abandoned by her 'farming' boyfriend, who was busy asking for other women's phone numbers.

"The information we have is that the deceased's boyfriend was a successful 'farmer', who had a lot of money to spend. So, in 2017 the boyfriend in question met the deceased and impregnated her at Nkamazi.

At the time, the deceased was only 16 years old. After the pregnancy, the boyfriend then started to ask for other women's phone numbers from his under-aged girlfriend," he said.

"During the pregnancy, the deceased heard rumours from the community at Nkamazi saying her boyfriend was busy chasing after other women. In October, after giving birth, the deceased went to her boyfriend's homestead to confront him about the rumours. The boyfriend denied the whole thing but over the weekend the boyfriend asked the deceased to give him a phone number of another woman. This action confirmed the deceased's suspicions that her boyfriend was a womaniser, leading her to commit the suicide," they added.

When reached for comment telephonically, the boyfriend refused to speak to the media, saying nobody could prove that he was the only man involved with the deceased.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident.

By Observer Reporter
Mbabane

Eswatini at cultural heritage conservation indaba

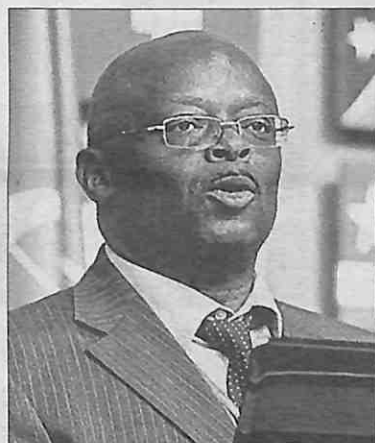
ON January 9 – 11, 2019, a planning meeting for the 'International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property' ICCROM's new Africa programme will be held at the Egyptian Academy of Fine Arts in Rome.

Fifteen professionals from 15 institutions are meeting to discuss how best to design an impactful programme to support youth and its engagement in heritage in the African region.

"Youth are the future managers and conservators of our heritage," commented Dr Webber Ndoro, ICCROM's Director-General, on the occasion. "For me, it's essential to engage youth at the planning stage of the proposed programme."

Dr Gihane Zaki, Director of the Egyptian Academy in Rome, commented for her part: "The Egyptian Academy is very pleased to host this meeting. I look forward to a regional ICCROM programme that embraces the whole African continent."

In Africa as elsewhere in the world, new challenges are emerging, driven by rapid urbanisation, climate change and demographic shifts. Africa has an extremely young age distribution, with 59 per cent of its population under 25



YOU ARE THE FUTURE:
ICCROM's Director-General
Dr Webber Ndoro.

years of age. Young people in Africa learn through formal school-based education and/or informal street education, which has largely supplanted the traditional learning systems of their own cultures.

They have also grown up with the tools of the digital age literally at their fingertips. Most make their living in the informal sector, and rarely see the conservation of cultural heritage as an opportunity for meaningful engagement.

How can a new strategy engage young

people, and how will they benefit? Are heritage institutions such as museums ready and willing to involve them in their work? How can heritage professionals and decision-makers create the conditions for young people to take ownership of their cultural heritage, and by appreciating heritage to participate and contribute meaningfully to society?

Realising

The Africa Expert Meeting takes inspiration from the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and from the Africa Union's Agenda 2063 'The Africa We Want', which is committed to realising Africa's full potential in development, culture and peace.

The Expert Meeting will discuss and debate how ICCROM's new programme can visibly contribute to economic development, employment and social cohesion on the continent.

The new programme will pioneer new approaches and strategies, even as it is grounded in ICCROM's past international experience in training and capacity building for cultural heritage conservation. In particular, the programme will strengthen collaboration between institutions and civil society, engage dialogue and debate on the identifica-

The African Union, the Africa World Heritage Fund and UNESCO World Heritage Centre are involved in this meeting, along with the following institutions from within and outside the region:

Art Jamel Foundation,
Better Life Initiative (BLI),
Centre national du patrimoine rupestre,
Ecole du Patrimoine Africain,
Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation,
Eswatini National Archives,

Saudi Arabia
Cameroon
Morocco
Benin
Egypt
Eswatini

Google Arts & Culture

International Scientific Committee for Earthen Architectural Heritage (ICOMOS-ISCEAH)

Iziko Museum,
Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals,
National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums,
University of Cape Town,

South Africa
Tanzania
Sudan
South Africa

Member States represented: Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Morocco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Eswatini and Tanzania.

tion and significance of cultural heritage in the light of the growing decolonisation discourse, and review the role of museums in today's Africa rapidly urbanising context. The programme will also promote intergenerational exchange by considering the ingenuity and innovation that young persons can bring, while

learning from the experience and wisdom of older generations.

In keeping with African Union recommendations, the proposed programme will cover the geographical area of the entire African continent, aiming at establishing a wide and vibrant network of people and institutions.

MERIT PASS GIRL NEARLY COMMITTS SUICIDE

COVER STORY

Stories by Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlangano

A BIZZARE error by the Examinations Council almost cost the life of a young girl who was thought to be the only failure in her school but later discovered to have passed with a merit.

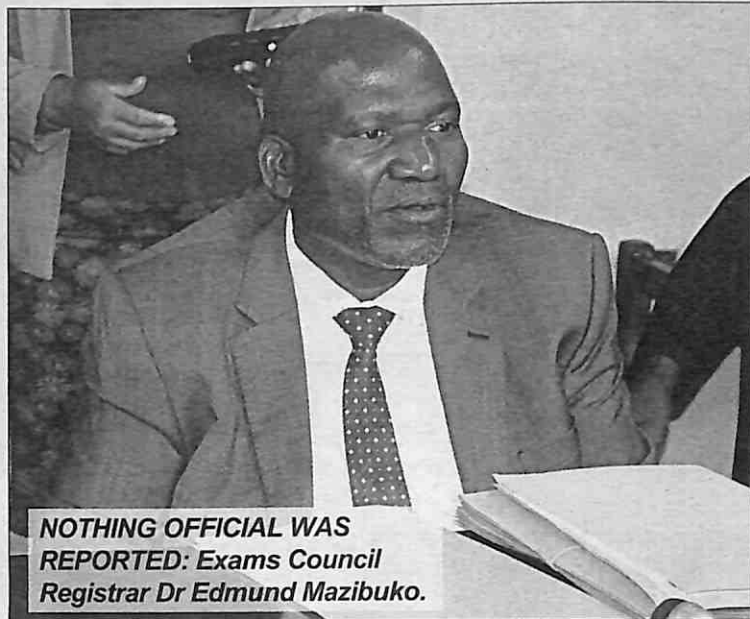
This is a shocking story of Nonhlonipho Sithole (12) who was doing Grade Seven at Christ The King Primary in Hlatikulu whose name was mistakenly deleted from the Exams Council computer system among the list of the pupils that passed the 2018 examinations.

The school in the recently released results had 15 merit passes, 38 first class passes, 26 second class passes and no third class pass but only one failure. It was thought the failure was Nonhlonipho, something which was discovered to be an enormous error as the girl got 73 per cent, a score qualifying her to be in the merit category.

Considered

It is said when the school got the symbols and teachers perused through them, it was found that Nonhlonipho's name was the only one missing. That raised curiosity as no one thought the girl could be the solitary failure as she was considered one of the hard workers who, throughout the year got position one and was never below five every year which made her one of the school's trump-cards.

Her teachers had expected her to



**NOTHING OFFICIAL WAS
REPORTED: Exams Council
Registrar Dr Edmund Mazibuko.**

get a merit pass and nothing below that. It was a sad scenario when results were issued as her name was not there and this worried the teachers as well. It later transpired that a serious error had occurred and needed to be rectified. That was when the school authorities last Friday went to the Exams Council to find out what had actually happened where the blunder was discovered, Nonhlonipho's name was omitted.

It is unclear how the error occurred but information provided to the newspaper is that the school had initially requested to have a correction on another learner's name which was to be changed from Tiyaanza to Ziyanda. It is said a correction was done and the Exams Council even sent the corrected register to the school. It transpired that a certain officer had

deleted the name of Nonhlonipho but it was not clear whether this was a mistake or an error which somehow occurred while the correction on the name of the other learner was made.

Heated

The regrettable error to have Nonhlonipho's name deleted or omitted is now a heated debate with the girl almost killing herself. Those close to the matter have also revealed that when the school inquired the Exams Council officers did hint something that could have resulted to this blunder.

"The school wanted explanation on how the girl's name was deleted. It was then that an analyst officer at the Council found that there was another officer who endorsed in another form that he/she was the one who deleted the name of the learner.

...As examinations Council omits her name from the list of Standard Five results which made her the solitary failure

"The school wanted to know who had authorised that the name be deleted from the system and no one could provide a clear explanation. They (officers) promised to find out what led to this blunder and to make sure it is avoided in future," a source close to the matter said.

When the girl learned that she had 'failed', she was shocked and that was when she threatened to commit suicide.

Accept

"After being made aware that her name was not in the list, she was restless and she even planned to kill herself. Her parents became concerned and they tried to comfort her but seemingly she was not ready to accept what had happened.

"The school teachers and authorities also made efforts to comfort her but still this did not work until the Hlatikulu police (domestic and child protection unit) who are skilled to council someone in this situation were then roped in," said a source.

Principal Nurse Simelane did not want to delve on the issue, saying as much as she was aware of it, she was not at all prepared to go into detail about it. I am aware of the issue you are asking about. I think you better seek the details from the parents of the girl and the Exams Council," it's all Simelane could say when called yesterday.

On the other hand Exams Council Registrar Dr Edmund Mazibuko said

Mom thankful to teachers

THE mother of the girl who threatened to kill herself after her name was omitted in the Standard Five results is full of praise to the teachers.

Khetsiwe Kunene, the mother of Nonhlonipho Sithole said teachers played a big role in saving her daughter's life as she wanted to kill herself after she was recorded as the only failure in the school when she had passed with a merit. "I thank the teachers, especially the administration. Had they not acted and found out what had taken place, I would have lost a daughter."

"They took it upon themselves to find out what happened and my daughter was found to have passed with a merit. It's sad that such an error almost cost the life of my child," said Kunene. Kunene also thanked the role played by the police counseling the girl.

Meanwhile, other commentators are calling for the Exams Council to issue a public apology to the girl, her family as well as to the school for this blunder.

nothing official was reported to him about the issue.

"I cannot comment on an issue which has not been brought to my attention. In short, I have not been briefed on anything like that," said Dr Mazibuko.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that police were engaged to provide counseling to the girl after she threatened to kill herself.

"We were engaged as police to counsel her as she was not ready to accept that she had failed. It's encouraging to note that as police we are called to intervene in such situations," said Supt Vilakati.

Govt in talks with SA over detained 40

By Samkelisiwe Khoza
Mbabane

GOVERNMENT and South Africa are in discussions regarding the release of the 40 Swazis detained in that country.

Information gathered is that a letter has been released by the Eswatini High Commission in Pretoria, South Africa requesting for the release of the detainees.

At least 40 Swazis were nabbed by the South African Police Service (SAPS) nearly two weeks ago, December 30 precisely, for failing to produce travel documents after entering that country through an informal crossing.

In the mist of the 40 is a 30-year old woman of Somtongo, one Lindiwe Gina, who left behind a breastfeeding three-month-old infant.

The mother and the other Swazis from communities close to the Lavumisa Border Gate decided to travel to South Africa to purchase items for the New Year crossover. They are said to have used the Sitilo informal crossing by the

Lavumisa Border Gate.

With the required documents provided to the Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) personnel, the mother and her companions were granted passage.

Boarded

When they were on the South African side they quickly boarded a kombi that was set to ferry them to their destination, Phongola when SAPS raided their station. Passports were requested from all non-South African residents.

Failing to produce the requested travel documents, the mother, together with an estimated 40 Swazis were loaded in South African police vehicles and ferried to holding cells. They are currently being held at Magudu SAPS holding cell.

Moreover, Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Principal Secretary Joel Nhleko confirmed that the matter had been submitted to their offices. Nhleko said the ministry through the Eswatini High Commission was on the table with the South Africa in favour of the detainees.

"The ministry through the Eswatini High Commission in Pretoria is on the table with South Africa regarding the estimated 40 detained Swazis," Nhleko said, adding that the South African courts will resume work today.

He said the matter might not move as speedily as expected due to the fact that festive holidays were still on and most people return to office in the next few weeks.

Provided

Meanwhile, former Somtongo Member of Parliament Sandile Nxumalo, who became the Gina family's helping hand regarding the arrest of their daughter in-law, said they had provided the required documentations to the ministry of foreign affairs.

He said the affidavits were requested by the ministry in order for the matter to be addressed further.

Nxumalo said the mother and the 40 detained would go on trial on Wednesday. He added that the family prayed that the matter be addressed on Wednesday and for bail to be issued for the mother to return home to her infant.

NATICHEM (pty) LTD

WHOLESALEERS OF HIGH QUALITY CLEANING CHEMICALS

1L Petroleum Jelly.....	E27.50
1L White Oil.....	E26.50
200ml Black Shoe Polish.....	E28.00
1L Black Shoe polish.....	E90.00
5L Black Shoe polish.....	E375.00
1L Black Tyre polish, Liquid.....	E33.00
5L Black Tyre polish, Liquid.....	E130.00
5L Aluminium Cleaner.....	E60.00
5L Engine Cleaner.....	E136.00
400ml DashBoard Polish.....	E45.00
5L Wash and Wax Car Shampoo.....	E95.00
20L Multipurpose Cleaner Extra Strong.....	E195.00
1L Deo-Blocks.....	E50.00
5L Deo-Blocks.....	E220.00
25L Selfshine polish.....	E475.00
20L Pine Gel.....	E350.00 (plus Free Deoblocks)
25L Shibhoshi.....	E475.00
25L Pit toilet Digester.....	E380.00 (plus Free Deoblocks)
200L Metal Drums.....	E85.00
200LPlastics Drums.....	E171.00
And many more	

Raw Materials
Sulphonicacid,CDE,Pineoil,Caustic soda,Propanol,Adogen,N-9
Ammonia,Formalin,Sasol wax,A2 wax,Kulu and Perfumes.

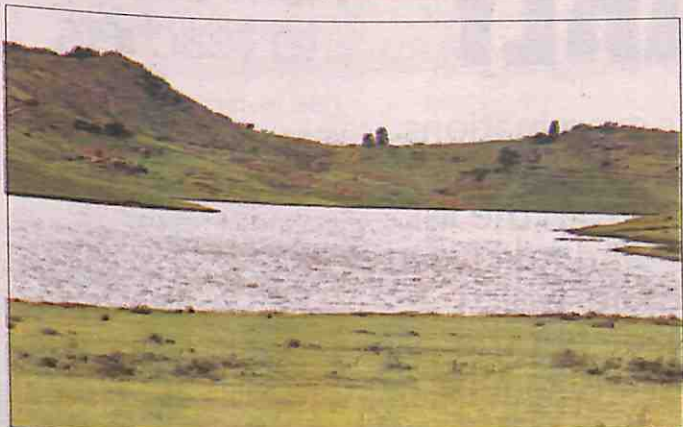
Also available in 1 litre, 5 litres and refills.
Terms: Cash and Carry.

Tel: 2505 3120 / 7604 0013
P.O. Box 1075, Matsapha, Swaziland.
Sedco Estate Manzini

50ml Inkjet Catridge Refill ink E85.00
1L Catridge Refill ink E850.00
(With superior non-Clogging additives)

4 PICTURES

Hawane Dam



ALMOST FULL: Following the recent heavy rains received by the country, water levels in the country's major dams have greatly improved. This is the current situation of the Hawane Dam which supplies the Mbabane City and surroundings. At least three major dams were visited yesterday and all proved to have responded well to the recent rains. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



DAMS ALMOST FULL

Maguga Dam



NEAR CAPACITY: Maguga Dam, which is the country's biggest dam, tells a little bit different story as it shows no signs of getting full. This is however attributed to the fact that the water levels at the dam were very low before the beginning of summer rains.

VACANCY



CUSTOMER SERVICES OFFICER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill the vacant position of Customer Services Officer in the Corporation.

MAIN PURPOSE

To provide customer support services for the Corporation, promoting the Corporation's image, acting as a key link between the Corporation and its customers, giving value adding feedback to both parties.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Diploma in Marketing
- Two (2) years practical experience in a Customer Service Environment
- Computer literacy

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/COMPETENCIES

- A working knowledge of universal customer service principles and best practice
- Knowledge of product and/or services marketing
- Knowledge of Billing Systems and Cycles
- Good customer relations management - maximizing customer satisfaction and minimizing customer complaints
- Good customer service/customer care
- Ability to provide high quality responses to Customers in a courteous and professional manner
- Ability to effectively communicate to a wide range of audience both in siSwati and English
- Basic negotiation and presentation skills
- Analytical thinking ability
- A proactive approach to work
- Adherence to set standards, policies and procedures
- Experience working in a large public utility will be an added advantage

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Effective time management
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Prompt and proper feedback to customers
- Availability of an accurate and up to date customer database
- Timely resolution of customer queries in a courteous and professional manner
- Maintenance of an up to date register of all application forms
- Track progress of Customer Application forms

REMUNERATION

The position has a competitive salary and other benefits associated with the level of the position.

APPLICATIONS

Please submit your applications with an up-to-date detailed résumé and certified copies of academic qualifications to:

The Human Resources Manager,
Swaziland Water Services Corporation,
PO Box 20, Mbabane
On or before: Friday 11th January 2019
Email: humanresource@swsc.co.sz
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted

"We are an Equal Opportunity Employer"

Emtfonjeni Building, Corner MR 103
and Cultural Village Drive, Ezulwini.
Tel: 2416 9000, Fax: 2416 3616
Visit: www.swsc.co.sz

DOC:17395

ONE...TWO... MANY



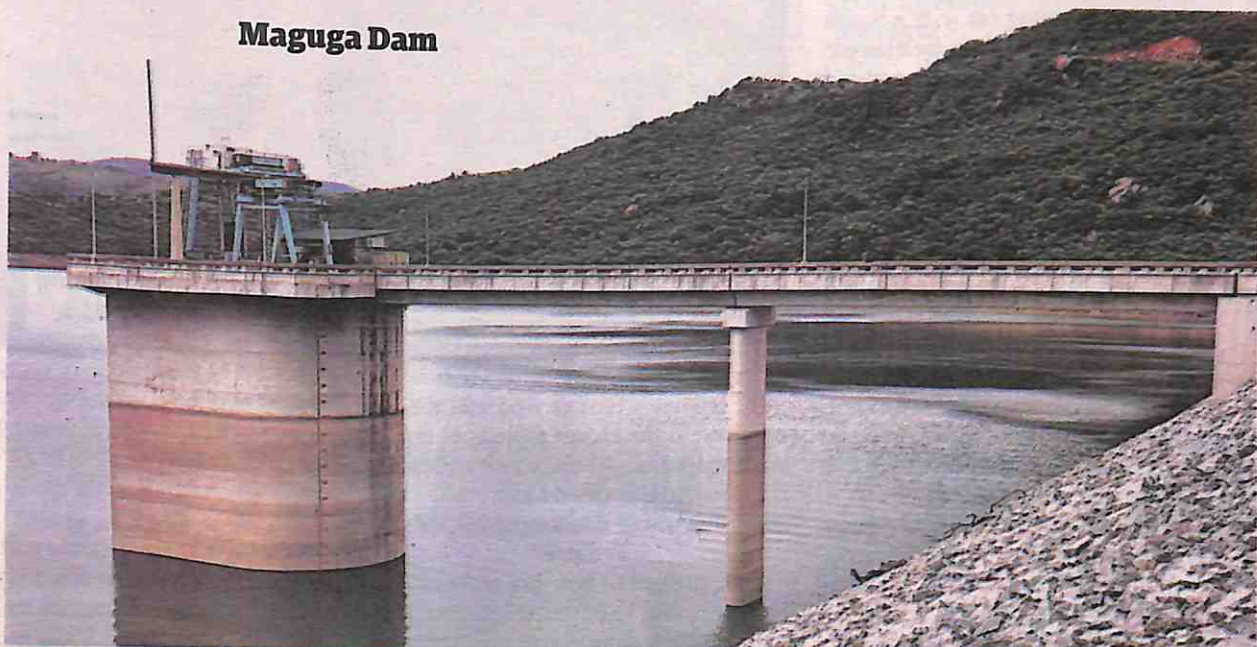
ALL ABOARD: Family members boarding a bakkie next to the Maguga Lodge entrance. The lady driven overloaded bakkie posed a danger to the occupants, mainly because it had no canopy as required by traffic laws for such a load. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



DANGER: The overloaded bakkie driving past Maguga Dam, headed for the Pigg's Peak direction.

FROM RECENT RAINS

Maguga Dam



SO CLOSE: Measurements indicate that it is close yet so far for Maguga Dam to reach its full capacity.



Luphohlo Dam



NO RATIONING: Luphohlo Dam is also another dam which has shown great improvement after the rains, as it is also nearing its full capacity.

NEAR DISASTER



NEAR DISASTER: It was near disaster for the driver of this vehicle who lost control of it and it landed in this position. The lady driver was saved by the tree from what could have been a nasty accident. This happened last Friday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



SAVED BY THE TREE: The driver of the vehicle being interviewed by police officers after the accident. The tree saved the day for the driver as it could have been worse.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – EXTERNAL AUDITORS

- 1. Background**
The UNESWA Pension Fund is a defined benefit fund for the Permanent and Pensionable staff of the University of Eswatini.
- 2. Requirements**
Invitation to qualified and locally registered Audit Firms for proposals to provide External Audit Services to the Fund.
- 3. Submissions**
The proposals are to be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Tender for providing Audit Services" and submitted to the office of the Fund at the University of Eswatini, Flat 4A, Freshman Park, Kwaluseni Campus, Matsapha on or before 31 January 2019 and addressed to:

The Principal Officer
UNESWA Pension Fund
Kwaluseni Campus
Matsapha
- 4. Enquiries**
Enquiries about the Tender must be directed to the office of the Fund on 2518 4032/3502 0552 or email to nwmazibuko@uniswa.sz

a better life for our members

6 NATIONAL NEWS

4 STABBED, ONE RAN OVER BY CAR

By Sifiso Dlamini
Mbabane

WITH many people enjoying the start of the New Year, four people

were stabbed and one ran over by a car on January 1, 2019 in Ngwane Park.

It is alleged that while people were enjoying themselves in celebration

of the New Year, some had to run for cover as a speeding car with a South African registration driven by a female sped into a shopping complex parking and ran over an innocent bystander.

It is said a male passenger alighted from the car and ran towards the back of the shopping complex into a rented flat.

A group of people who were at the complex, gathered at the gate and closed it in an attempt to apprehend the man, who ran into the flat.

All hell broke loose when the man, who was armed with a pistol and a knife (Rambo), started stabbing everyone he came across while threatening to shoot whoever got in his way.

It is alleged that the man stabbed four people in total before he fled the scene.

Upon investigation, it was gathered that the man, who was in the company of a female friend, who was the driver of the vehicle, was supposedly in a relationship with a woman who lives in the flat behind the shopping complex.

The two are believed to have children together, but have not been in good terms as they are currently involved in a fight for the custody of their children. The father who lives in South Africa is alleged to have threatened to take his children without the consent of the mother.

The mother is, therefore, believed to have called her brother to come and help her protect the children from their



WAR ZONE: The shopping complex at Ngwane Park.

father.

The woman's brother who was also involved in the chaos, pulled out his knife and started stabbing innocent people who had been trying to apprehend the man who ran into the flat.

Temper

In an attempt to help his sister, the brother is said to have misinterpreted the situation and instead of going after the father who ran into the flat, he let loose his knife on the people who were gathered at the entrance gate.

Amidst the chaos, after the father, who is alleged to have been armed with a pistol, realised that he could not take his children, is said to have come out of the house and fled the scene, leaving the car and the driver to sort herself out.

The crowd tried to overpower the man carrying a knife, but it proved futile since he was threatening to shoot whoever came close to him and was stab-

bing whoever he came across. People scattered all over the place and the man subsequently fled the scene, leaving behind a bloody scene.

The angry mob turned on the car driver.

The mob started pelting the car with stones and any object they could lay their hands on, as they demanded that the driver gets out of the car. She is said to have managed to negotiate her way through the crowd and made it to the road where she sped off with the mob hot on her heels.

On that note, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the matter. She said the Ngwane Park commotion was reported to the police and they attended to it.

Vilakati said three people were stabbed, whilst one was hit with a stone. "They were taken to hospital and discharged the same night," she said.

...Witnesses baffled by incident

"I am still shocked about what happened because it all happened so fast."

All we wanted to do was figure out why the car drove through innocent people and ran over one of them since the driver could clearly see that there were people in front of her," one witness, who preferred anonymity, said.

ty, said.

Another witness who was at the scene said, "I narrowly escaped because my car was parked next to the gate where all this happened."

"Luckily I had just moved it, I can't even imagine what would have happened to my car had I not moved it."

Another witness said innocent people were hurt for something they had nothing to do with.

Problems

"People should learn to solve their problems in a peaceful manner. This is very upsetting and it should never have happened."

Two unconscious after being stung by bees

By Samkelisiwe Khoza
Mbabane

TWO people were left unconscious after being stung by bees.

Information from sources is that the pair was admitted to the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital after they were stung by bees yesterday. They were quickly ferried to the hospital by family members after the swelling from the stings worsened. However, it was not attained whether they were stung by the bees while honey harvesting or going about their business. The two were admitted to the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital and some drips were administered on them as they were unconscious.

According to honey hunter, Sikelela Simelane after a honeybee sting, the stinger should be removed as quickly as possible.

He said in many cases, the

What to do when stung by honey bees

■ **Apply a cool compress** - Once the stinger is out, a cool compress can help alleviate pain (just don't dunk the whole area in ice). An antihistamine taken orally or applied as a cream can help alleviate itching and swelling.

■ **Elevate the area** - Depending on the location of the sting, elevating the area can also reduce swelling. The level of swelling caused by a sting can often be startling. In fact, a sting on the hand can result in the hand swelling up to twice the normal size. This swelling, along with the area feeling warm and tender, can sometimes be confused for infection also known

as cellulitis. The swelling caused by a local reaction may decrease within a few hours, but it can take a few days to fully resolve.

Keys to preventing stings

■ Avoid wearing bright colors, scented perfume, or hair sprays.

■ Remember bees and wasps are social creatures. They only sting humans to protect their hive. The old rule of thumb is true if you don't bother them, they won't bother you.

■ Bees and wasps are pretty slow fliers most people can get away from them just by walking quickly.

(Sourced from the Internet)

bee leaves behind the venom sack, which continues to pump venom as long as it stays intact to the skin.

"So the sooner you can remove the venom sack and the stinger, the sooner the flow of toxins can be stopped. A blunt object such as a national identity card

or even a knife gently scraped across the affected area is the best way to get rid of the stinger," Simelane said, adding that when stung by honey bees using tweezers or anything else that could puncture or squeeze the venom sack and make symptoms worse should be avoided.



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR ANNUAL SUPPLY 2019/2020

The Municipal Council of Mbabane hereby invites sealed tenders for the supply & delivery of the following items for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

TENDER NO.	1-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYRES & TUBES	TENDER NO.	11-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF COMPUTER HARDWARE & SOFTWARE
TENDER NO.	2-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PETROL & DIESEL (FUEL)	TENDER NO.	12-2019/2020	DESIGNING AND PRINTING OF COUNCIL DOCUMENTS
TENDER NO.	3-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF OIL AND GREASE	TENDER NO.	13-2019/2020	CATERING SERVICES
TENDER NO.	4-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF DOMESTIC AND STREET LIGHTING FITTINGS	TENDER NO.	14-2019/2020	SERVICING, SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT
TENDER NO.	5-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF BITUMEN PRODUCTS	TENDER NO.	15-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF SYMBOLIC SAFETY SIGNS
TENDER NO.	6-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)	TENDER NO.	16-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CORPORATE BRANDING MATERIALS
TENDER NO.	7-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF STATIONERY	TENDER NO.	17-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF STREET LIGHTS
TENDER NO.	8-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CLEANING MATERIALS & TOILET PAPERS	TENDER NO.	18-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS AND FIRST AID EQUIPMENT
TENDER NO.	9-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF LABORATORY TESTING CHEMICALS AND EQUIPMENT	TENDER NO.	19-2019/2020	HIRING OF HEAVY PLANT EQUIPMENT
TENDER NO.	10-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF OFFICE FURNITURE	TENDER NO.	20-2019/2020	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ASPHALT OVERLAY

Tender documents can be purchased for a Non Refundable fee of E300.00 at the Cashier's Office on the ground floor of the Municipal Council offices. The tenders can be collected from the Finance Secretary's office next to the Cashier's box.

CLOSING AND OPENING OF THE ANNUAL TENDERS

Closing date for submission of tenders is on the 25th January 2019 at 12:00 Noon, thereafter tenders will be opened.

THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE COMPLETED TENDER DOCUMENTS. ANY SUBMITTED TENDER DOCUMENT WITHOUT THESE ATTACHMENTS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

- Company profile with trade references
- Valid and current Tax Compliance Certificate;
- Valid Trading Licence;
- Certificate of Incorporation;
- Current Form J, Form C;
- Labour Compliance Certificate;
- SNPF Compliance Certificate;
- Director's Police Clearance Certificates;
- Municipal Council of Mbabane tender purchase receipt

These attachments should be stapled together

SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL TENDERS

Under sealed cover with Tenderers name and address on reverse side of envelope must be made. Further, completed tender documents endorsed with appropriate Tender Number and addressed to the Chief Executive Officer must be placed in the Tender Box, Ground Floor, Municipal Council Offices, Mahlokohla Street, Mbabane not later than 12:00 Noon, 25th January 2019.

Electronic or Telegraphic tenders will not be accepted. The Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

GIDEON MHLONGO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE
CIVIC OFFICES
MAHLOKOHLA STREET
P.O. BOX 1
MBABANE

DOC:17874

Warm to rainy days ahead

By Nonduduzo Kunene
Mbabane

THE Meteorological Service of Swaziland has predicated a warm to hot but wet Monday and Tuesday.

Today temperatures are expected

to start from 16 degrees Celsius in the Highveld rising to 30 degrees Celsius in the Lowveld.

Expected

It is expected to be partly cloudy with sunny intervals in the Lowveld. Isolated thunder showers are expected in the evening.

Tomorrow, drizzle and fog is expected

TODAY

Mbabane
16/23

Mankayane
17/26

Manzini
17/27

Siteki
17/25

Mhlume
18/27

Big Bend
19/30

TOMORROW

Mbabane
16/27

Mankayane
17/28

Manzini
19/29

Siteki
18/27

Mhlume
20/31

Big Bend
22/32

ed in the morning, mainly in the Highveld.

Temperatures are expected to rise

reaching a maximum of 32 degrees Celsius in the Lowveld.

It is expected to be partly cloudy

in most places in the country with 80 per cent chances of thunder showers in the afternoon.

NURSE'S BRUTAL MURDER ADDS SALT TO SWADNU'S 2018 WOUNDS

Stories by Nomthandazo
Nkambule
Mbabane

THE Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) has described 2018 as one of the toughest years since the union's formation in 1965.

The Nurses Union mourned the loss of one of their own Lindo Mlangeni, who was brutally murdered by her boyfriend, who is a police officer a few days before the New Year.

Workers

"2018 has been a very difficult year for public sector workers and nurses," SWADNU General Secretary Sibusiso Lushaba said in a statement.

He said the manner in which the nurse was murdered and the fact

that she was murdered by her lover, who is a police officer, leaves a lot to be desired.

"We reject the notion and created perception that she was brutally murdered because she owed her boyfriend money for tuition."

SWADNU added that they would fly their flag at half-mast in honour of all their fallen heroines and heroes this year.

"We salute their resilience and commitment to the struggle of the working class in general and nurses in particular."

Adding, Lushaba said last year, they had seen the tightening of austerity measures championed by the Bretton Woods institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

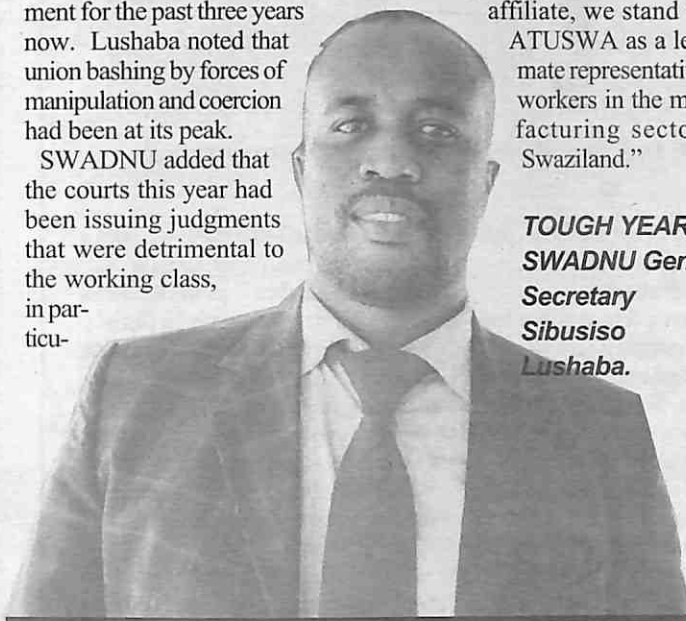
He said government had adopted a contractionary fiscal policy

stance, as a result they had not received cost of living adjustment for the past three years now. Lushaba noted that union bashing by forces of manipulation and coercion had been at its peak.

SWADNU added that the courts this year had been issuing judgments that were detrimental to the working class, in particular

lar the right to collective bargaining. "As a proud TUCOSWA affiliate, we stand with ATUSWA as a legitimate representative of workers in the manufacturing sector in Swaziland."

TOUGH YEAR:
SWADNU General Secretary Sibusiso Lushaba.



SNAT reflects on 2018

THE Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) turned 90 years old last year.

SNAT President Mbongwa Dlamini said the association remained one of the largest workers' unions in Eswatini, having been formed in the year 1928.

"In 2018, SNAT was turning 90 years of existence and as such, this giant organisation has weathered many storms in the social, economic as well as political arena. A political scan of the environment within which SNAT operates reveals that the organisation still has many more hurdles to overcome," he said in a statement.

Dlamini said last year, SNAT was able to hold the 2018 75th/8th Biennial Conference of delegates-the supreme decision making body wherein narrative and financial reports were discussed, resolutions passed and elections held.

Policies

The president said the 2018 conference was a turning point in the political life of SNAT since the ratification of crucial organisational policies took effect.

He said the implementation of these policies is underway and the membership would be informed in due course regarding the how and when parts of this process would

take shape.

The policies included; organisational restructuring, education and training, conference standing orders, finance, compensation, conflict resolution, general council rules of procedures and constitutional amendments.

Change

Dlamini said when these policies finally get implemented, they will change the outlook of the organisation and its structures.

Adding, the president said a major policy decision was also implemented, which was holding elective congresses once every four years.

"This is a major shift from the biennial format. SNAT is under a new leadership from branches up to the national office and they shall serve up to 2022. Schools are expected to

follow this political direction." He said environmental politics posed many challenges to SNAT in 2018.

Predecessor.

Dlamini stated that even though there has been a new national government, led by Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini, the nature of state politics has never changed, and their disabilities had remained unchanged.

The president noted that the current cabinet behaved the same way as that of the predecessor.

"Let us engage in the discourse regarding the source of our challenges. This will assist us in coming up with solutions that will benefit the workers and the wider society. Our successes on this one shall surely reverberate in the minds of future generations for a good many years to come."

Man gets E5 000 bail for assaulting live-in lover

By Nonduduzo Kunene
Manzini

AN employee of Excellent Security Company has been admitted to bail fixed at E5 000 for allegedly assaulting his live-in-lover.

Sicelo Mngometulu appeared before Magistrate Lucia Lukhele at the Manzini magistrate's court yesterday for contravening section

77(1) of the Sexual Offence and Domestic Violence Act (SODV).

Mngometulu allegedly assaulted his live-in girlfriend Nontobeko Nhlengetfwa. During his appearance, he failed to answer some of the questions that were posed by the magistrate.

What got the whole court in stitches is that Mngometulu did not know where his girlfriend was from.

"Eish, my Lady I do not know exactly where she is from, what I know is that she was raised by her grandmother at Sigcineni," he said.

The magistrate said the reason she was posing such questions was because of the bail conditions.

"I am not trying to make fun of you, I ask the questions because of the bail conditions. Firstly, you are not supposed to have any contact

with the victim," she said.

Lukhele stated that the reason suspects were not supposed to be in any form of contact with victims was because they turn to influence them. As a result of that, the victims then withdraw the charges. Mngometulu assured the court that he would not interfere with her, thus he will seek shelter from neighbours.

He was admitted to bail fixed at E5 000 pending his appearance on January 9, 2019 at Matsapha circuit court.

72 motorists arrested for drink-driving

By Samkelisiwe Khoza
Mbabane

AT least 72 motorists were arrested for driving while intoxicated over the past weekend.

The previous weekend recorded one of the highest figures, as there were 163 drivers nabbed for driving under the influence of alcohol.

"There were 72 motorists who were arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol over the past weekend," said Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

Suspects have either appeared in court for their troubles or will be greeting the various magistrates this morning.

She said driving while impaired by alcohol was putting not only the driver's life at risk but also those who were on the road, including pedestrians.

"Alcohol reduces the function of the brain, impairing thinking, reasoning and muscle coordination. All these abilities are essential to operating a vehicle safely," Vilakati said, adding that driving while drunk makes the driver to be reckless when behind the wheel and that recklessness could easily affect other motorists on the road, which can lead to a fatal accident. She pleaded with the nation never to get behind the steering wheel while drunk. She said whenever one needs a drive home when drunk, getting hold of a friend is the best option. Vilakati advised motorists to be drug free at all times, as members of the Royal Eswatini Police Services (REPS) are all out to arrest all offenders of drink and driving.



ARRESTED: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

TOP PUPIL NEEDS MONEY FOR FORM ONE FEES

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlengano

NELISWA Manana (13) was counted among the best performers in the 2018 Standard Five results, having attained 77 per cent.

However, there is now a hurdle and, that is the lack of funds to pursue his education.

Manana, who was doing Grade Seven at Mlambo Primary School is in desperate need of sponsorship.

This is a school whose former head-teacher was elected regional woman Member of Parliament (MP) Nokuthula Dlamini. Neliswa stays with his grandmother and the free primary education (FPE) came in handy for him as he had no one to pay for his school fees.

With FPE only in primary school, proceeding to secondary school is becoming only a dream for the young boy, as there is no free education in high school.

According to Neliswa's grandmother Siyaphi Zikalala, her grandson was eager to proceed to Form One but financial constraints were now an obstacle. She said she had nursed hopes of having her grandson getting a bursary (Tibiyo) but it was late when means were made to apply for it.

"I am now in a dilemma, this situation renders me hopeless. I am happy for him but now the problem is who will assist him to see him go to the next class (Form One).

I don't see him proceeding to Form One if we fail to secure a sponsorship.



IN NEED: Neliswa Manana who needs sponsorship.

I am now having sleepless nights, pondering on what next to do.

Future

My grandson's future is not supposed to be jeopardised just like that. It is hurting and anyone who can assist, I can appreciate. The sponsor will not regret as the boy is serious with his school work," said Zikalala.

Zikalala said she was still not sure what she could get as a present for her grandson for his excellent performance.

"I don't know what to get him, I feel he deserves something special, which will also encourage him," said Zikalala.

Zikalala added that Neliswa was a God-fearing child. She said the boy was dedicated when it comes to God's work and a strong believer in Christ.

On the other hand, Neliswa said he knew he would pass but not to be counted among the best in the country.

Neliswa said his dream was to become a successful businessman. His grandmother said should the boy manage to get a sponsorship, he would do his high school at Mlambo High.

Those willing to help the boy can contact his grandmother on 76550526 or the Swazi Observer offices.

Sandleni Primary defies odds, produces top pupil

TWO pupils were part of the 2018 Grade Seven class at Sandleni Primary School were struck by lightning as they prepared to write their exams.

Such an incident was thought to have a negative impact and psychological effect to the rest of the pupils. The two girls were on their way home when they were struck by the lightning in the presence of their peers, something which left almost everyone devastated.

However, the school defied all odds, as it recorded 100 per cent pass rate. Not only did the school record the 100 per cent pass rate but it also managed to produce one of the top pupils. Mandisa Khetselo Khumalo scored 76 per cent to make him one of the top pupils in the country. Overall, the school had one merit (Mandisa), eight first class passes, 62 second class passes and only two third class and no fail.

The Principal Gugu Kunene-Simelane was emotional when learning that her school managed to produce a top pupil.

She said she had actually predicted during the memorial service of the pupils killed by lightning that there would be someone in Grade Seven who would be in the front page when the results were released. She said she hinted to the parents during the service that while the dark cloud hovered over the school, good things would surely happen.

"I predicted that we were going to have a pupil in Grade Seven to be in the front page of the newspapers. I had this boy (Mandisa) in mind and look; I got it right even though I predicted this when we



PROUD: Sandleni Primary School Principal Gugu Kunene-Simelane.

were in sorrow," said Kunene-Simelane when she was interviewed on Thursday.

The principal said sad as it was to lose two pupils at once through lightning, she was thankful to God that as much as this had psychological effects to the entire school, the pupils managed to cope under such circumstances. She believed that had it not been for the incident, the school could have done much better.

"I feel we would have done better than this if it was not for the tragedy which befell the school and this happened at a crucial time as the pupils were getting ready for the exams," said Kunene-Simelane.

Kunene-Simelane's record since she took over as principal of the school has also been commended by the parents and the community at large. Despite being a school in a rural community, Sandleni primary has established itself when it comes to academic performance.

PROVIDENCE
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

JANUARY 2019 INTAKE
Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced and Honours Diploma in:

AAT
Level 2 - Foundation Certificate in Accounting
Level 3 - Advanced Diploma in Accounting
Level 4 - Professional Diploma in Accounting

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL
• Occupational Health & Safety
• Business Management & Administration
• Sales & Marketing Management
• Advertising & Public Relations
• Project Management
• Accounting & Finance
• Human Resource Management
• Social Work & Community Management
• Stores & Stock Control Management
• Logistics & Supply Chain

CITY & GUILDS
• Secretarial & Administration
• Shorthand and Typing
• Electrical & Electronics Engineering
• Telecommunications Systems Support
• Information Technology (System Support)
• IT Skills (Word, Excel, Access)
• Software Developers

Collaborations Approved by SHEC

Find us at Dianubeka Building
3rd Floor, Suit 303 opposite Post Office
Contact us: +268 7614 9023 / +268 34500130
email us: providencetraining1@gmail.com
web: www.pitonline.ac.sz



POLLUTION: A cloud of smoke coming from a chimney at the TB Centre in Manzini. This is one of the things that destroy the ozone layer. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

I was rushing to hospital - DD accused

By Wonderboy Dlamini
Siteki

IT seems as though many drink driving offenders are nabbed on their way to hospital.

In many instances, offenders use this excuse when asking the court to be lenient when passing sentence. It was the same story when one Mongi Simelane (32) appeared before the magistrate's court after he was arrested for contravening the Road Traffic Act of 2007.

According to the charge sheet, the accused person wrongfully and unlawfully drove a motor vehicle while under

the influence of an intoxicating substance.

When he was asked to take a breathalyser test, a content of alcohol reading as 0.72 mg/l was detected in his system.

This is above the legal limit which stands at 0.37 mg/l.

Particulars of the offence included that the accused person was talkative and struggling to maintain his balance.

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

His plea was also accepted by the crown without leading evidence to prove

commission of the offence. During mitigation, the accused person told the court that he fell sick after imbibing in alcohol while at home. He then took his vehicle and drove to the hospital as there was nobody else who could take him there.

The accused said he thought he had not yet exceeded the legal limit as he felt fit enough to drive. He then asked for a lenient sentence, saying he did not have enough money to pay for his fine.

He was accordingly found guilty by the court and was sentenced to four months in a correctional facility, with an option to pay E1 200 fine.



ROVING CAMERA



BIKE FANATICS: A group of men pose with riders from the Swazi Orphans MCC, who were taking a break at Mhlume after enjoying the kingdom's scenery while on their bikes over the weekend. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



BRICKLAYERS: Young boys playing dangerously on top of a wall fence at KaShali over the weekend. This should be discouraged as it could end fatally.



OPEN HOOD: Motorists waiting to be attended to with their car bonnets opened at the Matsapha weigh-bridge last week.



PHOTOGRAPHER AT WORK: A cameraman takes some shots of his friend along the Manzini streets over the weekend.



MAN'S BEST FRIEND: A young girl spending some precious time with her cat while playing with friends at Mangwaneni yesterday.



THUNDA STESH: Soccer fans relieve themselves next to the road after asking for a 'thunda stesh' along the Mafutseni/Mandlangempisi road over the weekend.



RESPONSIBLE: Two boys using shovels to close potholes that were caused by the recent rains at KaShali over the weekend. However, this may put the boys' lives at risk.



SWIMMING: Something should be done about the drainage system next to Mhlaleni overhead bridge, as motorists are forced to drive through water pools each time there is rain.



NO NEED FOR A VAN: The owner of the SUV saw no need to hire a van to carry a tank home after buying it from Manzini over the weekend.



PHUMELELE HIGH / MATRIC SCHOOL

**SPACES AVAILABLE
FOR 2019
FROM FORM 1 - 5
GRADE 10 - 12 (MATRIC)**

**OFFICES ARE OPEN:
FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

www.phumelele-schools.org



**MATRIC
GRADES
AVAILABLE**

Tel: 25504128 / 76172026

Transport available from Mbabane to Matsapha* Hostel Facilities

10 NATIONAL NEWS

PEDESTRIAN TEEN (14) KNOCKED DEAD BY CAR

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane**A teenage girl aged 14 was knocked dead by a car on Saturday.**

The incident occurred at Ngculwini along Dr Hynd Public Road near Nazarene

in the early hours of Saturday.

An Opel Astra driven by a 25-year-old woman of Ngculwini lost control and knocked down the girl of Ngculwini.

She sustained injuries and was rushed to RFM Hospital where she was certified dead on arrival.

The driver was charged and will appear

before the Manzini Magistrates' Court.

Incident

The incident was one of two that claimed life over the weekend as reported by Police Information and Communications Officer (PICO) Phindile Vilakati yesterday.

She said on the same day along Hluthi-

Lavumisa Public Road near Mziki, a VW Golf driven by a 37-year-old man of Ntjanini lost control, veered off the road and overturned several times.

The driver sustained serious injuries all over the body and was rushed to Matsanjeni Health Centre where

he was certified dead.

Injuries

The driver was with a 30-year-old man of Mbita who also sustained serious injuries.

MAN ACCUSED OF STEALING ITEMS WORTH OVER E86 000

Stories by Bahle Gama
Mbabane**THOKOZANI Bolly Ginindza (20) of Nsingweni was arrested and charged with 12 counts including attempted robbery, rape and others.**

He appeared before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati where the prosecutor made a plea that he be remanded in custody pending an application by the complainants to retrieve some of their goods back to them.

Over E86 000 worth of items were allegedly stolen by the accused.

The accused is alleged to have committed all these offences backdating to October last year to January this year.

The first offence is that of house breaking with intent to steal where on October 24, 2018, the accused is alleged to have broken into Nkosinathi Nyoni's house and stole items valued at E8 150.

These included a Grey HP laptop valued at E5 850, a grey Samsung phone valued at E2 200 and a remote control valued at E100.

The accused is also alleged to have broken into Scolile Nxumalo's house of Esitebeni on October 25, 2018 where he is said to have stolen items valued at E10 700.

These included a Sony LCD TV 49 inch valued at E6 000, a black HP laptop valued at E3 500, a thrower blanket valued at E200 and money in cash



amounting to E1 000.

On November 7, 2018 at Esitibeni, he is alleged to have broken into Nozipho Phakathi's house and stole items valued at E8 060.

Items

The items included a Sony 40 inch TV set valued at E7 000, a pink duvet worth E300, a purple bath towel at E60, a purple gym bag at E400, an Olympia perfume valued at E300 and a pair of Puma sandals valued at E250.

On November 27 at Thokwane, the accused is alleged to have threatened one a female victim with a knife and forced her to remove her clothes, cutting her leggings with a knife and allegedly raping her, thereafter, stole items valued at E20 000, a LENOVO think pad valued at E10 000 and money in cash amounting to E10 000.

The accused is further alleged to have broken into one Thabo Dlamini's house on December 8, 2018 at Mahwalala, whereby he is said to have stolen items

valued at E11 230.

A black Lenovo laptop with bag and charger valued at E4 500, a Huawei white tablet worth E3 000, a pair of maroon Nike sneakers at E600, three flash drives valued at E300, a blue Nike sports bag at E500, blue Puma push-ins at E150, boots valued at E1 200 and three BVD shorts at E280.

On December 13, 2018 at Mahwalala he is alleged to have broken into a house belonging to Phila Mtsetfwa and stole items valued at E7 620. A black Hisense 32cm TV set valued at E3 500, a ZTE blade gold at E3 000, a vavy Blue DH jacket worth E600, a T-MAN trouser valued at E400 and two memory cards at E120.

Lastly, on January 3, at Mahwalala the accused is alleged to have broken into Manqoba Mdluli's house and stole an LCD AIM TV 32 inch valued at E2 500. On the same day he is alleged to have committed the same crime at the same area at one Cynthia Motsa's home where he stole a Hisense LCD 32 Inch TV valued at E3 250.

He proceeded to Manzana where he broke into one Linda Khoza's house where he stole items valued at E5 050. These include a Samsung LCD 32 inch TV set valued at E4 000, a pair of All Star sneakers at E450 and a pair of blue Adidas sneakers at E600.

He is set to return to court tomorrow for trial.

'Arresting cop was drunk'

MPENDULO Jele a Toyota quantum driver made allegations to the court that he was arrested by a drunken police officer at Ezulwini yesterday.

He appeared before Magistrate Sifiso Zulu yesterday morning.

The accused was arrested and charged with two counts of driving without a permit and for failing to comply when he was told to move the vehicle from the area.

He is said to have told the officer he would not move the vehicle because the officer instructing him was not on duty.

He said the officer then switched the engine off and took the keys.

He told the court that the officer was not in uniform and was drunk at the time.

"Leliphoyisa belidlile Nkhosi yenkatolo futsi belingakagcoki ne uniform," he said.

Magistrate Vilakati told the accused that it was pointless to defy instructions by police officers, and that he should always cooperate.

Vilakati said when a police officer's behaviour or conduct was unbecoming, one should go to the police station and report instead of stirring more trouble in the scene.

The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of E500 or five months in jail on each count.

Siphocosini resident charged with negligent driving

SIHLE Mavuso of Siphocosini was arrested for reckless driving after hitting a 14-year-old girl of the same area on December 21, 2018.

He appeared before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati yesterday morning.

The accused told the court that the accident was not his fault as it happened at a junction in the area. He said the pedestrian got hit accidentally because she stepped into the road after assuming that he would make a turn.

*"Your Worship I agree that I did**hit her, but it was an honest mistake and I was driving at 20km/h,"* he said.

He also stated that after the accident, he called the police and rushed the victim to the hospital where she was attended to and found that she had not sustained severe injuries, thus was discharged same day.

He pleaded for leniency from the court and gave assurance that such would not repeat itself.

He was sentenced to five months imprisonment or pay a fine of E500.

Man over speeds during bad weather, fined E700

BAMBO Kunene (45) of Matsapha was arrested for reckless driving and over speeding on December 20, 2018 at Ngwenya.

He appeared before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati.

Kunene was charged with the offence of contravening Section 89(1) of the Road Traffic Act No 6 of 2007 as read with Section 85 (3) of the Road Traffic Act 6/2007 together with Section 122(7).

He is said to have swerved his car on to a pavement as he had lost control due to speeding on a foggy day.

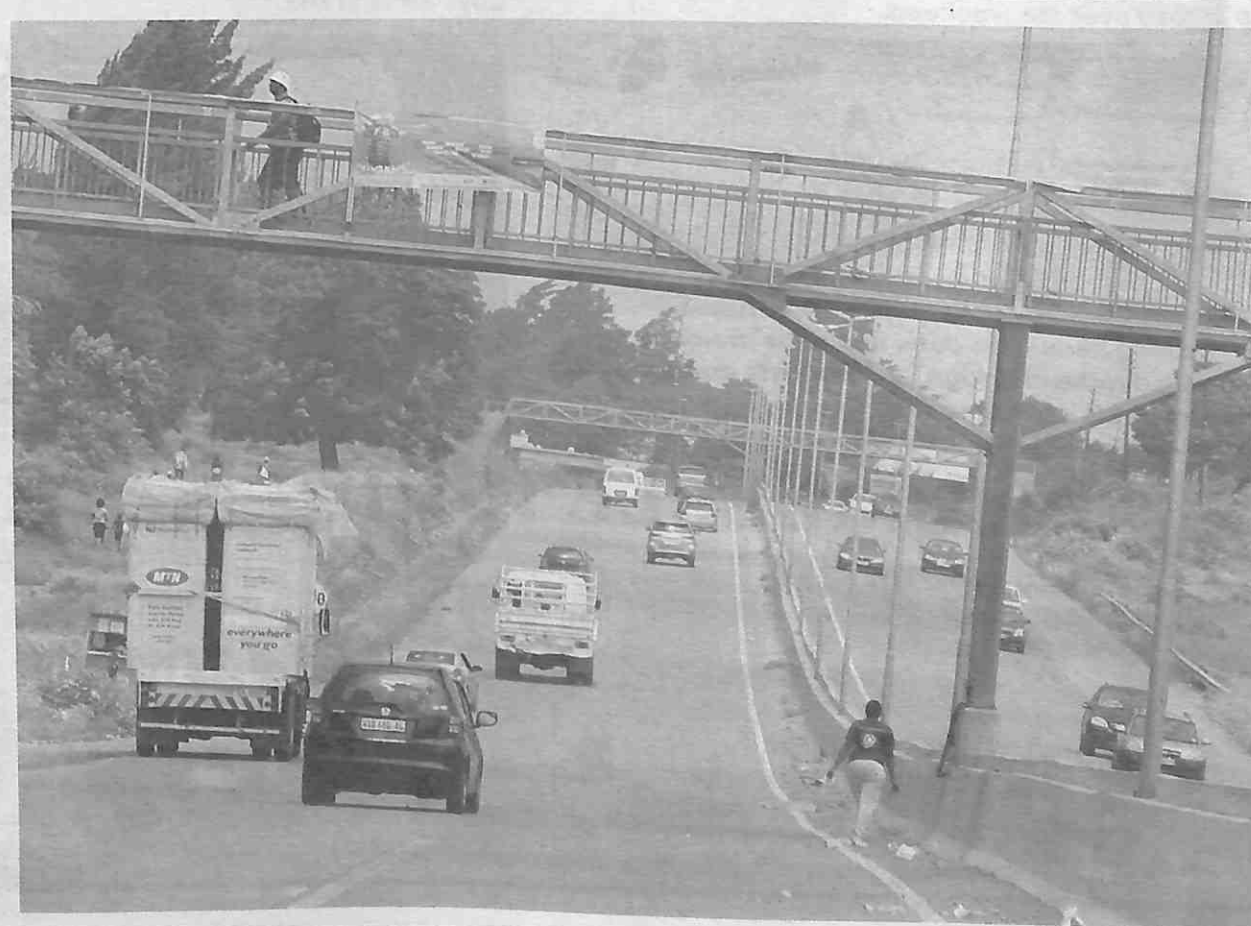
Fog

He told the court that there was thick fog on the day and everything happened so fast.

He further disclosed that he has been a driver for 20 years and was sorry for the crime.

Responding to the accused, Magistrate Vilakati told him that as a driver he knows the rules and in such weather it is protocol for a driver to drive responsibly.

He was sentenced to seven months imprisonment or pay a fine of E700.

**RIGHT UNDER-NEATH: A lady jay-walks right underneath the over-head bridge in Matsapha yesterday. This should be discouraged. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)**

DRINK DRIVING CASES

DD ACCUSED WANTS TO BE AN AMBASSADOR

Stories by Bahle Gama
Mbabane

A drink-driving suspect disclosed his wish to be an ambassador for drinking responsibly after the traumatic experience spending the night behind bars.

Musa Dlamini (40) of Mbabane appeared before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati yesterday after he was arrested for drink-driving on Saturday leading to him spending the night behind bars.

He was arrested and charged with the offence of contravening Section 91(1) of the Road Traffic Act No6 of 2007 as read with Section 122(2) of the same act and is said to have had 0.55mg/l of alcohol in his system during his arrest.

Dlamini told the court that he was arrested at 2300hours and spending a



night in a holding cell was his worst nightmare and he intends to be an ambassador and tell others of the dangers of drink-driving.

Jail

"I do not wish to ever go back to jail for drink-driving your worship, I spent

the whole night awake, *akusiko mmandzi lengekhatshi*. I will definitely be an ambassador and spread the word your worship," he said.

He further pleaded for leniency from the court and stated that he was a first time offender.

He promised he would not repeat such ever again.

Magistrate Vilakati warned the accused of such behaviour and stated that it was an embarrassing act to the accused's family and children.

"It also doesn't make sense that you would spend E200 on drinks only to end up parting with E1 500 or more in court just because you failed to get a taxi or an uber. Most of all this is embarrassing for you sir imagine your children saying *babe uboshelwe tjwala*," Vilakati said. The accused was convicted and found guilty of the crime and was sentenced to pay a fine of E1 200 or 12 months in jail.

Madonsa resident nabbed for DD at Ezulwini

LIDLOJWA libhekile, were words uttered by a drink driving suspect before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati during his appearance yesterday morning.

Simo Mkhonta (29) of Madonsa area was arrested yesterday morning at Ezulwini for drink driving.

A breathalyser test conducted on him read 0.60mg/l.

Explaining to the court, the accused stated he was asked to go buy food as he was at a funeral.

When asked by the magistrate why he did such, he replied with an apology.

"I apologise your worship, *lid-*

lojwa libhekile nkosiyami, it was an honest mistake and I am sorry. I plead for leniency as I am unemployed and have a child who will be starting school in a few weeks," he said.

Decision

Magistrate Vilakati told the accused that before taking the decision of driving a vehicle knowing very well that he had alcohol in his system, he should have considered the factors he had told the court, as he knew of his situation and surely also knew the consequences of drink-driving.

He was sentenced to a fine of E1 200 or 12 months in jail.

LIST OF DD CASES THIS WEEKEND

Name	Sentence
Sibusiso Shongwe	E1 200 or 12 Months
Simo Mkhonta	E1 200 or 12 Months
Musa Dlamini	E1 200 or 12 Months

I WAS TOLD BY POLICE TO DRIVE - DD ACCUSED

Stories by Nonduduzo Kunene
Manzini

"GENERAL Patrol Police told me to drive," says a suspect before the court.

Sifiso Stephen Gamedze (31) from Nhlambeni area appeared before Magistrate Lucia Lukhele at Manzini court yesterday. He was charged with the offence of contravening Section 91 (1) of the Road Traffic Act. Gamedze wrongfully and unlawfully drove a VW Polo Sedan reg-

istered LSD 221 AM along Dr Hynd road under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs. He recorded 0.70 mg/l instead of the legal 0.38mg/l thus contravened the said act.

Plead

When he was asked by Magistrate Lucia Lukhele to plead with the court, Gamedze said he was told by general patrol police to drive instead of his friend.

When the Magistrate asked why general patrol police would tell him

to drive, the accused said he was not as drunk as his friend.

When the magistrate asked him how the police came to that conclusion without conducting a breathalyser test on him, Gamedze failed to answer.

Excuse

Magistrate Lukhele told Gamedze to come up with a better excuse.

However, Gamedze was adamant that it was the general patrol police officers who advised him to drive. Upon reaching Dr Hynd road, he



SIYAVUTSA BHE: A traffic cop hard at work.

was stopped by traffic police officers and was arrested for drink-dri-

ving. Gamedze was fined E2 000 or 12 months in prison.

'I WAS RUSHING TO HOSPITAL'

A man who was nabbed for drink driving claimed he was rushing to his sick child at the Manzini Nazarene Hospital.

Themba Allen Dlamini (48) appeared before Magistrate Lucia Lukhele for driving under the influence of alcohol. Dlamini was nabbed near the Club traffic lights along central distributor public road.

He recorded 0.57mg/l above the legal limit thus contravened Section 91 (1) of the Road Traffic Act of 2007.

During mitigation, the 48-year-old told the court that he was rushing to the hospital.

"I got a phone call that my sick child needed me at the hospital," he said.

Magistrate Lukhele asked why he took alcohol yet he knew that he had possible chances of driving to the hospital to visit his admitted child. Dlamini in his defence said he had not planned his visit as during the day he was at the hospital.

"I was with him the whole day my Lady. However, as I was relaxing at home, I got a phone call that my child

needs me. Being the caring father that I am, I rushed to the hospital," he said.

When Magistrate Lukhele asked why he did not call a taxi, he said the thought of a taxi did not cross his mind. Gamedze was fined E2 000 or 12 months in prison.

...as I was relaxing at home, I got a phone call that my child needs me. Being the caring father that I am, I rushed to the hospital"

Man nabbed at Madlangempisi

MBONGISENI Malindzisa (29) of Maguga area was charged with two counts of contravening with the Road Traffic Act.

He was charged with contravening Section 11 (1) (a) of the Road Traffic Act 6/2007 as read with

Section 122(7) of the same act.

It is said along the Maguga/Madlangempisi MR6 public road, he failed to comply when Constable M Dlamini signalled for him to stop, thus contravening the Act.

The other count was that of failing to comply with a road traffic sign, he exited on entry point which was wrong. Malindzisa pleaded guilty to both charges. He asked for the court's leniency as he was about to be sentenced stating he had a sickly child. Malindzisa was fined E600 on both counts and three months in jail for each.

DD accused pleads for court's mercy

A father of three teenagers was nabbed for driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Sipho Sihlongonyane (40) of Masundwini was nabbed along D15 Public Road at Phocweni. Sihlongonyane's breathalyser test read 0.51mg/l instead of 0.38mg/l.

When Magistrate Lucia Lukhele asked why he decided to drink and drive, he told the court that he did not notice that he was drunk. He pleaded to be remanded outside custody as he was

employed thus feared losing his job.

Adding to that, he said he had three high school going children that he has to pay school fees for.

Lenient

"My Lady as you plan to sentence me, please may you be lenient with me.

This is because I have three children that are attending high school; two of them are in Form One and the other in Form Five," he said. Sihlongonyane was fined E2 000 or 12 months in prison.

Man gets E2 000 fine for DD

MCOLISI Fakudze (32) of Ntontozi area was arrested near St Andrews for driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drug having a narcotic effect.

A breathalyser test conducted on him read 0.42mg/l.

In his defence, he said he did not notice that he had too much to drink. Fakudze was driving a Honda Sedan registered DSD 712 CH. He was fined E2 000 or 12 months imprisonment.

NYANGANTATHU ROYAL FIELDS **WEEDING**



KHONA MAJAH: The weeding of Royal fields continued where throngs of regiments came through for the duties of the day. A section of the many regiments who came through yesterday morning captured singing and dancing as they enjoyed the work of the day. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



AT WORK: Inyatsi YaMswati singing umgubho songs as they perform the Royal assignment.



LEFT - IN SONG: Umgubho was the order of the day as Lacwebetelako engaged in the weeding.



INTERVIEW: Eswatini Channel Journalist **umbutfo** Mahushuka interviewing Observer on Saturday Editor Alec Lushaba, while former MP Mkhosi Dlamini smiles as he looks on.



LADZIPHUNWA: Phelakwenyanga, Mabuyemtilane, Bhulemaphaphu and Lomanesi cleaning up the weed.



PRESENT: Sibusiso Mnisi and Dr Daniel Dlamini among the regiments.



LWASUKA LUKHULA: Umbutto Dvonsumoya, a senior officer at HMCS, doing his part. **RIGHT - YOUNG WARRIORS:** The jubilant Ingaja getting excited about the Kodak moment.



NEVER GIVING UP UNTIL THE WORK IS DONE: Emabutto in song.



Public Service Pensions Fund

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS FUND
P.O. BOX 4469, MBABANE
Tel: 2411 9000
TOLL FREE: 800 2401
www.pspf.co.sz

 /PSPFSwaziland  @PSPF_Swaziland

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 Bhimbidvwane 2019. Emahhovisi atawuphindze avulwe ngalokujwayelekile ngaLesibili mhlaka 8 Bhimbidvwane 2019.

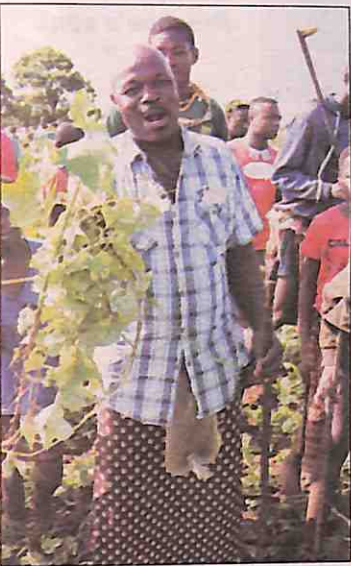
NYANGANTATHU ROYAL FIELDS WEEDING



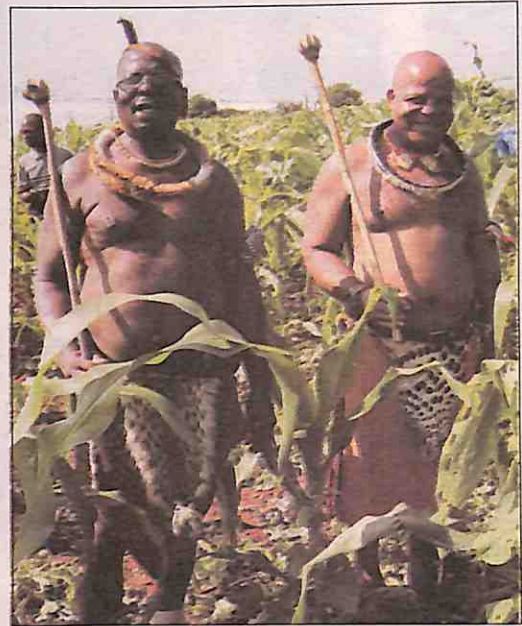
IN SPIRIT: Ingaja seemed to be dominating the duties of the day.



ATTENDED: Thabo Magagula (r) among the many regiments present on the day.



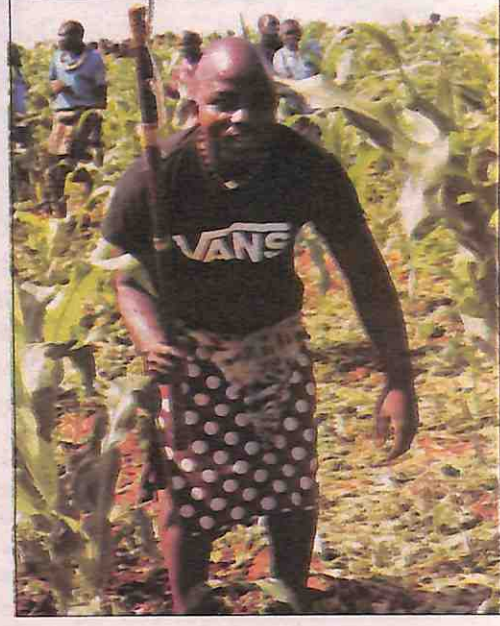
LOYAL: Mshikishi Mndzebele, one of the country's legendary Mbhacanga artists never misses the weeding.



PROUD: Sipilingisembutfo and Khanyekudzeni also attended.



KHETSA: EBC Chairman Chief Gija and Masuku came through.



NEMAMBALA: Umbutfo Mhlatfute of Inyatsi in action.

Envirocom

Approved Stockists of GreenCross Shoes

GREEN CROSS

Happy Feet, Happy People

FEEL THE COMFORT

Contacts: Tel: +268 2404 8346 / +268 2404 9175
Fax: +268 2404 5423
email: envirocom@swazi.net

Physical Address
110 Dzeliwe Street
Mbabane

Approved by the Eswatini Higher Education Council (SHEC)

ENROLLMENT IN PROGRESS

ICM PROFESSIONAL COURSES
Accounting & Finance
Human Resources Development
Information Technology

CUSTOMER SERVICE COURSES
certificate in contact centre management
certified contact centre Practitioner
certified customer service Practitioner

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP COURSES
Diploma in Management & Leadership
Executive Diploma in Business Leadership

COUNSELLING COURSES
Diploma in Trauma Counselling
Diploma in Family & Marriage Counselling
Diploma in Psycho-Social Counselling

SECURITY MANAGEMENT COURSES
Advanced Diploma in Security Management
Certificate in Security Supervision
Certificate in Access Control Technologies

SECRETARIAL

AFFILIATES AND ACCREDIT

FIND US AT

IRDM Mbabane: Embassy House, Opposite EBIS
IRDM Mankayane: Old Government Complex next to Post Office
Tel: 3442 3360 +268 7634 3819 +268 7611 6353

SHISELWENI NEWS

...With

Starsky Mkhonta

Nhlanguano office

Tobacco Complex, Cnr King George Masengule Streets
Opposite SEDCO PremisesTel: 2207 5159 Cell: 7621 5081
Email: Starsky@realnet.co.sz

NHO BUSINESSMAN'S FAMILY STAGES DOUBLE CELEBRATIONS

NHLANGANO Businessman Christopher Mavava Vilane's family held a thanksgiving ceremony, which took place at Thunzini, at the family's home outside Nhlanguano town.

The ceremony was held on Saturday and it also doubled up as Mavava's wife Eunice Ntombemhlophe Vilane's surprise 60th birthday.

The Vilane family owns property around Nhlanguano town.

It also owns the Vilane Complex, situated along Benguni Street and a blockyard, which is located at the Nhlanguano industrial site.

They also own a fleet of trucks as part of Mavava's business empire, which has made him a respected business guru in the region.

The function was graced by the presence of the wife of Jericho Church leader Bishop Bhekibandla Vilakati, Xolile Vilakati, who prayed for the event's attendants.

Others who arrived to be part of the ceremony included another successful businessmen from Matsapha, Themba Vilane and Magolwane Dlamini from Ekutsimleni.

Last year, the family held a similar



SUPPORTIVE: Matsapha-based businessman Themba Vilane (left) seen with a friend Magolwane Dlamini from Ekutsimleni at the thanksgiving party of Nhlanguano businessman Mavava Vilane's family.

ceremony, where Mavava was turning 60. Vilane's first daughter Nqobile, who was the director of the programme, said it was important to honour parents and organising a thanksgiving was one way of showing appreciation for what their parents have done for them as children.

She thanked all those who were part of the ceremony, saying this was not just a family affair as attendants included community members and family

friends from around the country and beyond the borders. "We are humbled to have all of you here. It's not an event to celebrate the family's success, but to thank God and on top of everything, to thank Him for blessing us with our two loving parents," said Nqobile.

Nqobile said as children, they were thankful to their parents for contributing in their upbringing and also taking them to school and further seeing to it that they were clothed and fed. "Our



HAPPY DAY: Bishop Bhekibandla's wife Xolile Vilakati (centre) flanked by Nqobile Vilane and Senzangakhona Mthembu (Nqobile's son).

parents taught us respect and to take care of even those who cannot fend for themselves. They taught us about unity and also getting used to the culture of sharing. As children, we have seen it wise to show our appreciation for all they have done for us. God has been

great to us as both our parents are still alive. We have found it proper to gather in this fashion as a way of honouring them," said Nqobile.

On the other hand, 'Mavava' thanked his children for honouring him and his wife while still alive. He said parenting was not just to bring children to earth, but it meant one has to also take care of the needs of those children.

"We have played our role as parents and you now have to play yours. It is encouraging to see you as our children remaining united. We are happy that you have not slipped from what we instilled in you. Let me also call upon every one of you to play a part in the family business empire so that it doesn't collapse. As you see, we are ageing and this means you are the ones to make sure the family legacy continues," said Vilane.

"We are humbled to have all of you here. It's not an event to celebrate the family's success, but to thank God and on top of everything, to thank Him for blessing us with our two loving parents"

Christ the King class of '08 praised for maintaining clean record

CHRIST the King Primary School continues with its good academic record.

Even this time around, the school has recorded 100 per cent in the 2018 Standard Five results, a record it has maintained for years now.

The school has also been producing top performing pupils in the country.

The class of 2018 produced two pupils counted among the best performers in the country.

Philani Mdluli and Sinenhlanhla Simelane both scored 76 per cent, thus 'booking' themselves a place in the list of best performing pupils in the country.

Overall, the school had 16 merits, 38 first class passes, 26 second class passes and there were

no third classes and failures.

School Principal Nurse Simelane has attributed the success of the school to everyone.

She said teachers remained dedicated and further mentioned that they always set targets for themselves. She said they were aiming to see the school record not just 100 per cent results but quality.

"The plan is to have at least only merit passes dominating and a few first class passes. This is possible and with the dedicated team of teachers, I see this being a reality and not just a dream," said Simelane.

Simelane said as a school, they were aware that for them to succeed; they had to make sacrifices.

MINISTER CHRISTIAN NTSHANGASE A TRUE 'CHRISTIAN'

SHISELWENI Member of Parliament (MP) Christian Ntshangase is being applauded by elderly people from his constituency for being helpful.

Elderly from the constituency have spoken fondly of the MP, who is also the minister of public service stating that in the short period he has been in office, there were already tangible things he has done. The MP has donated wheelchairs to elderly people from two chiefdoms, something that they said it was a sign that he has a kind and caring heart. Gogo Letta Shabalala of Mabonabulawe Umphakatsi, one of the beneficiaries, said the MP was someone who was aware of challenges that elderly people were facing. She said Minister Ntshangase was the answer and a solution to a number of problems faced by the elderly and stated that

the electorates made the right choice in electing him. "Christian is a true Christian when looking at the things he is doing for us. It's not only us elderly people who are benefitting from his generosity, as even the less privileged and needy members are being taken care of. It is only now that we feel we have someone serious with his work, he is not selfish.

Plight

"He gives himself time to understand the plight faced by people of this constituency," said Gogo Shabalala when she was presented with a wheelchair. Even the youth is heaping the MP with accolades, with some saying never in the history of the constituency have they had an active MP.

"He has come at the right time in office, we will also be seen as a constituency that is playing a part in mak-

ing sure the country attains the First World Status. The good thing with him is that he does not do lip service, but he delivers. We are aware of his other responsibility as a cabinet minister, but what we have noticed is that he is still in touch with the constituency," said Zizi Hlophe, who is a member of the youth. On the other hand, MP Ntshangase said as much as he was happy to hear that people were appreciating his work, he would not want to pay much attention to that, but his aim was to see the constituency moving forward, especially in terms of development. "I am humbled and honoured with the people's accolades.

However, the important thing is to see everyone coming on board. I work with the Inkhundla team and what has been achieved it's a collective effort," said Minister Ntshangase.

41 GRADUATE AT LUNYATI EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

ABOUT 41 people who were undergoing training in dress-making, computer literacy and office management courses have graduated at Lunyati Educational Centre (formerly Tfokotani).

The ceremony was held recently,

where the graduands were presented with certificates indicating that they were now professionals in various fields. The centre's other wing is Lunyati Primary School and there is also a clinic closeby. The educational centre is situated at Masibini,

which is an area under Maseyisini constituency.

Among those who graced the ceremony was Nhlanguano, businessman Justice Nxumalo who is also one of the founding members of the educational centre. He said it was

encouraging to see the centre equipping people with various skills.

He said the programmes offered in the institution were needed to address the unemployment rate in the country.

"Courses like these should be taken seriously. The people who have been trained are now employable and at the same time they can be employ-

ers. We are thankful to the centre for offering such courses which focus mainly on locals," said Nxumalo.

Others who were present to witness the ceremony included the former Principal of Lunyati Primary School Esau Simelane, current Principal Mike Tsabedze, as well as acting Indvuna of Masibini Thula Msibi.

HOW BHOLI CLINIC DISSERVICES PEOPLE

By Nonduduzo Kunene
Mbabane

BHOLI clinic is no longer what it used to be, says Regina Mthembu of Mahlabaneni area.

Bholi Clinic is located in the outskirts of Big-Bend in the Lubombo Region. It was originally built by Methodist Missionaries together with Bholi Methodist Primary School. It is now a public clinic owned by Eswatini Government.

Mthembu bounced back from the health centre for two days during the festive season. It is alleged that the clinic was closed on December 25 and 26, 2018.

Normally, health care centres do not completely shut down their operations on holidays but Bholi Clinic was allegedly completely shut down.

In addition, when operations resumed on December 27, 2018 they only attended to a few patients.

By noon, it is reported that the nurses closed the doors, leaving a note on the door saying 'ongephakathi ongephakathi'.

"After the clinic was closed for a good two days on the 27th, they worked a half day. By 12 noon they left a note on the door. Sick people and pregnant women were turned back," she claimed.

As if closing the clinic for two days was not enough, now they are taking advantage of the shortage of cards.

According to the source, Bholi clinic does not have cards for pregnant women. These cards

are used to record all the check-ups that a woman undergoes when she is expecting.

The card is also used to monitor the growth of the foetus.

Through an investigation done by this publication, it is not only the Big-Bend clinic that does not have these cards. There is currently a shortage of them in the country.

Health care practitioners now make copies by photocopying them so that the pregnant women's records are kept until they are available. As some clinics are looking for an alternative to help the situation, Bholi clinic decided that they are not going to attend to pregnant women.

"Pregnant women who were here for their first check-up were sent back. They simply said we do not have emacard alabamitsi hambani endzevane."

Currently, Bholi Clinic is referring pregnant women to

Endzevane clinic because they do not want to photocopy cards like any other health centre. Moreover, another source revealed that whenever the clinic is compiling its reports, they just shut down completely and leave a note at the door that reads 'do not disturb reports compiling is in progress'.

Nonhlanhla Ndwandwe from Bholi clinic denied the allegations.

"ngemanga laluhlata lawo," she said. She said the clinic did not shut down its operations completely for two full days. Ndwandwe also dismissed that they only worked a half day on December 27, 2018. She said the clinic did not open at its usual time.

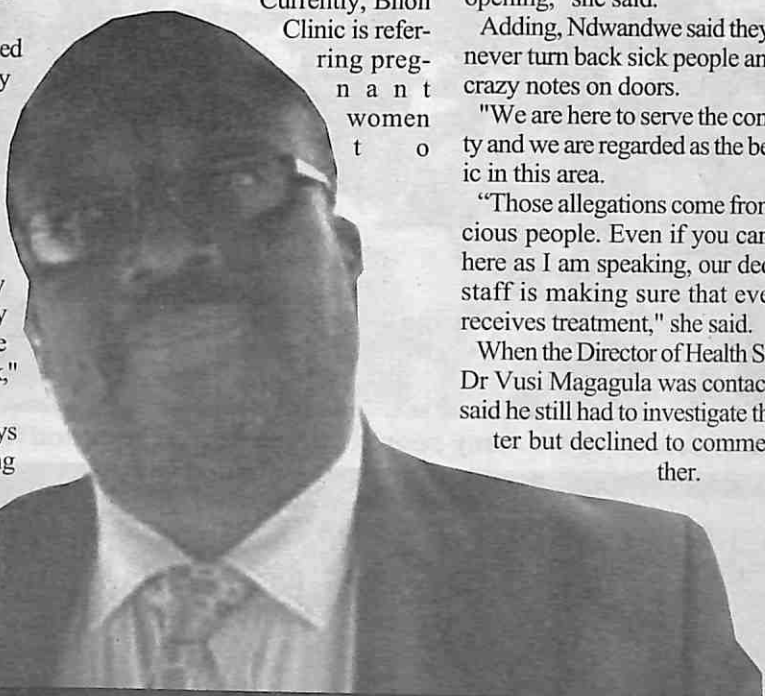
"Actually on December 27, we did not open at 0830hrs but we were a few hours late. This was because the clinic's keys were misplaced. We were looking for them, thus delaying the opening," she said.

Adding, Ndwandwe said they would never turn back sick people and write crazy notes on doors.

"We are here to serve the community and we are regarded as the best clinic in this area.

"Those allegations come from malicious people. Even if you can come here as I am speaking, our dedicated staff is making sure that everyone receives treatment," she said.

When the Director of Health Services Dr Vusi Magagula was contacted, he said he still had to investigate the matter but declined to comment further.



TO INVESTIGATE: Director of Health Services Dr Vusi Magagula.

We have performed well - Manzini REO

By Melusi Mlotso
Mbabane

DESPITE that his region attained the lowest passing rate in the Swaziland Primary Certificate (SPC) results for 2018, Manzini Regional Education Officer (REO) Mlimi Mamba says the region has performed well.

Manzini attained the lowest pass rate of 88.01 per cent. Worth noting is that the best schools in the 2018 SPC results are from the

Manzini region. These are St Theresas and Manzini Infant Practising to mention, but only a few.

In an interview with this newspaper, Mamba said he was proud of his region.

"If you can analyse the results, you will see that the Manzini region has a large number of pupils and we did very well. We are also priding ourselves for providing quality education," he said.

Mamba said the region produced quality education and

followed the education policy to the letter.

"If you can analyse the results, you will see that the Manzini region has a large number of pupils and we did very well."

He pointed out that some of the teachers are staying in remote areas due to lack of accommodation at schools, hence they are failing to arrive on time at work.

"We also blame the normal progression policy. But give us five years from now, you'll see the best of Manzini region," he said.



WELL DONE: Manzini Regional Education Officer Mlimi Mamba.

Principals decry normal progression policy

Melusi Mlotso
Mbabane

PRIMARY school principals in the country continue to blame the normal progression policy which was introduced by the ministry of education and training.

They said the low performance in some schools could be attributed to the five per cent repetition rate policy, which they claim it was forced down their throats.

The policy allows pupils, especially in primary schools, to progress to the next class despite having failed in the previous one.

This is what some of the head teachers have to say:

● **Sobahle Dlodlu (Manyovu Primary School Principal)**

"The normal progression policy is greatly affecting us as schools as it promotes the pupils who are not capable to the next class. Due to this policy, we have to work extra hard even on holidays to help them when they reach Standard V."

● **Phumzile Mamba (Ekumeni Primary School Principal)**

"This thing lowers the standard of education in the country. In Grade Seven, the pupils find themselves struggling because they have been promoted in the other grades. The pupils are not up to standard. Is government doing this simply because it's funding the Free Primary

Education (FPE)? Seriously, government is failing to do its job."

● **Jethro Ngcamphalala (Skhandzabantfu Primary School Principal)**

"The policy is compromising the quality of education in the country. A pupil must work hard to be admitted into the next class. Due to the current situation, we shall find ourselves producing criminals and prostitutes.

We must also do away with the type of education that only produces white collar jobs."

"The policy is compromising the quality of education in the country. A pupil must work hard to be admitted into the next class."

● **Mandla Shongwe (Global Primary School Principal)**

"It is affecting us as head

teachers, because we have to work extra hard when the pupils reach Standard V."

● **Dumsile Magagula (Ndlalini Primary School Principal)**

"I have been always vocal about this policy during our meetings. This thing is bad for the education system of the country. Why did they introduce it because government does not have facilities as compared to private schools? Government only provides us with stationery, nothing more."

Meanwhile, Minister of Education Lady Haward Mabuza when contacted said the progression policy is not new. She said it required teachers to put more effort in their work.

Barnabas' wife's school shows slight improvement

By Melusi Mlotso
Mbabane

THE former late Prime Minister's wife Gugu Precious Simelane's school Ngwenya Central Primary has shown a slight improvement in the SPC 2018 results when compared with that of 2017.

Simelane, the wife of former Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini, was elevated to the position of principal at Ngwenya Primary School in April 2018. This, therefore, means she had been in the school for only eight months.

Ngwenya Central Primary School results in 2017

Merit 0
First 9
Second 44
Third 0
Fail 0

Ngwenya Central Primary School results in 2018



IMPROVEMENT: The late former PM's wife Gugu Precious Simelane.

Merit 0
First 13
Second 47
Third 0
Fail 0

SWANCEFA CALLS FOR POLICY REVIEW

...after English language disaster

By Sabelo Majola
Mbabane

THE Swaziland National Campaign for Education for All (SWANCEFA) National Coordinator Nelisiwe Nhlabatsi has called for the ministry of education to have a policy that will scrap English language as a passing subject.

This comes after a total 2 935 pupils who sat for the Swaziland Primary Certificate (SPC) examination failed and 1 342 of them failed because they failed to pass the English language.

In an interview on Thursday last week, Nhlabatsi said the country could not rely on English Language because there are countries internationally which do not use English at all but use their native language.

"It is very unfair on the pupils to have English imposed to them as the passing subject because it implies that Liswati cannot progress without the knowledge of English, which is not true. We should be marketing our mother language and there should be a policy review that will see SiSwati being inducted as the passing subject," she said.

Nhlabatsi said a study has shown that there were high repeaters in Grade 6 because of English and government was wasting funds on the same class through the Free Primary Education (FPE), hence there was a strong need to review the policy.

Meanwhile, the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) has expressed its disappointment after being left out in the press briefing of the 2018 SPC summary results.

Apparently, there was an agree-

ment between the Examination Council of Eswatini (ECOS) in a meeting that was presided by the ministry of Education Principal Secretary Dr Sibongile Mtshali that SNAT would be informed on the external examination results in case there is an update, and that they would be part of the press briefing held on Thursday.

This was revealed by SNAT President Mbongwa Dlamini when sought for their reaction on this year's results.

He said he did not know anything about the results and it was news to him that they would be out on Friday.

"We were not involved in the whole thing, and it is very disappointing because we agreed that we would be informed. This proves that whatever we agree on with our stakeholders, they don't stick to it but buy our faces only when we are discussing about issues," he said.

After a short brief on the summary of the results, Dlamini believed the results would have been much better had government not pushed teachers into boycotting classes and striking by refusing to give them the 6.5 per cent Cost of Living Adjustment (CoLA), which saw members of the security forces take part in invigilating exams for security reasons.

"Results have become political in a way that they don't reflect any shortcomings even after the disturbance towards the external examinations, simply because the fault was with government but had it been the teachers who were at fault, they would have been pitiable," he said.

Senator Sylvia's mom passes on

By Simon Shabangu
Mbabane

SENATOR Sylvia Mthethwa's mother Sellinah Ntombizodwa Nkwanyana has passed on at the age of 90 years.

She succumbed to death after a long fight with cancer.

This is according to Nkwanyana's only daughter Sylvia.

The senator said her mother has been unknowingly battling with cancer as she was in and out of hospital in the past four years.

She said doctors only discovered that she had cancer of the lungs four months back.

She said the chronic disease finally took the life of her mother at the RFM Hospital in Manzini, where she was admitted.

Mthethwa said as a family together with her brothers, they did all they could to get the necessary medical care for her, but she could not be assisted since the cancer was discovered at its later stages.

"My hero is gone; she was everything to us, but I thank God for all

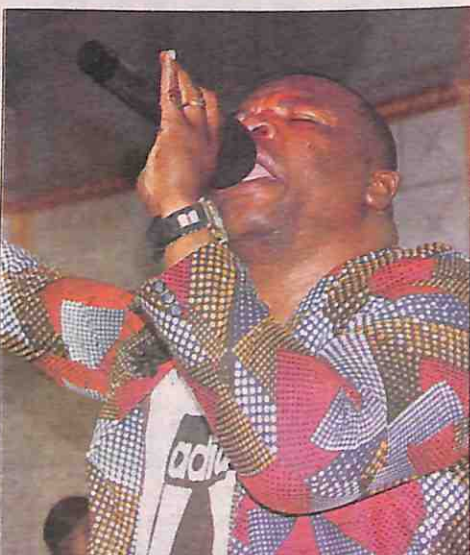


RIP: Senator Sylvia Mthethwa with her late mother, Sellinah Nkwanyana.

the time He allowed her to be with us. We had all the good time and we were able to appreciate and spoil her for all the good work she did to raise us to be who we are today. I take comfort in the fact that she died a happy person because she was in warm hands," she said.

She said her mother was blessed with many years of good life on earth, stating that she was just about to turn 91 years on January 15. She said funeral arrangements are still yet to be announced, hinting that there will be a memorial service on Friday at a venue yet to be announced.

MOUNTAIN OF SALVATION CROSSOVER



WORSHIP: Mountain of Salvation Christian Church (Matsapha) Founder Bishop Vusumuzi Dlamini leading the congregation in song during the crossover service held at the church in Matsapha last Monday night. Church members and non members of the fast-growing ministry gathered to celebrate together into the new year as over 3 000 people attended. (R) Mzwakhe Myeni and his wife Khanyisile joined by back-up singers as they render their performance. (Courtesy pics)



PACKED: A section of the many people who came from near and far to be part of the service.



JOY: A section of the many congregants who came through to be part of the all night service.



LET'S DANCE: Congregants dancing up a storm after the countdown which marked the entry into the new year.



FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

info@observer.org.sz



Bible Society Eswatini



BIBLE FOR EVERYONE...EVERYWHERE...ALL TIMES

+268 2505 8294

+268 7802 5983

swazi_admin@biblesocieties.org

The Bible - A Central Social, Cultural, Political and Economic Influence!

THE BIBLE AND SPORT

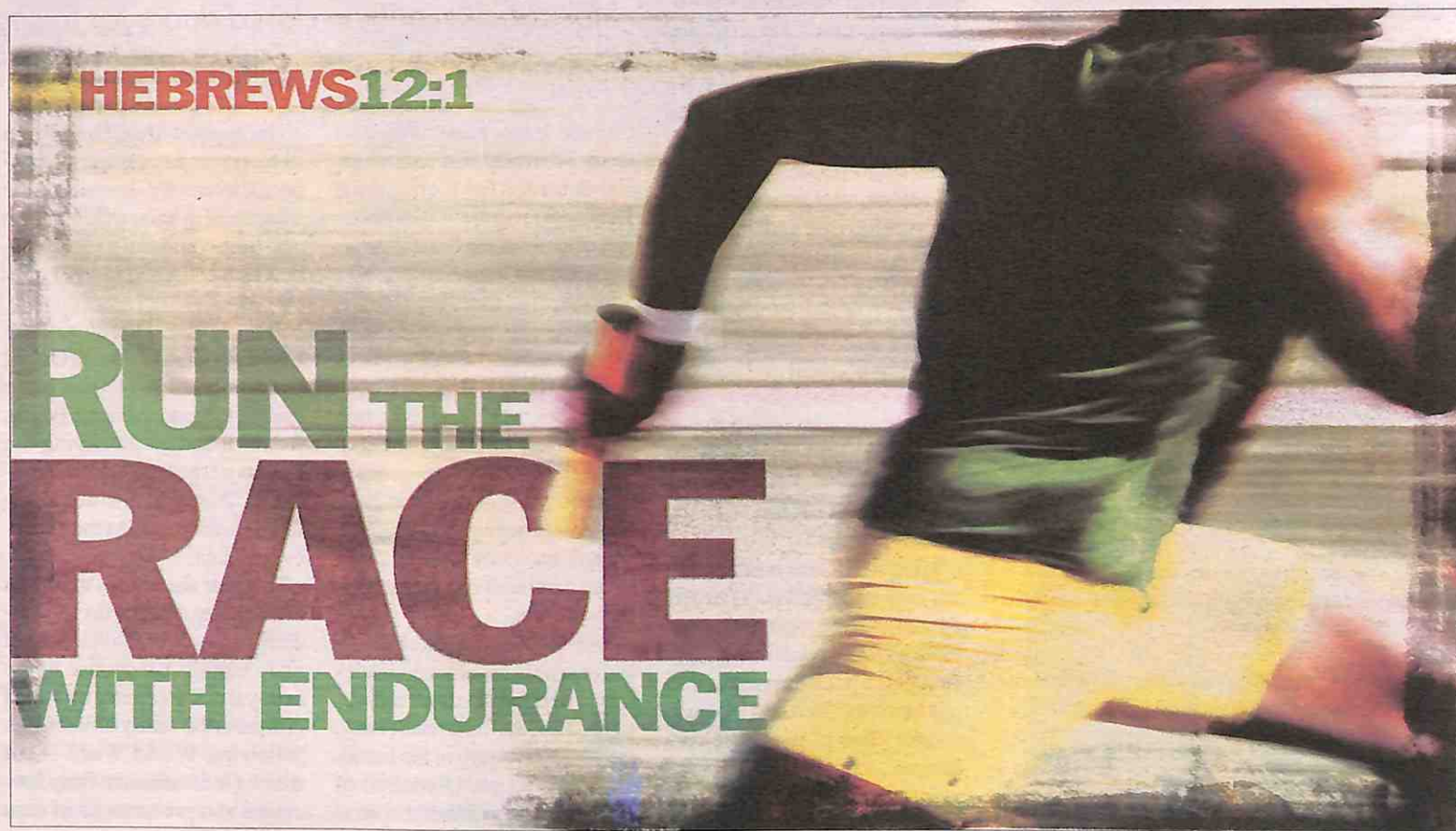
The Bible is a sacred, purposeful, universal book with information that you can't find anywhere else. It is a Book from God, it is accurate, full of good advice, life-changing, and is inspired of God, as 2 Timothy 3:16 elaborates. It is a product of divine inspiration, a record of the relationship between God and humans and it gives us helpful principles to apply when we have problems"

ROMANS 12:1-2 urges us to 'offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, for this is our spiritual act of worship'.

What does this mean? It means sport can also be offered to God as an act of worship and the gospel can be communicated to people through it. Sport is not some area outside of God's good creation; it is an integral part of it, a gift to be enjoyed, to His glory. And one may ask that 'if sport is a gift from God, then why is it often so bad, full of drugs, professional fouls, violence and cheating?'

Like any aspect of God's creation, sport has been distorted from its original purpose because of sin. Sin is not something 'out there' as if sport is the problem; sin is an internal disposition we all have to reject God and to distort His good creation.

We use our talents to seek our glory rather than to play to God's glory. We damage our relationships through cheating instead of playing fair; sin infects sport just as it does every area of human life. God doesn't want sport to remain tainted by sin, so He sent His Son Jesus Christ to be a substitute (a concept every sportsperson gets). He steps in to take the penalty we deserve, He is punished so that



we can go free, sent to the field of play so that we can get back in the game, how awesome is that? Now risen from the dead, Jesus Christ calls us to play to His glory as earlier stated by **Romans 12:1-2**, to 'offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.'

Illustrations

The New Testament uses illustrations of sports that were found during their specific time period, as a way to illustrate a teaching and provide more insight into it.

An example of a sports illustration to illuminate a spiritual truth is seen in the Bible when Apostle Paul writes and says; 'and everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things.'

'Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown,' in 1 Corinthians 9; 25.

In sports such illustration can be twined to the importance of self-control that sportspeople e.g. athletes need in order to obtain their prize. It goes without saying that sports people need a strict diet and an exercise plan in order to succeed to the best of their abilities.

The Bible has stories which makes one conclude that sport was there from way back, just that it wasn't

God doesn't want sport to remain tainted by sin, so he sent His Son Jesus Christ to be a substitute (a concept every sportsperson gets)

directly mentioned, but leaves one to figure out which sport was involved there. Crucially, such sporting activities(as may be depicted now, even though those people were not literally playing) were always at play to display God's power and to His glory. Some came during/after tests to the people involved and God being the provider, always made a way for His chosen ones. Take for instance: In **Acts 27:41-44**, we see Paul on a ship in the middle of a wicked big storm. He knew the ship he was on was going down, but was not worried? Why? Because he trusted God and a plan He would provide. The verse says "the rest were to get there on planks or on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land in safety". Planks here may have also been referred to as longboards, who knows? But it goes without saying that the sport, surfing, took place.

What about Jonah? I may not be an expert on how deep waters are sharks supposed to dominate in, but it's highly likely that the whale spit him out directly onto a piece of driftwood, and he surfed his way out to Nineveh. Another sport that is displayed in the Bible is wrestling. **Genesis 32:24-25**, says 'and Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.' Boxing also can be seen in the Bible, and more will be shared next week.

NOTE: The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and thus worship is still tied to the temple, for wherever our bodies go, there is a sphere of worship.

Remain Blessed.

ON THIS DAY

...January 7

1941 - The NBC Blue radio network presented 'The Squeaky Door' for the first time. The show was later known as 'Inner Sanctum.'

1942 - The World War II siege of Bataan began.

1949 - The announcement of the first photograph of genes was shown at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

1953 - US President Harry Truman announced the development of the hydrogen bomb.

1954 - The Duosopic TV receiver was unveiled this day. The TV set allowed the watching of two different shows at the same time.

1959 - The United States recognized Fidel Castro's new government in Cuba.

1968 - The cost of a US first class stamp was raised to six cents.

1975 - OPEC agreed to raise crude oil prices by 10%, which began a time of world economic inflation.

1979 - Vietnamese forces captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

1980 - U.S. President Jimmy Carter signed legislation that authorized \$1.5 billion in loans for the bail out of Chrysler Corp.

1989 - Crown Prince Akihito became the emperor of Japan following the death of his father, Emperor Hirohito.

1990 - The Leaning Tower of Pisa was closed to the public. The accelerated rate of 'leaning' raised fears for the safety of its visitors.

1996 - Alvaro Arzu was elected president of Guatemala.

1996 - One of the biggest blizzards in US history hit the eastern states. More than 100 deaths were later blamed on the severe weather.

1998 - Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky signed an affidavit denying that she had an affair with US President Clinton.

1999 - US President Clinton went on trial before the Senate. It was only the second time in US history that an impeached president had gone to trial. Clinton was later acquitted of perjury and obstruction of justice charges.

2002 - Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates introduced a new device code named Mira. The device was tablet-like and was a cross between a handheld computer and a TV remote control.

2009 - Russia shut off all gas supplies to Europe through Ukraine. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin publicly endorsed the move and urged greater international involvement in the energy dispute.



FOR LIFE: Xi stands in a car to review the army during a parade commemorating the 70th anniversary of Japan's surrender during World War II in Beijing in 2015.



CHINA'S XI JINPING BEGINS HIS MOST IMPORTANT YEAR AT HIS WEAKEST POINT

There have even been rumours that Xi himself has come in for criticism behind closed doors for failing to adequately handle Trump and his policies

Hong Kong - When Xi Jinping ascended the stage in the Great Hall of the People in March, officially the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong, the country's future seemed his to shape.

Just months earlier, he had been re-appointed General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, the country's most powerful position. Now he had begun a second term as the nation's president and secured the scrapping of term limits on the post - effectively allowing him to rule for life. Just two members of the National People's Congress voted against the change, out of 2,980.

Nine months later however, storm clouds are gathering.

China's economy has faltered in the face of US President Donald Trump's ongoing trade war, and tensions with Washington have spread to political and military issues.

There have even been rumours that Xi himself has come in for criticism behind closed doors for failing to adequately handle Trump and his policies.

"I don't think Xi's position is in any way under threat but he has a lot of enemies and critics and the collapsing relationship with the US is a stick they can use to beat him with," Richard McGregor, a senior fellow at Australia's Lowy Institute, told CNN.

Unfortunately for Xi, the trade troubles come ahead of possibly his most important year yet. The

Chinese leader must navigate a series of critical and controversial dates for the Communist Party, including the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

At the same time, the clock is ticking on his trade truce with Trump, reached during their face-to-face meeting in Argentina early December, with just over two months left to bridge the gap between the two sides.

Xi's handling of events in 2019 could determine the future of China's economy and his place in the pantheon of Communist Party leaders.

Every 10 years, a series of important or controversial anniversaries creates a perfect storm for Beijing.

For Xi and the Communist Party, the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1 will be a seminal occasion.

The party will celebrate both its economic success and its unexpected longevity - surpassing the lifespan of the Soviet Union, the one-time communist superpower which collapsed in 1991 after 69 years.

Rana Mitter, Director of the University China Centre at Oxford University, told CNN that in the lead-up to the anniversary, Beijing would focus on glorifying the leaders of the Communist revolution. "Xi will seek to tie his current achievements to their legacy," he said.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the May 4th student protests in China, which were mainly a response to the betrayal of the country by Allied powers in the Treaty of Versailles following World War I -- but which the Communist Party now claims as a precursor to its own creation

China sparked an economic miracle -- now there's a fight over its legacy

Anniversaries for the Chinese government aren't only about celebration and ceremony. They're often used as highly symbolic milestones for progress or new policies.

For instance, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party in 2021 has been set as the date for China to create a 'moderately well-off society.'

"There's obviously a sense that there will be a reckoning, a calculation up to this point of how the first 70 years have gone and plans for the next 70 years," Mitter said.

Not all important dates next year will be occasions to celebrate -- there are some Xi would rather the world forgot.

CNN

With US leaving, rival powers seek to move into Syria's East

BEIRUT — The planned US troop withdrawal opens up a void in the north and east of Syria, and the conflicts and rivalries among all the powers in the Middle East are converging to fill it.

The sudden American decision to pull out its 2 000 troops has forced a reassessment of old alliances and partnerships. The Syrian government, the Kurds, Russia, Iran, Israel and Turkey have all had a hand in the country's nearly eight-year war -- each in a way, fighting its own war for its own reasons within Syria. Now all of those conflicts

play out in the territory being abandoned by the Americans, creating new tensions, potential chaos and bloodshed.

To reassure jittery allies, Washington sent national security adviser John Bolton to Israel yesterday, to be followed by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who is planning an eight-country tour of Arab allies this coming week.

Here is a look at what's at stake.

THE TERRITORY

The area up for grabs is around a third of Syria, forming a rough triangle. To the north is the bor-

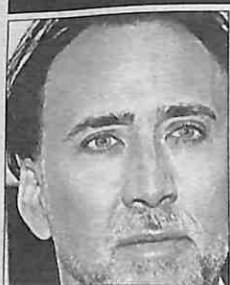
der with Turkey, to the east the border with Iraq, and the third side is the Euphrates River. This was the heart of the Islamic State group's foothold in Syria until the United States partnered with a Kurdish militia, creating a force of some 60 000 fighters -- including some Syrian Arabs and Christian Assyrians -- that wrested it away from the militants.

The territory is strategically important. For the Syrian government of President Bashar Assad and its allies Russia and Iran, regaining it means re-establishing sovereignty. The territory was once the source of Syria's wheat

and barley, its dams generated electricity and it holds some of Syria's richest oil resources. Without it, Assad will have a harder time with reconstruction and operating long term. For the same reasons, it's been a source of income for the Kurdish militia.

For the Kurds, their hold gave weight to their long-sought goal of autonomy. For the US, the troop presence ensured American influence. Turkey sees Kurdish autonomy on its border as an existential threat and has vowed to prevent this, accusing the US of empowering the militia. Ankara says is linked to Kurdish insur-

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Nicolas Cage- Movie Actor
(January 7, 1964)
54 years old



Lewis Hamilton- Race Car Driver
(January 7, 1985) 33 years old

NEW YORK - Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook have been inseparable since he launched the social network 15 years ago.

But his lack of perspective helped create the existential problems facing the company today. His priority is finding a new leader who can take over and meet the challenge.

The company has been reeling since the 2016 US presidential elections, when Zuckerberg brushed off alarm bells that Kremlin-backed operatives manipulated the platform to sway voters. Worries about fake news and privacy violations have prompted users to abandon the network and politicians to demand regulation. Surmounting the crisis will require a new business model, just as Facebook's valuation looks over the hill.

The company harvests data from more than two billion members and pitches it to advertisers so they can target their messages. Promoting controversial and divisive content while making it difficult for users to control their personal information is part of the money machine. Facebook either properly cleans up to avoid losing more users or it will have to hunt for different revenue streams.

The company has faced setbacks before. Shortly after it went public in 2012, it lost about half of its then US\$25 billion market value on fears it wouldn't be able to move advertising to mobile phones from desktop computers. Zuckerberg and Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg overcame that challenge, but they didn't change the basic model. What they did do was double costs. Assume the same happens in 2019 and operating expenses rise to US\$50 billion. Meanwhile, revenue growth slows to 24 per cent, according to the mean analyst estimate from Refinitiv's I/B/E/S, hitting US\$68 billion. Tax the profit at the standard corporate rate to arrive at US\$15 billion. On Facebook's current multiple of 17 times earnings, it would

A GRAYING FACEBOOK WILL REQUIRE A DIFFERENT LEADER



● *The company has been reeling since the 2016 US presidential elections, when Zuckerberg brushed off alarm bells that Kremlin-backed operatives manipulated the platform to sway voters. Worries about fake news and privacy violations have prompted users to abandon the network and politicians to demand regulation. Surmounting the crisis will require a new business model, just as Facebook's valuation looks over the hill*

be worth about US\$260 billion - roughly a third less than its value at the end of November.

To survive and thrive, the company must do more than shift ads to yet another platform. As chairman, chief executive and control-

ling shareholder, Zuckerberg could continue to bumble along. But he would do better to relinquish his executive role to a manager better equipped to address the problems - perhaps someone from the heavily regulated financial world,

or a media executive. For inspiration, he could look to mentor Bill Gates. He gave up the CEO title at Microsoft nearly two decades ago. It is now one of the most valuable companies in the world.

Reuters

gents in Turkey.

ASSAD and RUSSIA

Without the Americans, the door opens for Assad and his Russian backers to move in.

"The only obstacle preventing Assad from gaining control of the east was the US presence and the cover that it provided to the (Kurdish militia). With that gone ... there is simply no real challenge that would prevent the regime from re-establishing control over those areas," said Ayham Kamel, of the Eurasia group.

Abandoned by the US, the Kurdish fighters are forced to move toward Russia and Assad for protection against their more feared enemy,

Turkey. Their force, armed and equipped by the US-led coalition, is unlikely to disappear. Instead, it is seeking an arrangement with Assad to continue operating as the government extends control over the territory.

Syrian officials boast that the withdrawal is a defeat to America. Controlling the east would help seal Assad's victory in the civil war.

The American move also accelerates a trend by Arab states to normalize relations with Assad, whom they shunned for years. The United Arab Emirates, a close US and Saudi ally, recently reopened its embassy in Damascus.

TURKEY vs. KURDS, RUSSIA and ASSAD

Turkey's military, along with some 15 000 allied Syrian rebel fighters, is poised to launch an offensive in the east to break Kurdish control over the border.

But an offensive risks creating friction with Russia. In particular, it could wreck a cease-fire agreement the two reached over Idlib, the northwestern province held by rebels and Islamic militants where Turkey has influence - enabling a Syrian government assault on the province. Russian and Turkish officials have been holding talks, trying to avert tensions.

"A massive Turkish operation

is not in Russia's interest. It destabilizes the situation, risks undermining Idlib agreements and talks on reconstruction.

Plus, if Turkey decides to capture all of the Kurdish areas it will inevitably clash with Russia and Iran," said Yury Barmin, a Russia analyst.

Turkey is equally concerned over the prospect of Syrian government control over the east. In the past, Damascus has used the Kurdish militia as leverage against Ankara and could do so again. For nearly 20 years, Syria hosted the main Kurdish leader until he was captured in 1998, now imprisoned in Turkey.

Associated Press

With and Wisdom

"One man may hit the mark, another blunder; but heed not these distinctions. Only from the alliance of the one, working with and through the other, are great things born."

- *Antoine de Sainte-Exupery*

"Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is."

- *Ernest Hemingway*

"There's not a word yet for old friends who've just met."

- *Jim Henson*

"One measure of friendship consists not in the number of things friends can discuss, but in the number of things they need no longer mention."

- *Clifton Fadiman*

"We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit."

- *Albert Schweitzer*

"Feeling grateful or appreciative of someone or something in your life actually attracts more of the things that you appreciate and value into your life."

- *Northrup Christiane*

"What you truly acknowledge truly is yours. Invite your heart to be grateful and your thank you's will be heard even when you don't use words."

- *Pavithra Mehta*

"A grateful mind is a great mind which eventually attracts to itself great things."

- *Plato*

"To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch Heaven."

- *Johannes Gaertner*

"When you stop expecting people to be perfect, you can like them for who they are."

- *Donald Miller*

"A good word is an easy obligation; but not to speak ill requires only our silence; which costs us nothing."

- *John Tillotson*

"I still miss those I loved who are no longer with me but I find I am grateful for having loved them. The gratitude has finally conquered the loss."

- *Rita Mae Brown*

"Breathe. Let go. And remind yourself that this very moment is the only one you know you have for sure."

- *Oprah Winfrey*

"It is necessary, then, to cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude."

- *Wallace D. Wattles*

"Thou who hast given so much to me, give me one more thing... a grateful heart!"

- *George Herbert*

"In all affairs it's a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted."

- *Bertrand Russell*

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

CONTACTS

Hlengiwe Ndlovu
(79460385)
business@observer.org.sz

Majaha Nkonyane
(7844 8668/7944 8668)
Tel: 2404 9600/1
Fax: 2404 5503 2404 6463

VITALS

Prime Rate	10.50%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	5.3%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	10.25%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.0%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E13.30 per litre
Replacement	E13.35 per litre
Diesel	E13.30 per litre
Paraffin	E 9.65 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 04 JAN 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.2755	14.3255
British Pound/SZL	18.0435	18.1067
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.5502	7.5745
Swiss France/SZL	14.4679	14.5127
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3262	1.3409
Australian Dollar/SZL	10.0214	10.0579
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.5893	10.6242
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	16.2590	16.3160
Gold	1,295.6000	
Oil	53.12	

For more information contact:
Standard Bank Global Markets Department
Direct Lines: +262 2404 1543 / 1544
Email: gmswaziland@stanbic.com



Standard Bank

LOCAL PRODUCE OUTSHINES SA IMPORTS

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE level of fresh produce supplied to retail shops by local farmers has seen an exponential increase when compared to South African imports.

This comes after the Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza reported in the previous year that local fresh produce had increased from E21 million to a record E60 million.

The index of market prices released by the ministry of agriculture last Friday for the week ending January 4, showed that the entire supply of vegetables, including cabbage, beetroot, green beans, green pepper, green mealies, carrots, butternuts, chilli pepper, green cayenne pepper, red cayenne pepper and lettuce came from local farmers.

South Africa, however, supplied peaches, litchies, plums, grapes, banana as well as red apples, oranges alongside the local counterparts. However, local farmers have raised the bar when it comes to sugar beans, jugo beans, mung beans, and sorghum as they are locally acquired. According to the index, trading was active in all the visited markets.

"In Manzini, the market was nearly out of stock with some few commodities on display due to a high volume of sales during the festive season. Prices of commodities continued to fluctuate, with some shooting up, while others remained constant. Mbabane market sales dropped than anticipated during the festive season, the report said.

FARM COMMODITIES	UNIT	MANZINI	MAHLANYA	MBABANE	ENCABENI	SOURCE
VEGETABLES						
Potatoes (med)	10 kg	-	80.00	90.00	-	South Africa
Onions (med)	10 kg	65.00	70.00	70.00	-	South Africa
Tomatoes (med)	Crate	130.00	130.00	200.00	-	Local and South Africa
Cabbage	Per head	5.00	10.00	10.00	-	Local
Lettuce	Per head	3.00	5.00	5.00	-	Local
Beetroot	10 kg	95.00	70.00	70.00	-	Local and South Africa
G. Beans	crate	-	120.00	120.00	-	Local
G. Pepper	10kg/ crate	-	120.00	160.00	-	Local
G. Mealies	Per cob	-	5.00	-	-	Local and South Africa
Carrots	10kg	95.00	80.00	110.00	-	South Africa and Local
Butternuts	10 kg	65.00	70.00	75.00	-	South Africa
Chilli Pepper	10kg	-	80.00	200.00	-	Local
Green Cayenne Pepper	10 kg	-	80.00	200.00	-	Local
Red Cayenne Pepper	10kg	-	80.00	200.00	-	Local
Baby Marrow	5 kg	-	50.00	-	-	Local and South Africa
Cucumber	5 kgs	-	70.00	-	-	South Africa
Brinjals	5 kgs	-	80.00	-	-	Local
Cauliflower	Per head	-	-	-	-	Local
Broccoli	Per head	-	-	-	-	Local
Yellow Pepper	14 kg	-	250.00	200.00	-	Local and South Africa
Red Pepper	14kg	-	250.00	200.00	-	Local and South Africa
Spinach	bundle	-	-	5.00	-	Local and South Africa
FRUITS						
Mangoes	20kg	300.00	250.00	160.00	-	Local and South Africa
Avocados	20kg	-	120.00	150.00	-	Local and South Africa
Peaches	7kg	40.00	-	180.00	-	South Africa
Litchies	crate	300.00	350.00	350.00	-	South Africa
Plum	9kg	-	170.00	180.00	-	South Africa
Grapes	Crate	300.00	250.00	200.00	-	South Africa
Banana	Crate	120.00	95.00	110.00	-	South Africa
Apples Golden	10kg	100.00	100.00	110.00	-	Local
Apples Red	10kg	120.00	110.00	120.00	-	South Africa
Pears	10kg	-	-	100.00	-	South Africa
Oranges	7kg	-	40.00	-	-	Local, South Africa and Maputo
Nectarines	9kg	-	-	200.00	-	Local
Pawpaw	20kg	-	120.00	-	-	South Africa
Naartjes	10 kg	-	-	-	-	South Africa
Lemons	5kg	-	80.00	60.00	-	South Africa
Grape Fruits	10kg	-	-	-	-	Local, South Africa
Pineapples	head	-	10.00	-	-	Local and South Africa
CROPS						
Maize (Grain)	20L	80.00	-	120.00	-	Local
Sugar Beans	A10	100.00	-	100.00	-	Local
Jugo Beans	A10	100.00	-	100.00	-	Local
Mung beans	A10	100.00	-	-	-	Local
Sorghum	A10	-	-	-	-	Local
ROOT TUBERS						
Taro	10L	-	-	-	-	local
Swi Potatoes	20L	100.00	120.00	150.00	-	local

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE New Year has welcomed a rainy season that is assuring of a bumper harvest as the recent rains have filled up the kingdom's four major dams.

Natural Resources official Trevor Shongwe, speaking to South African publication Political Analysis, on Thursday, confirmed that the dams that supply major cities are full to overflowing following the rains that have been falling consistently in the past three weeks.

"These reservoirs are the Hawane Dam which supplies the capital city, Lufhohlo Dam which is mainly used for generating electricity, Lubovane and Maguga dams," he said.

Shongwe said although there was enough water, people were still cautioned to use it sparingly because it was not guaranteed that the weather condition would be stable for a

Rainy season promises food security



longer time.

The country has not fully recovered from the effects of the El Nino

drought which killed thousands of livestock and left over 200 000 people hit by food shortage. However

the rainy reason is easing a lot of tension from farmers who were looking forward to this period.

Agriculture forms the base of the country's economy, as a large part of the manufacturing sector is agro-based

According to Sanele Sacolo in a study, 'Assessment of the Potential of Rainwater Harvesting for Improving Rain-fed Maize Production in Eswatini' Rain-fed agriculture is responsible for a great percentage of the food consumed by the world.

"In rain-fed agricultural systems, as the name suggests, rainfall is the most important input. In areas where rainfall is generally low and coupled by pronounced erratic patterns, low yields have always crippled farming communities," he said.

GT, RG illicit cigarettes yet biggest sellers in local market

By Mhlengi Magongo

TWO cigarette brands which are believed to be illicit in the local market had become part of the hottest selling cigarette brands in the country.

These two illicit brands which are RG, from Gold Leaf Tobacco brand, and G-T form part of the biggest seller and has demonstrated that these brands are significantly cheaper than most competitors.

The two brands are not being sold in most of the shops locally, but are

available in the streets. This is because the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) drug unit has advise shop owners not to sell them.

A local shopkeeper based in Eteni, Matsapha said he selles more than four (20 pack) boxes of RG or GT a day. He said mainly his customers

are textile firm workers who purchase the cigarettes every morning and evenings. He said he charges E1 per cigarette and most of his customers buy more than three at a time.

The shopkeeper revealed that the stock of these cigarettes comes from Mozambique, which supplies most

of the GT and South Africa which supplies the RG brand and it cost them around E130 per volume, which makes up a profit of E270.

"Competition is tough here, most people buy these brands because they are cheap and affordable compared to the other brands. I charge E1 for the cigarettes because a majority of my competitors charge E1.50," he said.

PUBLIC CAUTIONED ON BANKING INSTITUTIONS

By Mhlengi Magongo and Majaha Nkonyane

FOLLOWING a release of three local banks' statements that reflected a huge difference on the same products, Consumer Association Chairman Bongani 'Bhanyaza' Mdluli alerted the public to be wary on their choice of financial institutions.

Speaking in an interview, the chairman said consumers should take precautions when it comes to banking. He said consumers should first go through the pricing guide for the banks they prefer to use so that they can understand what they are paying for and also evaluate the quality of the service they offer.

"People should understand what they are paying for, we urge consumers to take precautions when it comes to banking because local banks are influenced by competition and the quality of their services," he said.

Mdluli noted that local banks pricing is first verified by the Central Bank of Eswatini (CBE) or by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of

Eswatini (FSRA). Mdluli, who was commenting on the fact that local banks charge different amounts for similar services, said all locals banks are regulated by the CBE and, therefore, their pricing list is first verified by the (CBE) or by FSRA.

The Minister of Finance, Neal Rijkenberg, in an interview mentioned that the Central Bank regulates banking fees and charges through Legal Notice No. 62 of 2016 cited as Regulation of banking fees and charges Notice 2016, which was issued under Section 41 of the Central Bank Order, 1974 as amended and effective July 2016.

Prescribes

"The Legal Notice prescribes on the publication of banking fees and charges, effecting a zero banking charge for all cash deposited, capping penalty fees for dishonoured cheques and debit order payments to a maximum of E100 and requiring banks to conduct public awareness for banking customers and the general public on banking services and related costs," he said.

Mdluli, on another note, further highlighted that they (Consumer Association) want competition in the business sector so that the quality of the services offered to consumers improves. He said if businesses compete, they

make sure that the services they offer to consumers are genuine.

"When banks make changes on their pricing list, they first consult their regulators, who then give them the go ahead. The pricing list of the bank is mostly influenced by the local competition and the quality of their services," he said.

These banks traditionally offer different services, such as Automated Teller Machine (ATM) withdrawals and also charge their customers for every notification they receive as SMS. ATM charges are different for each bank as reflected in the different pricing guides. This year, FNB charges E 1.60 every payment SMS notification.

Charge

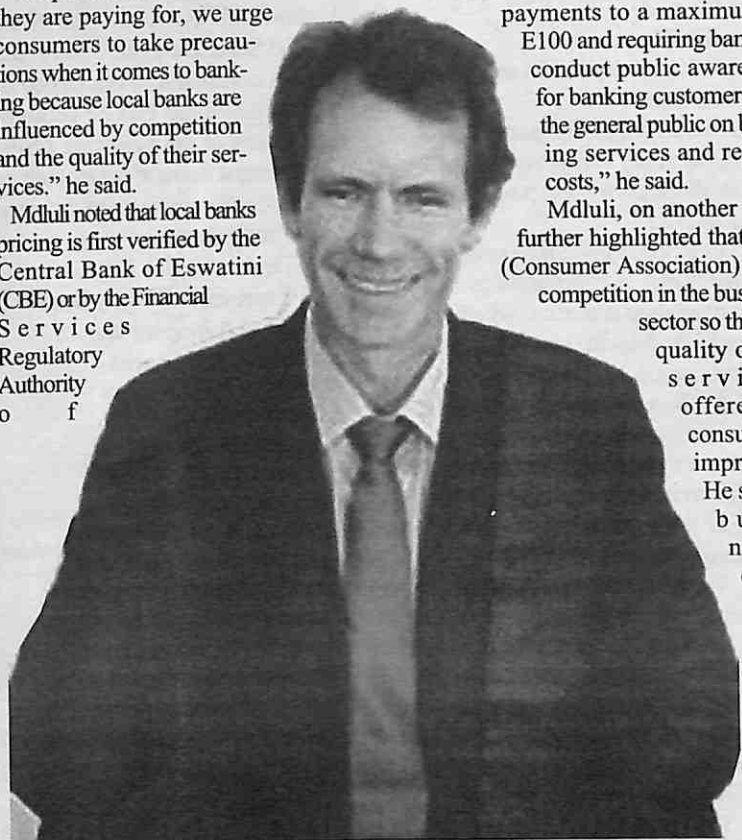
This amount is more than double of what Eswatini Bank, charges which is E0.60. Standard Bank on the other hand charges the least at 30 cents.

According to the minister the objective of the Legal Notice is to promote transparency and public disclosure to empower and enable banking customers to compare and shop around for banking services.

The Legal Notice is not necessarily meant to standardise pricing of banking services. It is envisaged that amongst the benefits and positives of the Legal Notice would be to foster market discipline on the banks and thereby improving market efficiency and competition

"A logical advice for banking customers and the general public is to use the information at their disposal to their advantage as they shop around for banking services across the licensed banks operating in the country," he said.

In addition, Rijkenberg said it is not unusual for banks to apply different pricing methodologies for their fees and services so long as they are not in violation of the prescriptions of the regulations. For example, bank A can decide to charge E80 for a dishonoured debit order payment, whilst bank X can decide to charge E90 with both banks still in compliance with the Legal Notice as both amounts are below the E100 limit.



BANKING REGULATIONS: Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg.

FOREIGN EXTRA

Medium-scale farms are on the rise in Africa

JOHANNESBURG- Driven by population growth and growing land scarcity, most African farm households are witnessing the gradual sub-division of their land. Over time farms are getting smaller and smaller.

Today, over 80 per cent of farms in relatively densely populated countries – like Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi and Rwanda are smaller than one hectare. Because they're so small, few can generate enough income to keep farmers above the poverty line and most of them increasingly rely on off-farm incomes.

But, from about 10 years ago, we have started to see evidence of a major rise in the number of medium-scale, African-owned farms.

Along with many colleagues, we set out to understand who these people are. We randomly selected farms operating between five to 50 hectares and interviewed the farmers. We found that the rapid rise of these medium-scale farms was being driven by a diverse

group of people including urban-based professionals, influential rural people, and successful smallholder farmers who acquired more land and grew their operations.

Within the past decade, the amount of agricultural produce that these farms contribute to countries' national output has risen rapidly. In some countries, like Tanzania and Zambia, medium-sized farms now account for roughly 40 per cent of the country's marketed agricultural produce.

This isn't uniformly true across Africa. In land-constrained, densely populated areas like Kenya and Rwanda, small-scale farms still account for most of the agricultural output. Medium-scale farms are on the rise mainly where there is substantial, undeveloped land.

While much remains unknown and the story is still unfolding, we believe that medium-scale farms are an important driver of rural transformation in much of Africa – with mostly positive results.

For about 10 years there's been a prolonged surge in global food prices. This ushered in major, and much publicised, investment in African farmland by foreign investors. What happened largely under the radar were huge farmland investments by African professionals, entrepreneurs and civil servants.

The amount of land acquired by these medium-scale African farmers since 2000 far exceeds the amount acquired by foreign investors.

“

But, from about 10 years ago, we have started to see evidence of a major rise in the number of medium-scale, African-owned farms.

They are relatively wealthy and influential, often professionals, entrepreneurs or retired civil servants. Many accumulated wealth from non-farm jobs, invested in land and became

either part-time or full-time farmers. Many are based in rural areas and have political or social influence with local traditional authorities. Others are urban "telephone farmers" who retain jobs in the cities, hire managers to attend to their farms and occasionally visit on weekends. In some countries, we also find that many current medium-scale farmers started out as small-scale farmers who successfully expanded their operations.

Medium-scale farmers bring new sources of capital and know-how to African agriculture. They have in some countries become a politically powerful group that are well represented in farm lobbies and national agricultural strategies.

The Conversation

Is Eswatini still safe from Brexit?

By Majaha Nkonyane

WITH exactly two months away from the big move to be made by the United Kingdom (UK), leaving the European Union (EU) known as Brexit, the big question stands, is Eswatini still safe from the move?

The UK is due to leave the European Union on March 29, regardless of whether there is a deal with the EU or not. According to the ministry of economic planning and development, the country's exports will become comparatively more expensive for consumers in the UK when Brexit takes place. On the other hand, Eswatini will

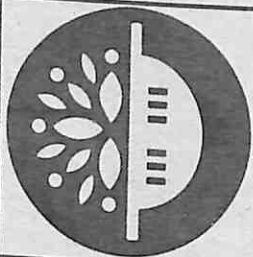
now be able to source imports from the UK for comparatively cheaper prices than before. The report revealed that because of Brexit, trade with the UK could be disrupted, thus decreasing potential economic growth for the country. It could also indirectly impact Eswatini's economy through the effects it would have on South Africa's trade

with the UK. Exchange rates, on the one hand, have also been impacted by Brexit, with the Pound devaluing by 20 percent compared to the Rand. This has both a positive and negative impact on Eswatini. On the one hand, an additional four billion is to be followed by a matching investment to the private sector.

"With about 1.2-billion people on the continent, the agreement is set to create one of the largest free-trade zones in the world," the report said.

Other benefits to come with the move

include all terms contained in the European Partnership Agreement (EPA) continuing to be existent, after the UK leaves the European Union (EU) trade bloc. These agreements then enable Eswatini to export primarily sugar and processed food, and in turn, import capital goods such as machinery and other final consumption goods. The UK recently signed a new trade agreement with the SACU member states, as well as Mozambique. This agreement replicates the EU-SADC EPAs to ensure that trade with the UK is not affected after Brexit.



OMBUDSMAN
OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
Umlamuli wetindzaba tetimali

OMBUDSDAY **FREE FAIR FOR ALL**

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS - NEW YEAR, SAME MANDATE WITH THE OMBUDSMAN

AS 2019 begins, many are determining to set out new goals to accomplish in the year ahead.

The famous, or infamous, New Year's Resolutions are a common theme of the New Year. At the Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services in Eswatini, the word has a great deal of significance. This significance is to who we are and what we do, not only in January but right throughout every month of every year.

What is a Resolution?

1. A firm decision to do or not to do something: "she kept her resolution not to see Anne any more". Synonyms: intention, resolve, decision, intent, aim, plan, commitment, pledge, promise.

2. The action of solving a problem, dispute, or contentious matter: "the peaceful resolution of all disputes". Synonyms: solution to, answer to, end to, ending to, settlement of, conclusion to.

What is Dispute Resolution?

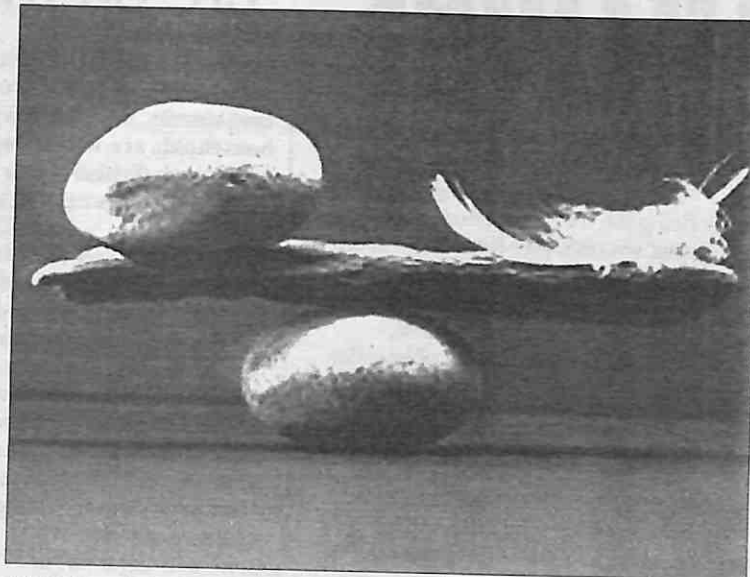
Dispute resolution is a term that refers to a number of processes that can be used to resolve a conflict, dispute or claim. Dispute resolution may also be referred to as alternative dispute resolution, appropriate dispute resolution, or ADR for short.

Why do we bring dispute resolutions?

Resolving disputes is central to our mandate.

The Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services is tasked to resolve disputes arising within insurance, retirement funds, medical aid schemes, securities or investments, money lending and savings and/or credit services, which we have been doing this since November 2015.

The Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services exists to create a level playing field between non-bank financial services providers



(FSPs) and their customers. By resolving complaints between parties, in a manner alternative to the traditional court system, we aim to give quick, reasonable and fair protection to the rights of all parties involved in a dispute no matter their varying positions and financial muscles. We do this with minimum formality and without requirement for an attorney.

OUR INTENT:

We aim to be a leading African forum in RESOLVING financial services disputes in a fair and accessible way.

OUR PURPOSE:

We RESOLVE non-bank financial services dispute in a fair and accessible way, in order to uphold good practice in the financial services industry.

How do we bring about dispute resolution?

Section 4 (1) of our Complaints Handling Procedure Guidelines states that 'in resolving disputes, the Ombudsman may make use of one or more of the methods of dispute resolution including facilitation, conciliation or mediation'.

What type of Complaints do

we RESOLVE?

We investigate and resolve the following types of Complaints:

- Retirement / Pension / Provident Fund complaints (*Tikhalo ngetikhwama temhlalaphasi*)
- Insurance complaints (*Tikhalo ngemshwalensi*)
- Medical Aid Scheme complaints (*Tikhalo ngetikhwama temshwalensi wetemphilo*)
- Savings and/or Credit / Pawn Broking / Hire Purchase complaints (*Tikhalo ngetinhlangano tekonga nekwebolekisa / kubolekisa / kuboleka imali ngekubambisa ngemphahla tsite / kutsenga imphahla ngesikwelete*)
- Investments/Securities complaints (*Tikhalo ngekutjalwa kwetimali*)

What are our Values?

The following Values guide all what we do as the Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services:

Independence: We handle complaints without taking sides and only consider what is fair and reasonable in each case.

Accessibility: We provide a service available to all and our processes are less formal and easy to grasp.

Confidentiality: We respect and

protect all information that we receive, and we treat it with the privacy that it deserves.

How can you access our dispute resolution services?

Our services are FREE, FAIR, FOR ALL.

FREE:

We provide a free service and aim to resolve all non-bank financial services complaints that fall within our jurisdiction.

Our service is free for all complainants - this includes individuals or businesses, as long as the complaint relates to something that you think has gone wrong with your non-bank financial services provider, in particular anything against what the terms and conditions of the contract entered into with your FSP are, or anything against the promises your FSP made.

FAIR:

We are independent and we do not take sides.

We afford all the parties an equal opportunity to respond and/or reply to all the complaint points raised in a dispute.

Our decisions can be reviewed by the High Court to test for procedural fairness and determine whether there may be bias in our dispute resolution process.

FOR ALL:

Our complaint forms are simple and easy to understand and fill; they are available at our offices and on our website in both SiSwati and English.

We also have complaint forms available in braille at our offices.

We have decentralised our office's complaint receiving capacity by making out complaint forms available at all Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration Commission (CMAC) offices countrywide.

Who may bring a complaint?

The Office of the Ombudsman can

To bring your complaint you may contact our offices on any of the details below: 3rd Floor, West Wing, Ingcamu (PSPF) Building, Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane
Email: info@ombudsfis.org.sz
Telephone Tel: [00268] 2404 7653 / 2404 4464
Fax: [00268] 2404 0636
P.O. Box 8490, Mbabane, H100

only receive complaints between a non-bank FSP and a consumer who can be either:

- Any person (s) including all those acting as a lawful representative or personal individual;
- Any business;
- Corporate trustee/Management Board/administrator of a self-managed retirement fund;
- A club or incorporated association;
- A policy holder of a group life or general insurance and / or
- A stakeholder as defined in Section 2 of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority Act, 2010.

Against whom can a complaint be lodged?

With the caveat that the FSP must first have a valid license by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA), in terms of the Second Schedule to the FSRA Act, 2010, a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman can be brought against any of the following FSPs:

- A Central Securities Depository
- A Collective Investment Scheme
- A Credit Bureau
- A Dealer
- A Representative of a Dealer
- A Fund Administrator
- An Insurance Agent
- An Insurance Broker
- An Insurer
- An Investment Advisor
- A Pawnbroker
- A Medical Aid Scheme
- A Medical Aid Scheme Provider
- A Nominee
- A Pension Fund
- A Retirement Fund
- A Provident Fund
- A Securities Exchange
- A Trustee of a Retirement Fund
- A Representative of an Investment Advisor
- A Manager of a Collective Investment Scheme.

5 reasons to make sure your art is covered correctly

JOHANNESBURG - There are different risks associated with valuable art collections and it is important to make sure that you have the correct insurance cover, according to an industry expert.

Speaking to Fin24, Christelle Colman, Managing Director of Elite Risk Acceptances - a subsidiary of Old Mutual Insure, explained why it is important to get specialist cover for a valuable art collection.

Colman stressed that often people are disappointed to find that the insurance cover they have for their art collection is not adequate. She encouraged individuals to get a broker to help determine which insurance cover would be most comprehensive. "Something as meaningful as a personal art collection should not be overlooked when it comes to insurance and insuring the piece for the correct value and cover options, taking all the unique factors

such as the valuation of the artwork as well as the potential appreciation into account," she said.

Colman shared five reasons why individuals should get specialist cover:

1. Appreciating value

The value of the artwork could appreciate "dramatically", Colman said. For example, household contents would usually appreciate above inflation rate - for example between seven per cent and 10 per cent, but art appreciates

much more.

2. Death of an artist

Upon the death of the artist, the value of the artwork will also appreciate in value and the insurance cover should be adjusted for that appreciation.

3. Commissioned pieces

Sometimes individuals commission an art piece. In the case that there is a theft or damage to the artwork before it is completed, you need to have insurance cover to recover the deposit put down for the commissioned piece, explained Colman.

4. Rand exchange rate

Artwork value is subject to the rand-exchange rate, she explained. Insurance cover is needed in the case of the depreciation in the rand exchange rate.

5. Transit

Often pieces need to be transported from studios or galleries to the individual's property and specialist cover is needed for the risk associated with the transit. Colman encouraged individuals to do their research, either through a broker or even Google searches to compare different insurance offerings, to make sure they will get the cover they need. *Fin24*

World News

BRAZIL DEPLOYS TROOPS TO STOP VIOLENCE IN CEARA

CEARA- Soldiers will patrol there and across the state of Ceará in a bid to halt attacks on shops, banks and buses.

The justice ministry ordered the special deployment after dozens of attacks last week.

The attacks are a protest against new, tougher measures in local prisons, largely controlled by criminal gangs.

Prison authorities in the state have blocked mobile phone signals inside jails and ended a policy of separating inmates by gang affiliation.

The troop deployment comes just days after the inauguration of President Jair Bolsonaro, who was elected to office on the promise to fight rampant crime in the country.

Bolsonaro reportedly praised Justice Minister Sergio Moro's decision to send in troops as 'apt, rapid and effective'.

Moro previously led a vast investigation into Brazilian corruption known as Operation Car Wash.

Security videos aired on Brazilian



UNBELIEVABLE: Criminal gangs burnt buses, shops and banks in response to tougher prison measures.

television show the gangs setting fire to service stations.

About 50 suspects allegedly linked with the violence have now been arrested.

According to World Prison Brief, Brazil has more than 700 000 people behind bars - the third-highest prison population worldwide after the US and China.

Bolsonaro, 63, won the presidential election by a wide margin against

Fernando Haddad of the left-wing Workers' Party on October 28.

He is seen as a deeply divisive figure whose racist, homophobic and misogynistic remarks have angered many.

In his inauguration speech the president pledged support for the military and police, saying: "The national motto is order and progress. No society can develop without respecting these."

In an apparent reference to gun control, he said: "Good citizens deserve the means to defend themselves." He recently tweeted that he would issue a decree to allow citizens who did not have a criminal record to own guns.

Before becoming a politician, Bolsonaro served in Brazil's military, where he was a paratrooper and rose to the rank of captain.

He retains close links to the armed forces. **BBC**

'Yellow vests' protest at unrepentant Macron

PARIS - Rioters in Paris torched motorbikes and set barricades ablaze on the upmarket Boulevard Saint Germain on Saturday, as protests against high living costs and the perceived indifference of President Emmanuel Macron turned violent on the fringes.

The latest 'yellow vest' marches began peacefully but degenerated in the afternoon as protesters threw missiles at riot police blocking bridges over the Seine.

Officers fired tear gas to prevent protesters crossing the river and reaching the National Assembly. One riverboat restaurant was set ablaze and a policeman was wounded when he was hit by a bicycle hurled from a street above the river bank.

Two months after they started blocking roads, occupying highway tollbooths and staging sometimes-violent street protests in Paris, the yellow vests wanted to inject new momentum into a movement that weakened over the holidays.

Macron's government, shaken by the unrest, had this week hardened its stance, branding the protesters agitators seeking to overthrow the government.

Reuters

No breakthrough in US shutdown talks

WASHINGTON - US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Democrats would pass new legislation to try to reopen parts of the government next week after talks between the Trump administration and Democratic negotiators on Saturday failed to end a two-week partial government shutdown.

President Donald Trump is demanding US\$5.6 billion to build a wall along the US border with Mexico but Democrats in control of the House of Representatives this week passed a bill to reopen the government without providing additional funding for the wall.

Trump says he will not sign the bill until he gets the money for the wall.

After a meeting aimed at breaking the deadlock failed on Saturday, Pelosi said House Democrats would seek to reopen government agencies next week through piecemeal appropriation bills, starting with the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service.

"This action is necessary so that the American people can receive their tax refunds on schedule," she said.

Vice President Mike Pence led the administration's team



IN TALKS: Senior White House Advisor Jared Kushner and US Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen.

in the meeting with Democratic negotiators on Saturday. He said it was 'productive' but an aide said there was no in-depth discussion of a possible compromise level of funding for border security.

A Democratic aide familiar with the meeting said Democratic staffers urged the administration to reopen the government, arguing that progress on the contentious issue of border security would be difficult while the government was closed.

The aide said the administration instead 'doubled down on their partisan proposal that led to the Trump shutdown in the

first place.'

With the two sides sticking to their positions, a quarter of the federal government has been closed for two weeks, leaving 800 000 public workers unpaid.

Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and a senior adviser, also attended the meeting at the White House, along with Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney.

They were negotiating with senior staff for the top Democrats in Congress, Representative Nancy Pelosi and Senator Chuck Schumer. **Reuters**

BRIEFS

Iran plans naval drills with Russia

DUBAI - Iran and Russia are preparing to hold joint naval exercises in the Caspian Sea, including rescue and anti-piracy drills, the commander of the Iranian navy was quoted yesterday as saying. "Tactical, rescue and anti-piracy war games between Iranian and Russian naval forces are being planned and will be implemented in the near future," the semi-official news agency Mehr quoted Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi as saying. Iran and Russia have held several naval drills in the Caspian Sea, including in 2015 and 2017. Iran and Russia have close ties, including in Syria where they both back President Bashar al-Assad in the country's civil war.

Reuters

Syria warned against chemical weapons

TEL AVIV - US National Security Advisor John Bolton has warned the Syrian government it should not see the impending US military withdrawal from the country as an invitation to use chemical weapons. US President Donald Trump said in December that US troops had succeeded in their mission to defeat Islamic State militants and were no longer needed in the country.

Reuters



3 killed, 4 wounded in California shooting

CALIFORNIA - Three men were killed and four wounded in a shooting at a bowling alley in the Los Angeles suburb of Torrance and police said early on Saturday they were searching for a suspect or suspects. The incident followed a fight at the Gable House Bowl, a bowling alley and arcade that also offers laser tag, according to local media. The Torrance Police Department said officers responded to a shot-fired call at the location found multiple gunshot victims. Two men were taken to hospital, two opted to seek their own medical attention, and three were pronounced dead at the scene.

Reuters

Ghosh to defend himself in court - son

TOKYO - Former Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn will 'vigorously' defend himself in a Japanese court this week after refusing to sign a confession in return for being released from custody, his son has told a French Sunday newspaper. The auto tycoon, who has been held since his shock arrest in November on allegations of financial misconduct, is due to appear in a Japanese court tomorrow to hear the reasons for his detention. He will give his version of events for the first time, his son Anthony told the French weekly newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche (JDD).

News24

China's population to be 1.44 billion in 2029

BEIJING - China's population will peak in 2029 at 1.44 billion before beginning a period of 'unstoppable' decline, a government report says. The China Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) study says the country must implement policies to handle a smaller workforce and an older population. Both changes combined could cause 'very unfavourable social and economic consequences', the report says.

BBC



FOCUS ON SA SCENE



RAMAPHOSA TO HAVE 'FRANK DISCUSSION' WITH ZUMA

PRETORIA - President Cyril Ramaphosa is set to have a 'frank discussion' with his predecessor, Jacob Zuma, following concerns in the party that Zuma's comments on issues such as land go against the ANC's own policies, the Sunday Times reported.

The meeting is reportedly not expected to be antagonistic but Ramaphosa's advisers also want him to talk to Zuma about his stance on controversial issues, such as state capture and his court cases.

There are reportedly fears that Zuma's speaking out on issues that do not reflect party policy could create divisions in the party.

A source reportedly said Ramaphosa will also ask Zuma to rally behind the ANC's election campaign, which is expected to focus on land and jobs.

According to the publication, while the party's official position on land is expropriation without compensation is that it is necessary, Zuma recently advocated for the nationalisation of land, which is the EFF's policy, in a tweet.

The former president has also reportedly rejected any notion of state capture, although formally, the ANC supports the Zondo Commission of Inquiry investigating state capture.

ANC Spokesperson Zizi Kodwa reportedly confirmed that Ramaphosa and Zuma were going to meet, although he told the



TO MEET: SA President Cyril Ramaphosa and Jacob Zuma.

Sunday Times that this was no different to how Ramaphosa had sought the counsel of former presidents Thabo Mbeki and Kgalema Motlanthe.

Outcomes

Meanwhile, the ANC will brief the media yesterday about the outcomes of its list conference, News24 reported.

The party is expected to announce the names of over 200 representatives that it will send to Parliament after the 2019 elections.

The ANC held its national list conference in Durban last weekend, with Ramaphosa and Zuma in attendance.

The party's list conferences have wrapped up in the provinces with the exception of the North West, which was only expected to complete its processes this weekend.

While the party has said this will not affect its national list conference, eNCA reported that ANC sources have privately confirmed that there is great concern about this.

A team of national leaders was reportedly sent to the North West in an effort to assist the province in sorting out its issues.

News24

SURVEY: 61% OF VOTERS SAY THEY WILL VOTE ANC

JOHANNESBURG - Six out of 10 registered South African voters say they will vote for the African National Congress (ANC) in this year's national elections.

This is according to a survey by Ipsos conducted among 3 571 South Africans in late 2018.

The ruling party is followed distantly by the DA (14 per cent), EFF (nine per cent) and IFP (two per cent). The remainder (13 per cent) either said that they would not vote, would not vote for a current party, refused to answer or didn't know which party they would vote for.

Ipsos says these results are not a prediction of the outcome of the election, but merely a snapshot of voter opinion at the time of fieldwork and that closer to the election, possible election turnout scenario's will be developed.

Currently, only 79 per cent of those South Africans who are eligible to vote are also registered to vote.

Almost one in every ten (eight per cent) of registered voters either refused to share their party choice or have indicated that they do not know who to vote for.

Four in every 10 (39 per cent) agreed that there is no political party that represents their views.

Ipsos also asked voters to indicate whether they are 'extremely likely to trust' or 'very likely to trust' a party, versus an opinion that they are inclined 'neither to trust nor distrust' the party, 'not very likely to trust' or 'not at all to trust' the party.

At the end of the Zuma years, trust in the ANC was very low, but the party has recovered quite significantly in the last year.

Eyewitness News



Bushiri lawyers shift xenophobia accusations from him

PRETORIA - Attempts to dismiss a protest by the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO) against self-proclaimed Prophet Shepherd Bushiri's Enlightened Christian Gathering Church as xenophobic are 'utter nonsense', and is an attempt at shifting the blame away from the pastor, the organisation says.

Three people died during a stampede at the service on December 28.

Police are investigating a case of defeating the ends of justice, News24 reported, after allegations that the

incident was not immediately reported to the police.

The bodies of the deceased were allegedly taken from the scene to a private mortuary.

The police were only told about the incident the following day.

It is believed that the stampede occurred when congregants stormed the church building to seek shelter during a thunderstorm.

On Friday, Pretoria residents threatened to prevent the church's services from going ahead, and blockaded the entrance to the Pretoria showgrounds

where the church is situated.

Pretoria SANCO Regional Secretary Portia Mokwena said Bushiri's church should not be allowed to operate until he explained what happened.

Bushiri's lawyer, Terence Baloyi told Eyewitness News on Saturday that this was a 'xenophobic attack' by SANCO. The deceased were reportedly buried on Saturday. In a statement, SANCO's Greater Tshwane Region said the church, through its lawyer, was trying to divert attention from the matter. "We would like to dismiss such utterances as utter non-

sense and just avoidance of accountability on the side of the church. We are also not surprised that the whole matter seeks to place prophet Bushiri as a victim, while the real victims were buried today. "We are not shy to express our concerns that most foreign nationals who opened churches here are always jumping from one controversy into the other. As an organisation, we will confront the mushrooming of these churches and if need be ensure they are closed down," SANCO said.

News24

If the ANC can't do it properly, we will do it - Maimane

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



WE CAN: DA Leader Mmusi Maimane.

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

"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.

"We want a police force for our province, controlled by our province, for the people of our province. That

is what we want, and Alan is going to fight for it. Ultimately, the goal is a DA-led national government. Because in national government we can realise our dream of a safe South Africa by transforming our police force into one with the skills and the power to kick violent criminals, gangsters, and drug dealers out of our communities for good," Maimane said. To do so, the DA would professionalise the police force, appointing only skilled and qualified leadership, and focus on the four U's - under-staffing, under-training, under-resourcing, and under-equipping. ANA

ANC vets party election list

DURBAN - ANC bigwigs descended on Durban last weekend for the party's National List Conference, which will determine who makes it on to the list of 200 candidates nominated to represent the party in the National Assembly after next year's general elections.

The party held the conference in uMhlanga, north of Durban, on Friday and wrapped it up yesterday before proceeding with an extended national executive committee (NEC) meeting.

To kick-start a week of ANC activities in Durban, the party will tomorrow celebrate its 107th birthday since its inception in 1912

at the Ohlange Institute in Inanda, which was founded by the ANC's first president, Langalibalele Dube.

This will be followed by its election manifesto launch at the Moses Mabhida Stadium, on Saturday. The ANC says it expects up to 140 000 supporters to descend on the stadium and its outer fields.

ANC deputy secretary-general Jessie Duarte said that in compiling the list they were looking for demographic representation and gender parity. IOL



MIRACLE MAN DECLARED 'BRAIN-DEAD' WAKES UP

...After his family turned off life support - and he's now home and thriving

OMAHA - A father-of-four whose children had decided to remove his breathing tubes has recovered and left an Omaha hospital after weeks of therapy.

Now his family members call T. Scott Marr - once nearly brain-dead - the 'miracle man.'

Marr was diagnosed with a stroke on December 12, the day after his 61st birthday, after he was found lying in his bed, unresponsive but breathing.

He was rushed to Methodist Hospital and soon placed on a breathing machine in intensive care.

Marr showed no neurological improvement by the time his family returned the following day. Brain swelling - primarily in the back of the brain - concerned his doctors.

"We were worried in this case that this was not a reversible process and that it was going to proceed to brain death," said Dr. Rebecca Runge.

His daughter Preston Marr said she and the rest of the family faced a harsh reality: Scott Marr was not expected to recover.

"He had always said, 'I never want you guys to see me lying in a hospital bed, lying in a nursing home,'" Preston Marr said.

"They told us he was on his way to brain death, so we said our good-byes before extubating him, all the monitors were shut off and we waited by his side," she said.

He kept breathing.

He was still breathing on his own the next morning when his children returned after skipping their appointment with a funeral home.

"I asked him to move his thumbs, and he slowly moved his thumbs,



and I asked him to wiggle his toes, and he wiggled all his toes really slightly," Preston Marr said.

His doctors soon ordered another test.

It showed that Scott Marr was suffering from a rare condition called posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome.

"It's commonly caused by high blood pressure, but there are many things that can cause it," Dr. Runge said.

The severe swelling Marr experienced is not typical of the syndrome, she said, which is why a devastating stroke was the initial diagnosis.

Marr credits his faith for his survival.

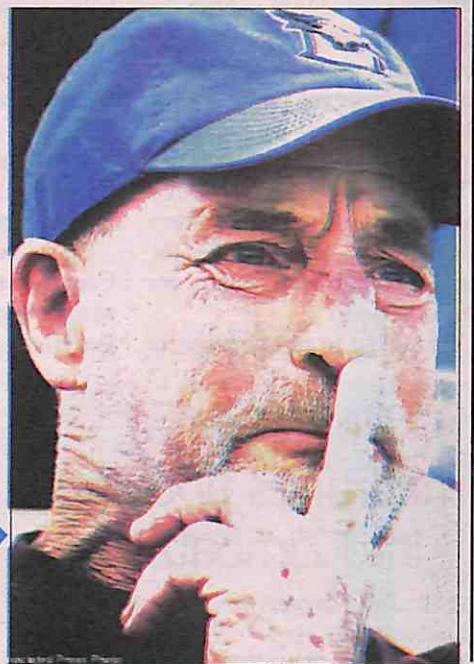
"I don't want to make this into a huge religious thing but I'll tell you what: It was pretty much a miracle," he said. *Daily Mail*

EMOTIONS: T Scott Marr, pictured with his daughter, Preston Marr. He was still breathing on his own the next morning when his children returned after skipping their appointment with a funeral home.

I'M ALIVE: In this January 3, 2019 photo, T. Scott Marr listens during a press conference in Omaha, Neb. Thought to be brain dead, Marr awakened after being taken off life support. (AP)



BRAND: Scott Marr wears a miracle man hat during a press conference in Omaha, Nebraska. His family was told he was on his way to brain death.



LONLA INVESTMENTS

CALL NOW +268 7639 8839

SPECIALS ON THE FOLLOWING:

165R13
185/55 R16
215/60 R16
205/50 R17
225/50 R17
205/80 R17.5
215/80 R17.5
9.00R20
315/80 R22.5
365/70 R22.5

FESTIVE
FROM 15TH DECEMBER
50% OFF
STOCK

TRADING HOURS:

MON - SAT

06:00hrs - 18:00hrs

SUN

07:00hrs - 16:00hrs

NEW STOCK ARRIVED

WIDE RANGE OF KOMBI & BAKKIE TYRES AVAILABLE

www.lonlainvestment@gmail.com

Manzini: Opposite Satellite Bus Rank below Hub Cell: +268 7639 8839 Tel: +268 2505 8455

BODY PARTS CENTRE & SPARES

MANZINI BRANCH: Former Indian Furniture Building, Opp. Luthaga Flats
Contact SONCANI: 7612 8837, THANDO: 7632 7264/7804 7775, or Tel/Fax: 2505 8454/2505 8002

SEDANS

- Toyota Corolla 2002-2006.....E999.00
- Toyota Corolla 2007-2013.....E1250.00
- Toyota Corolla 1996 - 2001..... E899.00
- Mazda 3.....E1450.00
- Mazda 323 -2003-2014..... E899.00
- VW Polo..... E999.00
- Ford Fiesta 2008 etc.....E1299.00
- Golf 5 with beading.....E1550.00
- Ford Focus 2000-2010.....E1450.00
- Sentra Mk1 1990-2001.....E899.00
- Almera / Sunny / Primera..... E999.00
- Mazda 6 2003 - 2014..... E1450.00

LDV'S OLD & NEW

- Hilux 1981-1998.....E499.00
- Hilux 2000-2014.....E899.00
- Isuzu 1984-2003.....E799.00
- Isuzu 2004-2012.....E999.00
- Isuzu 2014.....E1499.00
- 1 Tonner 1994 etc.....E899.00
- Navara all.....E1650.00
- Toyota Hilux GD6E1150.00
- New Ford Ranger - 2018..... E1399.000

TRUCKS

- Truck UD80/UD60.....E1900.00
- Truck Isuzu (all) from 1990-2009... E1900.00
- Isuzu / Nissan UD80/90/460..... E2450.00
- Scania.....E3200.00
- Mercedes Actros / HINO.....E1900.00
- Iveco / M.A.N. F90 / M.A.N. TG/ M.A.N. F2000 /E2000.....E2200.00

SERVICE KITS

- Toyota Corolla/Runx.....E499.00
- Toyota Hilux D4D.....E599.00
- Nissan Almera/ Sunny/ Primera..... E499.00
- Honda Jazz.....E650.00
- Iveco / M.A.N. F90 / M.A.N. TG/ M.A.N. F2000 /E2000.....E2200.00

Windscreens Specials



All Prices Include VAT...
FREE FITTING



DRC ON EDGE AS ELECTION RESULTS POSTPONED

KINSHASA - The DR Congo was on edge on Saturday as officials delayed the announcement of preliminary results from a crucial presidential election amid growing pressure from world powers to respect voters' wishes.

Preliminary results, scheduled for release yesterday, will now come out only this week, the head of the country's electoral commission told AFP just hours before the deadline.

"It is not possible to publish the results on Sunday (yesterday). We are making progress, but we do not have everything yet," Comeille Nangaa said.

A new date has not been announced. The December 30 vote saw 21 candidates run to replace President Joseph Kabila, who has ruled the vast, conflict-ridden country for almost 18 years.

Among the frontrunners were

Kabila's handpicked successor Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary and two opposition candidates: veteran heavyweight Felix Tshisekedi and newcomer Martin Fayulu.

At stake is the political stewardship of a mineral-rich country that has never known a peaceful transition of power since independence from Belgium in 1960.

Kabila had been due to step down two years ago, but managed to cling on to power, sparking widespread protests which were brutally repressed, killing dozens.

The December 30 vote, preceded by repeated delays, was relatively peaceful. But tensions have built over the lengthy counting process, amid fears the results could be manipulated to install Kabila-backed Shadary in power.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) had promised to announce preliminary results yesterday, followed by a defini-



ON EDGE: President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Joseph Kabila.

tive count on January 15.

The new president would be sworn in three days later.

But Nangaa told AFP less than half of ballots had been counted by Saturday afternoon, adding: "Next week (this week), we will

announce." The move could stoke tension in the unstable central African nation of 80 million. Nangaa has blamed the slow count on massive logistical problems in a country the size of Western Europe with poor infrastructure. **AFP**

Unregulated medicines flooding into Zimbabwe

HARARE - Unregulated and unregistered medicines are reportedly flooding into Zimbabwe, with consignments of expired medicines being smuggled into the country through the country's porous border posts.

Syndicates are allegedly taking advantage of steep United States dollar prices being charged by pharmacies following the collapse of the value of Zimbabwe's surrogate bond notes and electronic money.

The high prices being charged have left patients at high risk, as they are resorting to cheap and unregulated medicines coming from neighbouring Mozambique and Zambia.

Samuel Gamanya, a pharmacist in Harare's central business district, said the influx of unregulated medicinal drugs had been on the increase since November when there was an acute shortage of essential drugs.

"We have had unregulated drugs flooding the country since November 2018 after essential drugs became scarce, and later on when they were priced in the US dollar," he told African News Agency (ANA). "These drugs, we hear, have been smuggled through Chirundu and Forbes border posts," he said. Medical Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) public relations officer Shingai Gwatidzo said the influx of unregistered drugs had been observed in the country and they were working with law enforcement agencies to curb the situation. **News24**

Protesters plan march as, health minister sacked

KHARTOUM - A Sudanese group organising anti-government protests has called for a march on the presidential palace as President Omar al-Bashir sacked the health minister Saturday over rising costs of medicines.

Deadly anti-government rallies have rocked cities including Khartoum since December 19, when protests first broke out over a government decision to raise the price of bread.

Authorities say at least 19 people including two security personnel have been killed in clashes during the demonstrations so far, but rights group Amnesty International has put the death toll at 37. "We call on our supporters to gather at four different places in Khartoum and then begin a march on the palace" of



SPEECH: Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

the president on Sunday, the Sudanese Professionals' Association said Saturday in a statement. The association, which includes teachers, doctors and engineers, has held similar rallies in recent weeks but they have been swiftly broken up by

riot police. Security forces were deployed in key squares across the capital on Saturday night.

Late on Saturday, Bashir sacked minister of health Mohamed Abuzaid Mustafa, the official SUNA news agency reported.

He has been replaced by Al-Khier Al-Nour, SUNA said without giving details. Rising drug prices and shortages have added to the anger of protesters already furious over the cost of other key products. Sudanese pharmaceutical companies have been unable to import some medicines after a years-long foreign currency shortage worsened last year. But even as protesters called for a new march on Sunday, Sudan's education ministry ordered the reopening of schools in Khartoum from Tuesday. **AFP**

US sends troops for possible violence in DRC

WASHINGTON - On the eve of the first expected results of Democratic Republic of Congo's long-delayed presidential election, President Donald Trump said military personnel had deployed to central Africa to protect US assets from possible "violent demonstrations".

While the country's power-

ful Catholic church warned of a popular "uprising" if untrue results are announced.

DRC faces what could be its first democratic, peaceful transfer of power since independence from Belgium in 1960, but election observers and the opposition have raised concerns about voting irregularities as the country chooses a succes-

sor to longtime President Joseph Kabila. The first results are expected on Sunday, and the United States and the African Union, among others, have urged DRC to release results that reflect the true will of the people. The US has threatened sanctions against those who undermine the democratic process. **Associated Press**

BRIEFS

Fight over gas fields to charge SA man

MAPUTO - A battle for a stake in Mozambique's lucrative offshore gas fields is believed to be behind the arrest of South African businessman Andre Hanekom. Hanekom, 61, known as baba mzungubaba mgungu (white father) to locals in the coastal hamlet of Palma in northern Mozambique, has been in custody for five months despite a magistrate granting him bail in October. He is charged with terrorism following his dramatic arrest last August in which he was shot in the arm and stomach by officers wearing camouflage uniforms and balaclavas.

Times Live

Man facing charges, phone seized at US border

RHODE ISLAND - A Nigerian man living in Rhode Island is facing charges in Vermont after US agents seized his phone at the Canadian border and he refused to leave the port of entry without it. The Caledonian Record reports 50-year-old Adegbuyi Adeyemi, of Providence, appeared in Vermont court last Thursday, a day after he was arrested at the Derby Line port of entry from Canada.

Associated Press

Egypt, Israel co-operate against militants

CAIRO - US television network CBS says Egypt's president has told it in an interview that his country and Israel, with whom it fought four wars, are co-operating against Islamic militants in the Sinai Peninsula. Excerpts from the interview released by CBS over the weekend also quote President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi as denying there are political prisoners in Egypt, where he has overseen one of the largest crackdowns on dissent in the country's modern history. CBS, which will air the full interview Sunday on its show "60 Minutes," says it rejected a request by the Egyptian government not to show it.

Associated Press

Police officer killed defusing church bomb

CAIRO - A policeman was killed while trying to dismantle an explosive device outside a Coptic church in Egypt on Saturday, a security source said. Two other officers were also wounded in the explosion as security personnel attempted to defuse the device in Nasr City on the edge of Cairo, the source added. It had been hidden inside a bag that was searched by police. The policeman who was killed, Mustafa Abid, was a specialist in mine clearance. Coptic Christians, who account for around 10 per cent of Egypt's population, have been targeted in a string of attacks by the Islamic State group in recent years.

AFP

Sudanese journalist detained

KHARTOUM - A prominent Sudanese journalist who had been detained for expressing his support for anti-government protests has been freed, he told AFP on Saturday. Faisal Mohamed Salih had been arrested last Thursday from his office by agents of the country's powerful National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS). Salih, recipient of the 2013 Peter Mackler Award for ethical and courageous journalism, said security agents had taken him in for questioning over his views about the protests that erupted across Sudan on December 19.

AFP



- NEWS
- REVIEWS
- STAR SIGNS
- CELEBRITY WATCH
- CARTOONS



THOUSANDS: Thousands of people came out to pray at the VOC Year Opening Prayer held at the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre on Friday night.

VOC OPENING PRAYER SERVICE A SUCCESS

... Nduduzo Matse thrills in brief performance

By Andile Dlamini

THE Voice of the Church (VOC) Radio Station started off the year with an opening prayer service which was well attended on Friday night.

Held at the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre in Manzini, the event was graced by different church leaders from different denominations and was themed from **Psalms 85:6**, 'Will you not revive us again that your people may rejoice in you.'

The word of the day was given by VOC Director Reverend Zachariah Mthethwa and guest speaker Apostle Benjamin Khotsoane who prayed for the station.



EBENEZER: Nduduzo Matse deep in worship during his performance.

The aim of the service was to pray for the Eswatini nation at large.

Reverend Sipho Tembe prayed for His Majesty the king and the government. Reverend Zwanini Shabalala went

on to pray for station leaders as well as the church and Apostle Thulani Vilakati prayed for the youth.

Award winning gospel artist Nduduzo Matse serenaded the crowd with his music. Though his set was short, the crowd was clearly impressed with his performance.

Matse said he would be forever grateful to VOC for the continued support and that has opened some international doors for him.

The singer was yesterday morning on SABC 2's morning live show where he talked about his musical journey and his achievements thus far.

Gospel singer Banele Dlamini graced the event with a beautiful collaboration with Nduduzo and thrilled the crowd.

Lungelo Matse also performed at the event and left quite the impression with the crowd.

The night of prayer was concluded by a prayer of national deliverance by Reverend Z M Mthethwa.



GIJIMA: Nduduzo's fans dancing during his performance.

Chilled session at Deja Vu's First Meal

By Nokwanda Sibandze

FIRST weekend of January yet people seem to be tired from the festive season, hence few people attended the First Meal show which was held at Déjà Vu Cocktail Lounge on Friday evening.

The event was dubbed 'First Meal' to celebrate the first weekend of the new year.

A few Déjà Vu revellers went to enjoy themselves, dancing to music dished out by SwaziBoy Entertainment DJs.

Dishing out some of the hottest tracks were DJs Misto, Fantasy, Spice and 1D.

Most of the DJs played deep house music and *gqom* but still the crowd did not seem to be moved by the sounds.

The DJs gave the crowd just the right sounds to relax as most of them did not want to dance. It was only around 1am when DJ 1D took to the decks that they started to move towards the dance floor.

The spinner played old school music which the seasoned crowd liked. The spinner also played 2018



1S AND 2S: DJ Fantasy dishing out music during the First Meal held at Déjà Vu Cocktail Lounge on Friday evening. (Pics: Nokwanda Sibandze)

tracks such as 'Like it', 'In my feelings' and many others.

The overall vibe of the First Meal was chilled and relaxed and music fanatics got to enjoy the music till the early hours of the morning.



SPINNERS: DJs Misto and Fantasy behind the booth.



OLD SCHOOL: DJ 1D giving revellers what they came for. (R) **COOL TUNES:** DJ Spice doing what he knows best.





GQOM: DJ Motomali got the crowd going all crazy when he played famous gqom hits during the First Friday Hangout show at Solani's Shisanyama. (Pics: Phetsile Mamba)



HAPPY: The crowd dancing to gqom music.



BOMRAPPER: 80 Script with Lyrikal Busta couldn't miss out on the show.

SOLANI'S FIRST FRIDAY HANGOUT **A HIT**

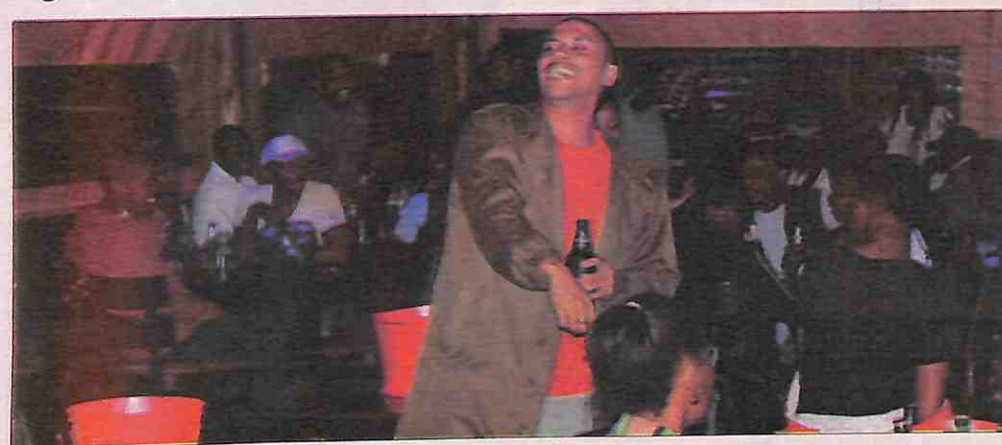
By Phetsile Mamba



DEEP HOUSE: DJ Master Jack dishing out deep house music.



HIP HOP: DJ YungYas playing his set that got the crowd dancing and singing to every song he played.



FUN: This funlover couldn't control himself but stand up and sing along as DJ YungYas was on the decks.



RESIDENT DJ: Ayacity on the ones and twos.



MUSIC LOVER: DJ Baba played a mixed set of gqom and local songs.

JANWORRY for who!

Known to be the best chill spot in town, Solani's Shisanyama patrons were on Friday dancing the night away during the First Friday Hangout show.

Revellers were still in the festive mood. Solani's resident DJs on the decks were doing what they are famous for, which was dishing out good music such as hip hop, gqom and deep house.

The spinners' sets received a resounding response from revellers, as they would dance to every jam song dished out.

DJ AyaCity played some gqom music and got the crowd dancing along his set. He was followed by Motoyemali, who also rendered gqom.

YungYas turned the tables as he switched to hip-hop and rendered a beautiful set. His set was mostly South Africa hip hop tunes.

People had so much fun despite the fact that it was the first weekend of January and tend to think everyone was tired, but Solani's DJs didn't give them a chance to sit down and just have a chilled night vibe, they got them dancing till the wee hours of Saturday.

Speaking to this reporter, most revellers said it was their good way of entering the New Year, so they decided that on their first weekend of 2019, they should go out and have fun with their loved ones and Solani's happens to be the place to be.



FRIENDSHIP: Welile and Thoba enjoying themselves.



TOO MUCH FUN: Revellers in an ecstatic state.



HIP HOP LOVERS: Hip hop lovers dancing to hip hop music.

LONDIWE D SUCCESSFULLY RECORDS 'UYANGITSANDZA JESU' ALBUM

By Ayanda Dlamini

LONDIWE D is here to stay as she successfully recorded her debut album dubbed; 'Uyangitsandza Jesu'.

Held at Royal Swazi Spa, Convention Centre, Londiwe's live recording saw a number of gospel fanatics praising and worshipping the Lord through the songstress' tunes.

Londiwe recorded 15 songs of her album that is yet to be released.

She featured some of the Kingdom's seasoned gospel artists such as Lungelo Matse, Banele Dlamini, Nondumiso Nhleko and Mngqobi Maseko to mention a few.

The album comprises of very powerful praise and worship songs.

Songs of deliverance, affirmation, and communion makes the whole album.

It caters for all age groups - the young and old, the dancers and the non-dancers.

Most of the songs were composed by the gospel mistress herself and some by Siyabonga Sukati.

The recording kicked off with a praise song 'Hlala nami' which got the audience dancing up a storm. The first set was sealed on a high



GOSPEL STAR: Londiwe D and Lungelo Matse in song during the live recording which was held at the Convention Centre, Royal Swazi Spa. The duo made a beautiful cover of 'Linamandla liphakeme'. (Courtesy pics)

note with a public domain song; 'Ensukwini zokaphila kwami' which also received a resounding response from the audience.

Worship songs that brought a thick presence of God in the auditorium were 'Sukuma ngenelela', 'Hlala ngaphezukwami', 'Baba umuhle'.

Lungelo Matse then joined her during the second set and they made a beautiful rendition of

'Linamandla liphakeme'.

The highlight of the night was the three musketeers; Londiwe, Banele Dlamini and Nondumiso Nhleko, they brought the house down as they made a beautiful rendition of 'Siyalibabata'.

'Uyangitsandza Jesu' proved to be the most favoured song in the album as the crowd could not get enough of this tune.

Londiwe started singing back in

2010, when she made a beautiful duet with Sipho Makhabane on a song dubbed; "Thank you Jesus". She didn't stop there; she then joined Redemption Mass Choir where she lead 'Uyangitsandza Jesu'; a song that has been added in her album. She is also featured in one of Linda Dlamini's songs.



TRIO: Banele Dlamini, Londiwe D and Nondumiso Nhleko made a beautiful rendition of 'Siyalibabata'.

GOSPEL MISTRESS: Londiwe D rendering 'Hlala ngaphezukwami'.



ATTENDED: Gospel fanatics came in numbers for the live recording.



FAN: Apostle Justice Dlamini's wife Pastor Zandile captured with Londiwe D after her performance.



MOOD: Londiwe D leading one of her praise tunes.

International
Celebrity News

Cardi B, Offset on path to getting back together in 2019

MIAMI - Cardi B and Offset are putting the drama of 2018 behind them and turning over a new leaf in the New Year, and their friends are confident they'll be rock solid again soon.

Sources close to the hip-hop couple tell TMZ, they've been communicating regularly, including while they were thousands of miles apart over the holidays; and are focusing on fixing their marriage.

We're told Offset's vowing to change his ways and be faithful and honest with her, and Cardi's been receptive, because she misses what they had



BACK: Cardi B and Offset

together. Cardi's still not wearing her wedding ring, but not because she's acting like she's single. We're told she's just not emotionally ready to put it back on quite yet. **TMZ**

Kim Kardashian, Kanye West go shopping in Miami

MIAMI - Kim Kardashian and Kanye West should feel right at home in Miami already, because wherever they go, a frenzy follows.

The new South Beach residents hit up high-end boutique The Webster for over an hour Saturday, and were greeted by a slew of media and paparazzi as they headed out to their getaway ride.

The couple didn't have much to say, but their smiles said it all last Friday, when they were spotted smooching on the balcony of their US\$14 million condo in the build-



TOGETHER: Kim Kardashian and Kanye West.

ing known as the "Billionaire Beach Bunker." **Showbiz**

'Kevin Hart's homophobic jokes are all part of comedy'

LAS VEGAS - Terrence Howard dismisses criticism of Kevin Hart for making homophobic jokes, saying it's all part of the job.

We got Terrence at LAX and he was squarely in Kevin's corner, saying the Academy blew it by passing on him. He went on to say dredging up jokes and tweets from year's past crosses the line, and then insinuated the attack on Kevin might be racial, pointing to recent comments by Nick Cannon that white comedians made similar homophobic jokes with no consequences.

When photographer pressed,



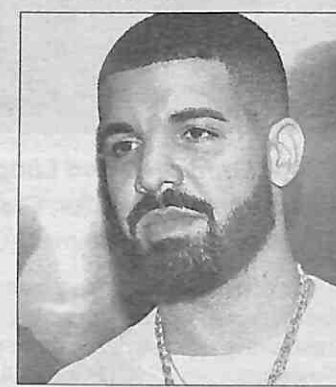
PART OF THE JOB: Terrence Howard.

Terrence said it's not a racial thing, but he brings up Nick Cannon's comments a second time. **TMZ**

Drake under fire for 2010 video

NEW YORK - Drake put the moves on a 17-year-old female fan, including kissing her several times during a concert in 2010, and now he's being criticised for his actions, which many are calling inappropriate and creepy. The clip's reportedly from a show at the Ogden Theatre in May 2010. It starts with Drake on stage with the young fan, who he begins slow-dancing with, before getting behind her and smelling her hair.

He then appears to caress her and kiss her on the neck, and says to the crowd, "Y'all going to have me get carried away again. I get in trouble for things like this; how old are you?" After the girls tell



UNDER FIRE: Drake.

him she's 17, the crowd erupts, to which Drake replies, "I can't go to jail yet, man! Seventeen? How do you look like that? You thick. **People Magazine**

SA Celebrity News

Mandla Ganduka says fame is like an orgasm

SOWETO - Mandla Gaduka says fame can flatter but quickly go away.

After nearly two decades in the entertainment industry, former Generations actor Mandla Ganduka knows a thing or two about fame and its trappings.

He has compared it to happy time in the bedroom.

Mandla, who has spent much of the year in theatre productions and e.tv TV drama series Broken Vows, told TshisaLIVE that despite leaving Generations several years ago he still gets called by his character on the show, Choppa.

"It is something that I have got used to, but people are always calling me



FAME: Mandla Gaduka.

Choppa. I mean even now after all these years; they still stop me for pictures. I used to be overwhelmed but it has slowed down now.

Times Live

AKA, Zinhle owns the co-parenting game

PRETORIA - Remember that time AKA and DJ Zinhle had public spats? Fam, it seems like a lifetime ago.

In 2018 the couple put their differences aside and focussed on being the best parents that they could be together.

And they gave fans an inside look at their new peaceful life: Drinking tequilas, supporting each other at big events and speaking positively about each other during interviews.

The truce has not gone unnoticed by fans who give the pair kudos for



PARENTING: AKA and DJ Zinhle.

leaving the beef in the past and opting for a friendly way forward. **Times Live**

Tamia to promote new album in SA

CAPE TOWN - Songstress Tamia is coming to SA.

The 90s R'nB sensation will be in the country to promote her new album and for performances in Durban, Cape Town and Pretoria. Famed for her smooth voice and soulful lyrics, Tamia signed a development deal with Warner Bros. Records in 1994. Her collaboration with legendary music producer Quincy Jones on the hits You Put a Move on My Heart and Slow Jams cemented her presence in the industry. She has received six Grammy nominations. Next month Tamia will perform to thousands of fans at the



COMING: Tamia.

Pretoria Sun Arena @ Time Square (February 22), Durban Botanical Gardens (February 24), and Cape Town Grand West Hotel and Casino (February 23). **Sowetan**

Tributes continue to pour in for musician Dan Tshanda

DURBAN: An outpouring of condolences has dominated social media ever since news of veteran musician Dan Tshanda's death was confirmed on Saturday evening. Family spokesperson Moudy Ngwedzeni Mudzielwana confirmed the news through a media statement on Facebook.

"Dalom Music is hereby confirming the passing away of music maestro Dan Tshanda today.

He suffered a heart failure earlier and Sandton Mediclinic where he was declared dead," read the statement.



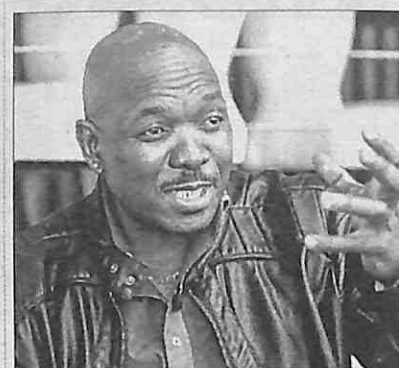
RIP: The late Dan Tshanda.

Memorial and funeral details are yet to be announced by the family. **Sowetan Live**

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY



RAMPS: Judas.

Judas ramps up his plans to capture Operation Khukulula. Lillian's pregnancy makes her feel insecure. Dabula seems to be playing Ngwebedla against the Ndlovus. Iris wants to know how Jabu really sees her.

ISIDINGO

TODAY



DISAPPOINTED: Lincoln.

Lincoln is disappointed and upset at Kgothalo. Lalage gets back at Wendy in front of customers. Obakeng and Cebisa share more money making ideas.

Muvhango

TODAY



MY BLOOD: Azwindi.

An ex-convict is out for Azwindi's blood. Eric worries that Molehi might kill Gugu. Mpho makes a breakthrough with Shaz.

RHYTHM CITY

TODAY



DETERMINED: Kop.

Mzi cracks under pressure but then the plan goes horribly wrong. Kop will not be talked out of killing Gadifele. Fats looks for a cleaner who can cook.

According to women, they're 3 guys in his picture

Follow us
No chill in Mzansi



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Aquarius January 20 – February 18

Your heart is going pitter-pat, Aquarius, and you're tempted to escape into a romantic fantasyland in which you play the starring role. The bad news is that something may be trying to hold you back today. It could be that your conscience is coming on the scene to remind you that work needs to be done before you can go off into your own little fairytale world.



Leo July 23 – August 22

Remember that you're here to have fun, and happiness is your true destiny, Leo. Keep this in mind today, as forces may tend to pull you away from the fun you've been having. There may be a rather sobering tone to the day that's stubbornly trying to rain on your parade. Recognize the need for structure and stability, but don't let it bring you down.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

You may feel a bit of a strain today as you try to figure out the best way to get to where you need to be, Pisces. The happy, jovial approach tells you to let loose, be courageous, and strike out with conviction toward the things that mean the most to you. A sense of duty and restriction may be holding you back. Take the best of both worlds and come up with a unique plan of attack.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

You will recognize and appreciate the need for structure and stability on a day like today, Virgo. This practical energy may work to take away some of the fun out of the equation. You may not realize it, but the fun in your life may be getting chipped away little by little. Hold tight to the things that give you passion and purpose in life. These are the keys to healthy living.



Aries March 21 – April 19

Your romantic side is powerfully charged today, Aries. The more you tune in to this side of your nature, the happier you will be. The one thing to watch out for is keeping at least one foot on the ground at all times. Work from a stable platform of honesty and practicality. Without this foundation, you will be hard pressed to establish any walls or windows.



Libra September 23 – October 23

Tension may build today if you aren't careful about how you use your words, Libra. Remember that forces are trying to push you one way and pull you another. You may encourage a focus on the collective while others seem too worried about themselves. Yet another force is calling for outdated remedies and traditional structures that no longer suit your purposes. Blaze your own trail.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

Attend to your duties today, Taurus. There's a pronounced sense of time and a feeling that the days are slipping away. Make sure you fit love and romance into the equation somewhere. At first you may experience a bit of resistance in this department, but see that as an indication that this is an area of your life that you need to explore and ultimately feel more comfortable with.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

Take a look at what's going on around you today, Scorpio, and do some internal processing before you reach a conclusion regarding the best way to proceed. You may find that a combination of powerful forces is trying to win you over to their camp. Don't pigeonhole yourself into one way of doing things. Keep in mind that the best route is often a combination of several different paths.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

Two different sides may tug on you today, and neither one may really make a strong case for pulling you one way or the other, Gemini. Realise that adjustments may have to be made for you to fit in with the scheme of things and fulfill your duties and responsibilities. A close loved one may distract you in subtle ways, so try not to get sidetracked if you can help it.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

Watch out for a jolt in the action, Sagittarius, as someone close to you puts on the brakes in a relationship. There could be conflicts based on a need for more structure and stability in the partnership. The imbalance between having fun and taking care of practical matters is currently working to slowly destroy the good thing that you have going. Nip this problem in the bud.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

Tension may be a bit high with everyone and everything you encounter today, Cancer. There will be a strong need for stability and discipline, while others call for fun and frivolity. You may be caught in the middle. The worst thing is that no side, including yours, is going to want to compromise. Try not to take things too seriously.



Capricorn December 22 – January 19

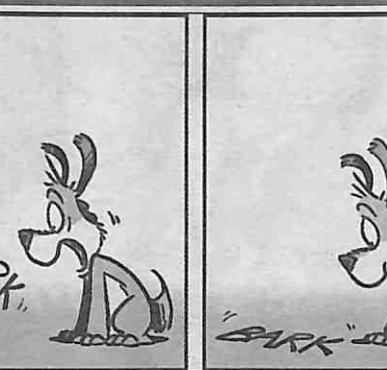
Just when you thought you had everything planned and working smoothly, Capricorn, love comes in and clogs up the works. Suddenly your attention is diverted from work as the love of your life catches your eye. This could be a good or bad thing, depending on how you view it. Remember that both aspects of your life are important. The key now is to find a healthy balance between the two.



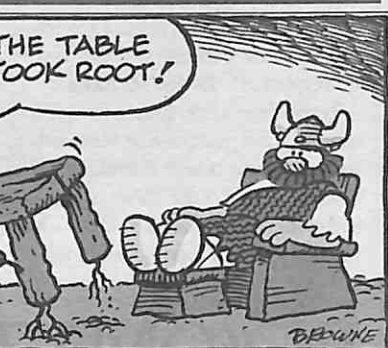
BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



WRITINGS

PUZZLE CHOICE

HORSING AROUND

Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

ESROHELD D D A S G M Y K P T T Q
Y N O P D N A L T E H S T V M H R P D
V P T V N T Y E J E I B N J O O M R A
Z Q E R R A V L R B Q V U R T O E D S
U A R A B I A N C A C C O L T Z D F Z
F P O L L A G A R L M U M M L R I A P
O N P C R L N L Y E G N U R A L S I T
A C O H V T I D E H N S B F L O N K U
L N N I E G E A B R T A T Y O T L L N
N B Y R L S N R T A R H Z L O D E O T
A S L M D L E I N G O O A Z E V J F S
P C V A S D A G D R N P S E I M D F E
R M L H T M Z T S L P A T B R P H U H
A E I G E A O E S A E S B Y T B I S C
T R D E R B S S O R C G J K E R T L C
E N A G R O M O N I M O L A P O G N J
E S R O H R E T R A U Q Z I J N D O I
B D E S R O H E C A R H H T T C D N H
E D E R B E L D D A S A V H B O C J Z

APPALOOSA, ARABIAN, BANGTAIL, BAY, BRONCO, CANTER, CHESTNUT, CLYDESDALE, COLT, CROSSBRED, DRAFT HORSE, FILLY, FOAL, GALLOP, GELDING, LIPIZZANER, MARE, MORGAN, MOUNT,

MUSTANG, PALOMINO, PINTO, PONY, QUARTER HORSE, RACEHORSE, SADDLEBRED, SADDLE HORSE, SHETLAND PONY, SHIRE, SORREL, STALLION, STEED, SUFFOLK, TARPAN, THOROUGHBRED, TROT.

LOL

Laughing out Loud

A LADY AND HER FUTURE

A lady went to see a tarot reader woman who'll predict her future:
- Lady, I'm sorry to inform you that your husband will

die in the near future.
- Don't tell me things that I already know, tell me if there would be an investigation!

USELESS FACTS

1. Celery has negative calories! It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it.
2. The average lead pencil will draw a line 35 miles long or write approximately 50 000 English words.
More than two billion pencils are manufactured each year in the United States.
If these were laid end to end they would circle the world nine times.

3. The pop you hear when you crack your knuckles is actually a bubble of gas burning.
4. A literal translation of a standard traffic sign in China: "Give large space to the festive dog that makes sport in the roadway."
5. Larry Lewis ran the 100-yard dash in 17.8 seconds in 1969, thereby setting a new world's record for runners in the 100-years-or-older class. He was 101.

BRAINTEASERS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

THURSDAY'S BRAINTEASER:

1. Who is bigger: Mr. Bigger, Mrs. Bigger, or their baby?
Answer: The baby, because he is a little bigger.
2. You are in a cabin and it is pitch black. You have one match on you. Which do you light first, the newspaper, the lamp, the candle, or the fire?
Answer: You light the match first!

TODAY'S BRAINTEASER:

1. A family lives in a large tower

apartment building, 10 floors high. Every day their son takes the elevator from the family's apartment on the 10th floor to the ground floor and goes to school. When he returns in the afternoon, he uses the elevator to get to the fifth floor, and then uses the stairs for the remaining five floors. Why?
2. There are three houses. One is red, one is blue, and one is white. If the red house is to the left of the house in the middle, and the blue house is to the right of the house in the middle, where is the white house?



BEST QUOTES FROM THE RANAKAS!

THEY give both wisdom and punch lines with so much sass!

Whether you are Team Dineo or Team Mpumi or you just love Ntate Ranaka and Mama Siba, you can agree that the Ranakas have a very candid way of speaking and their clapbacks have been known to give life. Here are a few from the season so far!

Nothing like a clap back from a parent and Mama Siba is uncompromising and unforgiving when it comes to disciplining her children. And if you miss Ntate Ranaka's 75th birthday dinner for work, you will not be spared.

My personal problems are serious to me. Now, those who make television will make television. I am not making television. I am living a life on camera and that will be respected – **Dineo Ranaka**

Remember when Dineo said this after Mpumi gatecrashed her heart-to-heart with Ntate Ranaka? For those who ask if the show is being scripted, Dineo shared quickly and candidly how she does reality tele-



vision. The problems are real, the fights are real and it is all serious to Dineo.

This was Ranaka explaining that he and his new girlfriend were vibing!

If they want to paint me black, they can. I have information that can destroy my younger sister and

I'm not going to. No. – **Mpumi Ranaka**

Mpumi just dropped a bomb and left us hanging. However, we agree with her: Don't destroy your sister, keep that information to yourself girl!

For *nna*, my biggest concern is not necessarily the family WhatsApp

group. The turbulence between *nna* leNompumelelo is my core concern. Because it is older than the existence of WhatsApp. – **Dineo Ranaka**

When a fight has been going on longer than the existence of social media, it's incredibly serious. Can anyone bring the gap between Dineo and Mpumi?

Ntate Ranaka: When you talk of retirement you are not sophisticating the talk on saying old age home?

Dineo Ranaka: No, it not an old age home

Ntate Ranaka: What's the difference?

Dineo Ranaka: An old age home is where people go to die. A retirement village is where people go to rest.

Is Dineo right or did she try to pull a fast one on Ntate Ranaka?

I love my husband but sometimes he forgets to come home. – **Michelle Ranaka**

Stay tuned to The Ranakas every Thursday at 20:00 for more epic quotables!

BEYOND THE MCU

WHAT else are the MCU actors up to?

If you're an MCU fan (that's Marvel Cinematic Universe for the uninitiated), you've probably already watched *Avengers: Infinity War*. With follow-up film *Avengers: Endgame* coming out in April (let the countdown begin), now's as good a time as any to refresh your memory on the epic events of the franchise's 19th instalment.

Jam-packed with Hollywood's finest, many of them have been playing these characters for almost a decade. But in between all the assemblies, standalones, and cameos they've found time to feature in other work too.

Let's take a look at what else they've been up to before watching them on M-Net.

Robert Downey Jr.

Plays Iron Man/Tony Stark
Since his debut as Iron Man in 2008 (which was also the debut of the MCU) Downey's been busy making the best Hollywood comeback in years. *Avengers: Endgame* reportedly marks the final movie in his MCU contract; which doesn't necessarily mean the end of RDJ in the MCU. But even if it does, we can still look forward to him take on the role of Dr. Dolittle and return to Sherlock Holmes.

Chris Hemsworth
Plays Thor

The Aussie actor has embraced the comedic joy of playing Thor (particularly in 2017's *Thor: Ragnarok*). He'll further embrace his comedic gift in 2019, with *Men in Black: International*, the highly anticipated fourth instalment of the

alien franchise, co-starring his *Ragnarok* co-star Tessa Thompson.

Mark Ruffalo

Plays Hulk/Bruce Banner
Like Downey, he's clocked up numerous MCU appearances since he joined the universe, which is particularly impressive considering he replaced original Hulk actor, Edward Norton. Slated into the future is an HBO miniseries - titled *I Know This Much Is True* - in which he plays a dual role as twin brothers Dominick and Thomas Birdsey.

Chris Evans

Plays Captain America/Steve Rogers
What's Evans been up to? Filming in South Africa apparently! He touched down in Mzansi to shoot scenes for his upcoming role in the biographical drama, *The Red Sea Diving Resort*.

Scarlett Johansson

Black Widow/Natasha Romanoff
Despite being the highest-paid actress in the world, Johansson has had to play second fiddle to the MCU boys. Until now. Last year it was announced that *Black Widow* would finally get her own standalone movie. About time...especially considering that none of the standalone MCU movies released thus far are headlined by a female superhero.

Benedict Cumberbatch
Plays Dr. Stephen Strange

Cumberbatch is on his way to the Golden Globes this Sunday. He's been impressing audiences with his role as the title character in the miniseries *Patrick Melrose*, earning a nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a Limited Series or



ACTORS: Benedict Cumberbatch and Mark Ruffalo.

a Motion Picture Made for Television.

Don Cheadle

Plays War Machine/Lt. Col. James 'Rhodey' Rhodes
He joined the MCU with *Iron Man 2*, taking over the role of Rhodes from Terrence Howard. He's made numerous MCU appearances since, but next up is a comedy series called *Black Monday*, about the stock market crash of 1987.

Tom Holland

Plays Spider-Man/Peter Parker
Despite the title, *Avengers: Endgame* does not mark the end of the MCU. After all, we still have *Spider-Man: Far From Home*, which will be released after *Endgame*, to look forward to, with Holland reprising his Spidey senses for the sequel.

Chadwick Boseman

Plays Black Panther/T'Challa
Boseman goes from king to cop as he takes on the role of an NYPD detective in *17 Bridges*. Before that, let's hope we see him on the Golden Globes red carpet to support *Black Panther*'s three nominations.

Anthony Mackie

Plays Falcon/Sam Wilson
He was supposed to be at the first ever Comic Con Africa - which was held in Jozi last year - but was



unfortunately waylaid by Hurricane Florence. On the film front, he appeared in *The Hate U Give*, based on the best-selling novel by Angie Thomas.

Peter Dinklage

Plays Eitri

He may not be a major player in the MCU, but we really wanted to say *Game of Thrones*. *Game of Thrones*. *Game of Thrones*. The eighth and final season is coming soon to M-Net, and we are super excited. Dinklage may have only one MCU movie to his name, but he has every *GoT* season to his credit.

Bradley Cooper

Plays Rocket

Cooper's been doing more than just acting. He made his directorial debut with the musical *A Star is Born*, in which he co-stars with Lady Gaga. Not only does he sing in the movie, but he helped with the songwriting too, in addition to co-writing the script. Now he's on his way to the Golden Globes, where he's been nominated for Best Director and Best Actor Drama.

Watch these amazing actors assemble for *Avengers: Infinity War* on M-Net channel 101.

A breathtaking affair – Wedding Bashers Roundup 12

ANOTHER look at Jason and Megan's spectacular nuptials

Food

Cool donut wall? Check! Brandy and coffee truck? Check! A legendary cheesecake station? Obviously. Check! Jason and Megan made Food Basher Zola smile with the lovely extra touches they gave their wedding day menu. Canapés and mains that were "tasty, but not magical" however, were the only things that stood in the way of a perfect food score.

Decor

Megan's mother stepping in to handle the flowers was definitely decor Basher Zavion Kotze's favourite thing, because how beautiful? All the table decor, ornaments and arrangements were bang-on-trend and kept to the masala bridal party colour scheme. The venue itself? An absolute dream!

Fashion

Our showstopper bride looked so lovely, our Fashion Basher, Bernelee shed a tear as she glided down the aisle! Jason, the groom, rose to the occasion too, opting to stay true to his sporty, outdoorsy vibe by choosing to deck himself out in a comfortable tan suit and white shirt - and no tie, obviously!

Entertainment

The wig came off, so you know what that means! A 10 out of 10 from Denise! From the clever speeches, to the games, music and drinks - our Bashers and the couple's guests had an incredible time from start to end. But when exactly did Denise know this wedding is a winner? When the bride sang for her groom and no ones ears bled.

Wedding Bashers is broadcast on M-Net channel 101 every Sunday night at 18:00. Watch interviews with the Bashers and wedding couples from The Wedding Bashers here. Follow the conversation on social media using #WeddingBashers.



THE CLASSIFIEDS

2404 8699 / 2404 3807 / 2505 2320

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Clients are advised to please check their adverts on the first publication day, for we will not be held responsible for any errors after the first day of publication. If it happens that you note any errors, please call 2404 3807 / 2505 2320 immediately and it will be corrected as soon as possible. Failure to adhere to these terms, we assume no financial responsibility. Thanking you in advance for we assure satisfactory services.

INDEX

- NOTICES
 - General Notices
 - Legal Notices
 - Church Notices
 - Announcements
 - Change of Surname
 - Sales & Foreclosure
 - General Items
 - Auctions
- BUSINESS SERVICES
 - Special Services
 - Business Opportunities
 - Restaurant, Catering & Office Equipment
 - Garage sale
 - Other Business Items
 - Maintenance & Construction
 - Motoring and Transport
- JOBS & VACANCIES
- MISCELLANEOUS
 - Medical & Natural Healing
 - Tuition & Courses
- HEALTH & BEAUTY
- PETS & PET ACCESSORIES
 - Pets & Adoptions
 - Cats & Kittens
 - Dogs & Puppies
 - Birds & Poultry
 - Fish & Aquarium
 - Other Pet & Accessories
- ELECTRONICS
 - TV's, DVD Players, Decoders & Satellites
 - Household Appliances
 - Music Equipment, Amplifiers, Equalizers & Speakers
 - Mobile Devices, Smart Phones & Tablets
 - Computers, Laptops, Cameras & Optics
 - Games, Gaming Consoles & Software
- HOUSEHOLD
 - Domestic
 - Clothing
 - Baby and Kids
 - Furniture
 - Hobbies, Model Toys, Handcraft
 - Wanted
- BUILDING, GARDENING & DIY
 - Woodworking
 - Machinery & Tools
 - Plumbing & Electrical
 - Other Building & DIY
 - Plants, Trees & Flowers
 - Garden Furniture & Appliances
 - Other Gardening
- FARMING EQUIPMENT & SPARES
 - Car Spares or Parts
 - Bike Spares
 - Truck, Bus and Trailer Spares
 - Stripping for Spares
 - Farming Equipment & Machinery
 - Livestock
 - Other Farming
- LEISURE, SPORT & EVENTS
 - Fitness
 - Tennis & squash
 - Watersport
 - Karate, Boxing & Judo
 - Angling & Cycling
 - Other Sport
 - Caravans, Campers and Trailers
 - Leisure, Community and Events
 - Music and Instruments
 - Camping and Outdoor
- PROPERTY
 - Residential
 - Commercial
 - Farms and Vacant Plots
 - Holiday & Accommodation
 - Apartments / Flats / Houses to Rent
- VEHICLES
 - Cars
 - Bikes
 - Classics and Custom Builds
 - Trucks
 - Buses Farming
 - Trailers
 - Aircraft
- OTHER NOTICES

JANUARY 2019 Intake

Registration Now Open
Full Time & Part Time Courses Are Available



Training Courses: From E1 500 - E5 500

Gel Course
Manicure / Pedicure
Eye-Lashes
Facials
Acrylic Course
Waxing

Nail Art
Paraffin Treatment
Body Piercing
Massages
Make-Up
Hair Dressing

Opening Hours

Mon - Sat: 8AM - 10PM
Sun: 10AM - 5PM

Contact Us: 2404 3807 / 2505 2320
Find Us: Shop 102, George Hotel Complex, Delport Street, Mbabane



XIANGZHILING

BENEFITS

MIRACLE MUSHROOM-NAWE UNADOKOTELA

STRESS-MIGRAINES IMPROVES EYESIGHT	ALZHEIMERS ALLERGIES COLDS AND FLUE
CANCER (BRAST CANCER) LIVER DISEASE KIDNEY REPAIR	HEART DISEASE / STROKES ASTHMA / LUNG DISEASE SKIN / ECZEMA
FIBROSIS / FERTILITY	ARTHRITIS HERPES / STD'S
	BLOOD SUGAR
	BONES

ALKAALINE WATER and PLUM JUICE also available with Benefits including the absorption of minerals & controlling the body PH levels.

INCLUDING: ALL ALLERGENIC DISEASES, WEIGHT LOSS, ONE DAY HYDROLYTIC, ANTI-AGEING, DIRECTED, IMMUNE BOOSTER, ENDORPHIN, CHESTNUT, PARKINSON, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, FOOD POISONING.

Available at woodlands Shopping Centre-Mhangweni Mbabane and Ezulwini Corner Plaza & LYF Health Shop 76376839

DOC: 17000 Dk 13/01/2019

Barber Wash / cut from E30
We specialise on weaves
Braids
Dreads
Natural hair
Massage
Nails (Manicure / Pedicure)
Botox

Free Snack

IFY HEALTH & BEAUTY SALON
Find us at Woodlands Shopping Centre
Embanweni Mbabane. Contacts: 76376839

SRI KALI MATHA ASTROLOGY CENTRE

FROM INDIAN GENERATION PANDIT : THULSI DASS

EXPERT IN PALM READING - DATE OF BIRTH - FACE READING & HOROSCOPE PATRA READING - OPEN BOOK & ETC., VEDIC SOLUTIONS AVAILABLE : FOR EVERY PROBLEM THERE IS A SOLUTION

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| • BLACK MAGIC | • MARRIAGE | • DRINKING PROBLEM |
| • EVIL SPIRIT | • EDUCATION | • HEALTH PROBLEM |
| • BAD LUCK | • BUSINESS | • HOUSE PROTECTION |
| • REUNITE LOVERS | • WORK PROBLEMS | • CHILDLESS COUPLE |
| • STOP DIVORCE | • WIFE & HUSBAND PROBLEM | • SEXUAL PROBLEMS |
| • DEPRESSION | • CHILDREN | • LOTTERY & ETC |
| • FINANCIAL PROBLEM | • MISTAKES | |
| • LOVE | • COURT CASES | |

EXPERT IN REMOVING : EXPERT IN REMOVING BLACK MAGIC, VODOO, EVIL SPIRIT, OBEAH, GENERATION CURSE, WITCHCRAFT

CALL: 7814 1337 / 7696 7476 FOR APPOINTMENT

RONTANYA FLATS FLAT A13

MANZINI NEAR RIVERSTONE MALL

BROTHERS & SISTER FROM ALL RELIGION CAN TAKE PANDIT HELP

FRIDGE MASTERS

WE HAVE **FESTIVE SPECIALS**



- Fridge repairs.
- Car aircon Service **E500**.
- Cold rooms repair.
- Office and home aircon.

7826 7750 / 7926 7751 - whatsapp
7917 0299

Dk 15 Jan 2019



2019 REGISTRATION

Approved by SHEC

EXISTING COURSES CERTIFICATE

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| _Electrical Wiring. | _Panel Beating & Spray Painting |
| _Plumbing. | _Diesel Mechanics. |
| _Motor Mechanics. | _TLB Lessons [4wks]. |
| _Auto Electrical. | |
| _Health & Safety [6mnts] Full-time & Part-time. | |

ADDED COURSES CERTIFICATE

- | | |
|---|--|
| _Civil Engineering | |
| _Agriculture | |
| MANAGEMENT COURSES DIPLOMA | |
| _Finance Accounting (level I, II & III) | |
| _Business English for Communication (level I, II & III) | |
| _Spreadsheet Processing Techniques (level I, II & III) | |
| _Pastel Accounting (level I, II & III) | |
| _Cost & Management Accounting (level III) | |

Free driving lessons for one year courses

Contact Details For More Information:

Ngwenya | Mbabane | Manzini

2442 4944 | 2404 0639 | 2505 7476

Email: sdiamini38@gmail.com

7602 5418

7832 4746

BSA Training Centre

Find us: Thabeka Eswarini

Jumping Castles



FOR RENTAL

CALL: 76793960 FOR BOOKING

RN 16/01/2019 Dk 15 JAN 2019

KUSILE KITCHEN HOSPITALITY SCHOOL

Students Graduate with two Certificates:
CATERING CARTIFICATE
And
WAITING & DÉCOR CERTIFICATE

"READY TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS"

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL: 2404 2832 / 2404 7750 / 2505 9689
Email: kusile.nd@gmail.com

FOR SALE



Used guillotine for cutting corrugated iron sheets. Very good condition, very sharp original blades. Heavy duty made in South Africa. To view and price discussion contact **76187882** in Mbabane

Dk 5 Jan 19



FUTURE PRIMARY & HIGH SCHOOL

Registration for 2019 NOW OPEN, places are available from, Pre School, Grade 1 to 6, Form 1 to Form 5

100% pass rate on Grade 7 results in 2017

Our School Offers the best of the following:

- Qualified and Motivated Teachers
- Inclusive and friendly learning environment
- Transport available to all neighbouring places in Mankayane
- Excellent Sporting facilities: Football, Tennis & Volleyball
- Practical subjects ie: Computer (IT) and French
- Boarding facilities for both boys and girls
- Money should not be a problem come to the school

We BRIDGE the GAP between URBAN and RURAL Schools. We are here to Wipe your Tears Bring your 3RD CLASS PASS pupils, we will groom them to MERIT pupils. Guaranteed.

*** Places available up to Form 5 ***

Find us in Mankayane. Along Ngcoseni Road, next to Zimeleni
Tel. 2530 1101 Cell: 7614 4117 / 7672 8616

205902 Dx 20 Jan 2019

JMC TRUCK FOR SALE



E165 000

8302Km CONTACT: 79022869

R/N 205989 Dx 11/02/2019

ESTATE LATE:

BRIAN TUMELO MOHAMMED
ESTATE NO. EM 306/2018

Debtors and Creditors in the above mentioned estate are asked to lodge their claims and pay their debts with the under-signed within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.

NOLWAZI MABUZA & SAKHINA RABIA
MOHAMMED
P.O. BOX 923
MANZINI

R/N 208084 Dx 07 JAN 2019

CLASSIFIEDS ADS

TO ADVERTISE ON THE CLASSIFIEDS FOR ANY PRODUCT

CONTACT 2404 8699/3807



PROPERTY



CARS FOR SALES



SALONS



JOB SEEKERS



ELECTRONICS

Revived

Reliable

Read

Swazi
OBSERVER

OBSERVER
ON SATURDAY

Observer



Baobab ExpressPrinters and Stationery and Baobab Express Furniture Supply.

Office/School Desks, Chairs, Typek, Stationery, Receipts/ Invoice Books, Business cards.
Call: 2404 0491 / 7637 2858 / 7615 7325

DOC:17105 Dx 15 FEB 2019

4. MISCELLANEOUS



Trouble finding a job, you are sick, problems in Marriage, Business, Bonkhe labafuna kutsatsana kanye nenhlalakahle emindenini yabo a b e t e ngitobakhulekela kuNkulunkulu. I can pray for you. I have been doing this since 1984. Prophet Henry Nd wand we, Mbabane PTS Ehangeni
Contact: 7614 2654.

R/N 208073 Dx 08 FEB 2019

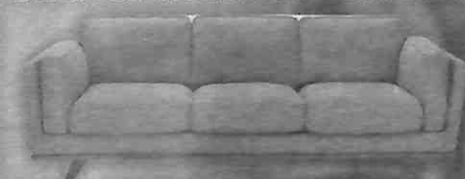
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY



Salon for sale in Manzini. E15'000.00
Call 76141840

R/n: 205062 Dx 05 Jan 2018

DEAF UPHOLSTERY EXPERT



Trained in South Africa CHEAP, FAST & VERY NEAT

7844 5984-watsapp
7655 6850-voice

Dx 02/02/19

SWAZI OBSERVER

Send us your Classified Adverts

1. Send your Classified Ad via Whatsapp.
2. Get a Quotation via same platform.
3. Send Payment via Mobile Money.

MTN
Mobile
Money



7872 1620

EASY AS 1 2 3

Convenience at your finger tips!

NOTICES
Death
Vacancies
Job Search

FOR SALE
Property
Vehicles
Livestock
Appliances
etc

REACH US FROM ANY WHERE ESWATINI

Swazi
OBSERVER

www.observer.org.sz

CALL OUR OFFICE
MBABANE TEL: 2404 8699 / 2404 3807/
MANZINI TEL: 2505 2320
NHLANGANO TEL: 2207 5159
PIGGS PEAK TEL: 2437 1083
SITEKI TEL: 7643 6549
email: advertising@observer.org.sz
adverts@observer.org.sz

www.observer.org.sz

Swazi Observer
Classifieds

CALL OUR OFFICES @ 2404 1555 / 2404 8699



MOURINHO 'TURNS DOWN' BENFICA

...Rules out quick return to football management following Manchester United sacking

LISBON - Jose Mourinho has turned down the opportunity to manage Portuguese giants Benfica and make an instant return to football management.

According to recent reports, the former Manchester United and Real Madrid chief was sounded out by Benfica following their dismissal of Rui Vitoria.

Bosses

Benfica bosses were believed to be willing to meet the high wage demands of Mourinho but the 55-year-old made clear Benfica were not in his immediate plans, state outlet Record.

Vitoria was removed from his position at Benfica last Thursday following a poor spell of results, bringing to an end his three-and-a-half year tenure.

Mourinho has been out of a job since being axed from his position of United boss in early December, following a humiliating 3-1 defeat to bit-

ter rivals Liverpool.

He was replaced, temporarily, by Old Trafford legend Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who has won each of his first five fixtures in charge of his former club.

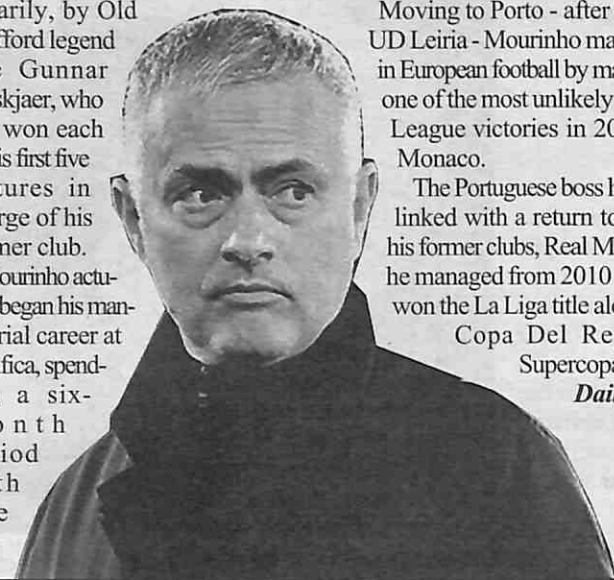
Mourinho actually began his managerial career at Benfica, spending a six-month period with the

club before swiftly moving on due to a breakdown in contract talks.

Moving to Porto - after a spell with UD Leiria - Mourinho made his name in European football by mastering one of the most unlikely Champions League victories in 2004, against Monaco.

The Portuguese boss has also been linked with a return to another of his former clubs, Real Madrid, where he managed from 2010 to 2013 and won the La Liga title along with the Copa Del Rey and the Supercopa de Espana.

Daily Mail



NO: Jose Mourinho.

Tennis stars lament potential end of Hopman Cup

PERTH - The likely demise of the Hopman Cup after three decades of the unique mixed teams tennis tournament has been greeted with sadness by players at this year's edition, with Serena Williams calling the prospect 'heart-breaking'.

Swiss duo Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic beat Germans Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber in Saturday's final in front of a sell-out crowd in Perth, but it is expected to be the last instalment of the event.

A dramatic finish to what was arguably the best Hopman Cup ever which also saw Federer and Serena face off for the first time in a historic mixed doubles clash - came down to a single match point shared by both sides in the final. However, the event is widely tipped to be scrapped to make way for the new ATP World Team Cup, which will start next year.

While Tennis Australia has a contract with the West Australian State Government to run the ITF-sanctioned tournament until 2022, the new ATP event would make it very hard for the Hopman Cup to attract top men's players. American superstar Serena, who was playing in Perth for the fifth time in her career and has won the title twice, said she was unaware of speculation on the Hopman's fate, but that she was upset by the prospect of it vanishing.

Sport24

Proteas win at Newlands, claim series over Pakistan

CAPE TOWN - The Proteas got over the line in the second Test against Pakistan at Newlands yesterday morning to claim the series win, but it was far from comfortable.

Starting

their second innings on day four needing just 41 runs for victory, openers Dean Elgar (24*) and Theunis de Bruyn were subjected to a barrage of short-pitched bowling as the Pakistan seamers looked to give the hosts some of their own medicine.

De Bruyn was elevated to the top of the batting order as regular opener Aiden Markram was being treated for a bruised thigh after crashing into the advertising boards while fielding on Saturday.

De Bruyn, though, continued his struggles to solidify a position in this Test side when he was out for just 4, going after a short ball from Mohammad Abbas only to edge through to Sarfraz

Ahmed behind the stumps.

That brought Hashim Amla to the crease, but the 35-year-old lasted just 5 balls before he received a nasty blow to the arm from Mohammad Amir.

Amla had tried to get forward to a delivery that was just back of a length, but the ball spat up and crashed into his right bicep.

Retired hurt on 2, Amla plodded of the Newlands turf looking rather sorry for himself to join Markram on the injured list.

Elgar and skipper Faf du Plessis (3*) saw South Africa over the line and while the 9-wicket win looked comfortable on the scoreboard, those who were at Newlands for the 48 minutes of play on Sunday saw that it was anything but.

It is South Africa's seventh straight Test series win at home, while they have also never lost a home series under the leadership of Du Plessis.

It is an impressive record that dates back to the 2015/16 when Amla stepped down from the captaincy midway through a home series against England that the Proteas would go on to lose.

Since then, though, South Africa have been dominant on their own turf.

Sport24



SORRY: Hashim Amla.

Djokovic's conqueror Bautista Agut takes Qatar Open title

DOHA - Roberto Bautista Agut followed up his shock victory over world number one Novak Djokovic by lifting the Qatar Open title on Saturday.

The Spaniard ground out a hard-fought victory in three sets against the Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych, winning 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the final.

'It's been a fantastic week for me,' he said immediately after his triumph. 'Today it was not easy to manage all the emotions I had on court.' It was the 30-year-old's ninth career title and his first in Doha.

Bautista Agut will rise one place in the world rankings to 23 on the back of the victory in Qatar, and said his aim was to go higher.

'Why can I not be close to the top 10?' he asked afterwards.

He added that his immediate aim was to 'be fresh' and then win as many matches 'as I can' in Melbourne at the Australian Open.

The victory came 24 hours after

he beat Djokovic in the semi-final, also in three sets.

He also beat three-time Grand Slam winner Stan Wawrinka in straight sets earlier in the week.

In total, Bautista Agut only lost two sets all week in his five matches.

The Spaniard made the decisive break of serve in the third game of the final set to take a lead he never lost.

Wildcard Berdych threatened to break back but squandered two points on Bautista Agut's serve in the seventh game.

'Roberto was too good, so well done for the title today, but I am happy for the week,' said Berdych, whose 2018 season was blighted by a back injury.

The defeat was the second time Berdych has lost in the Qatar final, the first occasion was in 2015 to another Spaniard, David Ferrer.

AFP

Pliskova overhauls Tsurenko to win Brisbane title

BRISBANE - Karolina Pliskova used all her big match experience as she came from a set down to overhaul Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko and win the Brisbane International yesterday.

The unseeded Tsurenko looked headed for the biggest win of her career when serving for the match at 5-4 in the second set, only for Pliskova to come storming back to win 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 and claim her second Brisbane title.

Pliskova, the tournament's fifth seed, started slowly and paid the penalty against Tsurenko, who was serving superbly and winning the battle from the baseline.

Tsurenko took the first set in 38 minutes, firing 10 winners and making 81 percent of her first serves.

She took that form into the second set and broke Pliskova early.

However, serving for the match at 5-4, she tightened up and Pliskova won 13 of the next 14 points to level the match.

The third set was all Pliskova as she broke Tsurenko twice to wrap up the final in two hours, 12 minutes.

The Brisbane title is the 12th of the world number eight's career and sets her in good stead ahead of the Australian Open.

The 26-year-old has long been touted as a future winner of a Grand Slam, but despite a stint as world number one, her best result in a major was runner-up to Angelique Kerber at the 2016 US Open.

AFP



OVERHAULS: Karolina Pliskova.



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



Arsenal set for Suarez swoop

LONDON- Arsenal are discussing a deal for £20million-rated Barcelona attacking midfielder Denis Suarez.

The 24-year-old, who had a two-year spell with Manchester City, played for Arsenal boss Unai Emery while on loan at Sevilla.

Capped once by Spain, Suarez has made just six appearances this season, including one as a substitute in the Champions League draw with Tottenham. He is eager to play more regularly and Arsenal would like to take him on an initial loan.

Barcelona would prefer a sale while Arsenal have discussed an initial loan.

Suarez, who also had interest from Chelsea, can play on either flank or behind the striker and is viewed as a possible replacement for Aaron Ramsey who will leave in the summer.

Agreeing

Wolves are close to agreeing a loan deal with Chelsea for Tammy Abraham.

Sportsmail revealed last week that the Molineux side was heading the chase for the 21-year-old who has scored 16 goals while on loan at Aston Villa.

Abraham is keen to play in the Premier League and Wolves want competition for Raul Jimenez. Chelsea, who have until January 14 to trigger his recall, are reluctant to agree to a sale now despite Wolves intimating they would be willing to offer around £18m.

The Stamford Bridge club will wait to see how he performs knowing his value could increase by the summer if he does well.

Chelsea are continuing to pursue Juventus striker Gonzalo Higuain, 31, who is on loan at AC Milan.

Daily Mail

WITH LONDON DERBY AGAINST CRYSTAL PALACE PENCILLED IN AS FIRST FIXTURE:

TOTTENHAM AIM TO OPEN NEW STADIUM IN MARCH

LONDON - Tottenham's new stadium has faced delays and complications for the past year, but it finally seems as though it will be opening in March.

According to The Sun, Tottenham are aiming to have their first game in their new stadium against London rivals Crystal Palace on March 16.

However, if Spurs continue to progress in the FA Cup after their 7-0 thrashing of Tranmere, the first game could be pushed back to April because of fixture clash.

There will be a meeting on Sunday with contractors Mace to discuss the progress of the project.

One report says an optimistic target for the opening of the stadium is as early as February, however a March opening seems more likely after all of the delays the stadium has seen so far.

Rumours

Both Spurs vs Newcastle and their match against Leicester in February are due to be televised, which led to more rumours about an earlier opening. With those dates looming through, the project, which has already cost upwards of £850million, would face a race against time.

Tottenham will also play arch rivals Arsenal in March, however police will reportedly oppose plans to open the stadium with that fixture.



NEW STADIUM: Tottenham's new stadium looks set to finally be opening its doors with a match in March. (AP)

They'd also oppose a midweek opening of the stadium with Spurs' Champions League match against Borussia Dortmund in February.

So the Crystal Palace match may be the next best option. Beyond that, the home game against Brighton on April 6 would be next on the agenda.

Recent reports have said Tottenham are in

talks with NFL team the Oakland Raiders to share the new stadium for the Raiders' home games next season.

The Raiders will be without a home ahead of their move to Las Vegas, and Spurs' new stadium has a fully functional NFL pitch beneath the retractable grass football pitch.

Daily Mail

We want all 4 trophies - Guardiola

MANCHESTER - His demeanour on the touchline had made the importance of the game to Pep Guardiola clear.

Sometimes, when Liverpool broke forward, the Manchester City manager stood with his head in his hands, fearing what may come.

Once, when Anthony Taylor failed to award a foul against a Liverpool player who had dragged a City opponent to the ground, Guardiola turned away from the action in fury and stormed towards the bench, ripping his scarf from around his neck and hurling it to the floor.

It was a game played at a pitch so intense that the tension was almost unbearable.

It was decided by the finest of margins but when it was over and City had prevailed, Guardiola sank into a chair and talked about what it meant for the rest of the season.

He talked about an addiction to winning. He talked about the taste of winning and how you want it again and again. City are still in four competitions and Guardiola insisted they would not let up in pursuit of any of them.

Once again, there was no attempt at disguise. In the aftermath of a momen-

tous victory that kept City's title hopes alive, Guardiola looked exhausted but exultant. "I would like to have two months' holiday right now," he said, knowing he was not going to get it.

"For Liverpool the game was an important step but nothing changed.

"They are still the leader in the Premier League and four points gap is not bad, but for us it was a real final and we played in that way and that was why I was so pleased.

Daily Mail



WE'RE ADDICTED: Man City coach Pep Guardiola.

Fabregas bids farewell to Chelsea

LONDON - Cesc Fabregas bid farewell after 501 appearances in English football when he was substituted in the closing minutes of Chelsea's victory against Nottingham Forest.

Fabregas was captain and missed a first-half penalty but his team ran out as comfortable 2-0 winners thanks to two goals from Alvaro Morata.

The 31-year-old Spain international left the pitch in tears as he was replaced by N'Golo Kante, milked the applause and embraced Manager Maurizio Sarri.

500 games in English football, what an achievement.

Fabregas has appeared in 198 games for Chelsea in all competitions and scored 22 goals since signing from Barcelona in 2014.

The next stop for the former Arsenal midfielder is expected to be Monaco.

"Time flies," said Fabregas. "It feels like last week that I started playing professionally and now it's more than 15 years. It goes so fast and you have to be ready every three days, for the criticism with everyone saying how good you are and the ups and downs.

"It feels like growing older as it never goes away, it is technique. Physicality goes away. Technicality stays with you."

On his penalty miss, he added: "I saw the 'keeper going down in the middle of the run and I thought I had it. It was unfortunate. The day I got 100 caps for Spain I also missed a penalty, so it was destiny."

Teammate Ross Barkley said: "Playing with him has been a pleasure," said Ross Barkley. "He is going to go down as one of the best midfielders ever."

Daily Mail



LEAVING: Cesc Fabregas.

Man City's 'terrible' defence may be costly

LONDON - Former Manchester United boss Louis van Gaal believes Liverpool are sure to win the Premier League title this season.

Despite Manchester City overcoming the Reds 2-1 in their crucial match in midweek, the Dutchman thinks Liverpool

Manager Jurgen Klopp is out-coaching his counterpart Pep Guardiola.

"So, if I was to put my money on one club for the league, it would be Liverpool," said Van Gaal, according to The Mirror.

However, even though he thinks Liverpool will be victorious come May, Van Gaal says that Man City actually have the better players. "Liverpool's team is now based on the highest quality when it comes to their players. In fact, the highest quality players are at City."

Manchester City have scored the most goals in the league so far this season. They've found the net 56 times, compared to 49 from Liverpool.

"But, at the same time, that is the weakness in Guardiola," Van Gaal continued. "He only coaches his teams in an attacking way. Always. The moment his team have to defend, they look terrible. Liverpool have a team that can defend much better."

Daily Mail

CHIEFS TACTICS WERE TOUGH TO FIGURE OUT – MOSIMANE

JOHANNESBURG - Champions Mamelodi Sundowns had a tough outing against Kaizer Chiefs in the ABSA Premiership on Saturday, with coach Pitso Mosimane saying he was fortunate to come away with all three points.

"It was not an easy game because we were all coming back from holidays and time off. To play these big games without a base of momentum is not too good but it is on the fixture list and we all have to play these first games," he said after the 2-1 triumph at Soccer City.

Sundowns won late in the game after a horror error from Chiefs goalkeeper Virgil Vries allowed Lebogang Maboe to net the winner.

"You can see that Chiefs line up differently since coach Middelkamp arrived. The organisation is stronger and very difficult for us to read. It was awkward for us in the first half because it took a little bit of time for us to figure out how they play.

"I think that immediately after we scored the first goal, we went down in our performance and because Chiefs played differently and in a manner that I did not expect. Although I did expect something different.

Supplying

Willard Katsande was coming in between two centre backs, they had more midfielders and we struggled to deal with George Maluleka because he was the one supplying the ball, and Lebo (Lebogang Manyama) was causing a bit of a problem on the right hand side.

"He knows how to find the space in the pockets and we struggled to deal with him. Their two fullbacks were aggressive coming out and it was tough having to deal with them too," said Mosimane.

"At halftime I had to sort it out and find a way to play and we settled in the second half but, to be honest, in the first half we were a little bit uncomfortable because of

the way Chiefs played.

"And if you looked at the way they played against SuperSport United (last month), it was so very different, so you've got to be on your toes all the time. It is a sign of the quality of the tactical awareness of their coach (Middelkamp)

"I'm wondering how many other teams will come here and get points (off Chiefs). It won't be easy.

"A draw would have been a fair result but football is what it is and I cannot say I'm not happy at taking the three points. Mistakes are part of the game. I feel sorry for Virgil Vries, I think he played very well and I hope he keeps his confidence because goalkeepers can make mistakes. I hope he understands that it is a mistake and these things do happen.

"I didn't think we would win in the second half, I was happy to settle for a point. But our opportunity came," Mosimane added.

Supersport



Khune out for rest of the season

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middelkamp has confirmed that club captain and goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune's season is over after sustaining a shoulder injury.

Chiefs were beaten 2-1 late in the match by Mamelodi Sun-downs with second choice keeper Virgil Vries' calamitous error gifting the Brazilians the three points at FNB Stadium.

Khune, who is set to undergo shoulder surgery, will miss the rest of the season for Chiefs who will also be competing in the CAF Confederations Cup and will also miss Bafana Bafana's final Afcon qualifier against Libya in March and possibly the whole continental showpiece should South Africa qualify.

Eyewitness News

OUT:
Bafana Bafana goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune.



Micho explains where Bucs must improve

JOHANNESBURG - The Buccaneers had to rally back on two occasions to force a 2-2 draw with Owen da Gama's charges on Saturday evening.

Sredojevic feels that his side need to improve attacking wise and on the defensive end.

"Very tough game, when you play against Highlands Park and everyone has seen this is their 16th match - same like ours - that you need to outfight them. Have the spirit of never giving up [the same as them] as the first platform," the Serbian told SuperSport after the match.

"You need to outmove them in certain areas in order to endanger. We had two clear cut chances of [Justin] Shonga. Football is giving you but on the other side football is punishing you.

Conceded

"We conceded and came back in the critical phase after the goal has been conceded. The second goal when we conceded we threw everything up playing with two defenders at the back, this paid us back.

"I want to praise the character of the players to come back twice against this kind of a team. It's not easy. In the end we could have even won the game but it was not meant to be. The character of the players and the support from the supporters is what we shall pick from this match."

Soccer Laduma



Pirates are the best team - Da Gama

JOHANNESBURG - Owen Da Gama was full of praise for his Highlands Park players after they drew with Orlando Pirates, who he feels are the best in the country.

Highlands and Pirates played out a thrilling 2-2 draw in Tembisa on Saturday, with the Buccers losing ground in the Absa Premiership title race.

Da Gama expressed his delight at how his charges showed no fear

against the Soweto giants.

"We came out and went at them. We gave it a good go. We tried our best. They are the best team. They've assembled some of the best players in the country," Da Gama told SuperSport after the game.

"We have players who are still finding themselves in the PSL. But credit must go to the players. They played with heart and soul. They showed no fear.

"A lot of teams lose against Pirates before the game is played. But we just got that out of the way and we said 'let's go out and play'.

"Even if we lose 6-4 but we're going to score! And we made sure we score. We had to be better than what happened in the last game [in the first round] I thought we

were much better.

"With Mothobi Mvala there a little bit we could have had more strength in midfield. But in saying that I'm proud of the boys and congratulate Pirates. They came back twice, you gotta give them credit. They're a quality team, there's no wonder why they are sitting where they are on the table. "I'm just happy, it was a great game for the fans," he said.

Soccer Laduma

FULL OF PRAISE:
Highlands Park coach Owen Da Gama.



Maritzburg open to Fileccia sale?

MARITZBURG - Maritzburg United are believed to be open to listening to offers for one of their attacking players.

It was reported in December last year that Andrea Fileccia could be making the move away from the Team Of Choice in the current January transfer window, with Cape Town City and Chippa United having previously shown interest in the player.

Fileccia is currently in the final six months of his contract with Maritzburg and Siya sources have indicated that the Team

Of Choice will be open to hearing offers for the player from any interested suitor.

Indications

Indications are that the player is also open for a move away from the KwaZulu-Natal-based club and rather than losing his services on a free, Maritzburg could be looking to cash in on a cut fee for the winger during the current January transfer window.

Muhsin Ertugral was recently appointed as the new head coach of the team following Fadlu Davids' exit and the

Turkish-born mentor is expected to make a few changes to his existing squad.

The Team Of Choice recently announced the signing of Mpho Matsi on a six-month loan deal from Cape Town City, with indications that the club will be making more additions to their squad in the coming weeks.

Now, it remains to be seen whether any interested suitor will approach Maritzburg for Fileccia's services in the current transfer window.

Soccer Laduma

OPEN TO OFFERS: Maritzburg United's Fileccia Sale.

FULHAM 'READY TO LAUNCH £15M BID FOR DIVOCK ORIGI'

LONDON - Fulham are ready to bid £15 million to try and lure Divock Origi away from Liverpool.

The Belgium international has only made two Premier League appearances this season which included a freakish last-minute winner in the Merseyside derby.

The Reds have already sold Dominic Solanke to Bournemouth for £19m and loaned out Nathaniel Clyne to the Cherries this month.

Claudio Ranieri is looking to add more firepower to his attack as top

...as Claudio Ranieri targets five signings this month

scorer Aleksandar Mitrovic has only scored once in his last eight league games.

The Cottagers are likely to face competition for Origi as Wolves were also believed to be interested in the 23-year-old in the summer but a move never materialised.

The attack isn't the only area the Fulham boss will look to strengthen in January, however, as owner Shahid Khan will offer enough funds for

Ranieri to strengthen up to five areas according to The Sun.

The former Leicester manager is likely to make sweeping changes when they face Oldham in the FA Cup on Sunday as Fulham prioritise trying to stay in the Premier League.

The newly-promoted club have conceded 47 goals this campaign - more than any other team and are four points off safety.

Daily Mail

Defoe still sharp, hungry

LONDON - For a player with a CV as decorated as Jermain Defoe's, it is hard to understand the assertion he could still have something to prove.

The scoresheet has carried his name 273 times in his 20-year club career, with a further 20 strikes at international level to boot.

He sits seventh on the all-time English Premier League goals list,

has turned out more than 50 times for his country and is universally revered for his off-the-field connection with Bradley Lowery.

But having been frozen out at Bournemouth, making just four substitute appearances in the league this season, the 36-year-old would be forgiven for wanting to revive his on-field reputation before his playing days are out.

How Rangers need him to. Twenty-goal Alfredo Morelos is the subject of widespread interest in the transfer window and back-up Kyle Lafferty's goalless streak now sits at 13 games.

Defoe's scoring touch could prove crucial in the run-in.

Darren Bent was a team-mate of Defoe's at Tottenham and with England, and saw first-hand just how dedicated he is to his craft.

And with Rangers now level on points at the top of the Ladbrokes Premiership, albeit having played a game more than Celtic, he believes this is exactly the sort of signing that can hand them the advantage in the chase for a first title in eight seasons.

There will be wider motivation too. Although Defoe would need to dethrone one of Harry Kane, Raheem Sterling or Marcus Rashford, Bent is not ruling out seeing his old team-mate earn an England recall while at Ibrox.

"I think him going to Rangers gives them the edge," said Bent. "He'll be something they've not seen for a long time, probably since Marco Negri."

"He's someone who can score goals. I know Jermain and he looks after himself. The main thing is he's in there, he's 36 and he's hungry. Even though he's in the twilight of his career, he'll have a point to prove. In his mindset, he'll want to score goals for Rangers if there's a chance of him getting back in the England squad."

Daily Mail



SA Rugby Sevens Academy faces Portugal in Cup QF

CAPE TOWN - The SA Rugby Sevens Academy team on Saturday finished second in pool B of the Sudamerica Rugby Sevens tournament in Punta del Este after securing victories against Russia (26-5) and Colombia (10-0) before suffering a narrow defeat against Uruguay (7-0).

This ensured that the team is still on track to defend the title they won in Uruguay last year, however, they will have to overcome Portugal in the Cup Quarter-final first, which will be played yesterday.

The side started well against Russia, where two tries by Donovan du Randt and Kurt-Lee Arendse respectively steered them to a convincing win. Their defence was breached only once in the clash as Russia scored a late try.

The team also kept the Colombians away from their tryline in their second match, in which Arendse limped off. A first-half try by Wayne van der Bank had South Africa 5-0 up at the break, and the victory was sealed when Heino Bezuidenhout scored early in the second half.

Colombia attacked well in the final minutes, but the good defence kept them at bay. In their final pool match, Uruguay scored the only try from way out, which had the locals up on their feet, while the Academy team lacked attacking options and missed Arendse. *Sport24*

BURKE JOINS CELTIC ON LOAN

GLASGOW - Celtic have signed winger Oliver Burke on loan from West Brom until the end of the season.

The 21-year-old Scotland international joined the Baggies from RB Leipzig in 2017. He has five caps for his country and has featured 21 times for the Baggies. Burke is joining up with Brendan Rodgers' squad in Dubai this week for their winter training camp.

West Brom's sporting and technical director Luke Dowling ruled out a permanent switch.

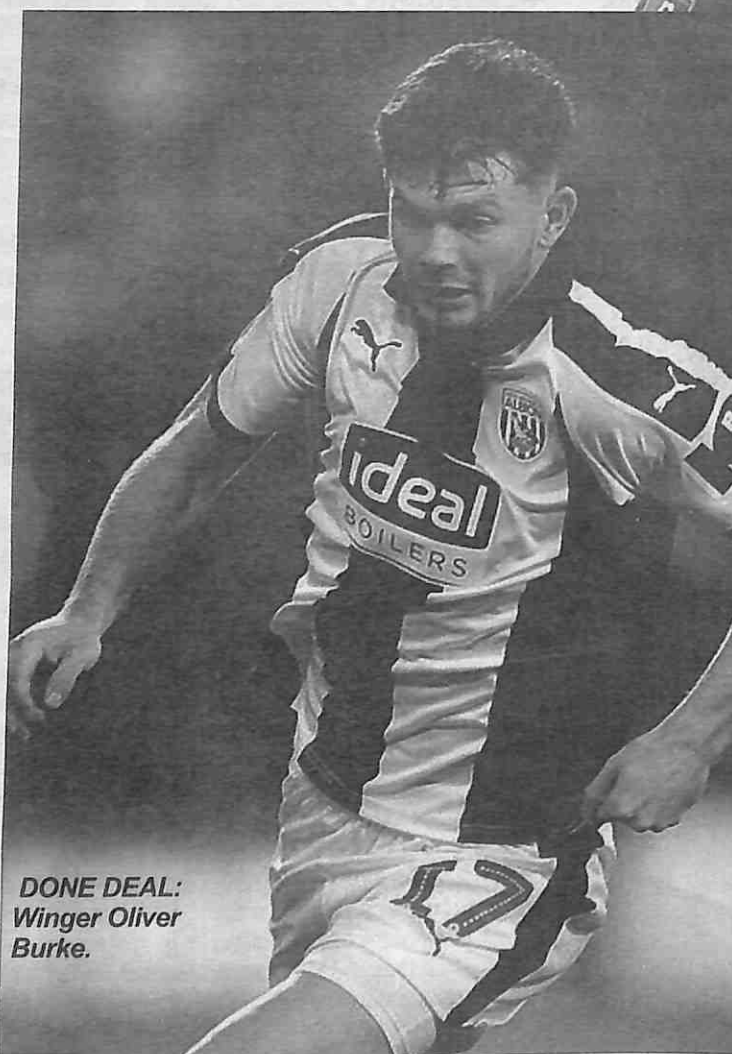
"To be fair to Oli, there have been a lot of changes at the club since his arrival which have not helped him," Dowling told the Baggies'

website.

"The opportunity to join a club of Celtic's stature on loan was felt by everyone to be the best pathway to help develop his career."

"Oli liked what Celtic had to offer and he has obviously got the opportunity to play on a great stage which should be of benefit to him."

"I would stress that there is no 'option to buy' clause at the end of the loan and he will be back with us at the end of the season." *Daily Mail*



DONE DEAL:
Winger Oliver Burke.



SHARP: Jermain Defoe.

Rugby Premiership threaten to split from the RFU

LONDON - Premiership Rugby have threatened a radical move to break away from the RFU and form their own independent league.

In board meeting minutes seen by The Mail yesterday, club chairmen discussed an 'unregulated competition' if the RFU refuse to scrap promotion and relegation.

Amid claims that the Championship is a 'monetary disaster', the clubs are becoming increasingly rebellious following a year of tension with the governing body. But a breakaway would jeopardise the £30million a year Professional Game Agreement with the RFU, sacrifice the game's framework and could prove catastrophic for the national team.

Board minutes stated: "If the RFU were to be unwilling to support change, we shall need to ensure access to match officials and player insurance cover (as this is a joint policy), as this would potentially become an unregulated competition." With private equity firm CVC due to imminently inject £200m of capital, top flight clubs are increasingly keen to ringfence the league to provide financial security.

Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone, who was consulted by CVC over the deal, told the Mail yesterday: "CVC will grow it to make a profit. If you got hold of the guys and tarted them up, it would be better than American football."

Daily Mail

FAF INSISTS: WE DON'T ASK FOR RIDICULOUS PITCHES



INSISTS: Faf du Plessis.

CAPE TOWN - Proteas skipper Faf du Plessis insists that he and coach Ottis Gibson do not ask ground staff for anything "ridiculous" when preparing pitches for home Test matches.

South Africa beat Pakistan by nine wickets in the second Test at Newlands yesterday morning, taking an unsailable 2-0 lead to win their seventh home Test series in a row.

Under the Du Plessis/Gibson era, which began when the West Indian took the reins in August 2017, there has been a spotlight on South African Test wickets. That conversation reached boiling point in last year's home series against India when the

third Test at the disastrous Wanderers strip very nearly saw the match called off because of its uneven and unpredictable bounce. After day two at Newlands last Friday, Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur took the issue even further by slamming the pitches in Cape Town and Centurion (the venue for the first Test) by saying that they were not up to Test match standards.

The bounce in Cape Town was uneven at times, but that didn't stop Du Plessis from carding a century on day two while there were no less than seven other scores of over 50 in the match.

"We never ask for ridiculous pitches. We just ask for pace and bounce," Du Plessis told media on Sunday morning after the win.

"You have to adapt your game and Temba (Bavuma) was a great example. In two Test matches in a row now on tough pitches he has scored runs and it shows you that it is possible if you apply yourself mentally and you have a technique."

Sport24



MADRID'S BALE INJURY MINOR

MADRID - Real Madrid were handed a boost on Saturday when tests on Gareth Bale's calf injury revealed only a grade-one tear.

Bale was forced off at half-time against Villarreal last Wednesday as Madrid were held to a 2-2 draw.

But the club have confirmed the problem is minor. Grade-one tears are the least severe of the three classifications. A statement read: "After

tests carried out today on our player Gareth Bale by the medical services of Real Madrid, he has been diagnosed with a grade-one injury in the left calf."

Bale missed the La Liga game against Real Sociedad yesterday and is unlikely to be risked against Leganes in the first leg of the Copa del Rey on Wednesday.

Madrid will hope to have him back

later this month, however, with league games against Real Betis, Sevilla and Espanyol to come. "We think the injury is not too serious," Solari said at a press conference earlier on Saturday.

"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 the Welshman's rhythm has been disrupted by fitness issues. He has made 22 appearances for Real but played 90 minutes only five times.

Bale's absence could mean a reprieve for Isco. He has been out of favour since Solari took charge but replaced the Welshman against Villarreal. *AFP*

Switzerland's Federer, Bencic win Hopman Cup again

SYDNEY - Roger Federer geared up for his Australian Open title defence in convincing fashion, guiding Switzerland to a 2-1 triumph over Germany on Saturday for their fourth Hopman Cup crown.

Federer and Belinda Bencic beat Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber 4-0 1-4 4-3(4) in the mixed doubles decider to win the trophy at the Perth Arena in a repeat of the 2018 final.

The world number three had earlier shown why he is a firm favourite for the season's first major, firing 24 winners and nine aces in a flawless 6-4 6-2 victory over ATP Finals champion Zverev.

Kerber too maintained her 100 per cent singles record with a 6-4 7-6(6) victory over Bencic to level the tie at 1-1, but the Germans failed to make the most of their opportunities as they went down in the tight mixed doubles rubber.

"I'm happy I'm feeling this good and playing as well as I am," said Federer, who has won the last two Australian Open titles after taking part in the mixed-team event.

Federer has beaten Frances Tiafoe, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Cameron Norrie and Zverev in straight sets and will be full of confidence heading into Melbourne Park later this month.

"It's good to finish on a singles per-



CHAMPS: Switzerland's Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic won the Hopman Cup for the second year in a row.

formance like this. I'm a bit surprised the matches have gone as well as they have," the 37-year-old added.

Success

It was Federer's third title success in the Hopman Cup, more than any other player, following victory in 2001 alongside then world number one Martina Hingis and last year's win with Bencic.

Federer and Bencic are also the first pair in the event's 31-year history to retain their title.

"I'm very happy about these records, but I didn't come here for that," 20-times major champion Federer said.

"What a thrill it was â not just the match point but also the whole match and the whole week. It's great fun.

"I'm happy, I'm proud to represent my country. It's been a super pleasure teaming with Belinda."

Switzerland's first win in the competition was secured by Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere and Jakob Hlasek in 1992. *Daily Mail*

Kevin Anderson wins sixth title in great start to the year

PUNE - The 32-year-old South African clinched his sixth tour-level title after two hours and 44 minutes, recovering from 2/5 down in the final-set tie-break to beat Ivo Karlovic 7-6(4), 6-7(2), 7-6(5) in the tallest ATP Tour final in the Open Era.

Breaking the record previously set by Anderson and John Isner at the 2013 BB&T Atlanta Open, 6'8" Anderson won 88 per cent of first-serve points (57/65) to overcome 6'11" Karlovic.

"I really wanted to go one step further than last year... You don't get to win tournaments every week, so when you do it is very special and it is something that definitely means a lot to me," said Anderson at the trophy ceremony. Now 7-1 in Pune, Anderson notched his fourth victory in five FedEx ATP Head2Head meetings against the 39-year-old to improve his record in tour-level finals to 6-13. Last year, Anderson reached a personal-best five championship matches on the ATP Tour, picking up titles in New York and Vienna en route to his maiden appearance at the season-ending Nitto ATP Finals in London.

In a set with few opportunities on return for either man, Anderson earned the only break points of the set in the

tenth game. The South African connected on multiple returns and fired passing shots past the World No. 100 to manufacture two set points. Despite being unable to take advantage of either opportunity, Anderson soon moved into a one-set lead.

The World No 6 capitalised on a costly double fault from Karlovic to earn the first mini-break of the tie-break before immediately doubling his advantage for a 5/2 lead. A low return placed at the laces of his opponent opened up the three-point gap, with Anderson eventually taking the first set courtesy of another double fault from his opponent.

Pressure

Once again, Anderson applied pressure to Karlovic's serve in the second set. But, despite earning four break points, the South African was unable to avoid a second tie-break as Karlovic found success charging the net under pressure. From there, Karlovic levelled the match as Anderson leaked uncharacteristic errors on his serve and forehand. After Karlovic saved two championship points at 5-6 (15/40) with back-to-back aces, a final-set tie-break was required to decide the champion. Karlovic opened up an early lead and showed his best form at the net to establish a 5/2 advantage. *African News Agency*



INGWENYAMA CUP 2018/19



Tinyosi FC vs Mbabane Citizens



TIGHT MARKING: Tinyosi FC's Mangaliso Nkambule marking Mbabane Citizens' Mancoba Vilakati during the Ingwenyama Cup last 16 match at Somhlolo National Stadium. Tinyosi won 5-2 after penalties. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



NET: Well beaten Citizens goalkeeper Sandile Dlamini during the penalties shoot-out.



YES: Ingaja in jubilation at the stadium.



THROUGH: Tinyosi players in full sprint after qualifying for the quarterfinals.



STING: Fans join Tinyosi FC in celebrating their victory against Citizens.



GOOD TO SEE YOU: Sihlangu coach Kostandin Papic exchanges pleasantries with Eswatini Football Association Vice President Dr Comfort Shongwe.

Ubombo Flyers vs Manzini Sundowns



PULLING: Ubombo Flyers' Sizwe Maziya marking Manzini Sundowns' Mzwandile Mzileni during the Ingwenyama Cup match at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Sundowns won 1-0.



EXIT DOOR: Flyers' Lucky Dlamini being red carded by the referee for rough play.



BASOP! Sundowns players celebrating their goal.



TACKLE: Flyers' Sanele Nhlabatsi rough plays Sundowns' Mzwandile Mzileni.



ONE IS ENOUGH: Sundowns scores their lone and winning goal against Flyers.



INGWENYAMA CUP 2018/19



Mbabane Highlanders vs Vovovo



WAR ZONE: Riot police arrive to maintain order when Mbabane Highlanders and Vovovo FC teams clashed before the start of their game in the Ngwenyama Cup last 16 at Nsukuwansuku Stadium over the weekend. The game was cancelled due to faulty lights. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



THANK YOU: Mbabane Highlanders players seem to thank their supporters before the start of the game.



SHOWDOWN: Mbabane Highlanders and Vovovo FC players in a heated argument.



CHIP: Landers Vusimuzi Zungu chips the ball away from Vovovo's Timanga Mangwe.



READY: Vovovo FC and Mbabane Highlanders players enter the field of play before their clash.



JOY: Vovovo FC supporters celebrate their goal before it was disallowed.



CLASH: Soccer fans in a confrontation during the course of the game.

Matsapha United vs Moneni



TIGHT: Matsapha United and Moneni Pirates players fighting for the ball during the Ingwenyama Cup last 16 game played at Nsukuwansuku Stadium on Saturday. Matsapha United won the game 1-0. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



SAFE: Match officials being escorted at the end of the game.



SHOT: Matsapha United's Sifiso Dlamini takes a shot, while Moneni's Akhona Siibandze tries to block him.



BEATEN: Moneni Pirates' goalkeeper Siyabonga Zwane left helpless as Matsapha United players celebrate their only goal for the game.



LET'S MOVE: Moneni Pirates star Mphucuko Dlamini moves with ball, while Matsapha United players close in.



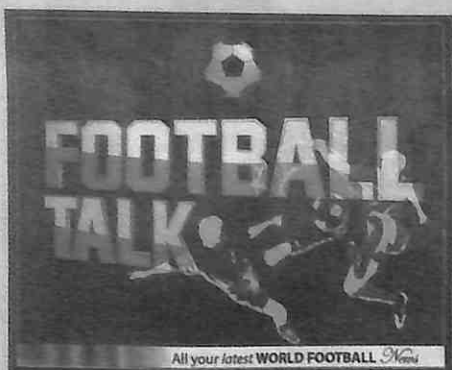
TOUGH LUCK: Moneni Pirates' Mphucuko Dlamini being comforted by Matsapha United Thami Zulu at the end of the game.



FORMER: Former MPs Sifiso Magagula and Sicelo Jele were also present.



SHIELD: Matsapha United's Clement Sibandze shields the ball away from Moneni's Zombodze Dlamini.



● Chelsea are set to make a £50m bid for Paris St Germain's Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani, 31.

(Sunday Express)

● Arsenal have opened talks with Barcelona over Spanish midfielder Denis Suarez and are hopeful of signing the 24-year-old in the January transfer window.

(Observer)

● Gunners Manager Unai Emery also wants to sign a defender and a winger.

(Mail on Sunday)

● Fulham are keen on Liverpool striker Divock Origi and are prepared to pay £15m for the 23-year-old Belgium international.

(Sun on Sunday)



● Bournemouth will reject any offers from Chelsea this month for England striker Callum Wilson, 26.

(Sunday Mirror)

● Chelsea will miss 31-year-old midfielder Cesc Fabregas, who is "one of the best players to have played in England for many, many years", says the Blues' Brazil defender David Luiz. Spain international Fabregas is expected to join French side Monaco.

(Talksport)

● Atletico Madrid Manager Diego Simeone says he is working on a deal to keep 32-year-old Uruguay defender Diego Godin, who is a target for Manchester United, at the Spanish club.

(Sunday Express)

● Former Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho has turned down the Benfica job after the Portuguese club sacked Rui Vitoria this week.

(Record - in Portuguese)

● Another former United manager, David Moyes, is interested in becoming Stoke City boss.

(Daily Star Sunday)

● Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich could have bought Arsenal rather than the Blues 16 years ago but was mistakenly told the Gunners were not for sale by Swiss bankers.

(Sun on Sunday)

● Inter Milan have held talks with Sampdoria over 22-year-old Danish defender Joachim Andersen, who has been linked with Tottenham.

(Corriere dello Sport, via Inside Futbol)

● Porto's 25-year-old midfielder Juan Quintero, who has spent the past three seasons on loan with clubs in France and his native Colombia, and is now in Argentina with River Plate, says his agent has met Manchester City officials to discuss a possible deal.

(Sunday Mirror)



● West Ham are planning a bid to sign Inter Milan's Italy midfielder Antonio Candreva, 31.

(Corriere dello Sport - in Italian)

NSUKUWANSUKU NOT FIT FOR 'BIG GAMES' - MAGIYANE

By Jongile Xuba

SOCCER – Vovovo coach 'Gcina' Magiyane Dlamini says the Nsukuwansuku Stadium is too small to cater for such big games.

Interviewed after the cancellation of their Ingwenyama Cup last 16 clash against Mbabane Highlanders on Saturday, the coach said the incident proved that the stadium is not fit for high intense games.

Tense

"The match was too tense for the few security officers that were provided on the day. This stadium is too small to accommodate a critical game like this and I am glad that the organisers

saw first-hand what happens when they don't find a proper venue," he said.

He further urged that proper research be done when picking venues to avoid such.

Clashed

The coach was referring to the incident where Highlanders and Vovovo supporters clashed as the two sides went to the dressing before the start of the game.

The brawl resulted in the first clash of the day pitting Matsapha United against Moneni Pirates being halted for about 15 minutes as the situation got out of hand.

The game between the two sides was eventually cancelled due to a faulty light system at the stadium.



TOO SMALL: Vovovo coach Gcina 'Magiyane' Dlamini.



HOSTS: Coaches Linda Hlophe and Zithande's Nsizwa Thwala conversing during last year's edition of the Comrades Marathon camp. Hlophe will lead the SA runners at the camp.

ZITHANDE HOST SA COMRADES RUNNERS NEXT MONTH

By Qondile Ntiwane

ATHLETICS – Close to 20 Athletes from South Africa have confirmed their participation in the Eswatini Comrades Training Camp to be hosted by Zithande Athletics Club.

The training camp is in preparation for the renowned long distance race held in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa in June 2019.

Zithande coach Nsizwa Thwala yesterday said a total of 18 athletes had shown interest in the event slated for January 13-14.

"18 athletes have already confirmed their presence in our camp and we look forward to hosting them. This run is a unity in action as the SA runners come from many different clubs.

We have also invited athletes from different clubs in the country to come and be part of this challenge," he said.

Thwala said the two day camp would include a 50km and 15km race on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

Achievement

The camp will be hosted by Thwala and coach Linda Hlophe who recently won the SABC sport award for volunteer of the year.

On another note, Thwala announced that they would be hosting an event to celebrate their achievement next weekend.

"We will be hosting our end-of-year event in Manzini next weekend and we hope to have a fruitful event," he said.

'UNNECESSARY BRAWL KILLED OUR MOMENTUM'

By Jongile Xuba

SOCCER – Moneni Pirates coach Terisayi Changara believes the senseless fight between Mbabane Highlanders and Vovovo fans contributed to his sides 1-0 loss to Matsapha United.

It was a second half goal by Sandile Magongo that sent the Buccaneers packing at the Nsukuwansuku Stadium in Mhlume on Saturday afternoon.

Prior to the goal, the match had to be paused for 15 minutes, due to a fight between Highlanders and Vovovo fans.

Changara believes had it not been for the delay his team would have managed to break down the opposition and score as they were the attacking team when the incident occurred.

"We were pressing really well

and had a lot of attacking threat. The fighting really disturbed our momentum because we spent 15 minutes waiting for an unnecessary fight to stop," he said.

Unfortunate

He said he was happy with his charges performance and that they were unfortunate not to capitalise on multiple chances.

Meanwhile on the opposite bench Matsapha United assistant coach Siphwe Nxumalo said the game was balanced and they used their single chance to win the game.

"All you need in football is one chance and we took ours very well. The game could have gone either way but I'm happy we managed to win it," he said.

Nxumalo added that they were not going to get ahead of themselves moving into the quarter-finals and that they were ready for any opponent.

Defending champs Manyatsi Nhleko QS take on ESRIC in Business league

By Qondile Ntiwane

GOLF – Defending Champions of the Eswatini Royal Insurance Corporation (ESRIC) Business League Manyatsi Nhleko QS will kick start their quest to defend the title against the sponsor ESRIC.

This will be during the first games of the year slated for the Royal Swazi Golf Club at Ezulwini on Wednesday.

Other fixtures to be played on the day include EEC against ERG while Liberty have a date against Eswatini Beverages.

Amadi Ecolibri will take on Royal Swazi while Sekusile Insurance Brokers has been pitted against Africa Chicks in the 13th tee off.

League coordinator Banele Mtetwa said yesterday that tee off would be at 11:30pm.

THE FIXTURES

1st tee	SRIC (sponsor)	vs	Manyatsi Nhleko QS (Champions)
3/4th	EEC	vs	ERG
5th	UHS	vs	Previc
6/7th	Liberty	vs	Eswatini Beverages
8th tee	Amadi Ecolibri	vs	Royal Swazi
9th	Eswatini Railways	vs	Ecopoint
10th	GBL	vs	Lasion
12th	SBC	vs	Pots Construction
13th	Sekusile	vs	Africa Chicks
14/15th	SRIC 'B'	vs	Asakhiwe
16th	Gelp	vs	Eswatini Mobile
17th	Mashayinkonjane	vs	Standard Bank



CITIZENS BOOTED OUT BY TINYOSI FC

By Mthunzi Maziya

Citizens..... (0)1,
Tinyosi..... (0)1.
(Tinyosi won 5-2 after penalties)

SOCCER – Premier league rookies Mbabane Citizens FC were booted out of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup by First Division side Tinyosi FC at Somhlolo National stadium yesterday.

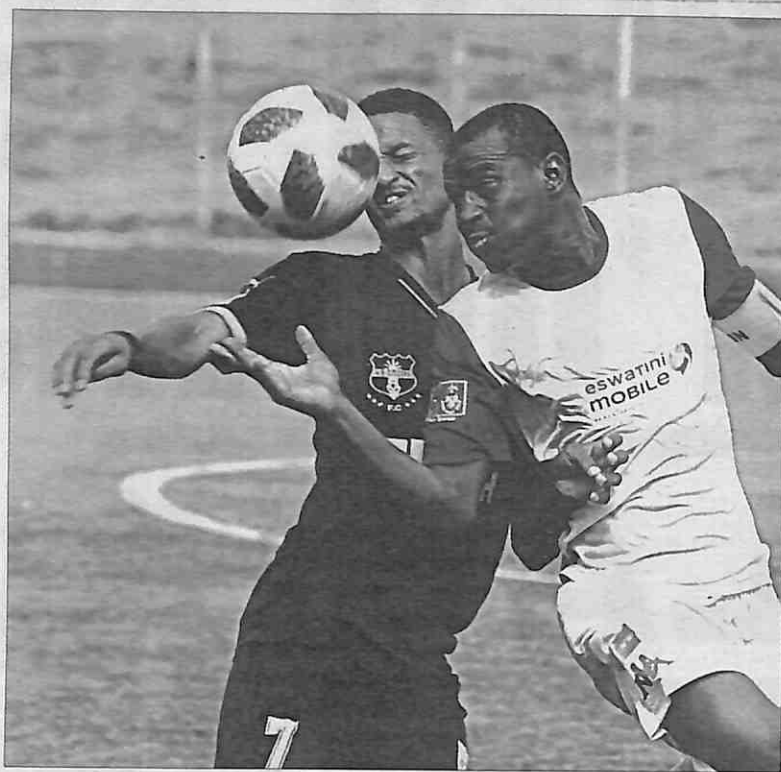
The match was decided through a penalty shoot-out after a drab 90 minutes, in which both sides failed to find any rhythm. Tinyosi equalised in the 88th minute of the game when all those in attendance thought Citizens would justify their status as a premier league team by prevailing.

Started

The game started on very low note with both teams struggling to stage any meaningful attacks, and appeared to be headed for penalties from the very first whistle.

There were, however, flimsy chances on both ends, not good enough to threaten though. From one such, Andile Sukati pulled his shot wide in the 13th minute for Citizens. Tinyosi went close to scoring after 26 minutes when Bongumenzi Dlamini's shot was saved by the sprawling legs of Sandile Dlamini in Citizens' goal. Citizens were then forced into an early substitution when Ponda Mwamba was injured in a collision in the 32nd minute. His replacement, Samkeliso Dlamini did little to affect the game, leading to the teams heading to the interval with the score locked at 0-0.

At the resumption, neither side showed a sense of urgency as the game maintained the drab pace of the first stanza. There was a glimmer of hope in 55 minutes when Lungelo Mngometulu tried to loop the keeper from close range,



HEADER: Citizens' Samkeliso Dlamini and Tinyosi's Thembinkosi Maseko battling for the ball.

only to see his shot drift just wide of the left upright. A minute later, Timothy 'Timo' Mathonsi's header missed the top corner by a few inches. That was the closest the match came to a goal.

The first goal of the match eventually came in the 63rd minute. A nice move by Citizens on the left flank led to Andile Sukati setting up former Mbabane Highlanders striker Mancoba Vilakati for the opening goal.

If any of the teams deserved a goal at this stage, it was Citizens, but the question was whether they could maintain the lead or not. They failed as Simphiwe Makama stole an equaliser for Tinyosi with a goal against the run of play with virtually no time remaining, to send the

game to penalties. Tinyosi scored from all their kicks, whilst Citizens missed through Ayanda Mngomezulu and Sizwe Khumalo to hand their opponents a 5-2 victory overall.

TEAMS

Citizens – Sandile Dlamini, Wandile Sacolo, Ayanda, Siyabonga, Dan Shabangu, Andile Sukati, Ponda Mwamba (Samkeliso Dlamini), Lungelo, Bongani Matsenjwa, Siswe Khumalo, Mancoba.

Tinyosi – Muzikayise Msetfwa, Simphiwe Makhanya, Msimisi, Steven Maluleka, Thembinkosi Maseko, Mangaliso, Bongumenzi, Timothy Mathonsi, Mphumelelo (Simphiwe), Lwazi Dlamini (Sibusiso Dlamini), Wandile Mafuleka (Bongani Sibande).

Bring on any team- 'TT'

By Mthunzi Maziya

SOCCER – Mbabane Swallows' attacking mid-fielder Tony 'TT' Tsabedze says they are ready for any team in the quarterfinals of the Ingwenyama Cup.

Speaking after a not so convincing 2-0 victory against Rangers FC at King Sobhuza II stadium on Saturday, Tsabedze said they had no special preference of any of the teams that have qualified for the last eight. He said they would not put themselves under any pressure to defend the cup, but would treat all their opponents with respect.

"It is not a secret that we would like to be successful again by winning the competition, but that does

not mean we are under pressure. We will take each game as it comes, and give it the best effort we can," he said.

'TT' added that personally, he was looking forward to the quarterfinals of the Ingwenyama Cup.

"We have worked very hard to improve during the break, and are optimistic that we shall do well from now going forward," he said.

Swallows have a date against Manzini Sundowns in the MTN league this week, and it is expected that they would have known the kind of opposition they would face in the quarterfinals of the knockout competition ahead of that game.



'Koki' unhappy with players' attitude

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER – Manzini Wanderers coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati is not pleased with the attitude of some of his players.

The coach said this after seeing his charges crash out of the Ingwenyama Cup following a 0-2 loss at the hands of Royal Leopard.

"I am not happy with the attitude of my players and that is something we need to sort out. I don't mind having 11 committed player and lose the rest if a push comes to shove. The players need to change their mindsets.

"We were disjointed and I think this loss has proven to us how much work we still need to do in the team. Nonetheless, congratulations to Leopard, the best team won on the day," he said.

Meanwhile, his Leopard counterpart Edwin Matsebula applauded his boys for a job well done.

"They executed the game plan perfectly. The plan was to push them hard in their own half and we did that flawlessly. They couldn't match us in any department, and I think if we build from this performance, there is a chance of us going all the way through," he said.

Open grounds worry coaches

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCER – Local coaches have expressed concern over big games being hosted in open ground, something they say is a danger to players.

Manzini Wanderers coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati noted after their Ingwenyama Cup encounter at the M a y a l u k a Stadium on Saturday that the decision to do so must be reconsidered by those responsible.

"The players are not safe in such conditions. You can never ever take such a game, a knockout cup match for that matter to an open ground. This is not good for our players as it endangers their lives.

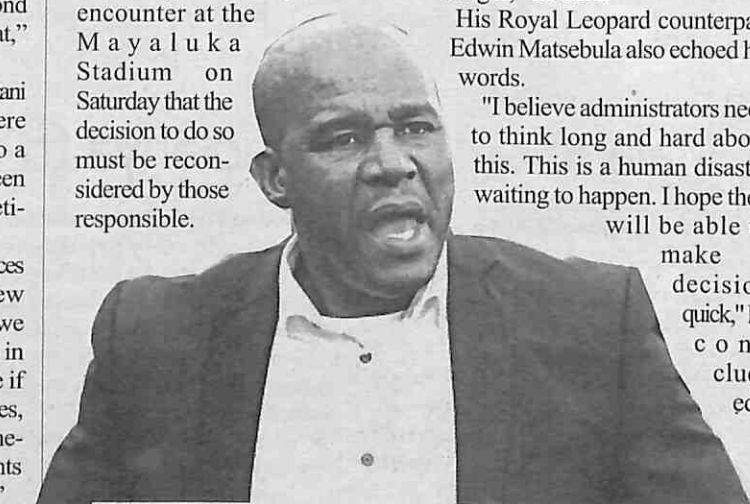
Administrators

"The administrators need to properly plan this because we can't be exposing so many lives to so much danger," he said.

His Royal Leopard counterpart Edwin Matsebula also echoed his words.

"I believe administrators need to think long and hard about this. This is a human disaster waiting to happen. I hope they will be able to

make a decision quick," he concluded.



UNHAPPY: Manzini Wanderers coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati.

Bull, Vovovo replay tomorrow

By Qondile Ntiwane

SOCCER – The Ingwenyama Cup last 16 replay encounter pitting Mbabane Highlanders against Vovovo will be played at the Mavuso Sports Centre tomorrow night.

The game will kick off at 6.30pm. This was confirmed by Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) CEO Simanga Nhleko yesterday. "The game will now be played at Mavuso on Tuesday night," he said briefly. The clash, initially billed for the Nsukuwansuku Stadium at Mhlume on Saturday, was called off by referee Mbongiseni Fakudze about 20 minutes into the second half following a power cut at the stadium. No goal had been scored at the time by either of the two capital city based sides.

Second goal was crucial – Manyatsi

By Mthunzi Maziya

SOCCER – Mbabane Swallows' coach Musa Manyatsi has said his team's second goal was crucial for them to beat Rangers FC and qualify for the quarterfinals of the Ingwenyama Cup.

In a post-match interview, Manyatsi admitted that his team produced a lacklustre display, but said the performance was good enough to warrant a victory. This was a last 16 tie for the Sincemphetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF) Cup at King Sobhuza II stadium in Nhlanguano on Saturday.

The coach added that his team had given Rangers a chance to come back into the game in the second half, but getting the second goal tallied with

their plan.

"It was a game of two halves as they attempted to comeback in the second half, but we did well to get the second goal before they could pose any threat," he said.

“

"It was a game of two halves as they attempted to comeback in the second half."

thing from this game as our opponents had their own fair share of problems," he said. The quarterfinal draw for the competition is expected this week.

RESULTS

Ingwenyama Cup
Malanti Chiefs 3-1 Madlenya
Sundowns 1-0 Ubombo Flyers
Tinyosi 1-1 Citizens
(Tinyosi won 5-2 after penalties)

FIXTURES

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE

Saturday at Killarney Sports Ground			
Malanti Chiefs	vs	Mbabane Citizens	3pm
Saturday at Prince of Wales Ground			
Vovovo	vs	Sea Birds	3pm
Saturday at Nkomo Stadium			
Matsapha United	vs	Green Mamba	3pm
Saturday at Mavuso Sports Centre			
Moneni Pirates	vs	Royal Leopard	2pm
Manzini Wanderers	vs	Young Buffaloes	4pm
Saturday at Somhlolo National Stadium			
Mbabane Highlanders	vs	Tambuti	2pm
Manzini Sundowns	vs	Mbabane Swallows	4pm

Sundowns escape with 1-0 against Flyers

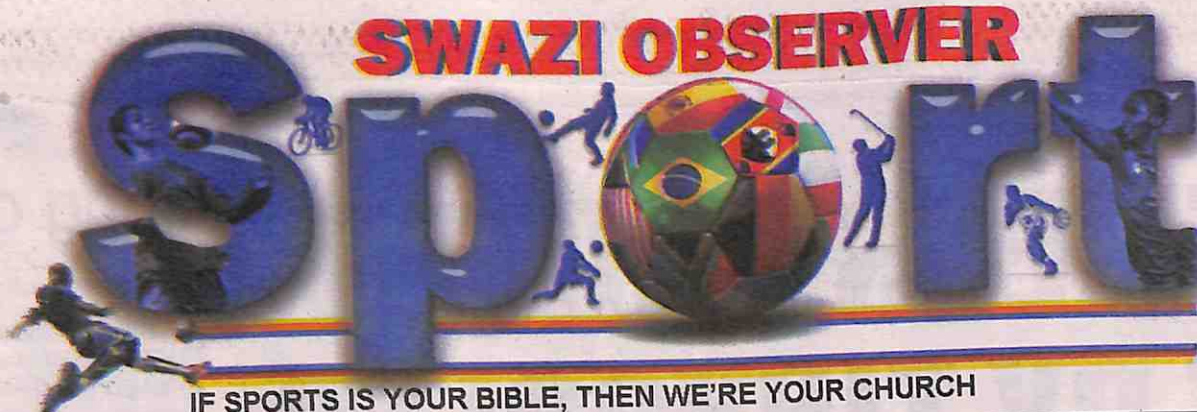
By Mthunzi Maziya

Mzn. Sundowns..... (0)1,
Ubombo Flyers..... (0)0.

SOCCER – Manzini Sundowns were made to work very hard for their 1-0 win over Ubombo Flyers at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

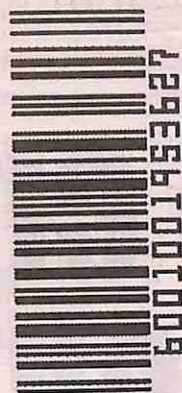
This was a game in the last 16 of this year's Sincemphetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF) knock-out tournament. Flyers showed the opposition no respect in the early stages as they stood their own, only falling short in the final third. Sundowns also started well and had a goal dis-allowed in the fifth minute when Phumlani Dlamini appeared to legitimately tap in from a rebound, but his strike was dis-allowed for off-side. Flyers continued to press forward after the early scare but were undone in the 35th minute when their mid-fielder Lucky Dlamini was shown a second yellow card and received his marching orders. The Lubombo-based side refused to allow this to dispirit them as they continued to frustrate the opposition, deploying an impregnable line at the back. They did well to go to the break at 0-0 given the circumstances. The start of the second half brought no difference to the proceedings, forcing Sundowns into a double change in 58 minutes.

Frank Antwi and Vusumuzi Mashaba came on for Sibonginkhosi Dlamini and Enzo Motsa, respectively. The change appeared to spur the Kappa Boys as they began to spring a few passes together but still could not find a breakthrough. Flyers appeared to prioritise defence after going one man short a strategy that seems to favour them. However, Sundowns eventually found the breakthrough in the 67th minute when substitute, Mashaba latched onto a rebound from Antwi's shot to tap into an empty net. At this point, a goal for Flyers appeared far-fetched as any form of ambition to go forward could have left them open at the back, hence the possibility to concede more goals. They did, however, venture forward and Siboniso Khumalo had a good chance to score in the 72nd minute but he shot over the bar unmarked on the edge of the box. The Lubombo outfit had a glorious chance to equalise in the 83rd minute when Simanga Kutsembe found himself unmarked right on the goal-line but failed to tap in a cross from Sibusiso Shongwe. They appeared to smell blood in the latter stages of the game, but eventually failed to get the equaliser as Sundowns deservedly celebrated progress to the quarterfinals.



IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

Monday January 7, 2019



SIKHALI, PALMA FOR 'DOWNS



... 'Birds' duo set to feature in team's league clash against Manzini Sundowns on Saturday

By Mthunzi Maziya

SOCCER – The wait is over.

Mbabane Swallows will finally welcome striker Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa, who is set to return to action this weekend.

'Sikhali' who has been out of action for over a year now due to a head injury, was given the green light by his doctors at the Manzini Clinic about a month ago.

Also expected back on the field is defender Mandla Palma, who has been out of the action for close to two months now due to a knee injury.

The two stars will make their return this coming weekend when the red and white side takes on Manzini Sundowns in a league encounter slated for the Somhlolo National Stadium on Saturday.

Swallows' coach Musa Manyatsi stated that both players were due to play during the team's Ingwenyama Cup clash against

Rangers at the King Sobhuza II Stadium in Nhlanguano on Saturday, but could not make it after failing a late fitness test.

The return of the duo is set to be a major boost to Swallows as they have struggled for goals in recent matches and lost league games to Green Mamba and Vovovo FC, respectively.

Available

"We expected the two players to be available for our game on Saturday, but after observing them in training, we decided against risking them. They should be ready when the league resumes this week," he said.

Manyatsi also pointed out that the break had given them enough time to work on the discrepancies that led to them losing key matches towards the end of last year. He said he hoped they would use their win in the Ingwenyama Cup as a spring board to improve in the league. "We still have to improve in a few areas, includ-

ing our finishing, but overall, I am happy with the direction the team is taking," he said. Ndzinisa has been out of action for a good part of two years, while Palma was injured towards the end of 2018.

WE ARE BACK: Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa and Mandla Palma.



Malanti outclass Madlenya to reach last eight

By Jongile Xuba

Malanti Chiefs.... (1)3
Madlenya..... (0)1

SOCCER – Malanti Chiefs cruised to the last eight of the Ingwenyama Cup after outclassing Madlenya with a 3-1 victory at the Killarney Sports

Ground in Pigg's Peak yesterday.

It was an early goal by Binwell Katinji that gave Malanti the confidence to dominate proceedings. The striker whizzed into the box before connecting a pass from Thokozani Dlamini, beating goalkeeper Mndeni Lukhele hands down.

Madlenya could have equalised 12 minutes into play but a Thabo Masuku

header was cleared by Malanti's Thokozani.

Home ground advantage really worked wonders for the black and gold outfit as they gave a spirited performance in the last half.

Stopped

Binwell almost made it two minutes into the stanza but effort was stopped by the National First Division outfit's

goalkeeper, who did his best in trying to maintain a respectable score-line with some brilliant saves.

Malanti winger Sandile Mazibuko proved to be constant headache to the opposition, sending in deadly crosses from the right flank.

Deflected

One of the crosses found Lindokuhle Fakudze, who rifled a shot at goal which deflected on Thokozani, before landing at the back of the net in the

58th minute. Mazibuko again orchestrated the third for Malanti seven minutes later and this time his cross found Binwell alone in the box, but his shot was parried back into play by Lukhele only for it to land on the feet of Fakudze, who rounded off the play with a cool finish. Madlenya did not despair and continued to attack, eventually pulling one back through Mlungisi Dlamini two minutes before time but the damage had already been done.