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DAMAGE: Some of the classrooms whose windows were destroyed by the angry pupils at Mhubhe High School. **INSET:** Files which were in the offices at the administration block were also torched. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

PUPILS RIOT, SCHOOL CLOSED

STORY ON
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MPs APPROVE SIN TAX HIKE

Page 2

LAMNYAMA HARVEST MFABANTFU

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AfCFTA TECHNICAL TEAM ARRIVES TODAY

BY ALEC LUSHABA
Mbabane

THE Kingdom of Eswatini today welcomes the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Technical Evaluation Team.

This was announced by E. Nathi Dlamini, Chairperson of AfCFTA National Steering Committee yesterday.

"The 10-member delegation arrives this evening through the King Mswati III International Airport and leaves on Sunday.

"They shall spend the next two days of their stay visiting various key establishments around the country with a particular focus on telecommunications, finance, hospitality, health and education, amongst others," Dlamini stated

in a statement released last night.

Dlamini, who also serves as Business Eswatini Chief Executive Officer, said the team would further assess the offices earmarked for the Secretariat as well as the capacity of the country to host in terms of conferencing and residential accommodation. It is worth noting that the country has earmarked the former Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA) headquarters, Mbabane Office Park, as the ideal offices bloc to house the AfCFTA Secretariat. The offices are adjacent the iconic 'Ship out of the Ocean' Hilton Garden Inn situated within walking distance from government ministries, the city centre and the Mbabane Government Referral Hospital. Dlamini stated that in between their site visits, the Technical Evaluation Team would also meet the AfCFTA National Steering Committee and other major players mentioned in

the country's bid such as Cabinet, the judiciary and diplomats in order to better understand the country in terms of its readiness to host a Secretariat of this magnitude.

"Leading the Technical Evaluation Team is Technical Advisor on Regional Integration of the Bureau of the African Union Commission Ambassador Rossette Nyirinkindi-Katungye.

Experience

"Ambassador Katungye boasts over 30 years experience in foreign service having served in key managerial positions such as Deputy Head of Mission at the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations in Geneva; in New York as a Counsellor and Minister Counsellor; and Director of the Uganda Export Promotion Board.

"She also served as a Director for Regional Cooperation, in charge of

Africa and the Middle East, supervising Ugandan ambassadors in the region as well as on Uganda's African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Governing Council as a trained lawyer, environmentalist and human rights expert, with extensive experience in organising international conferences. She holds a Master of Science Degree, Diploma in Legal Practice and several Post-Graduate Certificates in different specialisations," Dlamini said of the ambassador's credentials.

He said she would be joined by representatives of various major continental organisations in the area of legal, trade, human resource, finance, policy formulation and administration.

Dlamini said there would also be representatives of the African

Development Bank (AfDB) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

"As a National Steering Committee, we would like to thank Their Majesties for taking the bold decision to express the kingdom's interest in hosting the AfCFTA Secretariat. Even though we are competing against six other nations, who by all intents and purposes are equally capable of hosting such a coveted organ, we are confident that we stand a very good chance of winning. We continue to rely on the support of the entire nation towards achieving this goal. As such, we would like to urge every Liswati to join us in welcoming our visitors and show them the hospitality that is synonymous with Emaswati," Dlamini stated.

MPs support sin tax hike

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI
Lobamba

IF you are a consumer of alcohol and/or tobacco products, brace yourself for paying an additional seven per cent on the products.

This transpired yesterday when the Members of Parliament (MPs) passed the Alcohol and Tobacco Levy Bill No. 6 of 2019.

This was after the House of Assembly Finance Sessional Committee tabled a report, which they debated at committee stage. The Bill is still to be tabled in Senate by Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg before it can be considered as an Act of Parliament.

According to the Bill, the seven per cent

levy would apply on alcohol and tobacco products that would be imported into the country. However, other MPs were of the view that the levy should be staggered by four per cent this year and three per cent in the next financial year.

On the locally produced products, the legislators suggested that the levy should be staggered by one per cent this financial year and another one per cent added in the next financial year.

Imported alcoholic beverages of all kinds, other than traditional beer, would be subjected to the seven per cent levy. Manufactured tobacco in the form of cigars, cheroots, cigarillos, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, and snuff would also be subjected to a levy of seven per cent.

A levy of two per cent, according to the Bill, would be imposed on alcoholic bev-

erages of all kinds that have been produced in the country.

Manufactured tobacco in the form of cigars, cheroots, cigarillos, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, and snuff made in the country would also be subjected to a levy of two per cent.

However, the alcohol and tobacco products that would be made for the purposes of export will not be subjected to the two per cent levy.

The Bill required everyone plying his or her trade under the tobacco or alcohol industry to apply to register as a taxable person to the commissioner general of Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA). The provisions of the value added tax (VAT) Act of 2011 will also apply to the administration and collection of tax under this Bill.

Premier supports alcohol, tobacco levy

PRIME Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini supports the seven per cent levy on alcohol and tobacco products.

The prime minister said the increment would help in alleviating the violence that was promoted by the consumption of such products.

He said these products could cause many people to suffer from some health complications as consumption of them could see some infected with certain deadly diseases.

The premier further blamed these products for causing a decline in productivity in work places once consumed. He fur-

ther said gender-based violence at home-steads was rife because in most cases, individuals abused these products. He said the seven per cent levy imposition was likely to discourage moderate users from indulging in these products.

Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo said it was true that businesses were complaining about the seven per cent levy. However, he said such should not discourage government from taking hard decisions of imposing the levy.

He said it was important for government to also look at what was happening in the

region. He said Lesotho was planning at imposing a levy of 15 per cent on these products and South Africa was planning on a higher percentage than that of the country. That was why he was of the idea that the seven per cent was the right choice.

Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati said tobacco and alcohol products were not necessary products. This meant people could live without them, hence there was no need for government to go out of its way to protect such industries. He was speaking in support of the seven per cent proposed by government.

'Support govt in roadmap to economic recovery'

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

PUBLIC sector associations have been urged to support government as it launches its strategic roadmap to economic recovery.

This request was made by the Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini yesterday during a consultative meeting which he held with other stakeholders, including PSAs.

PSAs included Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU), National Public Service and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU) and Swaziland National Association of Government Accounting Personnel (SNAGAP).

During the meeting, the prime minister deliberated on the Economic Revival Roadmap which will be launched on Monday at Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre.

Worth noting is that the call towards the Economic Revival RoadMap was made by His Majesty King Mswati III during the official opening of the 11th Parliament held at Lobamba on 8th February.

His Majesty said in an endeavour to work towards the economic development of the kingdom, the government has developed a strategic roadmap which highlights the key sectors that are crucial for the revival of the economy.

His Majesty said the key sectors include, but are not limited to; energy and mining, information communication technology, education,



SUPPORT: PM Ambrose Dlamini.

tourism, manufacturing and agro-processing.

He said the key priority themes would focus on improving the ease of doing business, enforcing fiscal prudence, building infrastructure capacity, delivering social impact, and building a culture of service excellence.

"For this to be successful, we encourage the spirit of togetherness as a nation as this will no doubt contribute immensely to finding creative and innovative ways of turning our economy around," His Majesty the King said.

He said government would unveil the entire strategic roadmap in due course for the nation to be well versed and be able to monitor its progress continuously.

Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane confirmed the meeting which was in preparation for the launch to be held on Monday. He said the launch would be held at Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre.

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MHUBHE PUPILS RIOT, SCHOOL CLOSED

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

MHUBHE High School, in the Manzini region, has been closed indefinitely.

This follows a violent pupils' protest, which in fact, started on Tuesday when the school re-opened for the second-term, where pupils are said to have distributed pamphlets and a petition making damning allegations against the school Principal, Agrippa Dlamini.

Manzini Regional Education Officer Mlimi Mamba confirmed that the school was closed indefinitely.

He announced that there will be a parents meeting on Tuesday to attend to the issues affecting the school.

Yesterday, the situation just turned ugly when the pupils vandalised property and aimed stones at their principal.

Information gathered was that it was just before 8am when the bell rang for pupils to go to the assembly square.

Just when pupils were preparing to heed the bell, it is said that stones were hurled at the roofing of some classrooms near the administration block.

Some eyewitnesses said while pupils were startled by the noise, they saw some stones hurled at their head teacher, who was at the school yard when this happened.

Luckily, sources said the head teacher quickly ran for cover in other classrooms that were away from the ones that were attacked by the angry mob.

As if that was not shocking enough, another group of pupils is said to have stormed the administration block and wreaked havoc.

They are said to have torn some files and vandalised furniture that was housed there before they torched it.

The pupils are said to have used some oil that was in a container within the school premises along with some paraffin that the ring

...Just when pupils were preparing to heed the bell, it is said that stones were hurled at the roofing of some classrooms near the administration block



ASHES: This is where a mattress and other school property were burnt outside the school gate. Oil from the drum is said to have been sprinkled onto the items before being set alight.

leaders brought with them to burn the school property.

Moreover, shards of glass were scattered all over outside some of the classrooms that are near the administration block.

Allegations

The cause of such an act by the pupils is alleged to have been triggered by reports that the allegations levelled against Dlamini (head teacher) were vehemently dismissed by the powers that be at the ministry of education and training.

According to some sources, the angry group was of the belief that the damning allegations against the head teacher were true since they knew those they affect.

Amongst the burnt items was a mattress that was allegedly stored in one of the offices, before the pupils proceeded to torch school furniture. When this publication's team visited the school at around 10am yesterday, a bevy of police officers were found camped in and



HAVOC: This is what was left of the guard-house after the mayhem.

outside the school premises.

A short while later, the police officers sprang into action, after pupils suspected to be part of those who caused the destruction, were spotted at a distance heading towards the school.

One of the senior police officers

suspected that they were regrouping for another attack to the school. Some of the officers strategically pursued the suspected culprits.

The head teacher could not be reached for comment, as when his school was visited, he was said to have been locked in a meeting with officials from the ministry of education and training and senior police officers.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that police were called to ensure safety of those affected in the school, following the pupils' boycott.

She said none of the culprit pupils were caught by the police. In fact by late last night, police were reported still camped within the school.

When the REO was asked whether the ministry was looking into the allegations against the head teacher, Mamba asked not to comment on this matter.

Enhlanguisweni classes still uncertain

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI
Mpolonjeni

PUPILS of Enhlanguisweni High School have still not resumed their classes, as the school gates were locked and by the time they were opened, some pupils had already returned home.

This emerged yesterday when pupils were prevented from entering the school premises, because the gate had been locked and were unable to resume with the second term classes.

According to the night watchman of the school identified as Mnyakeni, the school gate was locked with a huge chain and padlock.

Mnyakeni stated that he discovered this after he had performed his regular night duties when he decided to do his rounds of patrolling around the school premises to ensure that everything was in order.

"When I had finished doing my rounds and went down to the guard house, I found that the gate had been locked with a foreign bulky chain and padlock," he said.

Mnyakeni said he tried without success to locate the person who would have locked the gate. He stated that all this transpired during the early hours of the morning.

When asked how he managed to get out in the morning when his shift had ended, he mentioned that he came out through a hole in the fence close to the gate.

When the pupils arrived, they found that the school gate was locked, and they could not enter the premises.

In addition, the parents of the pupils were seen standing by the gate holding placards.

When the parents were questioned on the matter, they said they were not backing down unless something was done regarding the removal of the school's Principal Nomthandazo Tembe.

Members of the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) were later called to the scene to help maintain order.

When the officers arrived, they tried to forcefully open the gate, however, the pupils refused to enter the school.

The situation got tense when the police had opened the gate with some parents blocking the entrance using stones and boulders.

However, the Regional Education Office officials later visited the school to help calm the situation.

Representing the office of the REO was Deputy Regional Education Officer Mvangeli Simelane, who advised that the pupils should be called back to school so that classes would resume.

When asked about the ongoing feud between the parents, pupils and the principal, he stated that as the office of the REO, they cannot just make drastic decisions based on the current situation, but they were still monitoring the matter.

The pupils, however, vowed not to return to class until the matter was resolved.



WE NEED ANSWERS: One of the parents posing a question to the REO.

EPTC's Sharon falls sick while visiting colleague in SA hospital

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

IT would seem like a dark cloud has engulfed the Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation's family.

This is because about five employees have died since the beginning this year alone and, another is currently in hospital after suffering a severe head migraine.

Sharon Maziya, who is General Manager for the Corporate Services and Transformation at the Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC), according to information gathered, got sick while she was visiting an employee from the same company in one of the South African hospitals.

The employee is among those who were involved

in a tragic accident that claimed the life of the late Phumelele Shongwe, who was a General manager at EswatiniPost. Shongwe died in a tragic car accident in Middelburg, South Africa on April 26. It is said he was returning from EPTC's duties in Mauritius. One of those who were with Shongwe was admitted in hospital.

Sick

Sources privy to information said Maziya went to check on one of the patients, but while on her way there, she fell sick and had to be admitted. It is said she was later transferred to one of the local hospitals, where she is currently recovering. It is alleged that Maziya's sickness might be stress-related due to the recent incident, which saw some employees losing their lives, while some were severely injured.

It is said Maziya has already spent about three days in hospital. When called about the incident

Maziya only confirmed that she was in hospital but declined to comment on the circumstances that led to her being in hospital.

Worth noting is that in January it was reported that an Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation employee, named Mduduzi Gwebu was found dead in his flat at Macobolwane area in Mbabane.

Then again early last month, another employee of EPTC and his son were found dead inside their house in Siteki.

The EPTC employee, identified as Sifiso Mpapane, served the company for many years as a technician. Again yesterday, it was reported that an employee from EPTC collapsed and died. It is said the employee had complained about suspecting to have caught flu. The employee was employed as a technician at the Nhlanguano branch.



MARCH BACK: Emautfo captured during a march back after the duties of the day.



THE HARVEST: The regiment marching back to Ngabezweni Royal Residence to deliver the day's harvest yesterday morning. This is part of the ongoing harvesting of Mfabantfu Royal Fields. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

LIBUTFO IN SONG AS IT

BY SIMON SHABANGU
Ngabezweni Royal Residence

HUNDREDS of emabutfo continued to converge at the Mfabantfu Royal Fields to harvest emabele which began a week ago.

Yesterday morning was yet another day for the regiment who continued to brave the chilly morning to heed to the royal command.

They were in their usual jovial mood as they engaged in the business of the day at Mfabantfu which happens to be the biggest among the Royal fields.

Sorghum harvesting by the regiment is one important duty usually performed by regiment once the King has commanded them to do so.

This is part of the royal duties that the regiment take pride in doing as a sign that they love their culture while displaying a sense of loyalty to the King.

Prominent faces spotted during harvesting included Director of Culture at the King's Office Prince Bukhosi and Prince Mbuyisa.

Prince Bukhosi said the harvesting of royal fields is one of the important duties which the regiment is expected to undertake annually. "This is our tradition as Emaswati to participate in such important Royal duties. It is a continuation of the work we started soon after the Incwala ceremony which was the weeding process. It then becomes important that we again come back and finish what we started. It is also our way of paying homage to the King which is a pride to us," he said.

He added that it is expected of all people, young or old, to take part in such activities.

He added that chiefs were also expected to encourage their subjects to be part of such important royal duties.

"It is worth noting that the King is reaching out to his people through this as the very same harvest is used to feed the nation during other national events. It is for this reason that each time people converge for royal events, they will enjoy meals thereafter.

This is just our special way of honouring our King and as Emaswati we have to carry it forward to the next generation as passed on to us by our forefathers," he said. Meanwhile, sorghum is Africa's second most important cereal.

The continent produces about 20 million tons of sorghum per annum, about one third of the world crop. However, these figures do not do justice to the importance of sorghum in Africa. It is the only viable food grain for many of the world's most food insecure people.

Sorghum originated in Africa. It is uniquely adapted to Africa's climate, being both drought resistant and able to withstand periods of water-logging. Sorghum in Africa is processed into very wide variety of attractive and nutritious traditional food such as semi-leavened bread, couscous, dumplings, fermented and non-fermented porridges.

It is the grain of choice for brewing traditional African beers. Sorghum is also the grain of 21st Century Africa. New products such as instant soft porridge and malt extracts are great successes.



SECURITY: Police officers also came through to join the throngs of regiment in the activities of the day.



PRESENT: Members of the EMS were also in attendance.

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PRESS STATEMENT

Prospective students who applied for Undergraduate Programmes at the University of Eswatini are hereby notified to come and collect response letters on Friday 10th May 2019, starting at 9:30 a.m. in the Student Union Hall at the Kwaluseni Campus. Admissions were concluded according to the following cut-off points:

Programme	2019
B.Sc. Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management	35
B.Sc. Agricultural Education	36
B.Sc. Agricultural Extension	31
B.Sc. Agronomy	34
B.Sc. Animal Science	34
B.Sc. Animal Science (Dairy)	33
B.Sc. Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	37
B.Sc. Horticulture	None
B.Sc. Food Science Nutrition and Technology	33
B.Sc. Consumer Science	33
B.Sc. Consumer Science Education	35
B.Sc. Textile & Apparel Design & Management	None
Bachelor of Commerce (F/T)	37
B.Ed. Secondary (Business Education)	35
B.Ed. Secondary (Humanities)	37
B.Ed. Secondary (Science)	37
Bachelor of Nursing Science (N/P)	42
B.Sc. Environmental Health Science (N/P)	39
B.Sc. Environmental Mgt. & Occup. Safety & Health	35
B.Sc. Environmental Mgt. & Water Resources	36
B.Sc. Environmental Health & Food Science	36
B.A. Humanities (F/T)	35
B.A. Journalism and Mass Communication	34
Bachelor of Science	37
B.Sc. Information Technology	35
B.Sc. Computer Science Education	34
B.Eng. (Electrical & Electronic)	41
B.A. Social Science	37
B.A. Social Work	36
Bachelor of Laws (F/T)	34
B.A. Humanities (IDE)	None
B.Ed. Secondary (Humanities) - IDE	None
B.Ed. Secondary (Business Education) - IDE	None
Bachelor of Commerce - IDE	None
Bachelor of Laws (LLB) - IDE	None
Diploma in Law (IDE)	None

Only candidates who have received short message service (sms) are invited to come.

MR. N.E. MASEKO
ACTING REGISTRAR

Doc.18991



MARCHING ON: Members of Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force leading the way for the regiment.

HARVESTS EMABELE



KWASA: It is always a jovial mood for the regiment to take part in royal duties as commanded by the King.

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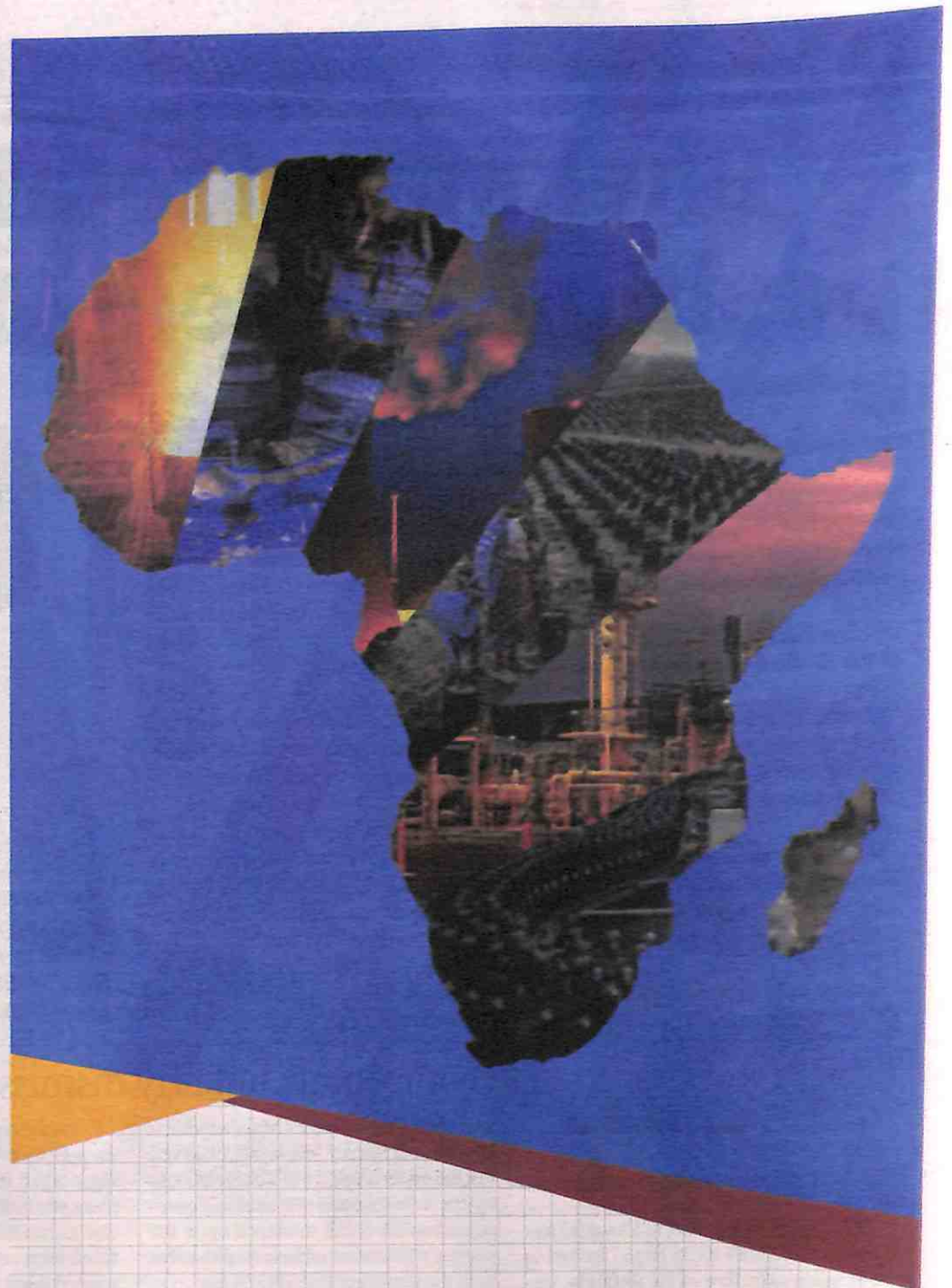
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Bhekumuzi retains position as Siteki Mayor

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

YESTERDAY, Siteki Town Council re-elected Ward Six Councillor Bhekumuzi Ngomane as the Mayor of the oldest town in the Lubombo region.

The council held its annual elections at the Civic Centre as it reshaped its committees.

However, the committee came out to be almost exactly the same as in the previous year as Councillor Mvila Dlamini also retained his position as Deputy Mayor.

Ward Five Councillor Mkhosi Mngometulu was elected as Chairperson of the finance committee, and his deputy being Ward Two Councillor Sabelo Matsenjwa.

Councillor Allen Maziya was elected as a member in the finance committee.

Speaking after the elections, Ngomane thanked the councillors for entrusting him with the responsibility of leading the council.

He noted that the councillors had confidence in his capability, hence they re-elected him to the position. Ngomane said the council was determined to bring major development to the town to ensure that it matches the standards of other towns in the country.

The mayor said his council would soon have a consultative meeting with the business community which would determine some projects which needs to be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

"The council has adopted the policy of inclusive governance where we consult with all stakeholders, including ratepayers when implementing development projects," he said.

The council is working on improving infrastructure as a priority project to improve the face of the town.



BOUNCES BACK: Siteki Mayor Bhekumuzi Ngomane.

UNIFOODS ordered to compensate unfairly dismissed employees

STORIES BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

THE Supreme Court of Eswatini has ordered UNIFOODS (Pty) Limited to compensate five of its unfairly dismissed employees as per an arbitration order granted by the Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration Commission (CMAC).

The Supreme Court yesterday dismissed with costs an appeal application which had been filed by UNIFOODS, a company based at the industrial hub of the Kingdom of Eswatini; Matsapha. The company was appealing against a High Court decision which ordered that the five employees be paid their compensation as per an award granted by the CMAC.

"I am of the view that there was no merit in taking the matter on review to the court a quo nor was there any merit in the grounds of appeal. I accordingly make the following order, the appeal is dismissed," Judge Currie pronounced.

When handing down judgment, Acting Supreme Court Judge Judith Currie, who

was sitting with Judges Majahenkhaba Dlamini and Stanley Maphalala, observed that the matter arose out of a claim brought by the five respondents seeking compensation for unfair dismissal upon the alleged termination of their employment with the appellant (UNIFOODS).

Denied

The court noted that the appellant denied the existence of any such contracts of employment entered into between it and the employees. The dismissed employees are Mark Dlamini, Samuel Msibi, Mncedisi Mmema, Vincent Ntshangase and Mfanzile Matsenjwa.

The appellant had maintained that the five were employed by a labour broker known as SIMAVSHEQ (Pty) Ltd and it emerged in papers filed before court that the labour broker acted as an intermediary between the appellant and the respondents and was instrumental in their recruitment.

Judge Currie stated that it is common cause that upon their recruitment, the respondents were placed at the appellant's premises from the period 2014 until their services were terminated.

It was the respondents' contention that the appellant (UNIFOODS) later offered them fixed term contracts of employment which they declined to accept and due to the refusal to agree to the offer of fixed term contracts, the appellant dismissed them on June 28, 2016.

The court also noted that, on the other hand, the appellant contended that it never employed the respondents but they were employed by the labour broker on a contractual basis. The issue before the arbitrator was whether the appellant was the employer of the respondents against which liability lay for the claim of compensation.

The arbitrator held that the appellant was their employer and the respondents were permanently employed because they were employees to whom Section 35 of the Employment Act applied. It was noted that their dismissals were substantively and procedurally unfair, hence they were awarded the compensation accordingly. It was then that the appellant took the matter to the High Court for review which endorsed the decision of the arbitrator.

'UNIFOODS refused to honour obligation'

BEFORE issuing the order dismissing the appeal application by UNIFOODS, Judge Currie observed that the appellant has been attempting throughout the proceedings to refuse to honour its obligation to compensate the employees in terms of the arbitrator's award.

The court noted that to achieve this end, the appellant has been abusing court processes since the appellant was served with the arbitrator's award in January 2018 and did not challenge same until June 28 when the appellant approached the court a quo (High Court).

"I am of the view that there was no merit in taking the matter on review to the court a quo nor is there any merit in the grounds of appeal filed by the appellant. The respondents may no longer have

any form of employment and are unable to fund litigation. I am of the view that the respondents have had to engage in unnecessary litigation and should be compensated accordingly.

I accordingly make the following order; the appeal is dismissed and appellant ordered to pay respondents' costs," Judge Currie pronounced with both judges agreeing.

The court further observed that in arriving to the conclusion that the appellant was the employer, the arbitrator carefully considered all the evidence placed before him, including a letter from the labour commissioner, the employment forms, the particulars of claim filed in the court a quo and uniforms bearing the emblem of the appellant.

Security guard arrested for murder granted E15 000 bail

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

CHARGED with murder, a security guard has told the court how desirous he is to see his first born child being delivered by his expectant girlfriend.

Employed by Stealth Security Services, Bheki Vikimphi Gulwako (25) of Mambane has been arrested for the murder of Musa Jabulane Dlamini, an incident that happened at Arrow Feeds in Matsapha on April 27. He is charged jointly with Andrew Sihlongonyane (28) of Luve.

Gulwako yesterday appeared before High Court Judge Mumcy Dlamini where he had filed an urgent bail application as he wants to be present when his newly born baby is delivered.

In his application, Gulwako, who was represented by lawyer Sifiso Maseko of Henwood and Company law firm, submitted that he is desirous to be admitted to bail as his girlfriend is expected to deliver his first born child.

He averred that he was arrested by the Sigodvweni police on a charge of murder and is currently booked at the Zakhele Remand Centre. Pending hearing of his case, he is desirous to be released from jail.

"I am young and have an expectant girlfriend who will be delivering my first born child during the month of June. She has no one to support her, is unemployed and therefore solely relies on me for financial support or otherwise," he submitted while motivating his application.

He stated that during trial, he would plead not guilty to the offence of murder as he has never in his lifetime been arrested neither did he have any record of wrongs at his workplace.

Having heard both counsel for the crown and defence, and having gone through the bail recognition form signed by both parties, Judge Dlamini granted the applicant bail fixed at E15 000 with E3 000 to be paid in cash while the E12 000 shall be in a form of surety.

'Nation, stakeholders gave King a splendid birthday celebration'

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

THE Resource Mobilisation Committee for His Majesty's 51st birthday celebrations has been hailed for a job well done.

His Majesty King Mswati III's birthday celebrations were held last month.

Minister of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe, speaking during a wrap up meeting of the Resource Mobilisation Committee, reported that His Majesty's 51st birthday celebrations were a resounding success.

She acknowledged the nation and all stakeholders for giving His Majesty King Mswati III a splendid celebration.

The minister said the success of the celebrations confirmed that active collaboration is key to the prosperity of the kingdom.

"Indeed the event was fit for a King," she said.

The minister appreciated the Resource Mobilisation Committee for working tirelessly to assist government in making the event a success.

She said it demonstrated commitment in executing its mandate with utmost diligence and professionalism.

Some of the key achievements highlighted by the minister were that the committee mobilised resources for the celebration within a limited time; ensured efficient and prudent use of resources in accordance with government's commitment to manage costs.

She added that the work of the committee had inspired new thinking and perspective in hosting national celebrations.

She likened their work to the bib-



THANK YOU: Minister of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe.

lical David who commissioned an elite group of men to do national service and they proved capable by running swiftly to cross the Jordan when it was overflowing. She said this commitment has been the guiding principle under which the team has ably executed its mandate in a relatively short space of time.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Resource Mobilisation Committee Dr Phil Mnisi said they were grateful for the honour of being entrusted with such a huge national responsibility. He appreciated the minister of home affairs for her leadership and unwavering support to the team. He also acknowledged the invaluable support received from members of the business community as well as individuals who made financial and in kind contributions towards the celebrations. Mnisi further acknowledged that the success of the celebrations was a team effort and appreciated the role played by the service providers, technical teams, government ministries and all stakeholders.

LIQUOR NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licensing Board will hold its sitting to hear the following applications at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Conference Room on the 28 May 2019 starting at 09.00am.

Region Manzini

1. SIKHUMBUZO KUNENE, P. O. Box 1291 MBABANE grant of a BOTTLE STORE Liquor Licence situated at MBHULENI, MATSAPHA known as DE BUK'S BOTTLE STORE

Any person who wishes to lodge an objection to the above-mentioned application may do so with the Secretary of the Liquor Licensing Board in writing, sending a copy to the applicant by registered mail to reach him/her at least ten days before the sitting of the Board.

SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD
P.O. BOX 451
MBABANE

RN 167575

Pastor accused of raping girl (16) gets E50 000 bail

STORIES BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

SHE thought she had done the honourable thing by sending her wayward daughter for counselling to a pastor, however, a mother got more than what she had bargained for when the pastor allegedly raped her daughter.

The pastor who has been arrested for the rape of the 16-year-old minor yesterday filed an urgent bail application at the High Court.

Appearing before Judge Mumcy Dlamini and represented by Mbabane-based Lawyer Linda Dlamini and Associates, the pastor, whose name has been deliberately withheld to protect the minor, was granted bail fixed at E50 000 by the court.

However, the court ordered that he pays E3 000 in cash and E47 000 in the form of surety as per the bail recognisance form signed by both the Crown and defence counsels.

Motivating his bail application in his affidavit filed before court, the applicant submitted that he was arrested by the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) officers based in

He denies having sexual encounter with the girl

IN his defence as per his affidavit, the accused pastor has denied having sexual intercourse with the minor girl at any given time.

"I deny having sexual intercourse with the complainant either once or twice or any given point in time as alleged in the charge sheet," he said.

He submitted that the charges levelled at him are spurious and surmised that the complainant is all out to shield the real perpetrator of the offence using him as a sacrificial lamb in the process for reasons unknown to him.

He pleaded with the Court to

grant him bail and submitted that he is innocent of the charge until proven guilty and further stated that he will abide by all bail conditions given to him by the court.

He stated that there is no likelihood that he will evade trial if released on bail since he is a born and bred Liswati who is firmly rooted in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Furthermore, he submitted that he is married man with three minor children who are all dependent on him for support and well-being and that the matter is urgent by virtue of the fact that matters pertaining liberty of a person are constitutionally urgent.

the accused person did unlawfully and with intent had sexual intercourse with the minor girl two times, thereby committing the offence.

Aggravating circumstances are that the girl is a minor who, by law, is incapable of appreciating the nature of a sexual act, as envisaged

by Section 3 (a) (b) of the SODV Act. According to the applicant, he will plead not guilty to the offence at trial, as he claimed he did not commit the offence.

Giving a background of the matter, he submitted that in March, 2019 the girl's mother approached him and requested that he counsels her wayward daughter.

"I did not object to the mother's request and informed her that I will make means to speak to her wayward daughter, and indeed during the month of April, the complainant (daughter) was brought to my residence at her mother's instruction," the applicant submitted.

He stated that he tried to engage the daughter on several occasions during the month of April, in an attempt to ascertain her mother's allegations on her (daughter) wayward behaviour, and it transpired such emanated from family issues or problems.

The applicant further informed the court that he tried to reason with the girl to the effect that family feuds were the fiercest and that she should try by all means to keep peace with her elders, which he said was in line with what her mother had requested.

Elderly grants payment in limbo

BY MBONO MDLULI
Lobamba

THE payment of the next elderly grants, which is set to take place in or around June this year, is in limbo as there is no vendor to implement the payments.

This transpired yesterday in the House of Assembly when the Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO) appeared before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). The contract that the DPMO had with the Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC) is coming to an end at the end of this month.

DPMO officials were grilled by the PAC, as the committee was convinced that they are sleeping on the job. The MPs said elderly people had to be paid in a month's time, yet officials from the DPM's office had done nothing to get a vendor to do the job. The MPs noted that it seems like there was no urgency in finding the vendor to implement the exercise.

DPMO Director of Social Welfare Moses Dlamini had to explain what was really happening in his office.

Dlamini had told the PAC that they had written a letter to EPTC, informing them that they wanted to extend the contract they had with them, which was supposed to end this month.

This was after they had initially informed EPTC that the contract the two organisations had was supposed to come to an end at the end of the month. On the other hand, DPMO Under Secretary Hlobisile Dlamini gave another version of the matter to the PAC.

Contract

Hlobisile said she did not see any other communication between the DPMO and EPTC except for a letter talking about the end of the contract.

PAC suspected that Hlobisile could be lying. PAC Chairman Phila Buthelezi wanted to know if it was indeed true that the DPMO had written a letter which addresses the extension of EPTC's contract. Buthelezi believed Hlobisile could not be telling the truth, because it could not be possible for the under secretary to be by-passed by such a development.

When Moses was asked why he had by-passed the Under Secretary, he then changed tune and said the extension letter was in the office of the DPMO Principal Secretary (PS) Khangeziwe Mabuza, who was not in Parliament at the time, as she was in a meeting with Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini.

The PAC told the office of the DPMO to work on the matter, and ensure that everything was in order before the dates of the elderly grants payments. In response, Moses asked the MPs to bear with them, as they were going to work on it, as they had advised.

If the DPMO failed to do that, Moses would be punished as the MPs promised to arrest him in Parliament.



FOR HIRE: A man carries a crate full of alcoholic beverages on his way to Corporation in Msunduzi yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Govt departments don't cooperate with Human Trafficking secretariat

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

GOVERNMENT departments are not fully cooperative to the secretariat on human trafficking with helping victims.

It was for this reason that Save the Children, in collaboration with the secretariat on human trafficking under the Prime Minister's Office, hosted a two-day workshop that was attended by representatives from different

government departments.

The workshop was held at The George Hotel on Tuesday until yesterday.

According to Nomphumelelo Lukhele, the Head of Secretariat on Human Trafficking/Smuggling, the workshop was aimed at capacitating them on their different responsibilities with regards to assisting trafficked migrants, especially children.

"Government departments that must be well-versed on such issues include the ministries of education and train-

ing, health, home affairs, foreign affairs and justice and constitutional affairs, to mention but a few."

Lukhele said there was a dire need for Eswatini to institutionalise trafficking programmes in their different departments, so as to enable officials to be at par with national and the same departments in neighbouring countries.

In this regard, Lukhele said Eswatini is currently in the process of finalising the terms of reference with Mozambique, which she said was

pertinent in that at cross-border level, in a case where Eswatini has a victim of trafficking from Mozambique, local social workers need to know the channels to use in order to assist them. However, Lukhele said this needs more funding if it were to be effective in the intended departments.

With the current use of the Human Trafficking Act, Lukhele said officials from various departments had very shallow knowledge on what is expected from them when a victim reaches their departments for assis-

tance.

Although she said the two-day-workshop was not enough to exhaust all the topics with the departments' representatives, Lukhele said the convergence was going to yield positive results, in that the coordination of their response mechanism was going to be improved.

Additionally, she said with enough knowledge on their responsibilities, the country would be consistent and timely when responding to trafficking issues.

Esicojeni Foundation, World Vision partner

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

...for E1million food security project

ESICOJENI Foundation has partnered with World Vision to launch a E1 million food security partnership project.

The two partners on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Standard Bank boardroom.

The project is aimed at ending hunger amongst vulnerable children and families in two constituencies under the Lubombo region namely; Mpolonjeni and Lubulini.

Speaking about the project, World Vision Eswatini Country Programme Director Francis Dube said both constituencies are situated in drought-prone areas.

He said the project came at the right time, as 3 520 people, including four schools and four community gardens, would benefit from the partnership.

"We are grateful for the new programme that will support food security and increase households' disposable income for the target com-

munities. This will be achieved through promoting commercial agriculture farming," Dube said.

He said one of the major inhibiting factors for commercial production in rural communities is poor infrastructure.

He said this project sought to address that through providing protection of agricultural produce, providing proper irrigation systems and further link the farmers with reliable markets. Dube said currently, World Vision has an MoU with NAMBoard, which is the major buyer of commercial farmers produce.

Mobilised

He said vulnerable households would be mobilised to focus on vegetable farming as a business. Dube said the households would be encouraged to move from subsistence farming to more intense commercial farming.

Dube said the project will also train the vulnerable households on asset growth, savings groups and finance literacy.

He said the savings groups they are using have

seen unbankable people becoming bankable and owning big businesses with their own bank accounts. Dube said in schools they would provide start up kits for the agricultural projects. He said they will further train households on nutrition, food preparation, preservation and utilisation to ensure that households that are involved in the project benefit from their produce.

Meanwhile, Standard Bank Chief Executive and Esicojeni Foundation representative Mvuselelo Fakudze said the objective of the foundation, whose patron is His Majesty King Mswati III, was to end hunger in the kingdom.

Objectives

Fakudze said as Esicojeni Foundation they noted that such objectives could not be achieved overnight, but rather in taking small steps at a time.

He said the Lubombo initiative was one of the several steps; the foundation had taken in the past. He said the partnership with World Vision, Save the Children and other community organ-



FOR CHANGE: Standard Bank CE and Esicojeni Foundation representative Mvuselelo Fakudze.

isations dated back to 12 years ago when the Foundation was founded.

He said such partnership was evident when one drives around the country as seen in the E1.5 million water scheme at Sigwe, gardens across the country, drilled boreholes, constructed neighbourhood care points and fenced gardens.

Fakudze urged the community to take good care of the provided infrastructure, make use of skills that have been provided through training and further transfer these skills to their children.

He said some children had benefited through training and agriculture-based livelihoods, as this is key to support to the local economy.

Fakudze said for the country to develop sustainable economic systems, all citizens need to cultivate land over the weekends or do backyard agriculture in urban areas.

Fakudze thanked His Majesty and major corporate sponsors, Standard Bank Eswatini Limited, MTN Eswatini, Galp, Letshego, World Vision and Save the Children for the commitment to the course of the foundation to end hunger.

Over E337m needed to re-gravel roads

BY MBONO MDLULI
Mbabane

GOVERNMENT needs over E337 million to re-gravel roads around the country.

The exact figure that is needed is E337 750 000.

This is contained in a report compiled by Minister of Public Works and Transport Chief Ndalahlaza Ndwandwe. This report was triggered by a motion moved by Members of Parliament (MPs) a few months ago.

The report states that the current rate for re-gravelling is computed at E700 000 per kilometre.

About 482.5 kilometres have to be re-gravelled, through outsourcing. The process of finding a suitable company to do the re-gravelling would take not less than nine weeks. If the roads would be tendered out, the shortest road would be approximately 10 kilometres.

The estimate for carrying out 10 kilometres of re-gravelling, according to the minister, is E7 million. The total fuel needed for this exercise could be estimated at 316 085 litres in two months.

This means in each month, about 158 042 litres



RE-GRAVEL: Minister of Public Works and Transport Chief Ndalahlaza Ndwandwe.

of fuel could be needed (in the whole country) for this exercise.

The minister, in the report, said the problem faced by the ministry of works, like all ministries, is the cash flow shortage. The outsourcing of the programme could not be the best option because of this problem. It remains to be seen how the ministry will implement this programme because it also has a problem of not having enough material.

A table showing the processes needed to be followed to find the right company for re-gravelling of roads:

Activity	Time Frame
Request for authority to incur expenditure from ministry of finance	Difficult to determine. Depends on ministry of finance's time to grant authority
Advertise through media	Four weeks (as required by the Procurement Act)
Receive tender documents	One day
Evaluate tenders	One day
Submit to tender board (both works ministry Internal Tender Board and Government Tender Board)	Two weeks
Award	One week
Sign contracts and commence works	One week



ESWATINI ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

TENDER NOTICE: INTENTION TO AWARD A CONTRACT

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION	09 May 2019
TENDER NUMBER	07/2018
NAME OF TENDER	Consultancy To Develop a Corporate Communications Strategy for ESERA
APPROVAL AUTHORITY	ESERA Board
PROCURING ENTITY	Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA)
REQUESTING ENTITY	ESERA Executive Management

In terms of section 45 of the Public Procurement Act No. 7 of 2011 (the Act), following a competitive bidding process, notice is hereby given that a contract award decision for the above cited tender has been reached by the approvals authority as follows:

DETAILS OF BEST EVALUATED RESPONSIVE TENDERER	
NAME	Interlink Professionals
NATIONALITY	Kingdom of Eswatini
PROPOSED CONTRACT PRICE	E493,750.00
FINAL EVALUATION SCORE	79.60%

It must be noted that, in terms of 45(2) of the Act, the above contract award decision does not constitute a contract. Further, in terms of section 45 (4), 46 and 47 of the Act, all tenderers who submitted bids are hereby notified that a period of ten (10) working days is hereby allowed for submission of any application for review from the above stated date of first publication of this notice.

DETAILS OF ALL EVALUATED RESPONSIVE TENDERERS					
TENDERERS	Linthas Communications	Urban 360	Interlink Professionals	JBH Consulting	Kavana Consulting
Compliance to Tender Requirements	Complied	Did not comply	Complied	Did not comply	Did not comply
Evaluated Price (SZL)	N/A	N/A	E493,750.00	N/A	N/A
Technical Score (%)	51.25%	N/A	74.50%	N/A	N/A
Financial Score (%)	N/A	N/A	100.00	N/A	N/A
Final Weighted Score	N/A	N/A	79.60%	N/A	N/A

Weighting: Technical Score (80%); Financial Score (20%)

While Linthas Communications did not make it to the financial evaluation stage due to failure to meet the technical threshold of 70%, Kavana Consulting, JBH Consulting and Urban 360 were all disqualified for failure to comply with tender requirements ranging from submission of; Tax Clearance, Labour Compliance Certificate, Form C and J, ID and Police Clearance of Directors, Envelop Clearly Marked and Sealed and Trading License. Despite efforts by the Tender evaluation committee to waive some of these non-technical requirements, all three bidders could still not make it to the technical evaluation stage and were therefore disqualified.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Doc. 19112

1 Floor, Rhus Office Park, Karl Grant Street Mbabane P.O. Box 7137 Mbabane H100
Tel: +268 2404 2103; Fax: +268 2404 8384; Email: info@esera.org.sz; Website: esera.org.sz

Five MPs sworn-in as PAP members

BY MBONO MDLULI
Mbabane

ABOUT five local Members of Parliament (MPs) have been sworn-in as members of the Pan African Parliament (PAP).

The swearing-in ceremony took place on Monday at the Gallagher Estate in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, where the African Parliament is situated. This was during the opening of the second ordinary session of the fifth Parliament of the PAP.

The session started on Friday and is expected to end on May 17.

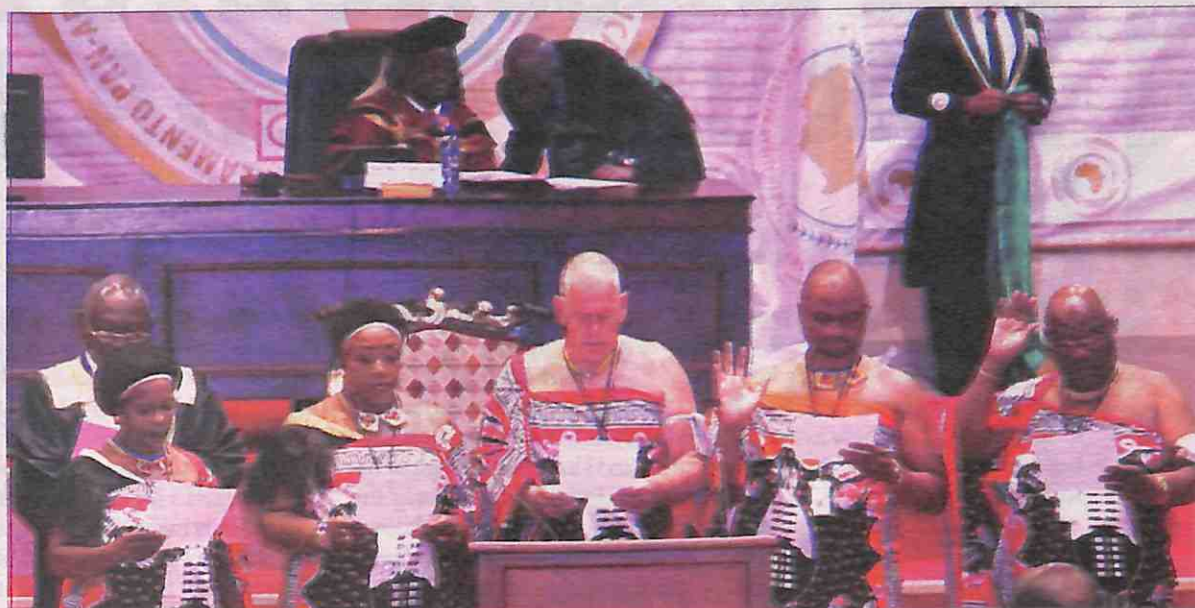
The local legislators sworn-in included Senators Mike Temple and Sylvia Mthethwa, MPs Robert Magongo (Motshane), Victor Malambe (Mhlume) and Thandi Nxumalo (Manzini South).

Change

The legislators were part of the 40 PAP members who were sworn-in on Monday and that was subsequent to elections and change of regimes in a number of African states, including the Kingdom of Eswatini.

The swearing-in of the Eswatini lawmakers was led by Senator Temple, who is the only returning member among the local legislators.

At least 40 MPs from eight African



I SWEAR: Senator Mike Temple (c) leading Eswatini legislators while being sworn-in at the Pan African Parliament (PAP) session on Monday. Flanking the Senator are; MP Thandi Nxumalo, Senator Sylvia Mthethwa, MPs Victor Malambe and Robert Magongo. (Courtesy Pic)

countries that included Mauritania, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kingdom of Eswatini and Guinea Bissau, were sworn-in as new members of the PAP.

According to the African News Agency (ANA), PAP President Roger Nkodo Dang said the on-going session will, among other things, debate peace and

security in Africa, the report on the statelessness and citizenship and the model law on policing.

"Honourable legislators will engage on advancing the agenda of building viable and inclusive democracies in Africa, as well as the industrial development on our continent, whose foundation is the Continental Free Trade

Area; the protocol whose entry into force is much awaited," said Dang, who is from Cameroon.

Attendance

The plenary session will be graced by African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat, who led debates on the African Union (AU) theme of 2019, 'The Year of

ABOUT PAP

- The Pan-African Parliament (PAP), also known as the African Parliament, is the legislative body of the African Union and held its inaugural session in March 2004.
- The PAP exercises oversight and has advisory and consultative powers, lasting for the first five years. Initially the seat of the Pan-African Parliament was in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia but it was later moved to Midrand, South Africa.
- Its purpose is "to ensure the full participation of African peoples in the development and economic integration of the continent".
- The Parliament is intended as a platform for people from all African states to be involved in discussions and decision-making on the problems and challenges facing the continent.

Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.

In another development, the first female President of the United Arab Emirates' Federal National Council, Honourable Dr Amal Abdullah Al Qubaisi addressed women Members of Parliament in a special session at the opening of the Fifth Legislature of the Pan African Parliament on Monday.

Celebrate

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B. BRADLOWS



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:
Magistrate Lenhle Zulu.

'We need to bring back the dignity of women'

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

'WE need to bring back the dignity of women of Eswatini.'

This statement was uttered by Magistrate Lenhle Zulu when two men appeared before the Mbabane Magistrate's Court for assaulting their loved ones.

In contradictory fashion to the matters where women charged with contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act the day before were discharged, the two men were each fined E2 000.

During his appearance before Magistrate Zulu, Sizwe Malinga of Mantabeni pleaded guilty to launching several punches and whipping his wife all over her body.

Malinga was charged with contravening the SODV Act.

Malinga, who looked visibly shaken and remorseful for his actions towards his wife Winile Gamedze, pleaded with the court to forgive him as he was not a violent person by nature.

"Your Worship, I would like to apologise not only to this court but to my wife who is present here today.

"I am not a violent person yet I found myself committing this offence after being blinded by anger. I love my wife and I admit that my actions have embarrassed her and my family at large," Malinga pleaded.

Violent

Malinga further urged all men to desist from such violent conduct towards their wives and instead resort to more peaceful ways of resolving marital issues.

After hearing Malinga's remorseful submissions, Magistrate Zulu turned to his wife, who pleaded with the court to forgive her husband, as she has.

In passing her judgement, Magistrate Zulu stated that in as much as Malinga's wife has forgiven her husband, the crime committed was against the state as well.

Therefore, the court sentenced Malinga to serve two years in a correctional facility with the option to pay a fine of E2 000.

Ndumiso Ndelela (29) was arrested at Manzana after he was alleged to have assaulted his girlfriend Sendziwa Dlamini with open hands and kicks all over her body.

Magistrate Zulu stated that harsher sentences need to be imposed on men as it seems they are adamant on snatching women of their dignity.

"It seems as if it is so easy for a man to beat a woman and this does not seem fair as women are more vulnerable.

"These sentences need to be harsher so that men think twice before committing such offences," the magistrate said.

Ndelela was found guilty as per his plea, and was further sentenced to pay a fine of E2 000 or serve two years in custody for committing this offence.

WIFE ASSAULTS HUBBY FOR 'DIRTY' MANHOOD

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

ALL business that happens in the bedroom should stay there.

However, a wife hung her bedroom affairs out in the open for all to see when she publicly assaulted her husband, while insulting him for his lack of cleanliness.

Nosipho Tsela (28) of Mangwaneni was arrested and charged with contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act 2018, after she assaulted her husband Thandukosi Hlawe within Cashbuild in Mbabane.

The couple had been engaged in

a fight which started when they left home. Appearing before Magistrate Lenhle Zulu yesterday, Tsela stated that her husband was saying hurtful things about her too, which led her to assault him.

Infidelities

"Your Worship, my husband's infidelities have left me sick with stress and I have had enough of his actions. Even though he was the one responsible for the breakdown of our marriage, he had the guts to speak hurtful things to me. I agree that I shouldn't have assaulted him in public and made comments about his manhood but trust me, he deserved it," Tsela said.

Tsela appeared timid; however,

once she spoke one could easily tell that her patience with her husband's shenanigans had run out.

Incidents

"My husband and I have three children together who we should be maintaining and incidents like this one should not occur. I just wish he saw things the way I do so we could work together to take this family to greater heights," she emphasised. During mitigation, Tsela maintained that her goal was to look after the welfare of her family. She stated that although she was unemployed, the stipend she received as a volunteer allowed her to pay for night classes.

Magistrate Zulu considered these

factors, although she cautioned Tsela against embarrassing herself and her husband in public.

"Please respect yourself and your family and desist from such public altercations. This is your husband we are talking about here, and it is just so unbecoming for a wife to act in this manner towards him. You should always remember the vows you made to him so that you can treat each other accordingly," the magistrate advised.

On that note, Magistrate Zulu found Tsela guilty as per her own plea and sentenced her to serve 10 months in a correctional facility with the option to pay a fine of E1 000.

How not to ride...



SHORT-CUT: A motorcycle rider decides to take a short-cut using a pavement along the city's streets yesterday. This is against the law so it should be avoided. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Failure to pay rates prompts poor service delivery

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Matsapha

MATSAPHA Town Council has urged ratepayers to continue paying rates for better service delivery.

The council earlier this week released a schedule notifying property owners who are in arrears on their rate payments to settle their debts within 14 days. The council announced that they were owed in excess of E9 million in unpaid rates.

Matsapha Town Council Chief Executive Officer Lucky Sukati urged property owners to pay their rates to ensure the council was able to efficiently provide essential services.

He said on the turn of every financial year, the law required the municipality to request all ratepayers who were in areas in their rates accounts to settle them.

Sukati said when the council formulated the budget estimations for each financial year; they were calculated based on the assumption that they would collect all the money from the ratepayers.

He, however, motioned the council normally adapted to the situation when the funds collected from rates were not sufficient.

Delivery

He said in such instances, the council tried by all means to ensure that service delivery was adequate.

Sukati said failure to pay rates by ratepayers had a negative impact, which inevitably resulted in poor service delivery.

"In instances where property owners fail to pay their rates, we are forced to optimise on whatever is available to continue with our mandate, which is service delivery," said Sukati.

Sukati said the failure to pay

rates also forced the municipality to reprioritise some projects while side-lining others.

The CEO issued a warning to ratepayers who owed council that after the lapse of the stipulated 14 days to settle pending debts, council would be forced to forward the matter to debt collectors.

Particulars

He also stated that the process is also used to verify if the property owner's particulars in their office still reflected the current property owner.

He said property owners who had sold and transferred ownership of their properties should indicate to the municipality to ensure the statements were sent to the correct individual.

"It is important to complete the transfer process and furnish the municipality with all the details of a new owner once the property has been transferred," added the CEO.

EBC chairperson commends predecessors

BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mbabane

NEW Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) Chairperson Prince Mhlabuhlangene has applauded his predecessors for a job well done.

The prince was sworn-in with four other members last Monday. He said he was greatly impressed by what their predecessors achieved as running the EBC was no child's play.

"It is not easy being given work of this magnitude as the whole country looks up to you to deliver. We are blessed that all the members of the commission come from different working backgrounds so we will use and share our experience for the betterment of our work in this office.

"We also work under the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Pholile Shakantu who was in this office previously. Bayethe! Wena Waphakathi. Right now we have members led by Deputy Chairperson Winnie Magagula observing the electoral processes in South Africa and that should tell you how big our mandate is," he said.

He added that they are guided by the Constitution of the country in their operations as the commission was formed through it.

He said their operations were in line with government's development strategy.



JOB WELL DONE: EBC Chairperson Prince Mhlabuhlangene.

Man fined E500 for calling woman a prostitute

STORIES BY MELUSI TSABEDZE
Eswatini National Court

A man from Mpolonjeni in the Hhohho region has been fined E500 for insulting a woman.

Wandile Msibi allegedly called Nomisa Dlamini a prostitute.

The incident happened last Thursday at Mpolonjeni. Dlamini reported Msibi to the police who in court pleaded not guilty.

In court, Dlamini said the accused insulted her while they were inside a shop where her in-laws work.

"Your Honour, the accused entered the shop at about 1830 to 1845 hours. He ordered a loaf of bread. My in-law was off duty that day and had left me in charge of the shop," said Dlamini. Dlamini told the court that Msibi then insulted her.

"He called me a prostitute. He ordered me to give him a white loaf and not the brown one I had given to him," said Dlamini. Dlamini also told the court that Msibi also ordered two packets of nik-naks. "Msibi then called me a prostitute for the second time demanding nik-naks," said Dlamini.

Dlamini said Msibi was a sex work-

er so the shop must be closed.

She told the court that the accused sometime ago asked to have sex with her.

Dlamini told the court that she approached Msibi and told him that she did not like the way he addressed her. She added that Msibi did not show any remorse but instead he called her a fool. Meanwhile, Msibi denied ever insulting the complainant.

"Your Honour, I do not recall insulting the complainant," said Msibi who was later found guilty and sentenced to seven months in custody with a fine option of E500.

Another fined E400 for calling landlady a prostitute

ANOTHER man aged 31 appeared before the court for calling a woman a prostitute.

Maqhawe Nhleko from Hlatikhulu in the Shiselweni region was found guilty and further fined E400 for calling Phumzile Mahlangu a prostitute. The incident happened last Friday, at Mgababa.

Nhleko pleaded not guilty to the offence.

Mahlangu told the Eswatini National Court that she was not related to the accused and that he rented a room at her homestead.

Mahlangu told the court that the accused said she was a sex worker and a failure in life as she had returned from Johannesburg to live a poor life in the country.

The complainant told the court that when she left her house for the Mbabane Government Hospital on Saturday, she discovered that iron sheets from a welding site

where the accused is currently employed were blocking tenants' way.

"I told him to remove the sheets from the site as they were blocking the way for other tenants who wanted to gain entry into their houses.

Refuted

He said I am a prostitute. I took offence in that and I reported the matter to the police," said Mahlangu.

Nhleko refuted the complainant's claims.

"When she asked us to remove the iron sheets, we referred her to the owner of the site," said Nhleko.

Nhleko told the court that every time Mahlangu passed their welding site, she would grill them and tell them to remove the sheets.

Nhleko was then sentenced to five months in custody with a fine option of E400.

Mozambican fined E800 for stealing Morvite, other items

BY MELUSI TSABEDZE
Eswatini National Court

A Mozambican man has been fined E800 for stealing Morvite.

On April 6, Emmanuel Luphoco (32) at Four Seasons Store, is said to have wrongfully and intentionally stole items valued at E397.

The property was in the lawful possession of Moses Mnisi.

He pleaded not guilty to the offence.

Among the items that were stolen were pills each valued at E250, and packets of Morvite valued at E147.

Mnisi told the court that while he was on his way home from the Mbabane Government Hospital, he decided to get himself something to eat.

"We entered Four Seasons Store and I made an order for food. I placed my shopping bags on the floor whilst awaiting my order. The accused

entered the shop but the ladies there chased him away. While he was rushing for the door, he then took my parcels," said Mnisi.

Mnisi told the court that he then searched for Luphoco around Mbabane town and when they finally found him, the items he had allegedly stolen were hidden. The accused refuted the allegations by Msibi in court.

"Your Honour, I did not take the items Msibi claims I stole. I did not even enter the shop on the said day," said Luphoco.

Witness Busisiwe Cindzi confirmed to the court that the accused stole the said items. The court found Luphoco guilty of the offence of theft.

He was sentenced to nine months in a correctional facility with a fine option of E800. Luphoco was also told to refund Mnisi E250 so that he could buy the stolen medication and pills.



A REAL MAN: A responsible herdboys helps his cattle cross the road on their way to grazing land at Siphocosini yesterday. Taking care of these animals reduces accidents on the roads. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Man facing SODV charge granted E15 000 bail

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

A 23-year-old man of Macetjeni who is facing a charge of contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act of 2018, has been granted bail of E15 000.

According to the charge sheet, Nkosiya Phendvula Mtsetfwa contravened Section 3(3) of the said Act.

He is said to have committed unlawful sexual intercourse with a 15-year-old girl without her consent. The girl is classified as a minor by law and incapable of consenting to sexual engagement.

When making his first appearance

before Principal Magistrate Dumisani Magagula, the accused stated that he intends to plead guilty to the charge. The court then advised him to file a bail application at the High Court. He was accordingly granted same at E15 000 and ordered to pay E3 000 cash and provide surety amounting to E12 000. The case was subsequently set for trial tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Ntokozo Matsenjwa (20) of Mndobandoba also faced a similar charge. He was said to have wrong-

fully and unlawfully had sexual intercourse with a 14-year-old girl without her consent.

The charge was accompanied with aggravating factors which included that the complainant was a minor by law and incapable of consenting to the act. Matsenjwa was further said to have inflicted lifetime trauma to the complainant by forcing her to the act. The accused person was also granted bail at the High Court. During his appearance before court yesterday, his case was set to commence trial tomorrow. In total, four cases of contravening the SODV Act were brought to court on Tuesday.



Mashatile confident ANC will do well

Johannesburg - ANC Treasurer General Paul Mashatile says he is confident the ruling party will once again do well in the 2019 general elections.

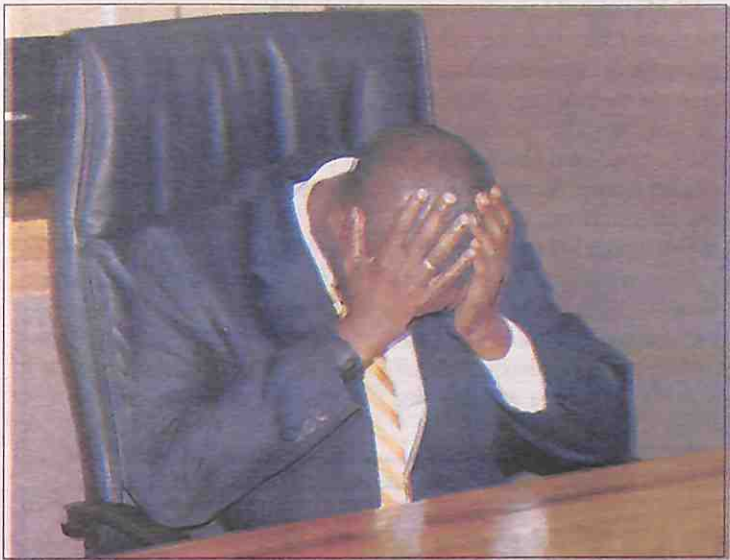
Mashatile said this after casting his vote at Wendywood High School on a chilly afternoon yesterday.

An upbeat Mashatile was flanked by Small Business Minister Lindiwe Zulu and former Joburg mayor and SALGA chairperson Parks Tau as well as numerous ANC members clad in party regalia. Mashatile, speaking to the media after voting, expressed confidence that the ANC would do well, citing how well their campaigning went in the months preceding the elections.

"I think the ANC is doing well, we'll have to see through the vot-

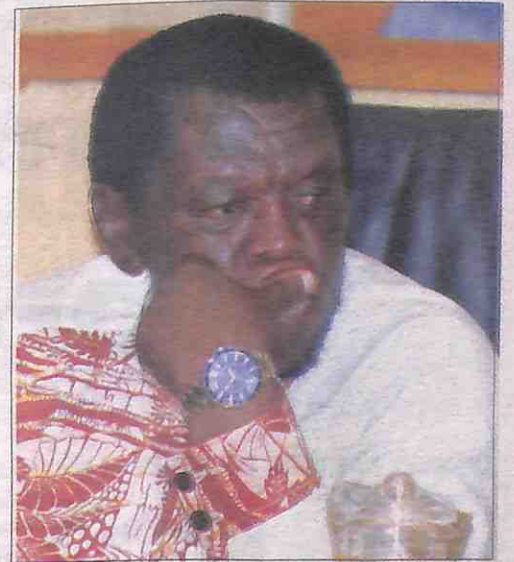
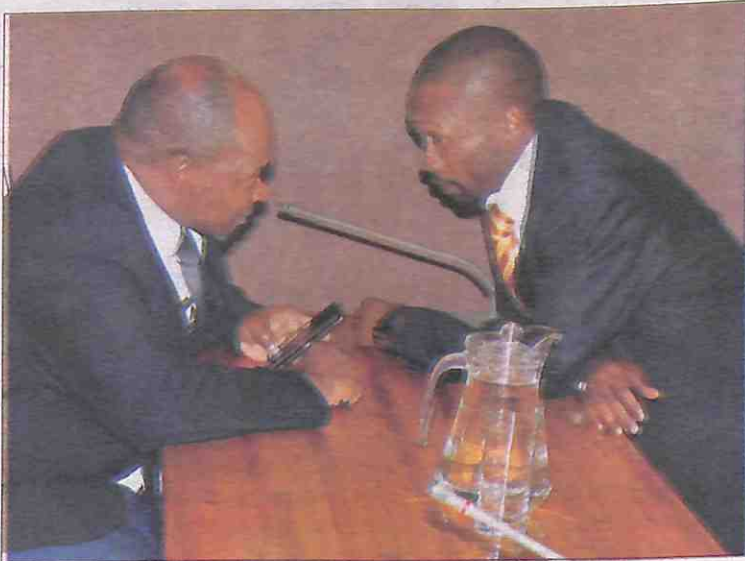
ing later today but we are confident we will do well. "I think throughout the campaign we have been doing quite well. I think the mood is good, people have been very warm coming out and you can see some areas the queues are quite long." Mashatile went on to urge South Africans to take the time to cast their vote in the sixth general elections, stressing the importance of doing so. "I do hope many people will come out and exercise their right to vote. "In my view, I think all elections are important but we'd like to see people going to out exercise their right." Meanwhile, voting at Wendywood flowed smoothly despite earlier reports of several glitches at the station, including the shortage of ballot papers. IOL

Mayor Sikhumbuzo Dube's corner



ANXIOUS: Newly-elected Mbabane Mayor Sikhumbuzo Dube reacts after winning during the elections held at the municipality's offices on Tuesday.

Mbabane Municipal Council elections



I HAVE YOUR BACK: The newly-elected Mayor Sikhumbuzo Dube in a discussion with Councillor Arnold Dlamini before the start of the Mbabane mayoral elections on Tuesday. (R) **OUT:** Former Mayor Zephaniah Nkambule ponders after losing the mayorship position. (Pics: Mduzuzi Mngomezulu)



THE NEW MAYOR IS: Mbabane City Council's Director of Corporate Services Bongani Dlamini announces the new mayor during the elections. (R) **COUNTING:** The election officers counting the ballot papers.



VOTING: A section of the councillors making their choices on the ballot papers.



HANDS UP: Some of the councillors raise their hands as they wanted some clarification during the voting process. (R) **WHAT NEXT:** Sikhatsi Dlamini from Ward 4 shares some ideas with Musa Dlamini from Ward 2.



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You are a liar - senior prosecutor to witness

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

THE case of Jafar Mukumba, a Tanzanian who was nabbed while attempting to cross Ngwenya Border Gate with a large consignment of dagga is far from over.

This is because the owner of the vehicle he was driving on the day has resurfaced after three years. Mukumba was arrested on December 17, 2016 after he was found to have contravened the Pharmacy Act. He was found with a large consignment of dagga hidden within the compartments of a car later ascertained to belong to fellow countryman Maleka Muganga. Muganga and Mukumba were residents of South Africa during the commission of the crime, where they had established their businesses.

Muganga, who appeared on Monday after three years to apply to the Mbabane Magistrate's Court for the release of his vehicle implicated in the 2016 case, presented documents proving that the car indeed belonged to him at the time.

However, Senior Crown Counsel Absalom Makhanya pointed out several incoherencies with the documents, stating that he could smell a rat as the documents seemed suspiciously.

The documents consisted of an affidavit which stated that Mukumba sold the vehicle to Muganga in October 23, 2016.

The other documents included the change of ownership letter, which stated that the process took place a month later, before Mukumba was arrested.

Muganga claimed that he bought and sold used cars and when he approached Mukumba to purchase his vehicle; they entered a verbal agreement for flexible payment terms. Muganga claimed that he began making payments towards the vehicle in June 2016, with the first payment amounting to E30 000.

Muganga explained that by October 23, 2016, he had finished paying for the car, which was when the affidavit was sworn.

Muganga further explained that after he completed his payments, he hired an agent to file change of ownership documents for him as he was to leave South Africa for Tanzania on December 18.

"A week before I was to leave the country, I called the agent to inquire about the change of ownership process.

I wanted to leave my businesses in order as I was to return to South Africa on March 2017. The agent responded, saying they would take care of it for me," Muganga said. He explained that before he left, Mukumba asked to borrow the vehicle in ques-

tion to transport furniture for some clients of his. Muganga said he agreed to this as he trusted his countryman enough to take care of the car while he was away.

During his submission, Muganga claimed that he was shocked to hear of Mukumba's arrest as he was not aware that he would be transporting drugs to the Kingdom of Eswatini.

"While in Tanzania, I heard of Mukumba's arrest through his brother in February 2017 as Mukumba was detained and his phone rang unanswered. I then decided to return to South Africa the following month where I found that Mukumba was convicted and released. I asked him about my vehicle which I found out was still detained in Eswatini," Muganga claimed. During cross-examination, Makhanya questioned the veracity of the documents Muganga presented before court as there seemed to be discrepancies with the dates of the change of ownership.

"According to an expert who examined the vehicle while it was detained in the country, the vehicle's system revealed that the change of ownership occurred on December 19, which is two days after Mukumba was arrested. This, therefore, contradicts the documents that you have brought here, which state that the vehicle came into your ownership on November 23, 2016. As he had confessed before his arresting officer, Mukumba said the vehicle in fact belonged to him. Why would he lie that the vehicle belonged to him, when in fact, it belonged to you? Why would he, during his trial, claim that you are his business associate? What businesses do you own together?" Makhanya questioned.

Makhanya pointed out that if Muganga had completed his payment towards the vehicle in October and that by that time the change of ownership documents were filed, why did it take Muganga three years to apply for the court to release his vehicle? "Muganga, there are too many incoherencies in your statements.

The only reason you are here before this court today is because the court summoned you to clarify the particulars pertaining to the vehicle. The fact that you never made an urgent application for the state to release the car back to you for three years is because you are guilty of something. I smell a rat!" Makhanya exclaimed.

The cross-examination by Makhanya left Muganga speechless as he struggled to answer the questions asked by Makhanya.

The case attracted scores of the Mbabane Magistrate's Court prosecutors and clerks who appeared thoroughly entertained by the eclectic performance by Makhanya during his cross-examination of Muganga.

The matter continues on May 20.



Vacancy

Post Title : e-Government Strategy Development
Country of Assignment : Eswatini
Start Date : June 2019
Duration : 30 Working Days

BACKGROUND

In 2013, the Government of Eswatini adopted the implementation of the e-Government transformation to improve public service delivery leveraging on the use of Information and Communication Technologies. An e-Government Strategy which span from 2013 to 2017 was developed, approved and implemented and some core areas of the e-Government Strategy have been implemented to date. However, there are still key priority actions contained in the referenced Strategy that needs to be pursued.

The e-Government programme is anchored on the key national policies, which is the National Development Strategy (NDS), National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) and the recently developed Strategy for Sustainable development and inclusive growth: the reviewed NDS.

The Eswatini Government has found it appropriate to revise the Strategy following that its life span has elapsed and with the emerging issues in the ICT sector and socio-economic landscape of the country.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of the assignment is to develop a 5 years e-Government Strategy including the development of an e-Government Policy for Swaziland.

SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES

1. To undertake a literature review of the existing foundational reports that supports the formulation of the e-Government Strategy and identify the priority actions for the implementation of the e-Government programme in the next coming five years.
2. Review the adequacy of the key legislation and Bills supporting e-Government and make recommendations if required.
3. To align the new e-Government Strategy with the existing Operational Framework 2014/2019 including the incorporation of areas that have not implemented from the current Strategy to have a unified and comprehensive e-Government Strategy.
4. To incorporate the e services catalogue in the new e-Government Strategy.
5. To develop a concise e-Government policy which will define among other issues, the roles of the key e-Government implementing agents, the implementation mechanisms inter alia, funding, methodology, organisational structures especially, the institutional structure of the e-Government transformation national machinery and monitoring and evaluation instruments to gauge implementation rate.
6. To develop a 5-year Action Plan for the e-Government Strategy and determine prioritisation and phasing approach.
7. To recommend immediate and short-term 22 gains and credibility successes.
8. To determine service delivery transformation and process reengineering strategy and initiatives.
9. To review the ICT governance aspects and e/m Government framework as contained in the current e-Government Strategy
10. To evaluate the state of the Government portal www.gov.sz for the delivery of e services and make recommendations.
11. Carryout consultations and strategy review workshops including a validation workshop with key stakeholders
12. To further advise the Government of Eswatini on the transformation agenda of the citizens to an information society and knowledge economy by the year 2022.

DELIVERABLES

- 5 years Government Strategy and Implementation Plan
- e-Government Policy

REPORTING

The Consultant will report to the Executive Secretary e-Government on a day to day basis on technical matters and the Secretary to Cabinet and the Head of Public Service on policy direction issues during the course of the assignment.

FINANCIAL

The consultancy fees will be based on UN rates and payment contractual terms.

DEGREE OF EXPERTISE AND QUALIFICATIONS

The consultant should have vast knowledge on e-Government Strategy development and ICT policy; M&E frameworks and knowledge on cyber related legislations especially privacy, protection of data, electronic commerce and transaction law will be an added advantage.

- Must have a Master's degree in Business Management/Systems Management/Economics/ International Law/Business Information systems or any other related field.
- Must have strong analytical skills and must have worked on similar initiatives/ projects.
- A minimum of 10 years' experience in a sector relevant to the assignment.
- Experience in developing or middle-income countries will be an advantage.
- At least 6 years of progressive experience in managing functions and departments, one or more years of direct management of a major IT operation is preferred.
- Experience in providing IT planning support to achieve strategic business goals.
- Practical experience of Business principles and techniques of administration, organisation, and management to include an in-depth understanding of the key business issues that exist in the public service.
- Experience advising and coaching on Change Management.
- Excellent written and spoken English.
- Exceptional communication skills - both written and verbal.

Key Competencies

Corporate Competencies:

- Demonstrates integrity by modelling the UN's values and ethical standards.
- Promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of UNDP.
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.

Functional Competencies

Knowledge Management and Learning

- Promotes knowledge management in UNDP and a learning environment in the office through leadership and personal example.
- Competencies in adaptive management

Development and Operational Effectiveness

- Ability to lead strategic planning, results-based management and reporting.
- Ability to lead formulation of development policies
- Good knowledge of the Results-based Management Guide and Toolkit.
- Ability to implement new systems and affect staff behavioural/ attitudinal change.

Management and Leadership

- Builds strong relationships with clients, focuses on impact and result for the client and responds positively to feedback.
- Consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude.
- Demonstrates good facilitation, oral and written communication skills.
- Demonstrates openness to change and ability to manage complexities.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

The consultant will be expected to apply online using link: <https://open-consult.un.org/en/jobs/2019-05-09000> Attaching the following documents:

1. Covering letter detailing the physical address.
2. Experience and Qualification.
3. Technical proposal detailing the following:

- Understanding of requirements, including similar project description
- Approach to meeting requirements
- Proposed Work Plan and methodology

Submission of Applications: Interested national consultants are invited to submit their applications online using the link: <https://open-consult.un.org/en/jobs/2019-05-09000>

Deadline for submission of applications on or before 22nd May 2019.



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Office table (2026)

Widows Foundation wants Estate Act of 1902 reviewed

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

UMHLUMA Women and Youth Foundation wants government to review the Estate Administration Act of 1902.

Umhluma Women and Youth Foundation Director Lungelo Zulu said the Act is outdated and needs to be reviewed by government.

This comes after the organisation, that advocates for widows' rights, identified a lot of loopholes in the Act and the challenges faced by widows after the demise of their partners.

Zulu said they have seen a lot of widows facing challenges when they claim their inheritance after their spouses pass on.

He said most of these cases drag for years. In most instances, the widows are forced to require services of a lawyer, who acts as an executor.

"Lawyers are expensive and in most cases they leave with half of

the inheritance, thus leaving the grieving woman in poverty," he said.

"The foundation is challenging government and Parliament to draft a new act that gives widows full custodian instead of an executor, who is chosen by the court. This will reduce the number of years in which estates are distributed, as well as save widows a lot of money.

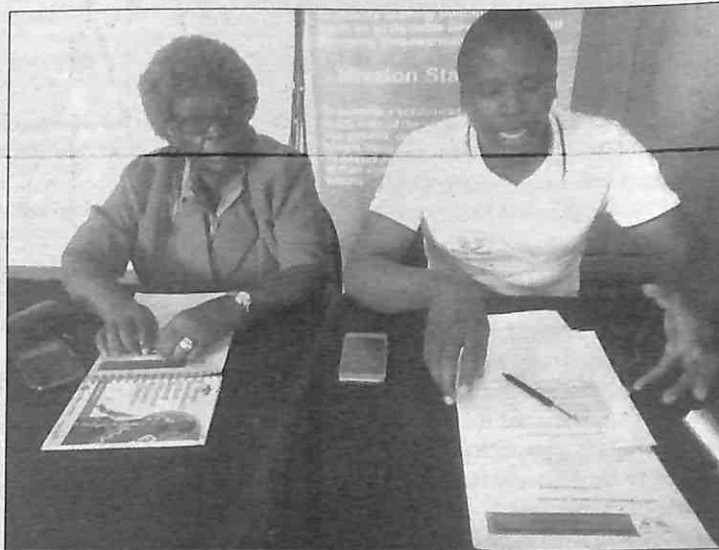
Suffering

"There will be no legal fees and estates could be distributed on time, eliminating situations whereby widows are left suffering," he said.

Zulu further stated that because some widows are unaware of some of their spouses' benefits, they sometimes find themselves being robbed by officials.

Meanwhile, the foundation will tomorrow deliver a national widow status report.

Zulu said they have invited members of Parliament (MPs) so that they are aware of the challenges faced by widows, this would help them



REVIEW ACT: Umhluma Women and Youth Foundation Director Lungelo Zulu and the foundation's Patron Stella Lukhele. (Pic: Nonduduzo Kunene)

have a clear mind when they debate the bill and amending the ancient Estate Administration Act of 1902. Some of the stakeholders that are expected to be part of the meeting

include the minister of justice, home affairs, master of the High Court and municipal councils. The event is funded by the European Union and American Embassy.

Man threatens Moza chief with death, fined E200

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

A resident of Sitsatsaweni was lucky to be fined a meagre E200 by the Eswatini National Court after admitting to have threatened to kill a Mozambican chief in the wake of stock theft at Sitsatsaweni.

The accused person, Goboloza Vilakati (48) is said to have threatened to stab Chief Antonia Tembe of Sitsatsaweni, Mozambique.

He was charged with common assault.

Sitsatsaweni is a tiny Mozambican community situated close to the borderline separating Eswatini and Mozambique, near Sitsatsaweni. Tembe has been highly praised by local authorities for having contributed in the fight against stock theft in areas such as Sitsatsaweni, Mhlumeni and Siteki. The chief has become a regular figure in the country as he comes to hold meetings with local authorities on a regular basis.

The charge sheet reflected that Vilakati wrongfully and unlawfully threatened to stab the complainant with a spear while at Sitsatsaweni. When it was read to him, he pleaded guilty to the charge. When presenting his evidence, the chief told the court that he was at Sitsatsaweni to meet some community police when the accused person approached and started threatening him.

The chief said the accused person had a spear in his hand, and threatened to use it on him. "I was lucky that there were other residents nearby and they intervened before he could get anywhere closer to where I was standing," said the complainant.

Implicated

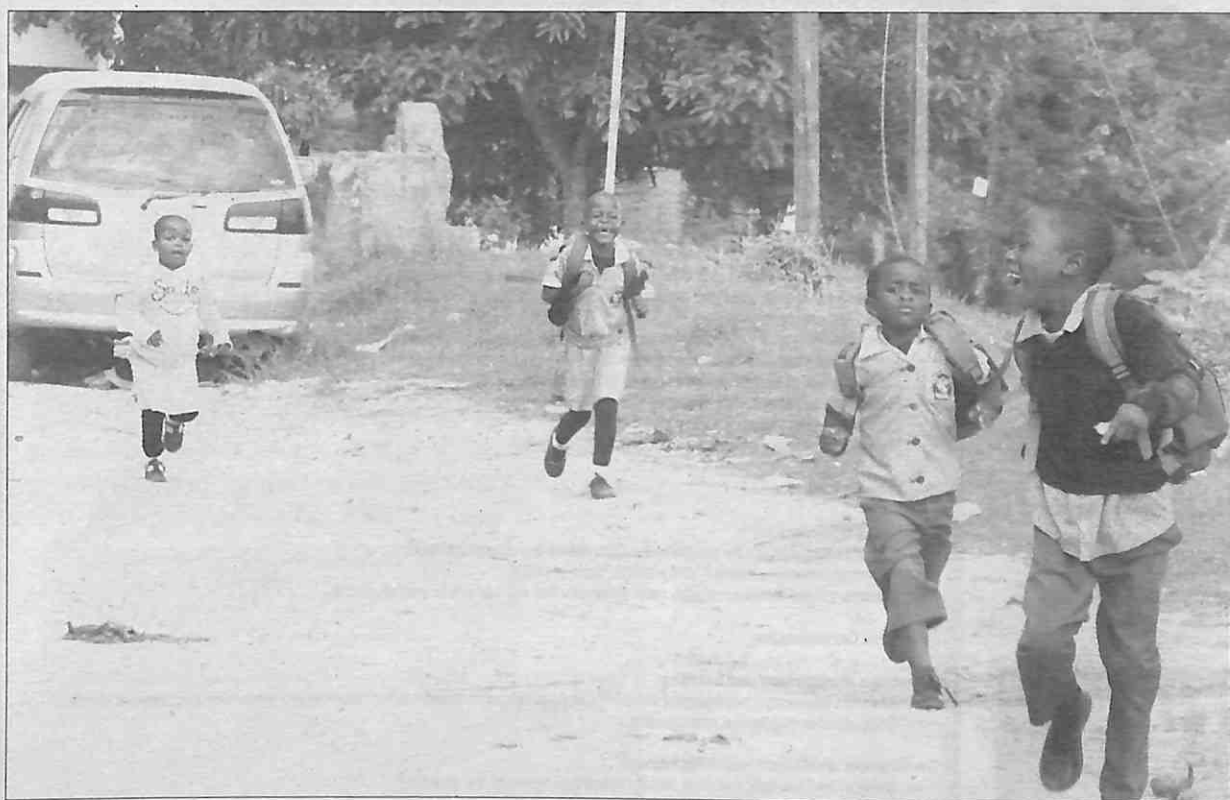
He explained that he was in the country to discuss issues touching on his residents who were implicated in the theft of livestock from various communities. This was shortly after another suspect, a resident of Sitsatsaweni, was gunned down by police while driving a herd of cattle into Mozambique.

Meanwhile, the accused person did not dispute the evidence presented before court. Instead, he volunteered more information, claiming that he acted out of frustration.

The accused person said at the time of the incident, he was convinced that the Mozambican chief was wrongfully accusing people of stock theft, and setting them against stock farmers. "At the time of the incident, I was of the view that the chief had mentioned my name to the community police as they were looking for me," he said.

The accused person said, however, he later went to the chief to apologise for his action, and they had smoked the pipe pipe. This was also confirmed by the chief. Court President Kaunda Bhembe then sentenced the accused person to two months in a correctional facility, with an option to pay E200 fine.

SCHOOL'S OUT!!!



BACK TO SQUARE ONE: Primary school pupils in a jovial mood while on their way home after school yesterday. Motorists should always be vigilant as schools have opened for the second term. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Suspect in OK Foods theft has his VW Golf confiscated

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

A suspect in the break-in and theft of E500 000 at OK Foods in Matsapha has had his VW Golf seized by the police, as it allegedly forms part of the proceeds of the crime.

Sibusiso Mncedisi Mabuza (30) of Pirowville, Germiston in the Republic of South Africa, had his car, a VW Golf 2006 model, confiscated by the police as it forms part of the proceeds of the crime.

He has since filed an application to have an order of the High Court issued

on August 16, 2018 rescinded and set aside.

The director of public prosecutions (DPP) successfully moved an application to have the car confiscated under Section 11 of the Serious Offences Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime Act of 2001.

Giving a background of the matter, Mabuza submitted that on or about November 2017, he was arrested by the Pigg's Peak police on charges of attempted house-breaking and theft at Boxer Super Stores in Pigg's Peak.

He submitted that he applied for bail

and was granted same fixed at E3 000, which he duly paid and in November of the same year, he was again arrested for another offence of house-breaking with intent to steal, an offence that happened at Kwaluseni.

According to the charge sheet, in the second criminal offence, he was charged with the offence of house-breaking and theft, in that he allegedly broke in at OK Foods in Kwaluseni while he did wrongfully, unlawfully and with intent broke in through a roof and stole E471 647.5 in cash plus volumes of cigarettes valued at E14 164.17.

Mabuza submitted that he duly applied for bail and was granted same on November 27, 2017 and whilst awaiting his bail hearing at the High Court, the investigating officer, Constable Matsebula, informed him that he was aware that he had recently purchased the car from a dealership in Matsapha, and as such wanted to fetch the vehicle.

Violence

"I informed him that the vehicle was with my mother in South Africa and he threatened me with violence if I did not direct him to where the vehicle was, hence I directed him to Germiston where he took the vehicle and it is currently kept in police custody," Mabuza submitted.

He submitted that in December of the same year, he was served with an application from the office of the DPP

for the confiscation of the vehicle and application that sought to restrain him from depositing of the vehicle and that he duly opposed the application.

Unjust

He submitted that the orders granted by the court in this matter, which saw his car seized, was granted in error and that the error is so gross and unjust in that not only was his right to be heard in terms of Section 21 of the Constitution taken away from him, but there were also certain facts which at the time of the hearing had been presented before court, the court would not have granted the said orders.

He is now praying for an order that the orders granted by the court a quo in favour of the DPP's office be rescinded and set aside, hence the present application.

Nhlangano cemetery running out of space

BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlangano

BURIAL space at the Nhlangano cemetery is running out.

Means are underway by the town council to look for another land.

Nhlangano Town Council Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Apollo Maphalala said the burial space at the cemetery is running out and a process to negotiate with government (housing and urban development ministry) for an alternative land is underway.

"It's a matter we are looking at. It's true that the burial space at the cemetery is now running out. We have considered engaging government with the purpose of finding suitable land and this must be done before the current place is full," said Maphalala.

The CEO said the challenges with the cemetery space was also known to



SEARCHING: Nhlangano Town Council CEO Apollo Maphalala.

the councillors. Meanwhile, Nhlangano Mayor Deon

Anderson shared same sentiments with the CEO saying lack of the burial space at the cemetery was a critical issue.

He said they were doing everything to secure land from government to use once the current one is full.

Limited

"It's true that there is now limited space at the cemetery. It's a matter we are deliberating on and hopefully, we will get a positive response from government," said Anderson.

The mayor said there were a number of reasons why burial space was running out at the cemetery. He said these days there were many deaths.

"Again, what should be noted is that when there is high population, also expect a high death rate," said the Mayor.

Almost every weekend, there are burials at the cemetery and at times, more than two burials take place in a single day.

E600 000 raised at Assemblies of God's convention

BY NOMY NYANDZENI
Mbabane

ABOUT E600 000 was raised during the Eswatini Assemblies of God youth convention 2019.

The youth meeting was held last weekend at the Swazi National High School.

Assemblies of God Youth Convention Chairperson M'memezi Dlamini said they host the convention yearly, adding that money generated helped their members who pursue tertiary education.

On that note, Assemblies of God Education Board Chairperson Sipho said they decided to sponsor their children with scholarships since they have seen that some students end up not going to tertiary because of lack.

Hleta said when awarding the scholarships, they look for needy children in the church and orphans. They then conduct interviews

with them.

"In the past, we sponsored students that failed at university to repeat their modules because when you fail even though you are government sponsored, you are unable to continue until you pass.

Then we decided to offer them scholarship from the start," he said.

He added that they have students almost in all the higher educational institutions in the country like CIT, AMADI, Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU) and Limkokwing University.

He stated that as a church, they were aiding government in ensuring the nation is educated.

Noteworthy, he further stated that during the convention they receive positive responses during testimonial services where those who have finished their studies testify about what the church has done for them.

Taiwan ambassador's secretary involved in an accident

BY NOKUZOLA THWALA AND
NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

SECRETARY to the Ambassador of Republic of China (Taiwan) Wu Teh-Hsin was involved in a car accident near Engen Filling Station on Tuesday.

Teh-Hsin (51) was driving a Toyota Corolla registered SD 0515 CD when he wrongfully drove into traffic, smashing a Toyota Vitz registered VSD 826 BM driven by Sandile Sambo.

A badly injured Sambo (30) was rushed to Mbabane Government Hospital by paramedics after sustaining injuries having hit the steering wheel upon impact. He was one of the two Vitz occupants.

A police officer at the scene said the accident was caused by negligence on the part of the Toyota driver who failed to read or ignored signs on the road and drove towards oncoming traffic whilst getting out of Engen.

He warned road users to take note of every sign, even the ones drawn on the road to avoid similar accidents.



SMASHED: The two cars that were involved in the accident that included Secretary to the Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Wu Teh-Hsin. (Pics: Nonduduzo Kunene)

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer (CPICO) Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the accident and said the driver of the Vitz was rushed to hospital but there were no fatalities. "Two cars were

involved in an accident by the Engen Filling Station.

We thank God that no soul was lost although the Vitz driver identified as Sambo was rushed to hospital," Vilakati said.



HELP ME PLEASE: The driver of the Toyota Vitz being attended to by paramedics at the accident scene.

SODV Act: Two women have their cases cleared

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

TWO women who were charged with contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act were on Monday discharged.

Nombuso Mtande (38) and Gcinaphi Nkambule can count their lucky stars after they were warned against committing the offences again. After which their cases were discharged.

This means they were not convicted of the crimes they committed.

Personal Assistant Nombuso Mtande is said to have contravened the SODV Act after she allegedly assaulted Bonisile Malindzisa with fists and open hands on April 12.

During her appearance before Magistrate Lenhle Zulu, Mtande claimed that Malindzisa was her husband's lover, with whom she was still in a relationship with.

She claimed that Malindzisa arrived at the home that she resides in and attacked her, provoking her and questioning how she could still be married to him when she was dating him.

"Your Worship, this incident is entirely her fault as she was the one who attacked me at my premises. She threw the first punch and I had to fight back.

If anything, we should both be in the accused's stand," Mtande stated.

Mtande further explained that Malindzisa was a problem in her marriage.

After hearing Mtande's mitigation, Magistrate Zulu said the court would consider the fact that Mtande was attacked in her own home.

Magistrate Zulu then cautioned Mtande to avoid all situations which would get her in trouble with the law, and further discharged her case.

Meanwhile, Malindzisa pleaded not guilty to assaulting Mtande, to which the prosecutor applied for the case to be argued during a trial set for June 7.

On the other hand, Gcinaphi Nkambule (30) was found to have contravened the SODV Act as she was alleged to have assaulted her cousin Nkosing'phile Nkambule with open hands several times.

Nkambule claimed that this occurred during an argument that ensued between them. "Nkosing'phile provoked me after I tried to reprimand her for hitting her child too hard. She then dared me to hit her, jostling me in the process," Nkambule explained.

Magistrate Zulu warned Nkambule, stating that taking the law into her own hands was a crime. After issuing this warning, Magistrate Zulu also discharged Nkambule's case. In the usual cases involving such assaults, fines of up to E2 000 are handed out to accused persons for contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act.





REMARKS: King Mlambo II of the Mahlalela clan making his remarks at Mbuzini in South Africa during the double celebration of the King's birthday and the re-birth of the Mahlalela kingship. The event took place over the past weekend. (R) **DOING IT:** Sagila SeMnikati making an entrance at the event, led by their captain, Mthunzi Dlamini (in loin skins). (Pics: Samson Ncongwane)



IMBONGI: King Mlambo II's daughter Tebukhosi Mahlalela giving a poem, which impressed the audience. (R) **STRESSING A POINT:** Border Restoration Committee Member Bheka Mabuza delivering a message from His Majesty King Mswati III.



BOMAKE: King Mlambo II's wives seated with their children. They are Emakhosikati LaMbuyisa LaNkambule and LaMkhatshwa.

KING WANTS CLEAR AGENDA ON SA'S TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP

BY MBONO MDLULI
Mbuzini, South Africa

HIS Majesty King Mswati III has urged South Africa to come up with a clear agenda on traditional leadership.

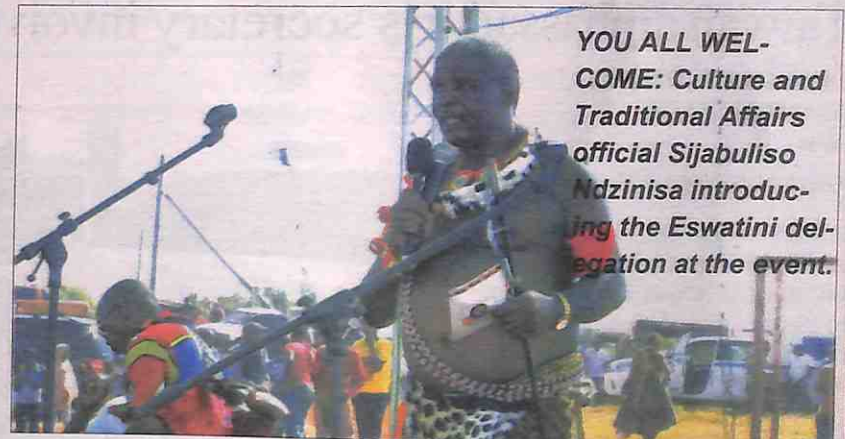
His Majesty the King was speaking on Saturday during the double celebration of King Mlambo II's birthday and the re-birth of the Mahlalela kingship, held at Mbuzini in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. His Majesty was represented by Border Restoration Committee Member Bheka Mabuza, who also represented Prince Guduza, who is the chairman of the committee.

Aware

The King said he was aware that various political parties canvassed for votes for the elections, that were held yesterday.

However, the King did not get a clear agenda about the traditional leadership from any of the parties.

This worried the King because it seemed as if the parties left out a very important component of the lives of Africans. He



YOU ALL WELCOME: Culture and Traditional Affairs official Sijabuliso Ndzinisa introducing the Eswatini delegation at the event.

urged the people of South Africa to demand a clear agenda on traditional leadership from each of the 48 political parties that partook in the elections.

The King further praised King Mlambo II for ensuring that the identity of his people was preserved. He said this was very important because many people did not have such an important identity.

He urged King Mlambo II to continue encouraging his people to preserve the important identity, so that they could be easily identified as Emaswati.

The King added that those who followed the news would know that His Majesty King Mswati III wanted Eswatini to be one of the First World countries by 2022. He urged Emaswati who reside outside Eswatini to do all they could to contribute towards making sure this dream was realised. Meanwhile, Director of Culture and Traditional Affairs at the King's Office Prince Bukhosi also thanked King Mlambo II for working hard in improving the events meant to bring King Mlambo's nation together.



DANCERS: Girls from Mpumalanga also got their chance to perform.



SIBHACA: Sagila SeMnikati displaying their Sibhaca traditional dance skills. (R) **BHEJANE:** Lutsango giving their best performance at the event.



What's in Your Mind

info@observer.org.sz

Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

NEW HIV STUDY CHALLENGES
ESWATINI'S RESPONSE FURTHERMULTISECTORAL
RESPONSE (MR)BY SAMKELO
MAHLALELAInformation Centre Assistant Manager
The National HIV and AIDS Information
and Training Centre

THE global community (Eswatini included) has in the past week learned with awe of the magnificent advances in HIV and AIDS from news coming out of The Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI).

This is an annual conference that brings together top basic, translational, and clinical researchers from around the world to share latest studies, important developments, and best research methods in the ongoing battle against HIV/AIDS and related infectious diseases.

This year it was held from March 4 - 7 in Seattle, USA.

At the time of the conference, the global community learned of the magnificent advances in HIV and AIDS as researchers made their presentations. Among the many presentations that held the global community in awe, were two research presentations.

The first concerned exciting news relating to the world's continued search for an HIV vaccine or cure. A London patient was said to be in long-term remission after stem cell transplant - this after Timothy Ray Brown (known as the Berlin Patient) was since some 12 years ago, the only individual considered to have been functionally cured of HIV.

The second exciting news were those of the HPTN071 (PopART) - a community-randomised trial which aimed to discover whether the 'universal test and treat' strategy could reduce new HIV infections in Zambia and South Africa.

It found that new HIV infections were 30 per cent lower in communities where voluntary HIV testing, and immediately referring those who test positive for HIV treatment in line

with local guidelines, was introduced alongside offering other proven HIV prevention measures to those who tested negative, compared to communities that received standard care.

Recently, however, another one of the enthralling presentations at the 2019 CROI has made it to mainstream media and it has left many excited.

On May 2, 2019 the Mail and Guardian published an article titled 'End to AIDS in sight as huge study finds drugs to stop HIV transmission', adapted from an article published in The Lancet, titled 'Risk of HIV transmission through condomless sex in serodifferent gay couples with HIV positive partner taking suppressive antiretroviral therapy (PARTNER): final results of a multicentre, prospective, observational study.'

The PARTNER study was a prospective observational study done in 75 sites in 14 European countries.

The first phase of the study (PARTNER 1, ran from September 15 to May 31, 2014) recruited and followed up both heterosexual and gay serodifferent couples (HIV+ partner taking suppressive ART) who reported sex without a condom; whereas, the PARTNER2 extension (to April 30, 2018) recruited and followed up gay couples only.

Among nearly 1 000 male couples across Europe where one partner with HIV was receiving treatment to suppress the virus, there were no cases of transmission of the infection to the HIV negative partner during sex without a condom. Although 15 men were infected with HIV during the eight-year study, DNA testing proved that was through sex with someone other than their partner who was not on treatment.

Professor Alison Rodger from University College London, the co-leader of the paper published in the Lancet, stated that their findings provide conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART is zero. She further espoused that the findings support the message that an undetectable viral load makes HIV untransmittable (U=U).

CHALLENGES FOR THE
ESWATINI HIV RESPONSE

The ultimate message, "men whose HIV infection was fully suppressed by antiretroviral drugs had no chance of infecting their partner," can help end the HIV pandemic by preventing HIV transmission, and tackling the stigma and discrimination that many people have with HIV.

The hope is that PLHIV will be greatly empowered and reassured by the

fact that having an undetectable level of the virus means that they cannot pass it on.

Regarding stigma and discrimination, the new findings could yet be important in keeping families or couples together. The many cases of abuse suffered mostly by female partners on treatment may reduce and eventually be a thing of the past, as the undetectable = untransmittable message means that the HIV+ partner in any relationship, that is diligently adhering to treatment, is actually exercising greater care to contribute to the health and well-being of the partner.

Exciting as the PARTNER study findings are, there are still many grey areas that could result in a new explosion of new HIV infections. These have to be considered for Eswatini to talk of a possible end to AIDS, in relation to these findings.

HIV TESTING

The research findings should serve to motivate those who have not yet taken an HIV test to do so, as late diagnosis is still a major challenge - still accounting for a high number of new HIV diagnoses. For Eswatini, the SHIMS 2 results indicate that 84.7 per cent of people living with HIV ages 15 and older report knowing their HIV status. There are 88.6 per cent of HIV positive females and 77.5 per cent of HIV-positive males that know their status. It is the 15 per cent that does not their HIV status that pose a real challenge to the national effort to end AIDS. There is need, therefore, to reduce late diagnosis and increase the numbers of those that access treatment.

The PARTNER study findings also reinforce the importance of people taking a regular HIV test, which could ultimately end the transmission of the virus in the future. Eswatini needs to increase focus on getting the powerful message to the larger populace and ensuring that all people living with HIV (PLHIV) have access to testing, effective treatment, adherence support and linkage to help maintain an undetectable viral load.

VIRAL LOAD TESTING

Maximising the benefits of treatment, particularly for men and key populations, has proven difficult. The SHIMS 2 indicates that among the PLHIV ages 15 and older who know their HIV status, 87.4 per cent self-report use of antiretroviral treatment - 86.9 per cent of HIV-positive females and 88.6 per cent of HIV-positive males. Of these self-reporting 15 and older PLHIV, 91.9 per cent self-report viral load suppression: 92.2 per cent females and 91.3 males.

In the country, viral load is measured every six (6) months after ART initiation to confirm virological response to ART.

After two consecutive suppressed viral load results, six months apart, viral load monitoring is done annually. Viral load monitoring is even more valuable to HIV-positive pregnant and lactating women for whom there are added benefits in terms of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV.

Continuous viral load testing is also important to the prevention of mother-to-child trans-

mission services because HIV-related infant mortality peaks at two to three months of age, hence early diagnosis and immediate treatment are imperative to prevent illness and death.

The national HIV response needs to also provide interventions for the PLHIV who reach viral suppression but still contend with other intense challenges such as non-communicable diseases, depression, anxiety, financial and economic stress (including poverty), and experiences of or apprehension about HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

KEY POPULATIONS

The Swaziland Behavioural Surveillance Survey: HIV among High Risk Groups (2013) indicates that HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men (MSM) was 12.6 per cent and 33.3 per cent of them reported receiving treatment. 25.5 per cent of the MSM reported having both male and female partners in the past year of the survey; with 57.8 per cent of MSM reporting it was somewhat or very difficult to insist on condom use for male sexual partners who provide regular economic support. Almost two-thirds (61.8%) of MSM felt afraid to seek healthcare due to their sexual orientation or practices.

PERCEIVED LOW RISK OR NO
RISK AT ALL OF HIV

Mobile populations (particularly men who spend the greater part of time away from home) engage in high risk behaviour, particularly through access to transactional sex. Many are aware that condom use reduces their risk of contracting HIV but some still use them sporadically. On return home, condoms are used even lesser or not at all.

Many may misconstrue the message coming from the PARTNER study and perceive themselves at low risk or no risk at all of HIV, just because they are on treatment and have an undetectable viral load. The challenge for the country's HIV response is, therefore, the development and dissemination of messages to dispel new myths.

Multisectoral Response advises as the undetectable = untransmittable campaign is now in mainstream media, is to await direction from government on this one, lest we put the lives of those we love at risk through condomless sex.

The hope is that PLHIV will be greatly empowered and reassured by the fact that having an undetectable level of the virus means that they cannot pass it on.

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.50%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	5.1%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	10.25%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.0%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E12.80 per litre
Replacement	E12.85 per litre
Diesel	E12.80 per litre
Paraffin	E 9.15 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 08 MAY 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.3773	14.4273
British Pound/SZL	18.7990	18.8644
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.6300	7.6558
Swiss France/SZL	14.1078	14.1555
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3285	1.3446
Australian Dollar/SZL	10.0972	10.1352
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.6831	10.7163
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	16.1148	16.1708
Gold	1,287.5300	
Oil	70.87	

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Standard Bank

EMI, Logico get SRA preferred trader status

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

ESWATINI Meat Industries and Logico Unlimited have become the first companies to be awarded the preferred trader status by the Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA).

The companies were awarded their accreditation certificates, under the preferred trader programme (PTP), during a presentation event held at the authority's newly constructed headquarters in Ezulwini yesterday.

The PTP is one such initiative through which the administration intends to reward clients who have a proven record of compliance by giving them benefits that are not enjoyed by other business operators.

The programme is exclusive and is meant to give differential treatment to clients who have taken it upon themselves to voluntarily meet their obligations as outlined in the customs legislation as well as tax and other regulatory requirements covered under these five key PTP eligibility criteria.

Making his remarks during the event SRA Commissioner General (GC) Dumisani Masilela said, under the current strategy the SRA

...Companies first ones to get accreditation certificates in the authority's PTP programme launched about five years ago

aimed to promote voluntary compliance, a goal that can be achieved by having a better understanding of their clients and forming partnerships with them.

He said the SRA had embarked on a number of modernisation initiatives, as evidenced by changes in various administrative processes in order to be efficient and deliver more value to the clients they serve.

"These improvements have been necessitated by the administration's understanding that pursuing objectives that are responsive to the needs of the clients we serve is beneficial to both the SRA and taxpayer," he said.

Reason

He said it was for this reason that trade facilitation and border clearance simplification have been adopted as important deliverables within the SRA strategy.

"These are not just flagships of a modern customs administration but they also increase business competitiveness by reducing costs associated with the supply chain and thus mean that as revenue authority we are also directly contributing to economic growth in the country," he said.

try," he said.

He explained that five companies were part of the pilot of the programme established about five years ago, with these two being the only ones to make the cut in terms of the requirement of the programme whose strategy has also been approved by SACU.

"Thank you for making the time to participate in this important event that marks the beginning of a journey in which the SRA has committed to translate its vision into a product that not only serves our interests as an administration but will also benefit our clients," he said.

He then applauded these business entities, and more specifically the two Executive Directors Jon Williams (EMI) and Anthony Geldard (Logico) for steering the companies towards the high compliance standards.

Process

"They were not discouraged by the intensive validations entailed in the pre-accreditation process, despite knowing that they would be required to fully disclose their operations in order to enable the SRA to confirm that they indeed meet the eligibility criteria to be granted this status.

"This to me is a mark of a strong corporate citizen.

I want to encourage you gentlemen to continue to maintain this high compliance standard in order to remain under the programme and enjoy its benefits," he said.

Speaking during the event, Williams said they were happy with the achievement.

"We heard of the programme about five years ago and back then inspection was scary but very thorough. This also helped us as it highlighted the weaknesses in our system and also gave SRA an insight of our industry.

Grateful

"This will really go a long way, especially considering our line of work, hence we are grateful to the SRA," he said.

Geldard shared the same sentiments and noted that the programme would allow easy business facilitation. "This will help us scale up and improve our businesses. We will continue to work together with the SRA and also implore them to work with their counterparts in neighbouring South Africa and Mozambique to allow easy trading," he said.

COMPANIES TO ENJOY VARIOUS BENEFITS

HAVING received the preferred trader status, Eswatini Meat Industries and Logico Unlimited will enjoy various benefits which include, amongst others, minimal intervention on consignments at the ports of entry.

Eswatini Revenue Authority Commissioner General (CG) Dumisani Masilela stated during the presentation of the accreditation certificates to the companies that, by virtue of their status, these companies would enjoy a number of benefits when compared to other companies.

The benefits will see the two companies being exempted from security or bond requirements in respect of goods in transit and temporary importation, reduced penalties on errors pertaining to customs declarations that are voluntarily disclosed as well as an opportunity to select a place of their convenience, in the event of the need to inspect their consignments.

Other benefits will see the companies get prioritised resolution of queries and appeals they may lodge as well as access to timeous information on any changes on processes affecting goods clearance and other such compliance requirements.

Benefits

Masilela noted that in addition to these benefits, the companies would get a customer relationship manager that will run around in the

organisation on their behalf in the event there is a matter they need resolved.

He further thanked the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) secretariat for spearheading this work and helping administrations to develop the framework to enable delivery of this initiative.

ery of this initiative.

"We are looking forward to expansion of the programme to the regional level where the partner trading states will recognise our accredited clients.

This will be an important milestone because it will facilitate seamless border crossing for their goods. Let me further note that this is a giant step towards fulfilling our obligations as a country under article 7.7 of the WTO's TFA, which requires us to launch a fully-fledged, non-discriminatory authorised economic operator programme.

"This of course will require strong support from the private sector. Let me again congratulate you on the attainment of this very significant milestone and look forward to stronger collaboration between our organisations.

We will endeavour to uphold our end of this bargain and hope that shortly, you will be our advocates amongst your colleagues so that we see more and more entities enrolling on this programme. After all, compliance is good for all concerned," he said.



ANNOUNCED: Eswatini Revenue Authority Commissioner General Dumisani Masilela.

Route to infrastructure development remains attractive - Premier

BY BAHLE GAMA

AT a time where the regional economy, including that of Eswatini, is facing challenges, the route to infrastructure development through a shared partnership remains attractive.

Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini, through the representation of Minister of Housing and Urban Development Prince Simelane, made these remarks during a JBH Management Consultancy breakfast meeting held at Royal Swazi yesterday, under the theme creating an enabling environment for Private Public Partnerships (PPPs) in.

The meeting was graced by public enterprises, the private sector, municipal authorities, developers, architects and financial institutions, amongst others.

He stated that the PPP model was not a strange concept to Eswatini, as this was evidenced by the partnership the government reached with a private entity for the construction of new units at the Mbabane Government Hospital, which include the state of the art Renal Unit, that is presently working at full capacity serving multitudes of Emaswati and saving lives.

"The importance of infrastructure development for faster economic growth and

poverty alleviation cannot be over-emphasised. Infrastructure, such as a reliable transport network consisting of roads, rail, and airports combined with dependable public services such as efficient power generation and communication systems are crucial to the advancement of living standards for a population," he said.

He further stated that, where it has been successfully implemented, the PPP concept had yielded admirable results, increasing the speed and efficiency of infrastructure delivery.

"By involving the private sector, these countries are reaping the benefits of having large infrastructure development projects delivered timely and efficiently.

Quality

"A strained economy may be a deterrent to the construction of quality infrastructure yet it is a necessity. One of the key drivers that have attracted governments to consider PPPs as a viable vehicle towards the provision of quality infrastructure, is the ability of PPPs to improve national infrastructure and public services without over stretching the public purse," he said.

He also mentioned that such a gathering was, therefore, important in interrogating the vibrancy and advantages of adopting this concept in enhancing eco-

nomie growth, with a focus on infrastructure development, while also highlighting the pitfalls that need to be avoided in its effective execution.

"His Majesty's Government is indeed attracted by the viability of the PPP model in its endeavour to fast-track economic revival. Our focus is on enhancing private sector growth, as an engine for innovation and employment creation.

"We need a vibrant private sector that is capacitated and incentivised enough to engage in large scale projects where it can partner with government to provide skills and experience where needed," he concluded.

Meanwhile, JBH Management Consultancy Managing Director Luke Mnisi said the purpose of the breakfast meeting was to bring together all the stakeholders involved in infrastructure development and providing services to communities at large. "Due to government being short in funds, it is essential that other means be made from private entities, in conjunction with government, so that these services be made available to the people. The PPP framework states that private sector wants profit and government wants services for the people, hence the gathering is meant to ensure that both parties find a common understanding," Mnisi said.

Minister calls for growth of cooperative movement

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

MINISTER of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo has said the success of the country lies with the cooperative movement.

The minister was addressing the leadership of savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOS) during a breakfast meeting aimed at briefing him about the 4th SACCO Indaba that began yesterday at Esibayeni Lodge in Matsapha.

Also present during the meeting was George Ombado, the Chief Executive Officer of the African Confederation of Cooperative Savings and Credit Associations (ACCOSA) based in Nairobi, Kenya as well as Commissioner of Cooperatives Nonhlanhla Mnisi.

Minister Khumalo expressed desire to see the cooperative movement grow from the current four per cent of the population to at least 25 per cent.

"We need to encourage people from the grassroots of the country to aggregate their thoughts, resources, talents and assets to form a unit that can give them the power to go to a bank, and say we want to implement this big idea and we want to get into this kind of a business.

"I am absolutely sure that if that were to happen, the country would transform a bit faster than it currently is. We see, for example, how the sugar industry has resulted in changed lives for the people. We also see the same with the savings and credit cooperative schemes where lives have been transformed," the minister said.

With an overall asset base of over E3 billion, the minister said he believed the cooperative movement had the capacity to double that.



GROWTH: Commissioner of Cooperatives Nonhlanhla Mnisi, Commerce Principal Secretary Siboniso Nkambule and Minister Manqoba Khumalo during the breakfast meeting with SACCOS.

"Emaswati complain that there are people coming from other countries, who take up our businesses, but the truth is that as a nation we are divided. If one can study the retail space, the reason the Asians are so successful is because they form a sort of cooperative; buy a warehouse and distribute to their retail network at a discounted price. This is the kind of thinking that we need to adopt," Khumalo said.

He added that there were opportunities in the agriculture space, particularly in agro-processing and expressed his desire to see more cooperatives venturing into the property and telecommunications sectors. Meanwhile, the CEO of ACCOSA praised Eswatini for the strides she had made towards the development of the cooperative movement.

"At some point, SASCCO (Eswatini Association of Savings and Credit Cooperatives) was down but through the boldness of the commissioner's office, she was able to re-organise the associa-

tion and put together a new Board.

"Today, the national association can proudly interact with its other counterparts in countries such as Kenya and Ghana," Ombado said.

He further requested the minister to look into the conflict between the role of the regulator, the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA), in relation to the role of the commissioner's office.

"I think the commissioner's office should be given space to regulate cooperatives and the regulator should operate like a regulator, while national associations should operate like national associations. Usually, a conflict arises when the regulator wants to do the work of the association and the association wants to play the role of the commissioner. So we need to find a way to educate the bearing of the three players," he said. The minister assured the CEO that the ministry was already working on the issue with the view of resolving it.

MTN Eswatini to simplify data offerings

BY SIFISO DLAMINI

MTN Eswatini is rolling out a massive data campaign, which will simplify access to data offerings.

In part, this campaign will be rolled out through a data menu change, which customers will see, starting from tomorrow. This change will make access to data options easier and convenient for MTN's valued customers.

MTN Eswatini Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Luphondvo said as part of simplifying access, the data menu had been made shorter, meaning there are fewer steps that one had to take when making a purchase decision. Additionally, the menu change would also make it possible for customers to compare the different data offering to see what met their felt needs and budget.

"As part of raising awareness of its data offerings, the company will use home-grown and creative ways to educate customers on data. For instance, local riddles (tiphi-caphicwano) will be used to assist MTN customers to understand how different data bundles work," mentioned Luphondvo.

The changes on menu data bundles have been reclassified into volume bundles, time-based bundles, discounted bundles and social bundles.

This, MTN believes, would make it easy for customers to make a determination before making a purchasing decision on what the specific need at the time is, to guide the choice of bundle. Essentially, these changes are not only simplifying the buying

decision, but also empowering the customer to be fully aware of what they are settling for, and the value they stand to benefit in the process, he added.

He also mentioned in the coming weeks, building up to the MTN Bushfire Festival of the arts, MTN Eswatini will run a couple of promotional and interactive activities relating to ease of access to different data offerings. Some of the activations will be run at the MTN Bushfire Festival of the arts.

Luphondvo said the company had been challenged by the Minister of Commerce Industry and Trade

Manqoba Khumalo to make data affordable and readily accessible as part of stimulating entrepreneurship in the country. Khumalo was speaking during a market access seminar held in Nhlanguano. He said access to data remained one of the

key variables amongst many that would stimulate economic development through micro, small and medium enterprises in the kingdom of Eswatini.

The seminar was meant to assist local farmers in the Shiselweni region to explore opportunities for selling their products overseas through the support of the ministry of commerce industry and trade, working alongside other key partners in the ministry of agriculture. Also explored in the seminar were issues of value addition which are basically improvements that could be potentially made to products before they could be exported to overseas markets.

Chile's TV production covers Eswatini

BY SANDZASIVE NXUMALO

A tourism TV production crew from Chile recently visited the kingdom to do a special coverage that focuses on the country's tourist attractions.

The TV crew films for a tourism show called *Destinos Inexplorados*, which translates to 'Unexplored Destinations'. The team's main aim was to explore Africa and market the African destinations to the people of South America" said the show's Director and Producer Christian Chaparero, The Chilean crew spent two days in the country, during which it filmed some of the country's best offerings. Chaparero stated that the team would explore four African countries, those being; Lesotho, Eswatini, Seychelles and Mauritius during the tour. The crew, made up of four crew members and the host, were filming the show while on the road.

Destinos Inexplorados is a TV show that shows new destinations and interesting places that were previously unknown. During their visit to Eswatini, the crew's first stop was Swazi Candles, from where they proceeded to Malandela's and Hlane Game Reserve. Following that, the crew went to Ngwenya Glass, stopping along the way to

see other places of interest, such as the King Sobhuza II Memorial Park, the National Museum and the handcraft market.

Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA) Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini welcomed the team during a brief breakfast meeting at Mantenga Lodge, where the crew had spent the night upon their arrival in the country.

He explained that the country was working on visa accessibility issues for visitors coming from South America. He also appreciated the crew for considering the kingdom, adding that they were also working on securing markets in Chile and other neighbouring countries.

Dlamini further extended an invitation to the crew to visit again in September to witness the Umhlanga Reed Dance and other events, including the King's Golf tournament. The team said they were looking forward to understanding the culture of Eswatini, and communicating it accurately to the South American people. They were also expecting to experience the beautiful sites of the kingdom, including the Big Five. On their departure, the crew said they had great and interesting experience, which exceeded their expectations about the country.



SA VOTES 2019



I will never miss voting Amputee

DURBAN - Determined to cast her vote, a 71-year-old amputee went the extra mile and asked to be pushed in her wheelchair to her voting station.

Nothuthuzelo Xabendlini of Gamalakhe township in Port Shepstone, KwaZulu-Natal was supposed to vote from home as a special voter, but her name did not appear on the list of those granted the special right.

She voted at around 8:45am at Gamalakhe Library.

She said because she is determined to use her right to vote, she asked one of her granddaughters and a neighbour to transport her

in her wheelchair to vote.

"I started voting in 1994 when we got freedom and I will never miss voting while I am still alive. We fought hard for this right and my vote is important to vote for the party I want to govern us," she said.

Worrying

Xabendlini whose left leg was amputated, said it was worrying that there are reports that young people are not registered to vote in their numbers. "Hearing that is very bad because voting is very important. I personally vote to see our communities develop," she said. *News24*

This is the last chance to fix ANC - Motlanthe

JOHANNESBURG - Former president Kgalema Motlanthe said yesterday that the leaders of the ANC was "well aware, that this is the last chance" to address issues within the party.

Speaking to the media, while queuing to vote at the posh Killarney Country Club in Johannesburg, Motlanthe said he has 'no doubt' that the 'weaknesses' in the party will be attended to.

"The leadership of the ANC is well aware that this is the last chance. Therefore, I have no doubt in my mind that soon after the elections, they will attend to all the weaknesses in the party," he said.

Speaking about the possibility of entering into a coalition should the ANC not gain a majority in hotly-contested Gauteng, Motlanthe said it was 'not part of the plan'.

"We didn't campaign for that."

We campaigned so that the ANC should get a clear majority in this province, so that wasn't part of the plan. If it eventually happens, we will take it up from there - but for now, the ANC will win," he said.

Motlanthe was surrounded by jubilant voters, who took the opportunity to greet the former president and take pictures with him.

He encouraged all South Africans to vote. "This right to vote came at a high price and so it's a right that people should value and exercise," he said.

"Those who vote will determine the future of this country. As long as you are going to be living in SA, it's important to adopt the view that none but yourself can change the future of the establishment."

Times



WELL AWARE: Former president Kgalema Motlanthe.

Mmusi Maimane's mom bets on son to govern SA

SOWETO - The mother of DA leader Mmusi Maimane believes her son will become the president of the country following yesterday's elections.

Ethel Maimane, who accompanied her son to the Presbyterian Church polling station in Dobsonville, Soweto where they both voted, said she was confident of Maimane's win. "You can see the difference (this time) and we believe that change is there," she said adding that it was 'obvious' who she had voted

for. Addressing the media after voting, Maimane reiterated his plea to the nation to give his party a five year contract to prove that it can indeed bring about the required change, which he said included at least one job per household.

"I'm saying, to even ANC voters sitting at home, choose your hopes and not your fears. Come out today and vote for change," said Maimane.

He said that he was not asking ANC voters to leave their party but to simply

IFP supporters cheer as Jacob Zuma votes

JOHANNESBURG - Former president Jacob Zuma cast his vote amid an ecstatic reception at Ntolwane Primary School in his home village of kwaNxamalala on Wednesday morning.

Zuma was accompanied by two of his wives, Sizakele MaKhumalo Zuma and Tobeka Madiba Zuma.

Voting

The voting station came alive when the former president arrived. Even IFP members in a tent adjacent to the school's entrance cheered at the sight of Zuma's arrival. The former leader cracked jokes with the IEC official who inspected his identity document. He also shared a light moment in the queue with Inkosi yamaNxamalala Bhukumuzi Zuma and promised to make time to see the chief after the elections. *Times Live*



VOTING: Former President Jacob Zuma voting yesterday.

...Confident Edward Zuma votes in Nkandla

DURBAN - Former president Jacob Zuma's son Edward cast his vote yesterday morning at Ntolwane Primary School in Nkandla, where his father was also expected to vote at 10am and says that he expects an overwhelming victory for the party.

Residents of the village have braved the scorching heat standing in the queue awaiting their chance to cast their vote.

The voting station, situated in the KwaNxamalala village of Nkandla, is within eyeshot of Zuma's controversial R246 million compound.

The voting station has 1 800 registered

voters and by 09.30 am it had already seen over 250 voters cast their votes.

Edward Zuma said that the sixth elections were an indication of the country's maturing democracy, which turned 25 years last month and that he was confident that his party would emerge victorious both nationally and in the provinces.

With fears that the implication of numerous ANC leaders in the state capture inquiry would hurt the party at the polls, he said that the party's leadership, elected in Nasrec in December 2017, was already carrying out the mandate it was given at the conference to root out cor-

ruption.

"We would expect that in the next five years the ANC will be at the forefront of fighting corruption," Zuma said.

Baqaphele Thusi of KwaNxamalala village said she began walking to the voting station as early as 7am and was happy to have cast her vote for the sixth time in the general elections.

The voting station's presiding officer Zwelomusa Mbambo said besides a malfunctioning scanner, which had delayed the start of voting but has since been fixed, everything was proceeding without any glitches. *IOL*

Sun City prisoners cast votes, while Westville inmates to wait

JOHANNESBURG - The excitement was palpable at the Johannesburg Prison yesterday as inmates cast their votes for the national and provincial elections.

Bongani Mabena, 44, who is serving a life sentence at the jail commonly known as 'Sun City', says it is important for prisoners to have a say in who will lead the country.

"Prison is a community in itself. Inmates should be given a right to vote because after serving their time they will be reintegrated into the community," he said.

"I appreciate if we give the government a chance, because there are things that cannot be done overnight."

Another inmate, Mosutho Maleka said he has been in prison for six years.



The 30-year-old first-time voter had a big smile on his face after making his mark. "It is quite a privilege to vote today. At least we can also vote and be happy," he said. *Times Live*

MOM SUPPORT: DA leader Mmusi Maimane casting his vote accompanied by his wife.



SA VOTES 2019

RAMAPHOSA VOTES

JOHANNESBURG - President Cyril Ramaphosa has cast his vote in Chiawelo, Soweto.

Ramaphosa was accompanied by his wife, Dr Tshepo Motsepe and IEC Chairperson Glen Mashinini.

"I am excitingly confident. The response of our people to voting is amazing. The nation and our people are energised to cast their vote and they can see that with their vote, they are heralding a new dawn. A new beginning. A period of

renewal."

This is a vote that reminds us of 1994," Deputy President David Mabuza voted at Azuri Farm in Barberton, Mpumalanga.

Opposition party leaders have also cast their votes. *Enca*

Mbeki impressed with IEC decisiveness

JOHANNESBURG - Former president Thabo Mbeki has voted at the Holy Family collage in Killarney in Johannesburg.

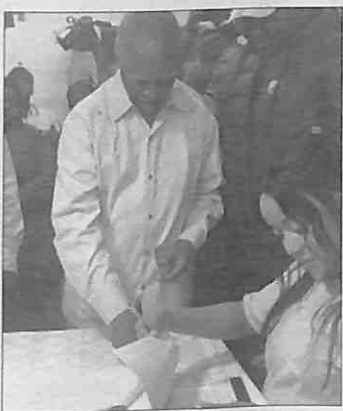
The former statesman used his executive privileges to jump the queue while followed around by a large media contingent trying to capture this moment.

He interacted with a few voters after he made his X, even allowing some people to take selfies with him.

When asked about who the African National Congress struggle stalwart voted for, he light-heartedly laughed, before saying it is illegal to do any party campaigning when voting is underway.

Mbeki, dressed in a blue long sleeve shirt and chino pants, left on foot surrounded by a number of his presidential security guards.

Mbeki said he was impressed with the IEC's decisiveness in dealing with issues that could threaten the smooth running of the elections. *EWN*



HAPPY: Former President Thabo Mbeki casts his vote.

Every vote counts, party agents must guard EFF vote - Malema

JOHANNESBURG - Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema said yesterday the red berets would accept the outcome of the final results of the general elections, but warned all party agents assigned to polling stations across the country to 'remain vigilant and guard the EFF vote'.

"We have now voted and once the voting stations close, the counting period starts, and we will wait. South Africans will tell us what they decided," Malema said, speaking to the media shortly after casting his ballot in Seshego, Limpopo.

He was flanked by his wife, Mantwa Malema, and several family members at Mponengele Primary School in the area.

Malema encouraged EFF supporters

and party agents to keep a close eye on the voting process, claiming that there was a possibility of electoral fraud.

"All party agents must remain vigilant and guard the EFF vote because we know that we are dealing with thugs from the other side, they can steal our vote.

Where there's no party agent of the EFF, we call upon the people of SA to tweet us and send us messages on Facebook... and tell us they voted but didn't see EFF party agents, we will immediately deploy party agents to go and look after the EFF vote," he said. He said if South Africans wanted change in the political direction of the country, they should vote for the EFF in numbers.

EWN



ON LINE: The EFF leader Julius Malema with his wife waiting for them to vote.

Ballot papers run out at Durban North voting station

DURBAN - Just over an hour after opening, voters at the Durban North Action Cricket Club voting station were told that ballot papers had run out.

Gareth Jenkison said IEC staff told voters that more ballots were on their way. "The presiding officer went out and about 15 minutes later returned with more ballot papers. She said more were being

brought from KwaMashu," he said.

He said the station was "very busy".

According to the IEC's voting station roll, there are 3 078 voters registered at the station.

Presiding officer Nonko Mahono said they had a challenge with the ballot papers coming through on time.

EWN

Government welcomes 'smooth start' to elections

JOHANNESBURG - Government has welcomed 'the smooth start' to the national and provincial elections.

"Millions of South Africans have already cast their vote, affirming that our democracy remains strong and vibrant," Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Spokesperson Phumla Williams said in a statement yesterday. "We are encouraged that, apart from a few exceptions, voting stations around the country started on time, and issues are being addressed as they arise. The South African Police Service, supported by the South African National Defence Force and Metro Police officers are deployed throughout the country. We commend them for their hard work and dedication.

"The vibrant atmosphere at voting stations around the nation is encouraging and we are confident that these elections will build on our history of holding regular, peace-

ful, and free and fair elections," Williams said.

Government joined the IEC in encouraging South Africans to keep making their way to voting stations throughout the day. It also commended voters for the dignity and patience with which they were conducting themselves.

Ballot

As part of the control measures, every ballot paper has to have a validation stamp at the back. The GCIS encouraged voters to ensure that their national and provincial ballot was stamped.

"Government wishes to convey our deepest sympathy to the family and loved ones of the IEC official who passed away last night, and of the 67-year-old man who died in Tshwane, while making his way to a voting station. We also wish to express condolences to the IFP after one of their members passed away in a car crash in KwaZulu-Natal," Williams said. *EWN*

IEC confirms voter's death in Elandspoor, voting station problems

JOHANNESBURG - A voter has died while at one of the polling stations in Tshwane.

This was announced by IEC CEO Sy Mamabolo during a media briefing in Pretoria yesterday.

"As always in the election of this magnitude, there are some challenges reported, including an instance where officials arrived late for duty and where materials were delayed. This had all been resolved by 9am," he said.

"The IEC is sad to report the death of a deputy presiding officer in the Eastern Cape due to illness overnight and extends its condolences to the family. The commission also received reports of an elderly voter who apparently died in a voting station in Elandspoor, in Tshwane, today. Accordingly we express our condolences to the family," Mamabolo said.

He said election staff were involved in an accident in the Eastern Cape but no injuries were reported.

The IEC reported a good turnout at most polling stations with voters arriving in the early hours of the morning. However, Mamabolo said there were also reports of access problems

at some voting stations due to protests in certain areas.

"In most cases, the SAPS supported by the municipal police were on standby to quickly resolve these issues. By 11.30am, only 17 voting station remained unopened due to access challenges. Fourteen of these are on the southern coast of KwaZulu-Natal. The commission is working closely with various government departments to open these stations as soon as possible," he said. He said the IEC was aware of voters who had attempted to remove the indelible ink on their thumbs. *Citizen*

The IEC is sad to report the death of a deputy presiding officer in the Eastern Cape due to illness overnight and extends its condolences to the family.

Khoisan activist Christian Martin confident of ANC's victory

PORT ELIZABETH - Khoi San activist and African National Congress (ANC) MPL, Christian Martin made his mark at the Chatty Community Hall in Ward 35 in Port Elizabeth yesterday.

According to the IEC, 2033 individuals were registered to vote in ward 35, and by mid-morning despite the cold and rain, 300 people had already streamed

in to cast their votes.

Martin was confident that the ANC would win overwhelmingly at a national and provincial level. Martin said that the ANC had strong liberation credentials. "In 1999, there was this wave of the UDM but where is the UDM today? You get COPE, they started with nine people in Bisho and now there's one,

they not going to exist after the elections." Martin said in South Africa people voted for popular individuals that have established struggle credentials.

"But the danger is what would happen is, let's say Bantu Holomisa tomorrow goes out of politics, that party will definitely disappear and the same with COPE. The challenge that you have is

that everything is built around individual charismatic people. Same with the DA, it was based on Tony Leon, Helen Zille and now Maimane. I don't think they will get the votes they expect and Maimane will definitely go out."

A 66-year-old woman, who recently had a stroke and is wheelchair bound said, she cast her vote for the future of

her children.

Alosius Elliot, 47, said he was voting to stand up for what he believed was right: "I'm very happy with my choice because I am confident. We have to stand for what is right and that is why I vote, I also want my voice to be heard."

The elections yesterday were the country's sixth since the dawn of democracy in 1994. Voting stations opened at 7am across the country and were scheduled to close at 9pm.

(ANA)

Focus on World News

Global News

Trump pardons US army officer convicted of killing

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump has granted a full pardon to a former US Army officer convicted of the 2009 murder of an Iraqi detainee.

Michael Behenna, 35, a former lieutenant in the 101st Airborne Division from Oklahoma, was released from prison in 2014 after serving five years in jail.

Behenna was convicted in 2009 of unpremeditated murder for the death of Ali Mansur, an Iraqi who was suspected of belonging to al-Qaeda.

Mansur was picked up by US troops following a bomb explosion that killed two members of Behenna's unit but was released.

Behenna later conducted his own interrogation of Mansur and claimed at his trial that he killed him in self-defence.

In granting the pardon, the White House said Behenna's case had 'attracted broad support from the military, Oklahoma elected officials, and the public.'



PARDONS: US President Donald Trump.

Hina Shamsi, Director of the National Security Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, condemned the presidential pardon for Behenna.

"This pardon is a presidential endorsement of a murder that violated the military's own code of justice," Shamsi said in a statement.

"The military appeals court found

Behenna disobeyed orders, became the aggressor against his prisoner, and had no justification for killing a naked, unarmed Iraqi man in the desert, away from an actual battlefield.

"Trump, as commander-in-chief, and top military leaders should prevent war crimes, not endorse or excuse them," Shamsi said. *AFP*

Trump invites Hungary's Orban to White House

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump is to host Hungary's firebrand anti-immigration Prime Minister Viktor Orban at the White House next week, officials said.

"President Donald J Trump will welcome Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary to the White House on May 13, 2019," the administration said in a statement.

"Recognising the longstanding ties

between the United States and Hungary, the president and the prime minister will discuss ways to deepen co-operation on a range of issues, including trade, energy, and cyber security."

As leaders of Nato countries, the statement said, Trump and Orban will 'explore opportunities to meet the many national security responsibilities of their two countries.'

Orban's anti-immigration campaigns

in Europe echo many of the themes of Trump's own drive to build a wall on the US-Mexico border and his attempts to thwart migrants seeking US asylum.

With elections to the European Parliament to be held later this month, Orban's hardline - some say xenophobic - stance against refugees and 'Brussels bureaucrats' has alienated even former conservative allies.

AFP

Namibia declares drought a national disaster

WINDHOEK - Namibia on Tuesday declared drought a national disaster after poor rainfall wreaked havoc on crops and scorched grazing fields.

Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila made the announcement a day after the southern African nation launched an urgent appeal for international aid.

Kuugongelwa-Amadhila told Parliament it was clear that the 'livelihoods of the majority of Namibians, especially those that depend on agricultural activities is threatened.'

"Most regions are experiencing water shortage, as most of the rain-fed catchments are either dry or have little water," she said.

Namibia, a country of 2.4 million people, has since 2015

experienced numerous dry spells.

In April, an agriculture ministry report said 63 700 animals had died in 2018 because of deteriorating grazing conditions brought on by dry weather.

"It's a call for any institution or person to complement government efforts to assist and fight the effects of drought," Information Minister Stanley Simataa told AFP, speaking about the government's aid appeal.

Two weeks ago, the government announced that it will spend about R570 million (US\$39 400 352 euros) on drought relief this year to buy food, provide water tankers and provide subsidies to farmers.

AFP



DROUGHT: Namibia's Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

Wildfire kills 54 people in South Sudan

JUBA - At least 54 people were killed when a wildfire raged through a village in northern South Sudan.

At least 18 others were injured when the fire broke out in the village of Korok in Lol State on Sunday night, the state's Deputy Governor, Mawein Akook, told dpa on Tuesday via telephone. Most residents had been asleep when the fire burned

down most huts in the village, and most victims were women, children and elderly people, according to Akook. At least 14 people sustained first-degree burns, the deputy governor added. Farms and livestock were also destroyed in fire, while dozens of residents fled the area to neighbouring villages. The cause of the fire remained unknown on Tuesday. *Dpa*



POSE: African heads of state pose for a group photo.

African Union, UN back civilian-led Sudan transition

ADIS ABABA - The African Union and the United Nations said they are supporting a civilian-led transitional government in Sudan following last month's overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir.

AU Commission Chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat told reporters after meeting on Monday with UN Secretary-

General Antonio Guterres there is no question of sustaining the military council that assumed power after al-Bashir's ouster, saying 'it is not acceptable'.

But he said military members could be part of a civilian government.

The AU initially gave the military 15 days to hand over power but extended the deadline to 60 days. Mahamat said

talks are under way.

The UN-AU communique welcomes and supports 'AU-led efforts to facilitate a consensual and civilian-led transition, in close coordination with the UN'. Al-Bashir, who had been in power for 30 years, was ousted last month by the military following months of protests.

Aljazeera

BRIEFS

Children killed after car rams into group

JAPAN - Two children were killed and a dozen injured, two critically, in Japan yesterday after a car involved in an accident with another vehicle skidded into a nursery school group out for a walk with their teachers, NHK national television said. All of the children and two of their teachers were taken to hospital for treatment, NHK added, but two - a boy and a girl, both two years old - died soon after. Television footage showed two cars slewed at opposite corners of a crossing and brightly coloured school bags scattered on a sidewalk. The children had been returning from an outing to a lake, NHK said. *AFP*

Hackers steal \$41m worth of bitcoin

INTERNATIONAL - Hackers stole bitcoin worth US\$41 million from Binance, one of the world's largest cryptocurrency exchanges, the company said on Wednesday, the latest in a string of thefts from cryptocurrency exchanges around the world. The 7 000 bitcoin were withdrawn by hackers using a variety of techniques, 'including phishing, viruses and other attacks', according to a post on Binance's website by Chief Executive Officer Zhao Changpeng. The post said user funds would not be affected because the company would use its secure asset fund for users to cover the loss. *Reuters*

Blast at popular Pakistani shrine kills five

PAKISTAN - A blast at one of Pakistan's oldest and most popular Sufi shrines killed at least five people and wounded 24 in the eastern city of Lahore yesterday, police said, as the country marks the fasting month of Ramadan. Police have said they are still investigating the nature of the blast, which occurred near the entrance gate for female visitors to the 11th-century Data Darbar shrine, one of the largest Sufi shrines in South Asia. Husks of vehicles littered the pavement near the shrine as first responders rushed to the scene while armed security forces fanned out in the area. *AFP*

Student killed in US school shooting

COLORADO - A teenaged pupil was fatally shot and multiple others were wounded on Tuesday in a school shooting by fellow pupils in the US state of Colorado, across town from one of the worst gun massacres in the country's modern history. "It is with extreme sadness that we can confirm that 1 student at the STEM School was killed," the Douglas County Sheriff's Office said on Twitter, putting the deceased victim's age at 18. Sheriff Tony Spurlock had earlier said several of the wounded pupils - of whom there were a total of eight - were in critical condition, including some in surgery. *AFP*



WITH: Simon Shabangu

CHURCH NEWS



Back to God revivals

DIVINE Healing Ministries International Mbabane will host another series of the Back to God revivals featuring God Never Fails' Pastor Mziyako, who is based at Nkomanzi in South Africa.

The service, according to the church PRO Pastor Mduduzi Mtambo will start on May 20 until Saturday May 25. He said the service is open to all believers who want to be empowered with the word of God. He said service will start at six every evening until nine, stating that everyone is welcome to join them in this important service, which is aimed at winning back the souls to God. He said there will also be free transport to the people around Mbabane, noting that they want to ensure that everyone is catered for and they do not miss out from such an important service. "will be ministering at the services to be held at our Eveni branch. We have Pastor Mziyako who leads a church with over 7 000 people in Nkomanzi under GNF, we have Pastor Shortgun Simelane, we have the man of the house reverend Ngcamphalala, who is the local pastor in Mbabane. I will also have my day at the pulpit to minister the word of God and our spiritual father and the founder of Divine Healing Ministries Dr. Nash Shongwe will also minister during the course of the six day revivals," he added.

US's BISHOP NOEL JONES TO VISIT METROPOLITAN CHURCH

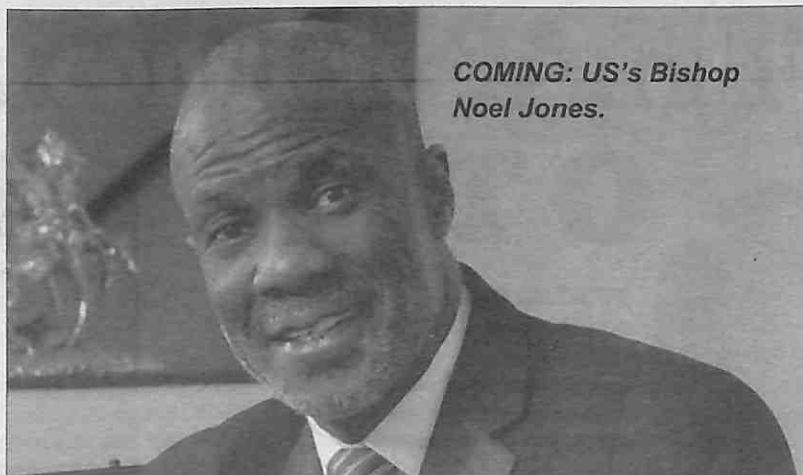
UNITED States of America's renowned Minister of the word of God Bishop Noel Jones will be in the country for the Seasons Revivals, hosted by Metropolitan Evangelical Church in Manzini, led by Reverend Anthony Matsenjwa.

Bishop Jones will share the pulpit with some of the country's finest ministers of the word of God, including Pastor Dr Phil Mlisi, Bishop Stephen Masilela, Apostle Douglas Mahlalela from Tonga, South Africa, Reverend Shoddy Msibi, as well as the host Reverend Matsenjwa.

Services

The services, according to the host, start on May 20 until May 24 at their state of the art auditorium in Manzini. He said the services will start at six until nine every evening from Monday until Friday. Matsenjwa said there will also be music ministry from a number of artists, including SA multi award winner Apostle Solly Mahlangu.

"The people of God are all invited to this 'spiritual feast', as the theme says, this is seasons of revival which means



COMING: US's Bishop Noel Jones.

everyone is welcome to be part of this important service and get spiritual revival. This is not for the Metropolitan Church only but everyone is invited to join us. We are more than ready to welcome the people of God to this important five day services, where we are expecting spiritual visitation. All the men of God who will speak in during the duration of these ser-

vices are anointed and will surely not leave people the same," he added.

Bishop Noel Jones is an American minister and a Pentecostal bishop.

He is the senior pastor of the City of Refuge Church in Gardena, California, which has about 17 000 members, and was formerly the Greater Bethany Community Church.

TODAY VERSE

For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

(JOB 19 VS 25)

MBABANE ALLIANCE CHURCH
Church services

Monday
Prayer 6:00pm-7:30pm

Thursday
Bible Exposition 6:00pm-7:30pm

Friday
Youth 6:00pm-7:30pm

Saturday
Women 2:00pm-3:30pm

Sunday
English Service 8:30am-10:30am
Siswati Service 11:00am-1:00pm

Children's Ministry 8:30am-10:30am, 11:00am-1:00pm

Men Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 6:00pm-7:30pm

Single Parents Every 1st Sunday of the month 2:00pm-3:30pm

Contact: 2404 0979

Prophetic Encounter at Ambassador's House

Today is the last day of the Prophetic Encounter services, which started on Monday at Ambassador's House Ministries in Makhohlhohlo.

The services, hosted by Bishop Mpendulo Nkambule, feature SMD Mathabala and Prophet Alex Nkambule, who will be preaching at the service tonight. There will also be a one-on-one Prophetic Encounter, starting from 11am until 2pm. The main and last service starts at 6pm until 9pm.

DIVINE
Healing Ministries International

Manzini Branch:
Wednesdays- Prayer 6:00-7:30pm
Thursdays- Mid-week Service 6:30-8:00pm
Sundays- Teachings 9:30-10:30am

Main Service
10:30am - 1pm

Mbabane Branch:
Tuesdays Prayer 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Sundays- Service 10am - 1pm

EVANGELICAL Church - Nhlangu
"Distinctively Christian"

Every Sunday
English Service at 08:30hrs - 09:55hrs

Bible Study -
10:00hrs - 10:55hrs
Siswati Service - 11:00hrs - 13:00hrs

Every Monday
Prayer: 18:00hrs - 20:00hrs

Last Tuesdays of the Month
Family Fellowship: 18:00hrs - 20:00hrs

Every Friday
Youth Services: 18:00hrs - 20:00hrs

Venue:
Evangelical Church Nhlangu Church Hall, Opposite Nhlangu Central Primary School

Contacts
22075 020/7603 6628

FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

God Can Still Do It Again with Apostle Jeremiah
Venue: Ngwane Park Manzini, Faith Premises

Sundays 11:30am.
In spite of your past, you shall smile again.

CONTACTS
7871 0029/7631 4007
Come one come all

MIRIAM'S FIRST EVANGELICAL ASSEMBLIES

Rev. Dr. A. M. B. & Pastor T. Matsebula

Sunday English service
9:00 am - 10:30am

Main Service
10:45am - 1:00pm

Wednesday Prayer
6:00pm - 7:30pm

Monday, Tuesday, 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Mbabane FEA
below Mbabane clinic, Contacts
24045807/76413201
Email: mbabanofea@swazilink.net

GOD IS ABLE

CHURCH SERVICE Times

SUNDAY SERVICES
MBABANE THEATRE CLUB
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

MANZINI SATELITE
2:30 PM - 5:00 PM

CONTACT 7605 3160

ZAKHELE FREE EVANGELICAL ASSEMBLIES

SUNDAY English service @ 9:00am - 10:45am

Siswati Service @ 11:00am - 1:00pm

Venue:
Zakhele, Nkambule street, Manzini

BY: Rev Msibi
Contacts:
2505 6419 / 7650 3140

JOIN US ON OUR THURSDAY SERVICES
17:30 HRS - 19:30 HRS

CONTACT:
7859 1821 / 7825 8913
MBABANE HILLTOP (BEHIND MHLAMANYASI WAITING ROOM)

DR. G. G. ABLATE CHURCH (NHLANGANO MATHEDELE)

Services

Monday
8am-9pm, 10am-11pm
Wednesday 6pm-7:30pm
Friday 6pm-7:30pm

Sunday
Morning 6:30am
Evening 6:30am
Main service 10:00am-11:00am

Contact
76638622/76471717
Host:
Pastor N.T. Dlamini

GROWING FAITH Ministries International

Monday:
Prayer & Transformation 6-8pm

Tuesday:
Transformation Class at Syney Williams in Manzini 6:30-8pm

Friday:
Breakthrough Service 6-8pm

Sunday:
Prayer 9am

Main Service
10am - 1pm

(Lobamba, Esiljani on your way to Mhlwani)

NHLANGANO HOPE RESTORATION CHURCH

HOST
Seer
Joshua Ringel
The Son of Prophet Elijah Ave

Worship with us EVERY SUNDAYS:
@ Mathendele Community Hall
11:00am - 2:00pm
Come receive
Prayer, Miracles & Deliverance

JUBILEE WORSHIP HOUSE INTERNATIONAL

THEME:
A Place Where We Celebrate God's Intervention

Church services:

Friday
Youth session 8pm - 9pm

Saturday
Prayer 8pm - 9pm

Sunday
Main Service 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Katharine (Katharine) next to Mhlwani (Katharine)
God is changing changes to change the world
Contact: 76159475

Winners Chapel Int'l Mbabane

INVITES YOU
the SUNDAY to her special service titled

38TH ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE
5TH MAY 2019 TIME: 9AM

COVENANT HOUR OF PRAYER
MONDAY - FRIDAY TIME: 6:00AM
SATURDAY TIME: 7:00AM

MONDAY INTERDENOMINATIONAL CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER
TIME: 5:30PM

HEALING SERVICE
ONE HOUR WITH THE GREAT PHYSICIAN THE LUNCH HOUR (1PM - 2PM) Every Tuesday

MID-WEEK COMMUNION SERVICE
MID-WEEK MIRACLE PROVOKING SERVICE Every Wednesday TIME: 5:30PM

PASTOR EDWIN ENINOBH
Resident Pastor
Winners Chapel Int'l Mbabane Swaziland

Winners Chapel Int'l Mbabane

INVITES YOU
the SUNDAY to her special service titled

ENCOUNTER WITH DESTINY
31ST MARCH 2019 TIME: 9AM

COVENANT HOUR OF PRAYER
MONDAY - FRIDAY TIME: 6:00AM
SATURDAY TIME: 7:00AM

MONDAY INTERDENOMINATIONAL CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER
TIME: 5:30PM

HEALING SERVICE
ONE HOUR WITH THE GREAT PHYSICIAN THE LUNCH HOUR (1PM - 2PM) Every Tuesday

MID-WEEK COMMUNION SERVICE
MID-WEEK MIRACLE PROVOKING SERVICE Every Wednesday TIME: 5:30PM

PASTOR EDWIN ENINOBH
Resident Pastor
Winners Chapel Int'l Mbabane Swaziland

The Redemption Ministries

Invites you to the Healing and Deliverance service every Saturday starting on the 13th of April 2019 and also the Thanksgiving Service every Sunday.

Services start at 4pm. Registration for the Prayer line begins at 3pm. The Sick should bring their CURRENT MEDICAL REPORTS. For more information contact our Help Desk + (268) 76503939 or + (268) 78336352.

You can also visit our Facebook Page **REDEMPTION MINISTRIES SWAZILAND.**

Yonder Worship Centre

with
Apostle Bakhe and Mrs. Nokwanda Dlamini

Sundays:
10am-12pm

Venue:
Woodlands, Ezulwini

Observer Entertainment

New Reviews Star Signs Celebrity Watch Cartoons

NOTHANDO HLOPHE TO TOUR THE UK

BY DELISA THWALA

Gospel musician Nothando Hlophe is set to embark on a promotional tour in Eswatini, South Africa and The United Kingdom.

The gospel sensation will be promoting her new album titled

'Nothando Hlophe Live at Soweto Theatre', which was released in February.

This was confirmed by Leserato Events's PRO Lerato Mtshali.

"Nothando will tour in London, United Kingdom on October 19 and will take on Birmingham on October 26," said Mtshali.

Mtshali said they were happy and excited to be embarking on this journey with the singer.

"We are looking forward to an exciting journey as we promote the recently released album. The response has been amazing so far and we are looking forward to sharing Nothando's music with people in different places," said Mtshali.

Speaking to the Entertainment Desk, Hlophe said she was happy about the journey she was about to embark on and was looking forward to it. "I'm humbled and very much ready to start this journey, I'm looking forward to it," said Hlophe.

In 2015, Hlophe managed to beat about 200 participants, in a nationwide competition, where she then became a member of the South Africa based gospel group Women in Praise which is under Spirit Music Group.

A month after joining the group, she took part in the live recording of the 'Women in Praise live in Swaziland'.

Tour dates:

- June 1st - Hendrina (Mpumalanga)
- June 7th - Kamhushwa (Mpumalanga)
- June 28th - Roodepoort (Gauteng)
- July 20th - Port Elizabeth (Eastern Cape)
- August 3rd - Cape Town (Western Cape)
- October 5th - Manzini (Eswatini)
- October 19th - London (UK)
- October 26th - Birmingham (UK)

album when she led the hit song 'Khulul' Ugcobo' and another crowd's favourite 'Sekukani'.

In April 2018, she recorded her second CD and DVD titled 'Nothando Hlophe Live at Soweto Theatre', which was released at the end of February 2019, which is a real testimony of how God has worked on her musical journey thus far.

She is also a member of the Spirit of Praise Volume 7 ensemble, where she leads two songs alongside gospel greats; Benjamin Dube, Siphon Ngwenya, Dumi Mkokstad, Omega Khunou, and many more.

Hlophe is a Liswati recording artist who was born and raised in Lobamba. Nothando is a born again Christian and has passion for gospel music, which she started singing at Sunday school at the local Lobamba Christian Fellowship Church, where she is a member to date.



TRAVELLING THE WORLD:
Singer
Nothando
Hlophe.

Ronnie Dlamini to be laid to rest Saturday

BY DELISA THWALA

The late ex-Association of Christian Artists of Eswatini (ACASWA) PRO Ronnie Dlamini will be laid to rest on Saturday 11 at his parental home in Gege.

He will be laid to rest after a vigil, which will commence after the memorial service to be held tomorrow at Kwaluseni Methodist Church.

This was revealed by his wife, Sithembile Dlamini.

Ronnie met his untimely death on May 1, whereby his demise was confirmed by his wife.

Dlamini had served as ACASWA's public relations officer with the previous committee led by Mzwakhe Myeni. He was tasked with setting up regional offices for the association in 2014 and he delivered diligently.

ACASWA at the time partnered with Matata Stores to conduct a talent search and Dlamini was responsible for getting sponsorships for the association.

Dlamini was also nominated for *indvuna yeNkhundla* under Gege in the last elections. He was also appointed to lead preparations for the 2015 ACASWA gospel crossover.



RIP: The late ex-Association of Christian Artists of Eswatini PRO Ronnie Dlamini.

Gin and Tonic Affair on October 5

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

THIS year's Gin and Tonic event date is finally out after the disaster that happened at their last show.

It is slated for October 5.

Due to what happened during their last show, this will be a make-up show for those who couldn't make it last time.

They promised to bring back the show this year, hence they are now delivering the promise to their followers.

Entrance will be free to all those who attended the event last year, where they will be notified via text messages, which they can use to redeem their tickets at any of the ticket outlets.

Gin and Tonic Affair is a lifestyle event that focuses on the appreciation of Gin.

They provide a relaxed environment, which is an ideal meeting point for people to convene and experience some of the best twisted Gin drinks and Gourmet food.

"More information on venue, entertainment and activities at the event will be revealed soon," Nomfanelo Ntshangase, the event organiser, said.

Poet Majaha to host charity show

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

THE 2018 SWAMA Best Poet Majaha Nkonyane will be hosting a one-man charity show dubbed 'Blanket Your Words'.

According to Nkonyane, he decided to host the show for charity because of the harsh winter season. He said he wanted to raise funds to assist those in need.

"The winter season is upon us and it can be a harsh season, especially for those who are in need. We have a chance to change someone's life by assisting where we can and it gives me great honour and pleasure to host my very first one man poetry show 'Blanket Your Words,' which is also a charity-based event," he said.

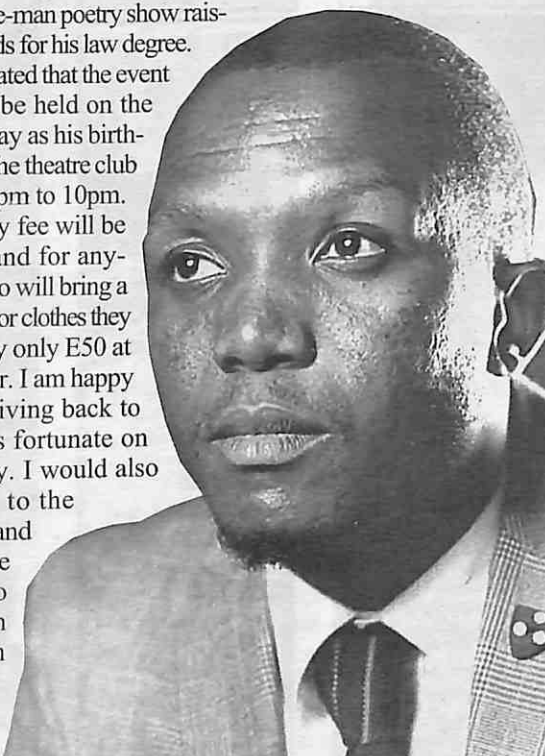
Nkonyane stated that the event would feature artists in the poetry industry such as MoCats,

Ntombie Ndzabukelwako and Sbulelo Jele, who recently hosted a one-man poetry show raising funds for his law degree.

He stated that the event would be held on the same day as his birthday at the theatre club from 6pm to 10pm.

"Entry fee will be E150 and for anyone who will bring a blanket or clothes they will pay only E50 at the door. I am happy to be giving back to the less fortunate on this day. I would also appeal to the public and corporate bodies to join hands in this initiative and give

back to the community," he said.



GIVING BACK: Poet Majaha Nkonyane.

FEA-
TURED:
Nomfundo
'MoCats'
Sifundza.



PAY ME MY DUES ILLA - DJ 711

BY DELISA THWALA

RAPPER Illa Penboy has found himself in yet another monetary squabble.

This comes after DJ 711 took to social media to ask the rapper to pay him E7 500 he allegedly owes him.

The rapper did not respond to the allegations made by the DJ. The DJ shared a string of posts on his social media account asking people to talk to Illa on his behalf because he was not responding to his calls.

One of the posts reads, "Friends to Illa Mtungwa and those closer to him, please ask him to answer my calls. It is about the E7 500 dating back to December. All the empty promises were made based on events he is involved in. I have been patient enough not to be ignored."

When contacted by this publication DJ 711 wondered why Illa Penboy was not responding to his calls and text, so that they settle this amicably. He then told the Entertainment Desk in detail as to what really happened

"He hired me for an event on



December 22 and only a 50 per cent deposit was made by a Good Samaritan.

Ill a has been making empty promises based on his monthly events and bookings since February," said the DJ.

The DJ also said he has tolerated the delays all this time but was tired of waiting for the rapper. "I called him several times without any response.

He ignores my messages so I opted to post it on his favourite social media platform knowing that he would see it," he said. DJ 711 explained that Illa replied after seeing the message and promised to pay him.

"He said he was still looking for money and would pay me as soon as he has it but he then continued to ignore my calls when I called him for feedback," said DJ 711. The DJ also shared that his management chose to distance itself from his action and the settling of his bill. Illa's management is allegedly claiming they made enough to pay the DJ. Means to get a comment from Illa Penboy failed as his cellphone rang unanswered till the publication went for print.



UHURU's DJ Bucks for Eswatini

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

UHURU's DJ Bucks will be in the kingdom at the 'Converse All White Bash' on September 21.

This was confirmed by organiser of the event Sifiso Maziya who mentioned how excited he was that after months of planning, the event would finally happen.

Maziya stated that DJ Bucks would be performing alongside the likes of South African Afrikan Roots, Dr Muruti and Shepherd Brothers as well as DJ Wicked, to name a few. "The show will be diverse. We are planning to have a day picnic to accommodate families. We invite vendors to display their craft, wares and other activ-

ities such as various food displays, fashion and a lot more," he explained.

He said they are expecting everyone, including toddlers, to come wearing their Converse All Stars sneakers as they are supported by the brand. According to Maziya, the venue of the event is yet to be confirmed.

"We are yet to confirm the venue due to the fact that we are still in discussions with one international artist who we cannot mention as yet. We know this artist has the potential to attract a huge crowd so we are waiting to confirm that first before deciding on the venue," he said. He then mentioned that since it would be a picnic day, the event would begin as early as 9am till late.



MASIKANE IS BACK

BY MBONO MDLULI

LOCAL traditional artist Masikane is set to release a third album after taking a break from music.

According to the musician, the album will be released next week.

However, the musician, who hails from KaZondwako in Bhunya, is still trying to find a suitable venue within the country where he can launch the album, which was recorded in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Masikane was speaking at Mbuzini in South Africa, where he was invited to per-

form during the double celebrations of King Mlambo II's birth and the revival of the Mahlalela kingship.

The 10-track album, which is titled 'Music ye Africa Vol III', is the third one under Masikane's name. He released it after having taken a break from the music industry for sometimes.

The other two album were titled 'Phela Viki' and 'Music ye Africa Volume II', respectively.

Masikane said the songs in his third album were focused on culture and love as he had seen that music lovers were more into these two. He further stated that

he was also working on releasing a music video, which would be titled 'Mholo wami'. Masikane said he took the break because he felt he was pressured by some responsibilities outside the music industry, so he had to focus on these.

He further said he needed to work on new ideas so that he could give his fans something new that could excite them.

The musician is known for having publicly declared his undying love for renowned South African singer Zahara. He even composed a song where he openly stated that he wished the award-winning singer could one day become his wife.

Asked if he still had feel-

ings for Zahara, Masikane stated that his quest for winning Zahara's heart was still on. "She is not married yet, so I still have a chance because I am single too.

I also gave myself time to have a look at her and found out that she can be a good wife.

She can add immense value as a wife at home," Masikane said.

He did not care what people were saying about the feelings he had for the singer.

He said he heard that people accused him of being a fame seeker by his actions. But the truth was that he knew he had genuine feelings for her. He vowed not to stop asking her out until she was married.

Limkokwing students present 'True definition of Art'

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

LIMKOKWING University of Creative Technology tourism students will host an event that seeks to define the true meaning of art.

Dubbed 'True definition of art,' the event will be held at the Emfuleni Lifestyle on Saturday.

Speaking to one of the students Simphiwe Nhlengethwa, she said the project is about improving tourism establishments in Eswatini like Emfuleni Lifestyle has done with their place, hence they chose it as their venue.

"Emfuleni Lifestyle has changed the appearance of Mvutshini from what it was before.

The show will help students showcase their talent and people will discover hidden talents," said Nhlengethwa.

According to the students, the

show would include showcasing of art, drawings, poetry and music.

The audience will witness performances from poets Dede, Zizwe, Velo and Luyanda. Musicians Prince, A Flow, DJ Khulu, Mapensela and Siinkinavoi will also render performances on the day.

Nhlengethwa urged people to come in their numbers to support them. "They will not be disappointed since they will get the chance to discover new talent and also get a portrait from students who do art at school," she added.

Nhlengethwa extended her gratitude to Emfuleni Lifestyle for giving them the opportunity to host the show on their premises.

"I am looking forward to the show.

It has been a long journey planning this out and we are all happy that at the end, it is finally happening," Nhlengethwa said.

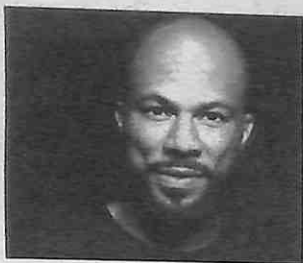


Celebville

International Celebrity News

Common opens up about being molested

NEW YORK - Common's on a newfound mission to help victims of molestation like himself and says his just-released book is the first step in making it happen. The multitalented star was leaving NBC in New York on Tuesday when we asked about his new memoir, 'Let Love Have the Last Word,' and its shocking revelation that he was molested as a child. Common tells us he's being open about his experience because he



hopes it will encourage others to feel safe talking about it too ... and it will aid in the healing process. In his book, the Oscar-winner shares how a repressed memory of being molested by a family friend, whom he refers to as Brandon surfaced a couple years ago while acting out a scene with Laura Dern in the 2018 film, 'The Tale.' (TMZ)

Gucci Mane cleared to enter Canada

LOS ANGELES - Gucci Mane won't be left out in the cold when his upcoming tour heads North of the border. Canada is allowing the rapper to enter the country even though he's had a checkered past. We've learned Gucci Mane has obtained a temporary resident permit to enter Canada later this month for a string of 10 scheduled gigs across 5 provinces. This is no small feat. Canada's notoriously tough, eh, on people with prior convictions and Gucci's



ALLOWED: Gucci Mane

long rap sheet could've been enough for a denial. Sources at the Canada Border Services Agency tell TMZ anyone crossing the border into Canada must demonstrate they meet the requirements to enter or stay in the country, and involvement in criminal activity is cause to prevent someone from entering. (TMZ)

Pearl Modiadie's hard times

JOHANNESBURG - A year after suffering heartbreak and moving in with family for a bit, things are looking up for TV and radio host Pearl Modiadie. Pearl experienced a rocky 2018, splitting from her bae. As a result she had to make some changes to her living arrangement and ended up staying with family and then a hotel. Reflecting on her struggles this week on Twitter, Pearl said it was a lesson that setbacks are just temporary. "I was heartbroken this time last year. There was a change



HARD TIMES: Pearl Modiadie.

of plans in my love life and we had to cancel a property purchase. I moved in with my sister's family for a week then lived in a hotel for a couple of months." Pearl is doing much better and shared the good news that she is moving into her new home in less than a month. Soon messages of support flooded her inbox and mentions, including from 5FM radio host and former Generations actress Thando Thabethe. Thando said they were both in the same boat. (Times Live)

Mzansi renames Keyshia Cole Khanyisile Cele after Zulu tweet

JOHANNESBURG - Can someone please give Keyshia Cole a South African ID so she can vote in this week's elections? It turns out the US pop star is a proper Zulu girl! The Heaven Sent hitmaker had Mzansi Twitter in meltdown mode on Tuesday night when she sent a shout out to her followers in Zulu. The message was sim-



RENAMES: Keyshia Cole.

ple: "Hi everyone. I love you. Thank you for following me." It was enough to earn her some serious brownie points - and even a new name. Local fans dubbed her Khanyisile Cele and joked that there is land waiting for her here. Are you on your way, sis? Sis topped the local trends list and later returned to Twitter to acknowledge her achievement. (Times Live)

Britney Spears files for restraining order against ex-manager

LOS ANGELES - Britney Spears' mental health is at risk and it's all because her ex-manager, Sam Lutfi with whom she has a dark past is harassing her, her parents, and stirring up her fans this according to new legal docs. Britney's requesting protection from Lutfi she filed for a restraining order



FILES ORDERS: Britney Spear.

against him on Tuesday in L.A. County Superior Court. According to the docs, obtained by TMZ, Lutfi's been firing off texts to Britney's mother, Lynne Spears, and posting 'disparaging and threatening comments' on social media which include calling for the public to 'raise hell' to free Britney. (TMZ)

Kim Kardashian, allies sought out by desperate inmates

HOLLYWOOD - Kim Kardashian is more popular in prisons than ever and that's saying a lot because scores of inmates are reaching out now that word is out she can offer non-violent offenders a path to freedom. Sources familiar with the situation tell TMZ. Kim and her team of high-powered attorneys are now inundated with letters, calls, emails and social media messages from people who are incarcerated, or the relatives of



MORE POPULAR: Kim Kardashian.

prisoners. We're told they're all seeking help to get released. It's no secret why, TMZ broke the story Kim successfully helped release 17 inmates in the last few months by funding the 90 days of Freedom campaign which is spearheaded by lawyers Brittany K. Barnett and MiAngel Cody of the Decarceration Collective. (TMZ)

Letoya Makhene on leaving Generations

JOHANNESBURG - After four years on Generations: The Legacy, Letoya Makhene has left the popular soapie. A decision she said was a spiritual one. The actress, who played the role of Tshidi Phakade, told Drum magazine that she left the popular soapie to focus on her music career. She released a song with her father, legendary musician Blondie Makhene, last year but said it was not as successful as she had hoped because she did not have enough time to promote it. Something she hopes will change now that she has left Generations.



LEAVING: Letoya Makhene.

She said that she had contemplated leaving for about a year but said she needed to take it to God. "Leaving Generations was a spiritual decision and I needed to speak to God about it. I sat everyone down to tell them. They tried to convince me to stay but I believe my decisions were led by God." (Times Live)

Sophie Ndaba shakes off the Queen personal

PRETORIA - Sophie Ndaba has been through many storms, both private and public, and she's still standing. Even her latest drama regarding financial difficulties won't get her down. Perhaps, even before she knew that she would be a household name, her Generations character name, Queen, was a good omen and now, more than 20 years later, she still reigns



STILL STRONG: Sophie Ndaba.

supreme. In 2019, Sophie has re-introduced herself as a TV presenter and host on e.tv's Hashtags. "Acting will always be my first and last love. But I went from being 'darling' and all those Queen-related mannerism and all of a sudden I was myself. People were finally introduced to me." (Soweton)

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST



TODAY



RECEIVES: Blade

Blade receives a request for help from an unlikely person. Lillian attempts to make peace in the Ngwenya household. As the parties gather again for the lobola negotiations, tension bubbles under the surface.



TODAY



CAT OUT: Morongwa.

Morongwa lets the cat out of the bag shattering Lalage. Lincoln and Lungi revisit their darkest days. Makgome's attempt to apologize to Sibiya for the ticket falls on deaf ears.



TODAY



SUFFERS: Mpho

Mpho suffers another setback this time her health is deteriorating. Skhumbuzo drops an unpleasant bombshell on Molehi. Tenda assure Sundani that she won't be fighting for his attention.



TODAY



FIGHTS: Mapula.

Mapula fights Keabetswe's corner. Gail and Suffo have slept together - and have to decide what to do next. Jaftha now has issues with his date of birth.

PICTURE OF THE DAY

@JustZamore

At some point this was South Africa's most popular dance move



Throwback 📺📺📺

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

If you've had a longstanding interest in film or photography, today is a good day to explore that interest further, Capricorn. You will likely receive an opportunity to learn some of the intricacies of the craft. Who knows? Maybe you will decide to go into the business professionally. If this is your true love, you should find a way to incorporate it into your life in whatever way possible.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

Today is a good day to join a group that shares your interests, Cancer. You will find comfort in numbers, as well as some real intellectual stimulation that comes from discovering new things with like-minded people. You may have an interest in family history. If you join a genealogy group, you could learn how to trace your roots and make friends at the same time.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

You may need to take the day off to replenish your soul, Aquarius. You've been working exceptionally hard lately. While your output is impressive, it's coming at a high personal cost. Take some time today to let your mind and body rest and relax. Cuddle up in your favorite chair with a book, some tea, and a quilt. Let your mind wander. You may be surprised where it lands.



Leo July 23 – August 22

You have a sharp, inquisitive mind, Leo. Today you're likely to put it to good use exploring some arcane fields. It's likely your chief area of interest is scientific. You will find that if you get online, your research will be particularly fruitful. See if you can link to university sites for some real high-level information.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

Pay attention to your dreams today, Pisces. They're likely to be interesting! If possible, write down your impressions the moment you wake up. They may not mean much at first, but after a few days you can review your notes and you may be surprised by what they reveal. You're in the mood for a major change in your life, and your dreams may point you in the right direction.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

The astral configuration indicates that you can expect a financial windfall of some sort, Virgo! This is great, but don't celebrate just yet. While it seems likely that your income is going to increase through a raise or bonus, there are signs that the money isn't immediately forthcoming. Continue to live as usual, though with the satisfaction of knowing that things are going to improve soon.



Aries March 21 – April 19

You may feel great about yourself, Aries. It's no mystery why. You're looking better than you have in months. People are responding to you very favourably. You will get some admiring glances as you walk down the street. You can't help but draw attention to yourself. Your good feeling applies not only to you but also to those around you. Your loved ones are, especially, dear to your heart right now.



Libra September 23 – October 23

Love and romance are in the air, Libra. The flame is going to be turned up a bit in an existing relationship. Perhaps, you and your partner have been in a rut lately. Today you may see your friend in a new light. Your sweetie may do something unexpected like send you flowers or romantic email messages that open your eyes to who this person really is. You remember again why you fell in love.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

This may not be the most energetic day, Taurus. You've been working hard lately and your body needs time to refuel. Spend some quiet time at home. Curl up with some tea and a good book and let your mind travel where it may. Even though your body slows, your mind is more active than ever. This would be a fruitful time to strategise creative changes you'd like to make at home or work.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

You have a creative soul, Scorpio, and today it's working overtime. You can't stop all sorts of imaginative ideas. Even if you've never written fiction, today you will have many clever ideas for stories and screenplays. Jot them down because they aren't likely to stay in your head for long. Refer to them later when you have some time to capture their essence more fully.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

If you've been feeling like you want to do more to help the world, Sagittarius, today is the day to put those thoughts into action. There is a lot you can do locally. Sign up to help out one morning per week at a soup kitchen, or volunteer to help a child learn to read. By touching the life of just one person you have an impact on many. Don't discount the power of a single act of generosity.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES

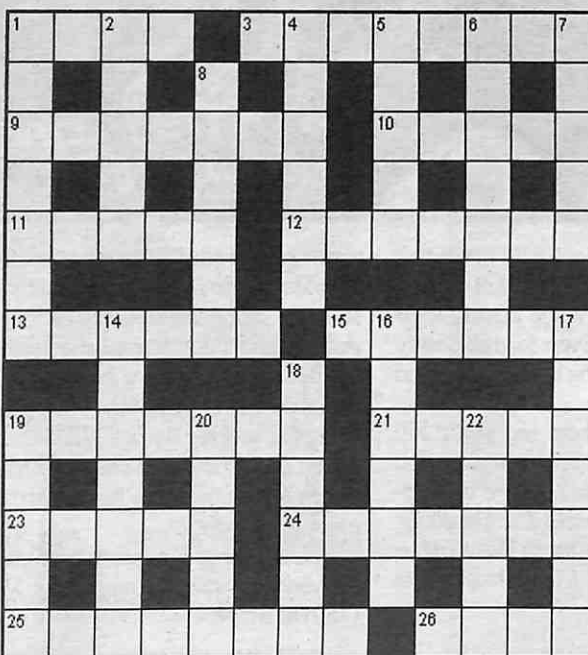


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PUZZLE CHOICE

Quick Crossword



ACROSS

1. TYPE OF METAL / TYPE OF WOOD (4)
3. UNMARRIED MAN / UNMARRIED WOMAN (8)
9. DRIED PLUMS / DRIED GRAPES (7)
10. TYPE OF BIRD / TYPE OF INSECT (5)
11. MALE RELATIVE / FEMALE RELATIVE (5)
12. RAISE / LOWER (7)
13. STRONG / WEAK (6)
15. COMPLIED / REFUSED (6)
19. TYPE OF BOAT / TYPE OF FLAG (7)
21. STRINGED INSTRUMENT / WOODWIND INSTRUMENT (5)
23. YOUNG MEN / YOUNG WOMEN (5)
24. CONCENTRATED / WATERED DOWN (7)
25. PROBLEM / RESULT (8)
26. WET / DRY (4)

DOWN

1. FRUIT / VEGETABLE (7)
2. WORLDLY / CALLOW (5)
4. ASK / REPLY (6)
5. ANIMAL / FISH (5)
6. PLACE WHERE BOOKS ARE KEPT / PLACE WHERE BEES ARE KEPT (7)
7. MOUNTAIN CHAIN / RIVER VALLEY (5)
8. TYPE OF BIRD / TYPE OF MAMMAL (6)
14. BICYCLE PART / PLANT PART (7)
16. ENLIGHTEN / BEWILDER (6)
17. FEARED / LOOKED FORWARD TO (7)
18. ARTIST'S WORKROOM / BANQUET HALL (6)
19. PARTS OF A BOOK / PARTS OF A CLOCK (5)
20. VALUABLE ITEM / WORTHLESS ITEM (5)
22. SPEAK / REMAIN SILENT (5)



CONFUSED DOLPHIN

- Q. What does a dolphin say when it's confused?
A. Can you please be more Pacific?



1. A church in the Czech Republic has a chandelier made entirely of human bones. same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
2. Under the Code of Hammurabi, bartenders who watered down beer were punished by execution.
4. During your lifetime, you will produce enough saliva to fill two swimming pools.
5. You are one percent shorter in the evening than in the morning.



MOVIE QUIZ

Yesterday's Quiz:

1. A Bronx Tale (1993) was the directorial debut of which Hollywood star?

A. Robert De Niro

Today's Quiz

1. Who was playing the I Am Legend?

A. Steve Buscemi
B. Will Smith



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NEWS



BOSS MOMS

THESE moms are the business CEOs with children in tow, successful and fearless livewires making their own way in the world while nurturing and loving their children at the same time. Here are a few of our favourite #boss-moms.

KARDASHIAN POWER

With four of the five Kardashian daughters now mothers, there's plenty of mommy drama to keep you enthralled in this classic reality show. But the two main matriarchs, of course, deserve special mention:

Kris Jenner: The original 'momager'. From pitching the show to E!'s Ryan Seacrest back in 2007, to securing a string of lucrative endorsements, product developments and media deals for all her daughters (securing 10 per cent of the profits for herself, of course), Kris and her daughters have all become millionaires in their own rights. But at the end of the day, Kris is still a mom.

Kim Kardashian West: At the same time as juggling three children (with another one on the way, via surrogate), a multi-million dollar career and her marriage to Kanye West, Kim also recently revealed that she is preparing to follow in the footsteps of her famous lawyer father Robert Kardashian and will be taking the California Bar exam soon. Now that's impressive!

Watch *Keeping Up With The Kardashians* S16 on Sundays on E! Entertainment (124) at 20:00.

SANDY TOKSVIG TAKES THE CAKE

GBBO presenter Sandy Toksvig is worth over US\$8m, thanks to her successful career as a radio and television host, author and performer. Sandy has three children from a previous relationship with Peta Stewart, and while same-sex unions have become widely accepted, this was not the case in the



mid-80s. Daughter Jesse calls her moms 'trailblazers', both working full-time in successful careers while raising their expanded family. Even though Sandy is not related to her by blood, their bond is unbreakable.

"You'd die for them and you'd kill for them – and that's what makes you a family, not whether you're biologically related," Jesse told *The Guardian*.

Watch *The Great British Bake-off* on Mondays on BBC Lifestyle (174) at 20:00

THE HEART WANTS WHAT IT WANTS

Regina is an African American child who passed through over 30 foster homes in this film based on the real-life story of author Regina Louise. The unconditional love and dedication of Jeanne, who is determined to adopt her despite being thwarted by a corrupt system, becomes Regina's lifeline.

Watch *I Am Somebody's Child* on Saturday 11 May on Lifetime (131) at 19:20

THE FIERCEST KIND OF LOVE

In this highly acclaimed nature doc-

umentary narrated by none other than Charles Dance (Tywin Lannister himself), the strong females lead their clans in the quest for dominance and survival. While supreme elusive huntress Saba the leopard tries to raise her two young cubs, the warring hyenas (led by their queen Zalika) and lion pride (with new queen Matsumi at the helm) threaten everyone's safety.

Watch *Savage Kingdom* on Sunday 12 May on National Geographic Wild (182) at 14:04.



You'd die for them and you'd kill for them – and that's what makes you a family, not whether you're biologically related



Is treason afoot? – Got episode 4 review

EPISODE 4 of Season 8 of *Game of Thrones*, entitled 'The Last of the Starks', saw the aftermath of the epic battle between the living and the Army of the Dead, with our heroes now turning their focus on taking King's Landing from Cersei Lannister.

Catch all this action on DStv your home for all the GOT drama.

We open at Winterfell, where Jon Snow leads a touching dedication to those killed in battle, before a feast follows in which Daenerys Targaryen legitimises Gendry as a Baratheon and makes him Lord of Storm's End. Gendry in turn proposes to Arya Stark, but she turns him down, while another love connection come to fruition when Jaime Lannister and Brienne finally get together.

After agreeing to a course of action in regards to Cersei and King's Landing, Jon sets off with Ser Davos down the Kingsroad (but not before revealing his true parentage to Sansa and Arya) and Daenerys, her dragons and the fleet sail to Dragonstone.

However, they are ambushed by Euron's ships and the Dragon Rhaegal is killed by multiple spear shots.

In addition, Cersei takes Missandei as a hostage. Upon learning of this attack, Jaime

decides to leave Winterfell and head south despite Brienne's pleas that he remain.

In the meantime, Sansa reveals to Tyrion Jon's true heritage, and he in turn shares the information with Varys.

After surviving the attack by Euron, the eunuch admits that Jon would make a better leader than Daenerys – something Sansa hinted at earlier in the episode.

Loyal

With treason afoot, Tyrion insists he will remain loyal to the 'Mother of Dragons'.

At King's Landing, Cersei reveals to Euron that she is pregnant and lies to him by insisting is the father.

She orders the gates of the Red Keep remain open, making the citizens hostages to deter an all out assault on the city.

Daenerys, Tyrion, Varys, Grey Worm and Drogon arrive at the walls of King's Landing.

The two opposing queens demand each other's surrender, before Tyrion appeals to Cersei's humanity, asking her to surrender for the sake of her unborn child.

However, Cersei refuses and the episode ends with an act of war as she orders Gregor Clegane to behead Missandei, much to the horror of Grey Worm and Daenerys.



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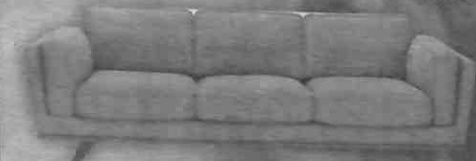
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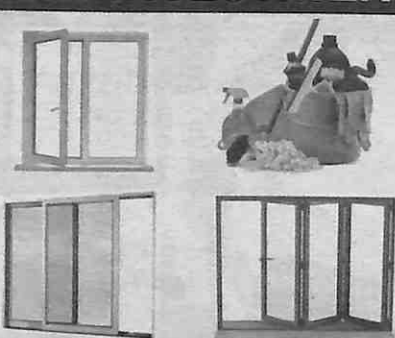


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DEATHS

Mbhe Lawrence Mlotshwa



Funeral: 11/05/2019
Vigil: 10/05/2019
Place: Emakhosini

Relatives and friends of Mbhe Lawrence Mlotshwa are notified of his untimely death. Memorial service will be held on Friday at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Fairview Manzini starting at 11am. He will be laid to rest on Saturday morning (11/05/2019) after a night vigil at his parental home Emakhosini (Nhlango). Announcement by his wife on behalf of family.

Joseph Sibonangaye Mabuza



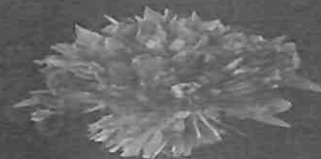
Funeral: 12/05/2019
Vigil: 11/05/2019
Place: Nhlambeni

Relatives, friends and all those who knows Joseph Sibonangaye Mabuza are informed that he is late. He will be laid to rest on Sunday 12/05/2019 at his home Nhlambeni. Night vigil on Saturday 11/05/2019.

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Death is only a bridge towards eternal life with God. Certainly Heaven is rejoicing for another soul has finally reached his true home.



Victoria Mncinisa Mabuza nee Ndzinisa



Funeral: 11/05/2019
Vigil: 10/05/2019
Place: eNyakeni

Kwatswa tihlobo nebangani ba Victoria Mncinisa Mabuza nee Ndzinisa kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ngeMgicibelo ekhaya kakhe eNyakeni Emaceleni mhlaka 11/05/2019. Inkonzoyekumkhubula ingalesihlanu mhlaka 10/05/2019 nga 3.00pm ebandleni lakhe Emaceleni Roman Catholic. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Jerome Sifiso Mabuza umshumayeli egameni lemdeni.

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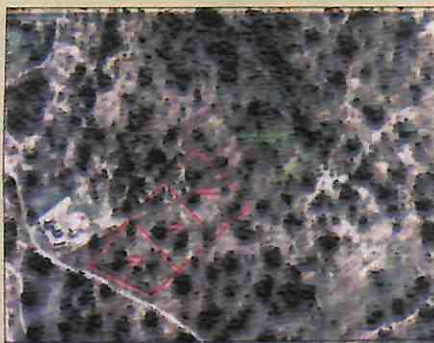


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MUTUA MADRID OPEN

Konta crashes out, as Halep outs British No.1

MADRID - Johanna Konta was unable to capitalise on a fine start as she fell to a second-round loss to third seed Simona Halep at the Mutua Madrid Open.

The British number one is having by far her best season on clay and reached the final of the WTA Tour event in Rabat last season before dashing to the Spanish capital and defeating Alison Riske in round one.

The heavy schedule looked like it might well

have caught up with her as, after playing a fine opening set that she came close to winning, Konta fell away dramatically to go down 7-5 6-1.

Chance

Konta has only ever beaten one top-10 player on clay but she played a superb first six games and had a chance to lead 5-2.

She could not take it and Halep, the champion here in 2016 and 2017, fought back to

level before forcing two set points at 5-4. Konta saved those but then missed more opportunities to lead 6-5 and Halep eventually converted her fifth set point.

The world number three put her foot down at the start of the second set and Konta won just two points in the first four games.

She dug in to at least get on the board but could not stall Halep's momentum as the Romanian clinched victory in an hour and 28 minutes.

DAILY MAIL

SINCE 2016



WINNER: Roger Federer to announce that he was back on the clay and, possibly, a serious threat to the best players if they are at all below their best, as Ronaldo and friends watched.

Federer wins first clay court match

MADRID - Roger Federer shook off a brief bout of pre-match jitters as he returned to clay after a three-year absence, posting a 6-2, 6-3 win over Richard Gasquet on Tuesday at the Madrid Open.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion needed just 52 minutes to brush Gasquet aside in the second round, but confessed he had to control his emotions during afternoon match strategy sessions with his team.

"I was very calm all day, but two hours before, I was feeling it a bit. But that was the only time," Federer said.

"The nerves went away quickly, I'm just happy I started well.

"I'm glad to be back," said the three-time Madrid champion who last played on clay almost three years ago, losing to Dominic Thiem in the Rome third round on May 12, 2016.

Federer skipped the dirt for two full seasons to concentrate on his grass court form, winning Wimbledon in 2017.

He claimed the Madrid title in 2006, 2009, and 2012.

"I've been missing the clay, this is a great return, it's a special night for me," he said.

Defeated

Federer swept up the opening set in 23 minutes and broke Frenchman Gasquet, who had defeated him twice on clay, for 5-3 in the second before serving it out a game later.

Federer has won 18 of 21 meetings with Gasquet, just back from six months out with injury.

"I've trained well, but that's not like a match. The points here are quicker and first matches anywhere can be tricky," said Federer.

"But I felt really natural on the clay

tonight."

Novak Djokovic needed just 65 minutes to make a winning start, while Naomi Osaka channelled her inner "zombie mode" to earn a place in the third round.

Top seed and world number one Djokovic hammered American Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-2 to advance to the last 16 following a premature exit here a year ago.

"I thought my serve was very efficient today, that's a big advantage," Djokovic said.

"The match was close at the beginning, in the second set I read his serve better and just managed to put an extra ball in to the court.

"It was a solid opening match for me." Djokovic won the Madrid title in 2011 and 2016. He will be chasing a fourth straight Grand Slam trophy at Roland Garros next month.

AFP



RESULTS FROM THE ATP AND WTA TOURNAMENTS IN MADRID ON TUESDAY (X DENOTES SEEDING):

MEN

1ST ROUND

Jeremy Chardy (FRA) bt Albert Ramos-Vinolas (ESP)	6-2, 4-6, 7-5
Diego Schwartzman (ARG) bt Marco Cecchinato (ITA x16)	6-0, 4-6, 6-1
Marton Fucsovics (HUN) bt David Goffin (BEL)	6-4, 7-5
Fabio Fognini (ITA x10) bt Kyle Edmund (GBR)	6-4, 6-3
Adrian Mannarino (FRA) bt Joao Sousa (POR)	7-5, 5-7, 6-1
Hubert Hurkacz (POL) bt Alex De Minaur (AUS)	6-3, 6-4
Hugo Dellien (BOL) bt Gilles Simon (FRA)	4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4)
Stan Wawrinka (SUI) bt Pierre-Hugues Herbert (FRA)	6-2, 6-3
Guido Pella (ARG) bt Daniil Medvedev (RUS x12)	6-2, 1-6, 6-3

2ND ROUND

Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) bt Taylor Fritz (USA)	6-4, 6-2
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WOMEN

2ND ROUND

Naomi Osaka (JPN x1) bt Sara Sorribes Tormo (ESP)	7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 6-0
Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR) bt Anna Karolina Schmiedlova (SVK)	6-2, 6-2
Simona Halep (ROU x3) bt Johanna Konta (GBR)	7-5, 6-1
Petra Martic (CRO) bt Angelique Kerber (GER x4)	walkover

DJOKOVIC DESTROYS FRITZ IN SOLID START

MADRID - Novak Djokovic needed just 65 minutes to make a winning start at the Madrid Open, while Naomi Osaka channelled her inner 'zombie mode' to earn a place in the third round.

Top seed and world number one Djokovic hammered American Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-2 to advance to the last 16 following a premature exit here a year ago. "I thought my serve was very efficient today, that's a big advantage," Djokovic said.

"The match was close at the beginning, in the second set I read his serve better and just managed to put an extra ball into the court.

"It was a solid opening match for me."

Djokovic won the Madrid title in 2011 and 2016. He will be chasing a fourth straight Grand Slam trophy at Roland Garros next month.

Third seed Roger Federer was making his clay return after two full seasons off the surface when he faced Frenchman Richard Gasquet later in the second round after a bye.

Djokovic was joined in the third round as ninth seed Marin Cilic rallied to overcome Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Spanish sentimental favourite David Ferrer, who will retire after this event, extended his career by at least one match with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 defeat of compatriot Roberto Bautista Agut.

Ferrer, 37, will play German third seed and defending champion Alexander Zverev next.

Unseeded treble Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka started his Madrid campaign with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Pierre-Hugues Herbert to move into the second round.

"It was a great first match. I've been good on the practice court, feeling really good, so it was important to start well today," Wawrinka said.

"I hope my game is going to click soon. I'm patient enough to know that sometimes it takes time," said the Swiss player, who underwent two knee surgeries in August 2017.

AFP

'Clubs need more European games to grow'

MADRID - Ajax Chief Executive Edwin van der Sar has defended controversial plans to reform European competitions by claiming the stability of clubs depends on them playing more matches in Europe.

The former Ajax, Juventus and Manchester United goalkeeper is now vice-chairman of the European Club Association (ECA), the body founded by Europe's most successful clubs and whose president, Andrea Agnelli has proposed a new tournament that

would greatly reduce qualification from domestic leagues. Instead, clubs would be promoted and relegated within a 'pan-European league system'.

"What we are fighting for and working towards is to get more access for more countries and more clubs to develop in European football," Van der Sar said. "It's important to play more interesting and meaningful games. Sometimes that doesn't happen in the (national) league."

Van der Sar was speaking in Madrid

on Tuesday after a meeting of the European Leagues, an organisation opposed to the reforms if they undermine domestic competition. The event brought together 244 clubs from 38 countries, with the aim of establishing common ground ahead of a meeting on Wednesday between the European Leagues and UEFA's executive committee in Nyon, Switzerland.

Van der Sar denied the ECA's plans could create a de facto 'super-league', ring-fenced around certain clubs, or

DEFENDS: Ajax Chief Executive Edwin van der Sar.



that European matches at weekends was part of the proposal. "There has been a lot of talk about a closed sys-

tem, about weekend games and non-participation for certain clubs that is not true," Van der Sar said. **AFP**



FEUD: Julian Draxler (left) and Neymar (centre) were 'involved in a post-match bust-up'.

Neymar, Draxler in dressing-room bust-up

PARIS - Paris Saint-Germain pair Neymar and Julian Draxler 'were involved in a heated dressing-room bust-up' after their recent shock Ligue 1 defeat by Montpellier.

Just days after Thomas Tuchel's side had lost on penalties to Rennes in the French Cup, there was another disappointing result, this time in the league. And it appears Neymar did not take too kindly to Draxler's arguments after the game, reportedly shouting at his teammate: "Who are you to talk to me like that? You only play back-passes!" La

Parisien reported that the bust-up occurred in the dressing room following the 3-2 defeat on April 30, in which PSG conceded in the 80th and 85th minutes to squander a lead. Manager Tuchel and sporting director Antero Henrique then had to separate the two before a brawl began, it has been claimed. Neymar is far and away the club's highest-paid player on £515 000 a week post-tax, but even he has been unable to halt the recent poor performances. PSG have run away with the league title once again, but were dumped out of the Champions

League by Manchester United at the start of March.

From there, they failed in the French Cup final against Rennes and have lost against Nantes, Montpellier and Lille in the league. The latter was a 5-1 drubbing. Last time out, they could only draw with Nice and the side are sleepwalking towards the end of another season in which they have failed to secure European success. The reported Montpellier bust-up is not the only time Draxler's anger has got the better of him this season. **Daily Mail**

MARCELO SET TO STAY NEXT SEASON

MADRID - Real Madrid defender Marcelo is set to stay at the Bernabeu for a 14th season after being told by Zinedine Zidane that he is a vital member of the squad.

The Brazilian, who joined Real Madrid in 2006 at the age of 18, has been heavily linked with a move to Juventus after a disappointing season. That move would see him link up with old friend Cristiano Ronaldo once more but, according to Marca, Zidane has vetoed the move and wants Marcelo to stay.

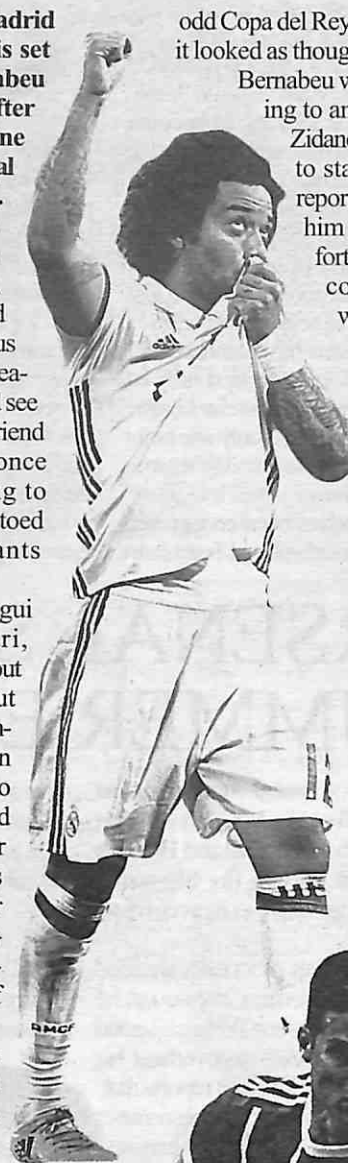
Under Julen Lopetegui and Santiago Solari, Marcelo had dropped out of the starting XI, but he was immediately reinstated by Zidane upon his return. Sergio Reguilón had replaced Marcelo at left back for some of the club's biggest matches under Solari, but Zidane reverted to the tried and tested in the back end of the season.

For much of the campaign, the 30-year-old had to put up with the

odd Copa del Rey appearance and it looked as though his time at the Bernabeu was slowly coming to an end. Although

Zidane now wants him to stay, the club are reportedly keen to get him out of his comfort zone with some competition and want to sign another left back.

One option is Lyon's Ferland Mendy, which would set up a loan move away from the Bernabeu for youngster Reguilón. The task for Marcelo now is to try and beat Roberto Carlos' record as the foreign player with the most games in the history of the club. **AFP**



Ribery set for return after career

BERLIN - Franck Ribery said on Tuesday he hopes to return to Bayern Munich once his playing career is over, as he prepares to end 12 years at the club.

Ribery, 36, confirmed last weekend that he would not extend his Bayern contract beyond this summer, ending a record-breaking playing career at the Bundesliga giants.

At an emotional press conference in Munich on Tuesday, the Frenchman said he hoped to continue playing for another one or two years before returning to Munich after retirement. "I still don't know what I will do next season, there are a few options," he said. "I will play for one or two more years and then I am 100 per cent sure I will come back to Munich."

Asked whether he would take up a specific role at Bayern, Ribery

said that it was something he had discussed with the club hierarchy.

"We talked for a long time about it," he said. "We will have to wait, but the important thing is I am always at home here."

In December, Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic said he could imagine Ribery taking up a role after his career.

"Franck is someone who has shaped an era here, so I would be happy to see him stay in the club (after retirement)," he said. Ribery said that it would be difficult for him to leave Bayern after 12 years of service.

"It is not easy, I have experienced and won so much with Bayern," he said. The veteran winger, who has been linked with clubs in Australia and Qatar, said he was undecided as to where he would go next. **AFP**

PSG eye James Rodriguez summer swap

PARIS - Paris Saint-Germain are eyeing a huge summer move for Real Madrid's James Rodriguez if Neymar leaves the French capital to go the other way.

It has been reported that it will take a huge £300 million to prise the Brazilian away from the Parc des Princes, and if they do lose their player it seems PSG will go in for Rodriguez instead.

According to Bild, Rodriguez will not stay at Bayern Munich where he is currently on loan, and he has no future at the Bernabeu. That means the Colombian, now 27, will head back to Madrid in the summer before being sold on ahead of next season.

Neymar's move away from Paris is perhaps the more difficult one, given he is on a weekly wage of £515 000 post-tax and has a current contract running through until 2022.

He has also been linked with a return to Barcelona, but given Real Madrid's poor season and Zinedine Zidane's desire to over-

haul his squad, a move to the Bernabeu looks more likely.

Rodriguez, meanwhile, has struggled to impose himself in Germany, making just 20 league appearances this season for Niko Kovac's side.

The Bundesliga giants have the option to turn his move into a permanent one, with an option-to-buy clause of £36 million inserted into the deal. But, according to ESPN FC, Rodriguez is set on resisting any attempts to prolong his stay and is ready to head back to Real Madrid. Zidane is the man that sent him out on loan in 2017, and despite leaving once, the Frenchman is back and sees no reason to keep Rodriguez upon his return. There are no shortage of suitors for the former Monaco player across Europe. **AFP**



SWAP DEAL: James Rodriguez.



GUARDIOLA, KLOPP ON SHORTLIST FOR MANAGER OF THE SEASON

LONDON - Manchester City's Pep Guardiola and Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp are on the four-man shortlist for the Premier League Manager of the Season award.

Guardiola and Klopp are locked in a battle for the Premier League title that will be settled in the final matches of the season on Sunday.

They will also slug it out for the Manager of the Season prize along with Tottenham's Mauricio Pochettino and Wolves' Nuno Espirito Santo.

Guardiola is looking to become only the third manager to retain the title in the Premier League era, with City certain to claim the trophy if they win at Brighton on Sunday.

But they have been pushed all the way by Liverpool, who have lost only once this season.

Klopp's team have amassed 94 points, the fourth-highest tally of any team in a single Premier League season, leaving them only one point behind City before Sunday's game against Wolves.

Pochettino has been recognised for keeping fourth-placed Tottenham

in contention for a top-four finish despite not making a single signing for the last two transfer windows, amid the disruption of a delayed move to their new stadium.

Tottenham will be guaranteed to finish in the top four if they avoid defeat against Everton on Sunday.

Nuno's Wolves, promoted last year, have collected 57 points — the most for any promoted team for 18 years. Guaranteed seventh place, they remain in the running for a Europa League place depending on the outcome of the FA Cup final between Man City and Watford. The final winner will be determined by a combination of a fans' vote and the views of an experts' panel. The winner will be

announced by the League Managers Association next Thursday. Meanwhile, City and Liverpool also dominate the shortlist for the Premier League's Player of the Season award.



AFP

SHORTLISTED:
Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp.

KLOPP SET FOR SECOND SHOT AT SIGNING ASENSIO

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp 'is desperate to sign Real Madrid star Marco Asensio and will make him his top target again after missing out last summer.'

Bernabeu chiefs are desperate to keep hold of the 23-year-old beyond this summer, but Asensio has endured a difficult season and may wish to leave Spain for a fresh opportunity.

According to Mundo Deportivo, Klopp is very keen to sign the Spaniard and will break the bank to get him to the Premier League.

Asensio has completed 90 minutes on just nine occasions this season, and has scored a single goal in his 28 La Liga matches.

With Real Madrid set

for a summer overhaul under the stewardship of Zinedine Zidane, Klopp and Liverpool believe now could be the perfect time to prise him away from Spain.

Florentino Perez is keen to hold on to Asensio, but is aware that Liverpool - who are in the Champions League final and could still win the Premier League - is an attractive proposition for any young player.

The main stumbling block of any deal is Asensio's massive £600 million release clause, and he is under contract until 2023.

Despite that, it is claimed Klopp and Liverpool believe they do have a chance of signing the Spain international.

AFP



ARSENAL SET FOR SUMMER EXODUS

LONDON - Arsenal want to get rid of at least five senior players this summer, with Mesut Ozil and Henrikh Mkhitaryan among the big-name stars heading to the exit, according to reports.

Unai Emery has reportedly decided that he does not think the squad he inherited from Arsene Wenger is good enough, and is ready to overhaul his side completely. The Sun reports that he wants a minimum of five big names out the door, with Ozil and Mkhitaryan the highest-profile exits. Ozil in particular has been under fire, and his £350 000-a-week wages could bring in one or two big-name signings in the summer as they attempt to bridge the gap between themselves and the top of the table. Barring a minor miracle on Sunday, Arsenal will miss out on the top four in the Premier League and will be relying on a Europa League tri-

umph to infiltrate next season's Champions League.

It appears Emery will not be afraid to make big decisions at the Emirates Stadium this summer, having already had the final say on Danny Welbeck and Aaron Ramsey's departures in the next transfer window.

Daily mail

MANCHESTER - Manchester United's under-performing stars faced a fearful dressing-down from boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after limping to a draw at relegated Huddersfield, according to The Sun.

The result mathematically ended the club's hopes of a top-four finish and Champions League place despite a mid-season revival under the Norwegian, who rejoined the club in December.

Solskjaer labelled his players a "disgrace" and left them in doubt that they had fallen way below expected standards, before questioning their futures in his post-match press conference.

The result, with Scott McTominay's opener cancelled out by Isaac Mbenza, left Solskjaer in no doubt about the scale of rebuilding work needed to his squad during the summer.

He was left querying whether they had the necessary desire and pas-

sion to play for the club he represented as a player.

The likes of Juan Mata and Ander Herrera are likely to leave when their contracts expire this summer, while David de Gea and Marcus Rashford have not penned new agreements.

This also follows star midfielder Paul Pogba agitating for a move away from Old Trafford during the summer, with Real Madrid a likely destination. *Daily Mail*

SOLSKJAER LABELLED HIS MAN U PLAYERS A 'DISGRACE'

FIFA upholds Chelsea transfer ban

ZURICH - The ban on Chelsea signing players over the next two transfer windows remained largely in place after FIFA issued their ruling on the London club's appeal yesterday.

In February, the Blues were banned from signing players for their men's teams for the next two transfer windows after being found guilty by FIFA's disciplinary committee of breaching regulations relating to the recruitment of minors.

Chelsea denied any wrongdoing and appealed.

Yesterday, the governing body of world soccer announced that its appeal committee had "decided to partially uphold the

appeal".

The committee lifted part of the ban, but only for players under 16 who are not "international transfers and first registrations of foreign minor players".

That means Chelsea will still not be able to sign male players over the age of 16 when the summer transfer window opens. Chelsea had been eager to have the ban lifted, or suspended pending the appeal, so they could be in a position to sign a replacement for Belgian Eden Hazard, who is being touted as a possible £100 million transfer target for Real Madrid. The appeal committee also confirmed the fine of 600 000 Swiss francs (€526 000).

AFP



BIG NAME STARS: Mesut Ozil and Henrikh Mkhitaryan.

KOMPHELA BLAMES SUNDOWNS LOSS ON '10 MINUTES OF DISASTER'

JOHANNESBURG - Golden Arrows coach Steve Komphela believes his side's poor opening to the game was to blame for the 2-0 defeat to Mamelodi Sundowns on Tuesday night.

Arrows were at sixes-and-sevens in the opening 10 minutes as the Brazilians ran riot and could have easily scored five goals.

Hlompho Kekana and Themba Zwane scored in quick succession of each other to hand Sundowns the advantage.

Komphela's men did improve in the second stanza but it was not enough to seal a comeback.

The results hurts Arrows' top eight ambitions whereas 'Downs move

to the top of the Absa Premiership charts.

"I thought we had a bad start. Terrible opening 10 minutes and it defined the rest of the match," Komphela said.

"I thought one mistake we made in the 10 minutes of disaster was not getting close enough to them. "We allowed them to penetrate with ease and we paid the price. Second half things got better. We tweaked things. We played in a diamond shape.

So it got better. The amount of pressure we put on in the second half and the possession we kept I think we could have got a goal or two." The club's last game in the



league is on Saturday against Bidvest Wits on home soil, with kick-off at 15:00. Sport24



I need to get more goals - Zwane

PRETORIA - Themba Zwane played a key role in Mamelodi Sundowns' win over Golden Arrows, but the midfielder feels he needs add more goals to his game.

Zwane picked up a goal and an assist in the win over Arrows as Sundowns moved to the top of the table with one game left in the season. "As a team, we needed this win,"

Mshishi told SuperSport after the game.

"We managed

to get the three points. We created many chances but we managed to take two, of which is not bad. "I did score a goal. I had so many chances, I managed to get one. For me it's bad, I need to get more goals." Zwane rallied support for their last game against Free State Stars in Bethlehem this coming weekend, where they can clinch the league title.

"It's a very important game, we need to go back to the training session and start to plan for that game. It's our last game at home and hopefully they can come in numbers to support us in the last game against Free State Stars because we need them.

It's very important for us to keep on winning so we can fight for the league," he said. Soccer Laduma



Themba Zwane.

Red-hot Stellenbosch striker going nowhere

JOHANNESBURG - Iqraam Rayners may be one of the hottest properties around after scoring 19 goals to help Stellenbosch win promotion to the top-flight a few days ago but his club says he is going nowhere.

Rayners is on the radar of several top-flight clubs after his eye-catching performances but coach Steve Barker says the 23-year-old will be stay-

ing put as the Winelands club head to the ABSA premier-ship next season.

"We will hold onto him and he wants to be here.

"He's committed to the club, this is where he is happy.

"You know some players like to move a lot but I think he is happy where he is," said Barker.

"Credit to the man, he's probably the top goal scorer in South Africa over the last two sea-

sons." Rayners scored 11 goals for Stellenbosch last season in the National First Division and his tally of 19 for this campaign was just three shy of the league's record.

"That's fantastic for a player who wasn't a striker.

"His pace and technique has been quality for us."

Barker signed Rayners from Santos, where he had been right back. Rayners spent three

seasons at Santos in the NFD in defence but the Stellenbosch coach was quick to spot his ability in front of goals.

Rayners is also the club's set-piece specialist at corners, free-kicks and penalties. Times Live

Manyisa set to push for loan move?

JOHANNESBURG - Manyisa is not really sure who he would like to join, but the source says the player is open to moving anywhere in the PSL, as long as he can play.

With the ABSA Premiership coming to an end, a source close to Mamelodi Sundowns midfielder Oupa Manyisa says the 30-year old will try

to push for a loan move to try and get game time.

Manyisa is not really sure who he would like to join, but the source says the player is open to moving anywhere in the PSL, as long as he can play.

"Sitting on the bench when you know you are capable of doing the job is really discouraging and I don't really blame him for



Chippa U prepare for final Chiefs showdown

JOHANNESBURG - Chippa United's long-serving player Andile Mbenyane could miss his team's crucial ABSA Premiership fixture against Soweto giants Kaizer Chiefs on Saturday at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium (3pm).

The striker sustained the injury during Chippa's 2-0 defeat to Cape Town City last month, which resulted in him missing the game against Polokwane City a few days ago.

Mbenyane has been a regular and one of the most influential players in the Chilli Boys squad this season. In his 27 appearances for the Port Elizabeth-based side, he scored six goals and has three assists. Coach Clinton Larsen needs the input of experienced players like Mbenyane to help to them win against the Glamour Boys in their final match of the season on Saturday.

The 31-year-old player is heartbroken that, when needed most, he will not be available due to injury.

"I have not been training since my injury, so I am not too sure if I will make it to Saturday's game," Mbenyane said.

"When I missed the Polokwane match my heart was very sore because I knew the team needed me."

Times Live

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wanting to move. It has not been great at Sundowns for him because he lost his place in the national team over a lack of game time," said the source.

Citizen

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PSL launches appeal against own DC over 'Downs decision

JOHANNESBURG - The Premier Soccer League has lodged an appeal against the Disciplinary Committee's ruling that Mamelodi Sundowns only face fines over the Wayne Arendse situation.

Arendse was used in a match last year when he was not eligible, as his name was not initially written on the team-list as per National Soccer League regulations. However, Advocate Joe Nalane only handed out a R250 000 fine to the club, as well as a R50 000 penalty to Arendse, instead of a points deduction.

The PSL believes that Nalane 'erred/or



misdirected' in the ruling. The appeal is asking that Bidvest Wits be awarded three points via a 3-0 scoreline, while Arendse be handed a two-match suspension.

In the event that the Brazilians contest the appeal - they would be forced to pay the costs of the sitting.

As such, Sundowns' return to the top of the table after Tuesday's 2-0 victory over Golden Arrows may not be as significant in terms of the outcome of the PSL title race. As it stands, should coach Pitso Mosimane's men win against Free State Stars, they will be champions ahead of Orlando Pirates.

Yet, if points are deducted - the Sea Robbers could still theoretically pip them to the post.

Sport24

The appeal is asking that Bidvest Wits be awarded three points via a 3-0 scoreline, while Arendse be handed a two-match suspension

Caster allowed to participate in men's events - IAAF



JOHANNESBURG - The International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) says athletes, like South Africa's Caster Semenya, are welcome to enter men's events if they are

not willing to take medicine to lower their testosterone levels.

The IAAF was responding to a letter from the World Medical Association (WMA), which urged doctors not to enforce controversial new IAAF gender rules for classifying female athletes, warning that attempts to do so would breach ethical codes.

One of the main reasons given was that the IAAF's research was based on 'weak evidence'.

WMA President Dr Leonid Eidelman said: "We have strong reser-

ventions about the ethical validity of these regulations. They are based on weak evidence from a single study, which is currently being widely debated by the scientific community..." The IAAF responded with a statement on their official website, saying their research was based on evidence taken from the past 15 years. "The IAAF Regulations in this matter are not based on a single study, but on many scientific publications and observations from the field during the last 15 years. All these materials were submitted to the Court of Arbitration for Sport and discussed during the hearing. The panel has accepted the validity of this evidence and has recently decided to uphold the IAAF Regulations."

In its statement, the WMA added: "It is in general considered as unethical for physicians to prescribe treatment for excessive endogenous testosterone if the condition is not recognised as pathological."

To this, the IAAF responded: "We respectfully remind the WMA that while doctors should try not to over-medicalise the lives of these patients, it is important to recognise that for an adolescent raised as female and experiencing a masculinising puberty, according to international guidelines for DSD, an extensive investigation should be carried out by a cross-professional team to reach a diagnosis, and to clarify the individual's gender identity". Sport24

Relegation or rejoice for Mwape Musonda?

JOHANNESBURG - Jackie Ledwaba walked away with the Castle Premiership Golden Boot gong and got relegated with Zulu Royals in 2003/04 and something similar might happen this season.

Ledwaba netted 14 strikes for Uthutu but Royals finished at the basement of the table with 22 points after 30 games. They scored 30 goals and 14 of those were from Ledwaba.

The Premier Soccer League will end this weekend and what occurred 15 years ago might strike again, this time at Black Leopards.

Mwape Musonda is at the summit in the goalscoring chart. He has notched up 16 strikes so far this season. Gift Motupa of Bidvest Wits and Tshegofatso Mabasa are trailing him by seven goals. Musonda is set to win the Golden Boot and follow the footsteps of other Zambian marksmen who received the accolade. The late Denis Lota was imperious for

Orlando Pirates in 1999/00. He netted 18 goals. Lota became the first player from Zambia to win the award.

Four seasons later, Collins Mbesuma was colossal for Kaizer Chiefs in their league triumph, netting 25 league goals. That is a PSL record.

Chris Katongo and James Chamanga are other Zambians who won the poacher's gong. Katongo claimed it in 2006/07 and Chamanga the following season.

Musonda is on his way to join that list of elite strikers but will his goals be enough to save Leopards? They face Cape Town City at Thohoyandou Stadium on Saturday.

Leopards are second from the bottom of the table with 27 points after 29 games. They need points and hope that other results will go their way.

Leopards are in a relegation fight alongside Maritzburg United, Free State Stars, Chippa United and Baroka FC. The Star

'If I can, I like to stay here'

LONDON - Maurizio Sarri has quelled speculation about an imminent exit from Chelsea by insisting he wants to stay at the club beyond the summer.

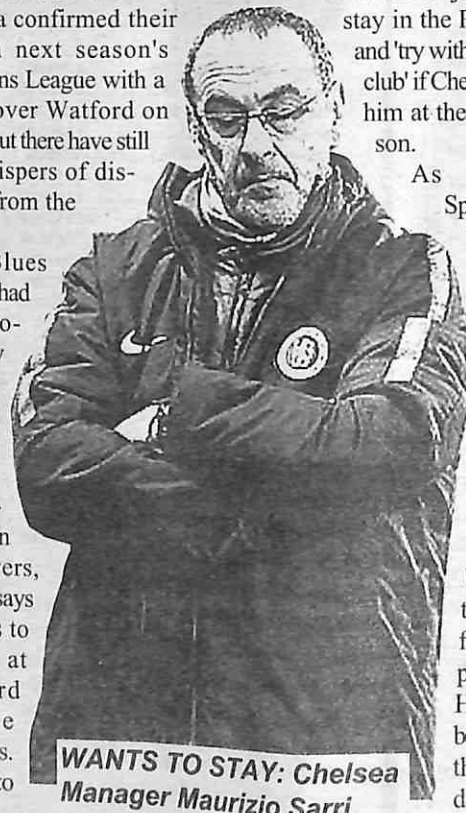
Chelsea confirmed their place in next season's Champions League with a victory over Watford on Sunday, but there have still been whispers of discontent from the stands.

The Blues have also had their two-window transfer ban upheld meaning they cannot sign any players, but Sarri says he wants to remain at Stamford Bridge regardless. "I like to

stay here. If I can, I like to stay here. I want to stay in English football," he told a press conference when asked about interest from Roma in his services. He then joked that he could

stay in the Premier League and 'try with another English club' if Chelsea were to sack him at the end of the season.

As reported by Sportsmail, Roma want Sarri to replace Claudio Ranieri in the top job with club sixth in Serie A, three points from fourth with three games to play. If Sarri is to stay at Chelsea, he will likely have to contend with big bids for some of his top players, like Eden Hazard, without being able to replace them in the window. Daily Mail



WANTS TO STAY: Chelsea Manager Maurizio Sarri.

Bafana striker lands huge contract

JOHANNESBURG - After firing in six goals in eight games this season, there's a mega-money contract which has been signed by one of South Africa's most in-form strikers.

Dino Ndlovu has 25 goals in 32 games for Zhejiang Greentown since he made the switch to China following a massively successful spell with Qarabag in Azerbaijan, and has certainly not disappointed his new owners after solid debut campaign in which he finished as their top scorer.

Now, having narrowly missed out on promotion to the Super League last time out, the 29-year-old will have got his heart set on going one better in 2019, and the

Siya crew have had it confirmed that - as reward for his performances - he has now signed a new two-year deal that sees him remain one of the highest paid South African footballers in the world. Greentown are four points off a promotion spot after eight games, and with Ndlovu now back in action after a minor injury he will be hoping to try and help fire them up in the table over the next couple of weeks, buoyed by his new deal (which will run until December 2021).

In terms of his goals return, Ndlovu is the most consistent South African goalscorer on the planet right now, and if he keeps firing in China then Stuart Baxter may



consider bringing him back into the setup for the upcoming African Cup of Nations in Egypt.

Soccer Laduma

The 14-year-old hero of Liverpool's stunning fightback

LIVERPOOL - While Liverpool players celebrated in front of the Kop on Tuesday night, serenading the wall of red with 'You'll Never Walk Alone', a few eagle-eyed supporters realised one of the heroes of the night was missing from the celebrations.

Nope, it wasn't Jordan Henderson, whisked away to speak in front of the BT Sport cameras. Instead, it was one of the Anfield ballboys fans were fawning over.

A number of supporters took to social media to rave about the role 14-year-old Oakley Cannonier from Leeds played in the fourth and final goal that helped Jurgen Klopp's side complete their incredible comeback against Barcelona.

Messaged got back to the teenager's family, with his grandmother stating that she was 'bursting with pride' after spotting numerous posts on Twitter praising her grandson.

Highlights show just how key his

role was, too. His thinking was every bit as quick as Trent Alexander-Arnold's, rolling the ball to the defender as soon as it went behind for the corner to keep the game moving as quickly as possible. He retrieved the second ball that had rebounded on to the pitch too, allowing the game to continue and the England full back to take full advantage of the situation. It was something that Cannonier and his team-mates had been briefed on before kick-off by academy mentor Carl Lancaster.



According to the Independent, he told the youngsters on Tuesday morning to get the ball back to those in red as quickly as possible. *Daily Mail*

Another 'disaster' leaves Valverde future in doubt

MADRID - Barcelona and Lionel Messi walked out at Anfield as probabilities for a Champions League, Cup and La Liga treble but walked off with coach Ernesto Valverde possibly facing the sack.

Shortly after their 4-0 capitulation on Tuesday which sent Liverpool through to the Champions League final on the back one of the competition's greatest ever comebacks, Barca President Josep Bartomeu dodged guaranteeing the future of his coach Valverde. "We are all very emotional now because of the elimination," said Bartomeu. "We have to raise our spirits because there is a Copa del Rey final to come. There will be difficult days for everyone but we have to lift our heads."

Another Cup final to erase the disappointment of another failure in the Champions League except, just like last year, even a domestic double will not come close.

It was supposed to be the season Barcelona laid to rest the ghost of the Stadio Olimpico, where they inexplicably conceded three in Rome, one year after they let in three in Turin, two years after they were stunned in Madrid.

Three consecutive quarter-final defeats, all away from home.

This was one stage further and Liverpool were more capable than Roma, Juventus or Atletico but Barca's latest loss was the worst of them all. "We ask for forgiveness because even after Rome, it happened again," said Sergio Busquets.

They had won La Liga on April 27, with three games to spare, when Bartomeu said: "Our target is the treble".

If it felt like the president was denying his team the chance to celebrate, it was because La Liga, which Barcelona have now won eight times in 11 years, is no longer enough. "Making the extraordinary normal," it said on the players' victory T-shirts.

To be extraordinary, Barca had to deliver in Europe where, unlike in Spain, their record diminishes their impact on this era which, for many, at least in terms of style and talent, is tinted in red and blue.

AFP

Liverpool comeback ensures CL final without Messi or Ronaldo

MADRID - For the first time in six years, the Champions League final will take place with neither Lionel Messi nor Cristiano Ronaldo taking to the field.

Tuesday night's dramatic scenes at Anfield, where Liverpool overcame a 3-0 first-leg defeat to knock out Barcelona, ensured that the Argentine would not be appearing at the Wanda Metropolitano on June 1, despite his heroics in the Nou Camp.

The No. 10 looked to have one foot in the final and a shot at collecting his fifth medal in the competition after scoring twice during their home victory last week.

But those hopes were left in tatters as Divock Origi and Geroginio Wijnaldum both scored twice to send the Reds to Madrid instead. It sees Messi fall the same way as Ronaldo, who was looking to make it four straight final appearances following his move to Juventus.

However, the Serie A champions were knocked out by

Ajax in the quarter-finals, and with them went the Portuguese striker's hopes of an unprecedented fourth consecutive title.

Ronaldo has lifted those giant handles aloft in four of the last five years - Barcelona's victory over Juventus in Berlin in 2015 the only interruption in that run. Not since Bayern Munich beat Borussia Dortmund at Wembley in 2013 has one of the two best players on the planet failed to reach the final. That was Jurgen Klopp's first taste of defeat in the showcase as his Dortmund side were downed by a late Arjen Robben winner. The German boss will be hoping it's third time lucky when Liverpool head to Spain next month. *Daily Mail*



HISTORIC: Liverpool's Fabinho and Virgil van Dijk celebrate after the Champions League semi-final, second leg soccer match between Liverpool and Barcelona at Anfield.

Messi held back by security after squaring up to angry Barca fans

BARCELONA - The usually placid Lionel Messi was 'involved in an ugly altercation' with his own fans as Barcelona's players travelled home from Liverpool airport on Tuesday night.

Messi was powerless to stop Jurgen Klopp's side overturn a 3-0 deficit to win 4-3 at Anfield, dumping Barcelona out of the competition at the semi-final stage.

And after the match, Mundo Deportivo reported that Messi - widely regarded as the best player in the world - squared up to angry fans that confronted him at John Lennon Airport and asked them what their problem was. The Argentine left Anfield in tears after the match, and was clearly angry at the shock result. He did not arrive at the airport with his team-mates, instead being held back at the stadium by anti-doping officials.

Messi was then accompanied to the airport by his personal security guard and Manager Pepe Costa.

Daily Mail

Reds legends salute fightback for the ages

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool legends Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen hailed their former club's stunning Champions League semi-final fightback against Barcelona as Anfield's greatest ever European night.

Jurgen Klopp's side recovered from a 3-0 first leg deficit to reach the final with a pulsating 4-0 victory over the Spanish champions on Tuesday.

The historic escape act was one of the finest in Champions League history and Fowler believes it should be ranked as the best of Liverpool's European triumphs at their famous old stadium.

The striker placed Liverpool's dismantling of Lionel Messi and company above their dramatic 1977 European Cup quarter-final win over St Etienne, widely regarded as the previous pinnacle in the competition at Anfield.

"You know when you talk about the great nights, this is the best ever. It's absolutely incredible," Liverpool-born Fowler told BT Sport.

Sport24



GENEROUS: Swaziland Building Society MD Tim Nhleko, Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga and ENTA's President Maxwell Jele display the replica cheque of E140 000 from SBS, sponsoring the Eswatini Tennis Association on Monday at Mountain Inn. (Pic: Mthunzi Maziya)

BUILDING SOCIETY, A FRIEND INDEED

BY DUMISANI NTIWANE
(ESRC Media Officer)

SHU.... Shu! Shukuma Eswatini. Greetings to the loyal readers of this column and welcome to yet another edition of your favourite read.

Our sincere apologies for the absence of your column last week. This was due to unforeseen circumstances.

It is the SESRC's vision to have a well-regulated and coordinated sport industry that promotes a healthy, passionate, proud and winning nation in sports and recreation.

In the same vein, we are proud to announce the resumption of our flagship programme, Shukuma Eswatini.

This flagship mass participation programme primarily seeks to advocate and promote participation in sport and physical activity by all Emaswati for health benefits and other intrinsic benefits.

We will be visiting the different Tinkhundla centres to roll out this programme shortly.

Just yesterday, the sporting fraternity woke up to good news following the sponsorship launch of the Swaziland Building Society (SBS) to the Eswatini National Tennis Association (ENTA).

We at the Eswatini Sports and Recreation

Council (ESRC) have no words really to express our gratitude to the Swaziland Building Society for their amazing gesture.

The society forked out an amazing E140 000 towards the ENTA. This one is truly a marriage made in heaven and it has angels as witnesses.

The sponsorship reflects an increment of E20 000 from last year's package. Very few companies can do what the Swaziland Building Society has done, and for that reason we are very grateful.

The launch at the Mountain Inn Hotel was attended by Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga.

We also wish to thank the minister for finding time in his busy schedule to grace the event alongside the ESRC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Darius Dlomo.

We do hope that the marriage between the two entities will last for a lifetime.

Congratulations are also in order to the ENTA executive committee, led by the hardworking Maxwell Jele as president. Jele, everyone will recall, is the reigning Sports Leader after annexing the crown during the recently staged 2019 National Sports Awards.

The fact that the 'marriage' between the Building Society and the ENTA has lasted so many years, is clear testimony that there is something, which the ENTA is doing right.

COSSASA EXPERIENCE NOT IN VAIN

The Confederation of Schools Sports in Southern Africa (COSSASA) track and field meet, which was hosted in the beautiful kingdom of Eswatini, has come and gone.

Results may not have been what we were expecting, especially as a host nation, but the truth of the matter is that as a country we did well in hosting the games, the biggest track and field meet for schools in the region. We are no doubt growing in leaps and in bounds and I am positive that the experience gained will be put to good use in the not-so-distant future.

Congratulations are in order to middle distance runner, Nobuhle Dlamini, who scooped a bronze medal in the competition – our only medal. As stated earlier, the whole experience should come in handy in the future.

KEEP CALM, RASA YET TO UPDATE US ON SHORTLIST

Fledgling and accomplished athletes from across nine Southern African countries are set to battle for honours in the fourth edition of the Regional Annual Sports Awards (RASA 2019) following the unveiling of nominees.

Although as a country, we submitted our representatives, the African Union Sports Council

(AUSC) Region 5 RASA panel is yet to advise us on the final shortlist of nominations. Once the RASA panel releases the final shortlist to contest for the regional honours, we will also inform the nation. However, it should be noted that we submitted a total of 10 athletes to be considered by the panel ahead of the RASA, which is slated for next week Saturday away in Windhoek, Namibia.

OUR RASA ENTRANTS

- ✓ **Sportsperson of the Year** – Zweli Dlamini
- ✓ **Sportswoman of the Year with a Disability** – Nomsa Mkhonta
- ✓ **Sportsman of the Year with a Disability** – Thobani Zikalala
- ✓ **Sportsman of the Year** – Sibusiso 'Swazi Bolt' Matsenjwa
- ✓ **Junior Male Sportsperson of the Year** – Melusi Lukhele
- ✓ **Journalist of the Year** – Ashmond Nzima
- ✓ **Coach of the year** – Mbuso Vilakati
- ✓ **Junior Female Sportsperson of the Year** – Michelle Amor Shen
- ✓ **Sportswoman of the Year** – Nonhlanhla Erykah Seyema
- ✓ **Sports Team of the Year** – Correctional Sunrise Ladies Volleyball team

YES, WE HAVE CHANGED OUR NAME

This column did disclose in the last article that following the pronouncement from the Throne, we at the Eswatini Sports and Recreation Council have duly implemented the command from His Majesty King Mswati III.

All due processes have finally been completed. Formerly known as the Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council (SNSRC), we are now known as the Eswatini Sports and Recreation Council (ESRC).

The change of name has already been communicated to all our stakeholders and relevant partners. We look forward to a fruitful 2019, as we usher in a new perspective in our sports.

Bayethe Wena Waphakathi! Khula Mlisa! Khula Ntsandzane yelive!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: IT IS THE RIGHT PLACE

We at the ESRC are indeed moving with the times. It has been sometime since we announced the rebirth of our website.

Just log on to www.sportscouncil.org.sz and you will be glad you did.

It is our mission to develop and regulate all sports and recreation activities in the country through quality sport and recreation programmes and facilitating maximum access to resource and opportunities for our citizens.

The website is also a perfect platform for our recognised sports associations to market themselves and educate the public on their operations.

For comments/suggestions and inquiries contact the author at 7669 1992/7969 1992/2404 1590

Or alternatively email to ntiwane@sports-council.org.sz

Our Marketing Officer Zwakele Simelane can be reached at 76072 323/2404 1590 or email to zwakelegr@gmail.com or zwakele@sportscouncil.org.sz

SOLO INJE! | ESWATINIBANK CUP 2019



READY: CEOs XI posing before playing against Cabinet/MPs XI during the EswatiniBank Cup final at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.

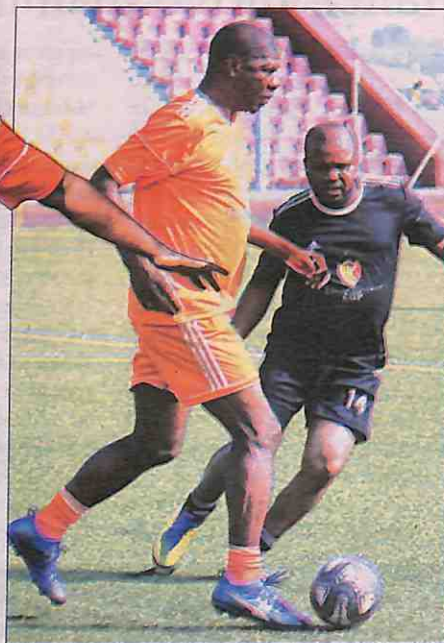


POLITICS ASIDE: Cabinet/MPs XI, led by Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga, posing before playing against CEOs. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

CEOs XI VS CABINET/MPs XI



TUSSLE: MP Mabulala Maseko and Old Mutual CEO Muzi Bell in a tussle for the ball.



DASHING: SwaziMed CEO Peter 'Samora' Simelane dashing away with the ball from Gilgal MP Sandla Kenneth Fakudze.



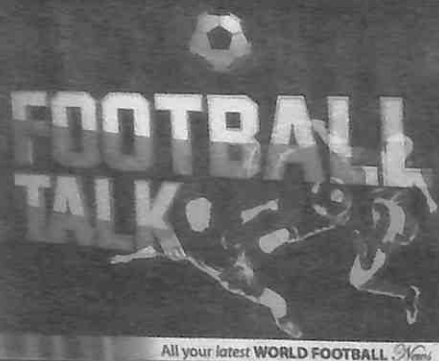
KHWESHA: Kwaluseni MP Sibusiso 'Mabhanisi' Dlamini attempts to go past Swazi Observer ME Mbongeni 'Bingo' Mbingo.



SOLO INJE! EswatiniBank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele controlling the ball. **LEFT - WHOSE BALL:** Shiselweni II MP Strydom Mpanza and Eswatini Football Association CEO Frederick Mngomezulu going for the ball.



PUSHING: Kubuta MP Mlamuli 'Kulula' Mabuza and FINCORP Group CEO Dumsani Msibi going muscle to muscle.



● Real Madrid are set to make a world record £240m offer to Paris St-Germain for 20-year-old France forward Kylian Mbappe. (*France Football, via Sport*)

● Manchester United's £100m move for Borussia Dortmund's England winger Jadon Sancho, 19, is off after the Premier League side failed to qualify for the Champions League. (*Mail*)



● However, United will revive their interest in Leicester City's 26-year-old England defender Harry Maguire this summer. (*ESPN*)

● Chelsea forward Eden Hazard, 28, is considering handing in a transfer request to force through a move to Real Madrid. (*AS - in Spanish*)

● Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp will once again attempt to sign Spain midfielder Marco Asensio, 23, from Real Madrid. (*Mundo Deportivo - in Spanish*)

● Manchester City are hopeful Belgium centre-back Vincent Kompany, 33, will stay at the club by signing a one-year contract extension. (*Times*)



● Chelsea winger Callum Hudson-Odoi's recovery from an Achilles tendon injury is going better than expected and German giants Bayern Munich are monitoring the 18-year-old England international's progress. (*Sun*)

● Barcelona still have work to do if they are to secure a deal for Ajax's 19-year-old Netherlands defender Matthijs de Ligt after the player's agent put forward new demands. (*ESPN*)

● Arsenal will appoint former player Edu as the club's new technical director this summer. (*Mail*)

● Wales forward Gareth Bale, 29, and Spanish midfielders Marcos Llorente, 24, and Dani Ceballos, 22, have been told they have no future at Real Madrid by the club's manager Zinedine Zidane. (*Marc - in Spanish*) Newcastle United's English midfielder Isaac Hayden, 24, is determined to leave the club this summer, having failed to force a move away last August. (*Telegraph*)

● Manchester United's approach for Atletico Madrid's Diego Godin came one year too early, according to the Uruguay defender, who has announced he will leave the La Liga club this summer. (*Manchester Evening News*)



● Godin, 33, has agreed a three-year deal with Serie A side Inter Milan. (*ESPN*)

National Track and Field Championships next weekend

STORIES BY JONGILE XUBA

ATHLETICS - THE Athletics Association of Eswatini (AAE) will hold the National Track and Field Championships next weekend at Mavuso Sports and Centre.

This was announced by AAE President Zakhele Dlamini during a press briefing held at Eswatini Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (EOCGA) boardroom yesterday.

He said the competition would be held between May 18-19 and all athletes are invited to take part. He, however, made it clear that only members were allowed to take part in the competition.

"The AAE will hold the national championships next weekend and this is an open event to all runners in the country. Those hoping to register must be members of an athletics club, that is also an affiliated member of the association," he said.



ANNOUNCES: President Zakhele Dlamini.

He added that they would be selecting the national team during the competition, and that outstanding athletes will have a chance to join the national squad.

Guest athletes from Lesotho, South Africa and Mozambique are expected to grace the championships to

Special general meeting date set

ATHLETICS - THE Athletics Association of Eswatini (AAE) will hold a Special General Meeting on May 25 where they will review and adopt the constitution and new policies.

This was revealed by AAE president during a press briefing. He said it was resolved that the constitution would have to be reviewed and adopted along with other policies within the

organization.

"We will have our Special General Assembly on May 25 at the Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) Conference Room in Manzini, starting at 9am. This comes after our last meeting at Lugogo Sun as the AAE Board last month. The next step is to review the constitution and adopt any changes with the rest of the members," he said.

motivate the local athletes.

The chairman said the deadline for registration was on May 15.

Dlamini appealed for sponsors and Emaswati to jump on board and help make the competition a success, as they had prepared a substantial budget.

"We will need about E70 000 to successfully hold the championships this we appeal to all corporate com-

panies and citizens to help us where they can.

Those who want to brand can also do so free of charge, and there will be no entry fee to the stadium as well," he said.

The president assured the nation that some of the kingdom's best athletes would be at the competition so the public must attend to see the stars in action.

Rail United falter, Illovo maintain lead

STORIES BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCKER - THE Swazi Trac Lubombo Super League title race took another dimension, as Illovo collected maximum points to extend their lead, while fellow contenders Rail United dropped points in their respective games over the weekend.

Illovo, who have proven to be the most consistent side, recorded their 21st win at the expense of Shewula Arsenal at Mayaluka Stadium, whom they beat 1-0, while United were

held 1-1 by Mauritius at Lavundlamanti Sports Ground.

For their victory, Illovo are still sitting at the top with 70 points in 31 games, separated by eight points with United, who have two games in hand and sitting at 62 points.

Despite the current standings, the two-horse title chase is seemingly not over when considering the fact that should Rail United collect all the possible nine points they will sit at 71 points and surpass Illovo's current 70 points.

And this suggests that Illovo have to win their last remain-

ing game to ensure that they lift the trophy enroute to the MTN National First Division League, while for United their fate remains on prayers even if they win their games.

The 17-team league will come to an end in a week's time and the relegation battle is also taking centre stage.

Crookes United were plunged down to the relegation quagmire as they suffered a 1-0 defeat in the hands of Bhelebane.

Other results of the weekend saw Ubombo Flyers and Malaheni United playing to a 0-0 stalemate.

LRFA congratulates Tambuti Under-20

SOCCKER - THE Lubombo Regional Football Association has congratulated Tambuti FC's Under-20 for being crowned the EswatiniBank Under-20 champions.

Tambuti FC were crowned champions last Sunday after beating Manzini Sundowns 2-1. Goals from Ndimiso Matsebula and Lindelwa Mngomezulu secured the vic-

tory for Tambuti.

LRFA acting Chairman Sifiso 'Haiso' Shabalala said Tambuti had made the region proud.

He said this was a sign of more good things to come in the region.

"As chairman, I think the juniors should be promoted to the senior team. We are also proud of the Tambuti Under-20 technical bench, as it is led

by a young coach in Ishmael Zwane, a former player of the team," he said.

Shabalala further said winning the tournament, graced by His Majesty the King, boosted the morale of Tambuti and the region. "The juniors have joined our Ingwenyama Cup regional champions Ubombo Flyers," he said.

Mfundo wins Manzini Nomads Junior competition

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

GOLF - JUNIOR national team golfer Mfundo Nxumalo scored a total gross of 85 points to win his second Eswatini Nomads Junior's competition of the year.

Mfundo outclassed a field of 32 golfers, including two fellow national team compatriots in Phayo Dhlamini and Qino Mkhonta to clinch the

developmental title last weekend at the Manzini Club. The 2019 All Africa Juniors competition participant, Mfundo, is fresh from winning another competition held two weeks ago at the Royal Swazi Sun. Phayo and Qino came second and third with totals of 89 and 91 points, respectively.

Other winners of the day included Mphilo Dlamini and Chamele Groening, who won in the B Division and girls

A Division

1. Mfundo Nxumalo - 85
2. Phayo Dlamini - 89
3. Qino Mkhonta - 91
4. Thando Masilela - 98
5. Sibusiso Maphalala - 100
6. Melizwe Mkhize - 108

B Division

1. Mphilo Nxumalo - 101
2. Sibabo Maphalala - 101
3. Bamele shonge - 103

4. Naye Mkhaphi - 103

5. Asande Dladu - 109
6. Lwandise Shongwe - 116
7. Sisekelo Masuku - 116

Girl's Division

1. Channele groening
2. Sima Tlwala
3. vuyiswa Dlamini
4. Vikelwa Maliki
5. Siphwe Mbombela

9 hole tournament

1. Kaylah Zwane

2. Nikiwe Ntombini
3. Silungwele Dlamini
4. Tinane Bukutu
5. Nkoseni dladu
6. Mongezi
7. Panashe Bukutu
8. Nomkhosi Dlamini
9. Ahano
10. Mongezi ntombini

Results:

Eddie Mkhonta	8-1	Machawe Maseko
Flag Nxumalo	8-3	Machawe Maseko
Celumusa Dlamini	8-7	Ntozakhe Lukhele
Vusi Hadzebe	8-6	Celumusa Dlamini
Romeo da Silva	6-8	Mduduzi Tshabalala
Sicelo LaNgwenya	8-5	Mandla Mamba
Eddie Mkhonta	1-8	Nqaba Lukhele



POOL - STAR Vusi Hadzebe maintained the top spot in the Black Ball Open Singles after beating Celumusa Dlamini 8-6 last weekend.

The pool league is sponsored by Solo Investment to the tune of E15 000.

Hadzebe has 15 points under his belt together with seasoned pool player Flag Nxumalo.

section. Local development coach Meshack Zwane congratulated all winners of the day.

"We would like to thank Eswatini Nomads and the parents for their con-

tinuous support to the initiative. We also congratulate the winners of the four categories. We will announce dates of the next competition in due course," he said.

Juventus FC fined, players suspended for two seasons

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER – LUBOMBO Super League side Juventus FC have been fined E7 500 for assaulting referee Mcolisi 'Mcombothi' Hlatshwako.

The referee was recently assaulted by Juventus players and officials while officiating at Siphofaneni

Sports Ground. Hlatshwako was badly injured by the hooligans after he issued a red card to a Juventus player. His referee's kit was also stolen together with his bus fare.

Information gathered is to the effect that Juventus were found guilty by the LRFA and were fined E7 500. A source said out of the six players who were implicated in the referees report, only one player attend-

ed the DC.

"The only senior player, who is also a police officer based at Siphofaneni Police Station, pleaded guilty and apologised for assaulting the referee. He was suspended for two seasons. However, the suspension was lifted as he was the first offender," said the source.

The source said the other six players were suspended for two seasons

in football. The team will also forfeit three points and goals to Rail United. LRFA Secretary Sicelo Nene confirmed that the KaMkhweli based outfit was fined. "Juventus were found guilty, charged and fined," he said.

The players and officials will also appear before the Magistrate's Court to answer on their unaccepted behaviour.



ALL OUT: John Lanjisi.

Malawi's captain vows to accomplish mission against Sihlangu

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – MALAWI'S captain, John Lanjisi has declared that his side would accomplish the mission against Sihlangu on Saturday to qualify for the next stage of the CHAN tournament.

Malawi managed a 0-0 draw against Kostadin Papic's charges at the Mavuso Sports Centre two weeks ago and having failed to score an away goal, the 'Flames' have to win outright at Kamuzu Banda Stadium to qualify for the next round.

Speaking to Malawi's leading website, *mwana-tion.com*, Lanjisi said; "We are determined to accomplish the mission on Saturday and qualify for the second round and we urge the fans to rally behind us".

Football Association of Malawi (FAM)'s Commercial and Marketing Director, Limbani Matola urged supporters to come watch the match, saying the 'Flames' rarely disappoint when playing at Kamuzu Banda Stadium.

"Match statistics are there for all to see. In the last five years, we have lost only three games at home against Zimbabwe, Guinea and Madagascar. And between 2008 and 2012, the 'Flames' only lost one game to Burkina Faso," he said. The cheapest ticket for the match costs K1 500 (about E30), and the most expensive K8 000 (about E160), and these are the VIP tickets.

MWASE DECLARES WAR ON SIHLANGU

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – MALAWI interim coach Meck Mwase has declared war on Sihlangu ahead of the two nation's CHAN Qualifiers return leg slated for Saturday.

The former Mbabane Highlanders mentor said they were aiming at nothing other than a win.

He said they were prepared to take on Kostadin Papic's men at the Kamuzu Banda Stadium in Blantyre.

"We are looking forward to the match against Eswatini, who are a strong side. We are working on get-

ting a win since we will be playing at home and

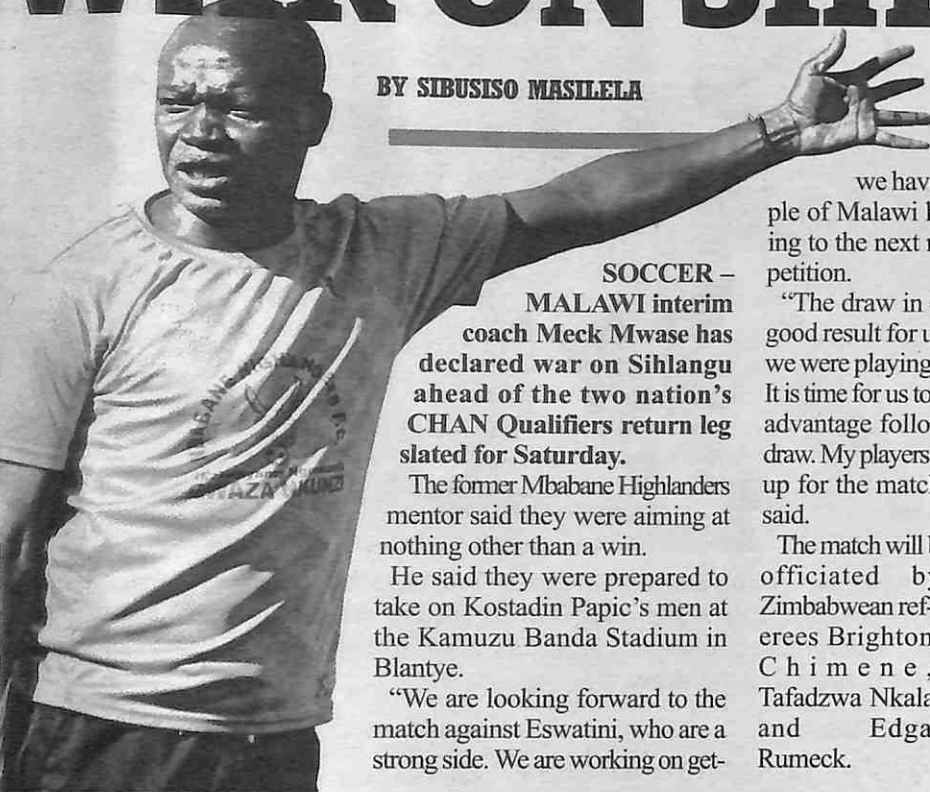
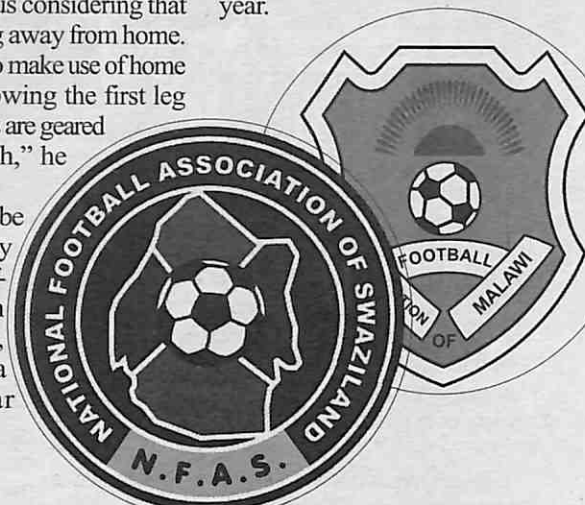
we have to make the people of Malawi happy by advancing to the next round of the competition.

"The draw in the first leg was a good result for us considering that we were playing away from home. It is time for us to make use of home advantage following the first leg draw. My players are geared up for the match," he said.

The match will be officiated by Zimbabwean referees Brighton Chimene, Tafadzwa Nkala and Edgar Rumeck.

Sihlangu will need to pull a 1-0 away victory against the 'Flames' in order to advance to the second round of the competition where the winner will take on Angola.

The finals of the continent's second premier national competition will take place in Cameroon next year.



WAR: Malawi interim coach Meck Mwase.

Boxers have three more chances to qualify for Olympics

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

BOXING – LOCAL boxers have three more chances to qualify for next year's Olympics in Tokyo, Japan.

This is according to coach Fanana 'Tyson' Dlamini, who coaches the country's two top boxers, Zweli Dlamini and Thabiso Dlamini, both from Matsapha Boxing Club.

Dlamini said he expected both boxers to make it to next year's Olympics despite their moderate performance in the recent Zone IV Championships in Botswana.

"We still have many chances to qualify, starting with the All Africa Games in Rabat, Morocco, in August. After that we have the AIBA World Championships in Russia in September, and another boxing tournament early next year, which will also serve as a qualifier," he said.

Dlamini disputed assertions that only the winners from Zone IV Championships will be eligible to participate at the All Africa Games.

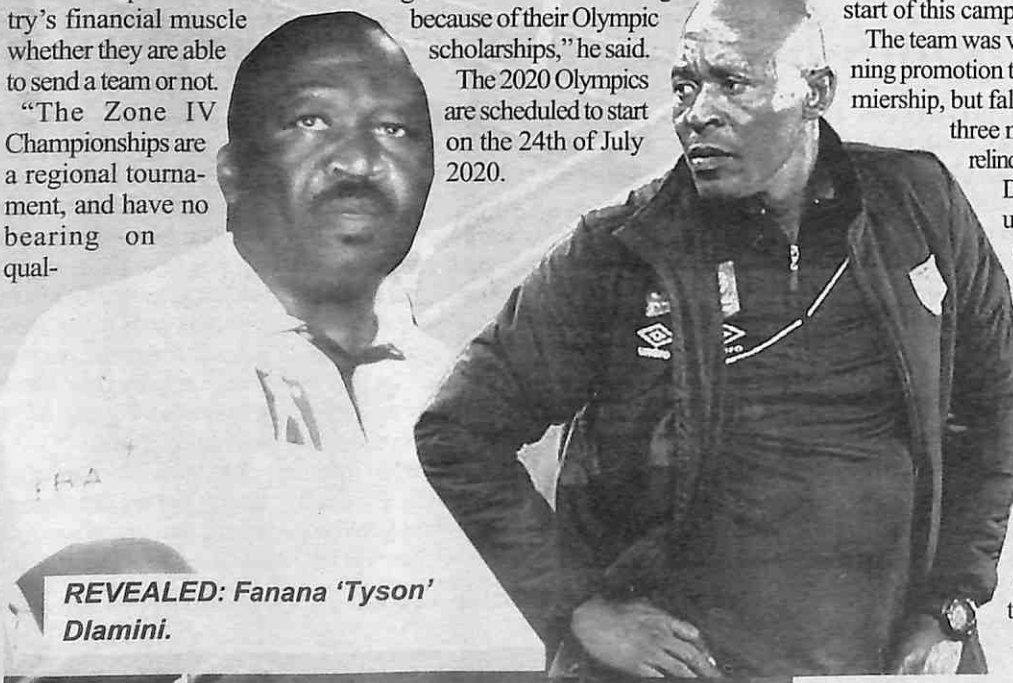
He said it depends on a country's financial muscle whether they are able to send a team or not.

"The Zone IV Championships are a regional tournament, and have no bearing on qual-

ification for the All Africa Games. All things going well we shall send a team of boxers to Morocco.

Zweli and Thabiso have a good chance of attending because of their Olympic scholarships," he said.

The 2020 Olympics are scheduled to start on the 24th of July 2020.



REVEALED: Fanana 'Tyson' Dlamini.

Milton's Mbombela Utd exit is imminent

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – ESWATINI born coach Milton Dlamini's time at SA's National First Division side Mbombela United will officially come to an end next month.

Dlamini is the coach who took local stars, Felix Badenhorst and Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza to the Mpumalanga based outfit at the start of this campaign.

The team was very close to winning promotion to the ABSA Premiership, but faltered in their last three matches to all but relinquish their chances.

Dlamini had an unstable relationship with 'Tingwenyama' as he was put on ice back in March when the team was doing very well in the league, before he returned later to guide them to a sixth place finish this season. Asked if he will

be part of the team next season, Dlamini told *kickoff.com*: "No, no, no, my contract is up end of June. So I'll be leaving end of June. Obviously I will look for another home if it's possible wherever."

He further stated that he was happy with the contribution he made this season.

"When I came in the team was number 14, we survived relegation by one point, and now we were competing on the top half of the table for the better part of the season, so we take that as a huge turnaround," he said.

He added: "We were able to get numbers at Kanyamazane who filled up the stadium during our home games. So we brought a lot of hope to the community of Mbombela, and also individually our players improved, so we expect a few to attract PSL teams."

Badenhorst captained the team under Dlamini's guidance, but the future looks gloomy as Chairman, Oupa Matsebula is reportedly willing to sell the side after failure in their PSL quest.

TO EXIT: Mbombela United coach Milton Dlamini.

RESULTS

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

21:00 Ajax 2 - 3 Tottenham Hotspur

FIXTURES

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

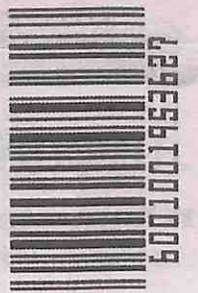
21:00 Chelsea vs Eintracht Frankfurt
21:00 Valencia vs Arsenal

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Thursday May 9, 2019



10 WESELI STARS IN CONTRACTS DILEMMA

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER - WITH the current season ending this month, 10 of Manzini Wanderers players have found themselves in a dilemma, especially those with contracts coming to an end in the next few weeks.

Information gathered from reliable sources revealed that the players are now uncertain about their future with the maroon and white outfit.

The players are Machado Jose, Sihle Mkhonta, Menzi Gamedze, Makhosi Mtsetfwa (defenders), Banele Dlamini, Igdimba Romanus (goalkeepers), Sicelo 'Junior' Simelane, Mike Mango Dombo, Johnson Mensah (midfielders) and striker Mancoba Maseko.

One of the players confirmed that their contracts were coming to an end in the next coming weeks, and they were now worried about their future in the team, as negotiations haven't started.

"We were reminding each other last week after training that our contracts come to an end, yet negotiations for new contracts have not started. We are patiently waiting for management to engage us in talks," said the player.

Renewing

Another top official from the club said management would sit down at the end of the season and review the players' performances before renewing their contracts.

When sought for comment, team Manager Sabelo Nxumalo confirmed that some of their players' contracts would be coming to an end at the end of the current season.

He also confirmed that they haven't started engaging the players in new contract talks.

"All I can say is that everything is under control at Manzini Wanderers. We will definitely engage the players for contracts renewal," he said.

Signed

The team signed quality players during the second window period, in midfield dynamo

Mpendulo Ngidi and striker Ohakwe Ugochukwu from Tambuti FC, among others. The Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati men are not safe from relegation, as they are occupying position 12 on the MTN Premier League log standings with 24 points.

The Manzini-based outfit will next week face Mbabane Highlanders in a do-or-die clash before clashing with Matsapha United in their last match of the season.



BUFFS TITLE HOPES SUFFER HUGE BLOW

BY JONGILE XUBA

Young Buffaloes..... (0)1
Malanti Chiefs..... (0)1

SOCCER - WITH their key players on national duty, Young Buffaloes only managed a 1-1 draw against Malanti Chiefs during an MTN Premier League match played at Killarney Stadium yesterday.

This result has dented the army side's title hopes as they remain in position three on the log. 'Emathole Ezinyathi' were not their usual attacking selves, only managing a goal in the 65th minute through Phiwa 'Slwabelwabe' Dlamini, with Malanti Chiefs equalising through Sandile 'Lion' Mazibuko six minutes later.

Chances were few and far in the first half, as both teams failed to create meaningful scoring chances.

Malanti were forced into an early substitution, when Sifiso Makhubu had to be taken off after colliding head on with Mpendulo Dlamini 10 minutes before the break.

The match resumed with no significant action as the teams went to break level at 0-0.

The second stanza provided a bit of flair, as both teams came out of the shell in search for the opening goal. Buffaloes almost opened the scoring when Dumsane Mdluli's shot went narrowly over the cross bar.

Tempo

Malanti responded with a chance of their own when Thokozani 'Thikithi' Dlamini's shot hit the post with the goalkeeper well-beaten.

The match picked up its tempo from there on and 'Slwabelwabe' made no mistake in the 65th minute, scoring the first goal of the match.

He received a pass in the box from Banele Mkhabela to slot past the keeper Colani Mngometulu at the near post. That goal saw Malanti Chiefs players relentlessly looking for the equaliser.

Sandile 'Lion' Mazibuko intercepted a shot from teammate Zweli Fakudze to score the vital goal. Buffaloes failed to score the second goal



CLOSING IN: Young Buffaloes' Mpendulo 'Mpetha' Dlamini controls the ball as Malanti Chiefs' attacker Binwell Katinji closes in during their MTN Premier League game yesterday at Killarney Stadium, where the teams played to a 1-1 draw. (Pic: Jongile Xuba)

THE TEAMS:

BUFFALOES - Nhlahla, Sibonelo, Wandile, Sihlangu, Mpendulo, Dumsane, Mpendulo, Banele, Phiwa, Sanele, Ali

MALANTI - Colani, Siyabonga, Innocent, Sithembiso, Thembumenzi, Sifiso, Zweli, Asive, Sandile, Binwell, Thokozani

as Malanti ran riot in the midfield, dominating possession and moving the ball well.

Perhaps, the biggest gap in the 'Buffs' lineup was upfront, with chances being squandered and obviously due to lack of creativeness, as Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze is with the national team.

Buffaloes managed to hold on to the vital draw, putting them at 48 points and somehow making it a two-horse race for the league title.

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE LOG:

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Leopard	24	17	3	4	40	14	26	54
Green Mamba	24	16	4	4	44	12	32	52
Buffaloes	24	13	9	2	38	14	24	48
Highlanders	24	12	8	4	30	18	12	44
Swallows	24	13	5	6	29	18	11	42
Malanti	24	6	10	8	23	27	-4	28
Sea Birds	24	8	4	12	26	33	-7	28
Matsapha	24	7	5	12	25	30	-5	26
Pirates	24	6	7	11	24	34	-10	25
Sundowns	24	6	7	11	17	34	-17	25
Tambuti	24	6	7	11	20	29	-9	25
Wanderers	24	6	7	12	20	30	-10	24
Vovovo	24	4	8	12	15	30	-15	20
Citizens	24	2	10	12	14	40	-26	16

Spurs face Liverpool in Champions League final

AMSTERDAM - There will be an all-English final in the Champions League, after Tottenham were unable astonishingly turned things around to knock out Ajax, winning 3-2 last night and going through on away goals, to set up a meeting with Liverpool in three weeks time.

There was hope that Tottenham would emulate Liverpool's heroics against Barcelona with a second-leg remontada of their own, with influential midfielder Moussa Sissoko returning to the starting eleven, and Son Heung-min back from the suspension he served last week, while

Jan Vertonghen - who served was forced off in the first leg with a head injury - was able to play with a face mask.

But it was a nightmare start in Amsterdam for Spurs. They travelled to the Dutch capital a goal down in the tie, and their task was made even more difficult when Ajax's 19-year-old captain Matthijs De Ligt leapt to head in a corner after six minutes, a carbon copy of the goal he scored to knock out Juventus in the last round.

The visitors grew into the game and fashioned a few half-chances in response to Ajax's early opener, but their task

became even more difficult when De Beek played in Tadic and his cutback was whipped into the bottom corner by Hakim Ziyech after 36 minutes.

At times before the break it looked like they lacked the energy and belief needed to mount a comeback. But when Lucas Moura scored after 55 minutes, finishing a breakaway after being set up by Dele Alli, there was a renewed vigour to Mauricio Pochettino's men.

And all the momentum was with them when the Brazilian scored his second four minutes later, equalising on the night and bringing them just

one more away goal away from the final. The quick brace set up a mad-cap, breathless finale, with both teams fashioning chances at either end. Ziyech, in particular, had good opportunities and Tottenham hearts were in mouths when he struck the post 12 minutes before full-time.

At the other end, it looked at times like Ajax were holding on, camping in their own box. Vertonghen was given a golden chance to score a famous winner when the ball deflected to him just outside the six-yard box, but he mistimed his header.

Teamtalk