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FORMER REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR PRINCE GCOKOMA CALLED IN AS... BUYER, ROYAL ORPHANS **CLASH** OVER HOME

STORY ON PAGE 3

...The questionable sale and transfer of ownership of the property belonging to royal orphans has recently sparked new interest as the new owner just began construction on it



UP THE BIRDS:
Mbabane Swallows fans in a jubilant mood after their side qualified for the last 16 in the EswatiniBank Cup at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

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Police allegedly assault woman caught having sex at midnight

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

TWO Pigg's Peak police officers are accused of assaulting a female (35) who was allegedly found half naked with her boyfriend in the bushes behind the Pigg's Peak Fire Station at midnight.

It has been said by sources that the assault victim, who is from Malanda, was having sex with her boyfriend who fled the scene when he saw the approaching police van.

After the boyfriend fled into the bushes, the two patrolling police officers asked the half-naked assault victim to enter the back of the police van where the police allegedly assaulted her with kicks and punches all over her body.

Investigations

The name of the assault victim and the name of her boyfriend are known but have been withheld so as to not impede ongoing police investigations.

The assault happened on Friday.

Speaking to this publication yesterday, sources said the assault victim approached the Pigg's Peak police on Saturday to report the assault.

"The two accused Pigg's Peak police were using a police van to patrol the area near the Pigg's Peak Fire Station. The police then noticed that there was a couple performing illicit acts in the bushes. The police then approached the couple but the male fled into the night while carrying his pair of jeans in his hands," they said.

Intoxicated

The sources went on to say that after the boyfriend fled, the assault victim, who was intoxicated, was then told to get into the back of the police van where she was allegedly assaulted by the two police officers.

"When the assault was over, the police drove the victim home to Malanda. Then on Saturday morning, she went to the Pigg's Peak Police Station to report the assault officially.

Transferred

"However, when asked to describe the police who committed the assault, she named a police officer who was transferred from Pigg's Peak a few months ago, leaving the police with a multitude of unanswered questions pertaining to the authenticity of the report," they added.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident, saying police are investigating the matter.

'Find our father's killers'

STORIES BY STARSKY MKHONTA
Nhlango

"THOSE who killed my father must be arrested. They must rot in jail; that's all we ask of the justice system of this country."

The late former Eswatini Bank (formerly Swazi Bank) Managing Director Sam Kuhlase's children said losing their father in the manner it happened opened a wound that will never heal. They said their father did not deserve to die in such a brutal manner and those that did this should be brought to book.

During the funeral of Kuhlase on Saturday at Mbangweni near Nhlango, two of his children were overcome by emotions as they related to throngs of mourners the pain of losing their father who they were looking up to as the most valuable God-given gift they would treasure for the rest of their lives.

Senseless

The children said such senseless killing of their father has left them feeling that the country was a lawless state and to have it (country) win back its confidence from the nation and the world in general, the justice system has to do something. In attendance was High Court Judge Titus Mlangeni, a close family friend



ON ARRIVAL: Samuel Kuhlase's casket on arrival at the John Wesley Methodist Church in Mbabane for the memorial service. (Pics: Sifiso Dlamini)

who used to attend any gathering organised by the Kuhlases, the last held on November 10, 2018.

This was a thanksgiving ceremony organised by the deceased's children in his honour. During that family gathering, Justice Mlangeni was one of the speakers.

Kuhlase died last week Saturday after battling with injuries sustained when unknown rogues attacked him on January 16 at his residence, Esiphumelele, which is a fast growing suburb near the notorious and crime

infested Mathendele Township in Nhlango. He was hacked all over the body and later dumped in a forest, only to be found unconscious after a long search.

Motive

It is still unclear what the motive behind such senseless attack was. Kuhlase eventually passed away after over two weeks in hospital.

Fikile Kuhlase, the first born, told mourners how sad they were as children to lose their father in such a cruel manner. She said she was com-

pletely gutted and devastated to lose such a great man who was her source of inspiration. Her speech pierced through the hearts of many when she related her father's last words, reiterating how tough it would be to cope without him.

"We had an amazing father; he was so generous and had influenced all of us. I became a banker because of his influence, as he wanted nothing but the best for us. He was our pillar of strength and losing him in this manner has caused unbearable pain."

Fikile tells mourners how close she was with father

FIKILE was loved by her father Sam Kuhlase such that he made her to be the family's spokesperson during family gatherings and other functions, mourners heard.

Fikile said even during his last days of his life, her father wanted her at his hospital bed side.

"His last words are vividly clear as he kept on asking about me. He wanted me at his hospital bed side and this he used to do even when there were family gatherings, as he always delegated me to speak on behalf of my family.

"Today, which is a painful moment, I am standing before you still wearing the 'title' he gave me as his first born but sadly, he is gone now and will not hear my speech," said Fikile.

Fikile said the family kept nursing hopes when their father was showing signs of improvement during treatment and thought he was responding well. They were devastated when doctors told them the situation was bad. She said it was at around 6pm on February 2 when their father was pronounced dead.

"It was like our world came crushing down and we were inconsolable as the news broke out. Losing our father in this despicable manner through heartless people, it's a wound that won't heal.

"It's barbaric and unacceptable. In our midst, we have His Lordship, the Judge (Titus Mlangeni) and I hope he is aware of the pain we are going



LOST A ROLE MODEL: The late Kuhlase's children; Tjotjo, Sehlephi, Siphesihle and Thithi bidding farewell to their hero.

through right now because of what these heartless people have done. We have been robbed the love our father was giving us," said Fikile, who was overcome by emotions.

Fikile's brother Sitsabo echoed his sister and stated that he was so worked up when he learned about the brutal attack and it became worse when

he passed on.

"When I heard the sad news, I was inconsolable.

"I am now calm not because the pain of losing my father has faded, but its the counselling and preaching received, that I have found solace with the Lord and thank those who have been with us in prayer since this happened," said Sitsabo.

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BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Manzini

Buyer, royal opharns clash

THE questionable sale and transfer of ownership of a property belonging to royal orphans in a Manzini township owned by the late Evelinah Dlamini has sparked new interest as the new owner recently began construction on the property.

They interested persons said they were under the impression that the matter was still under review as per the request of Manzini Regional Administrator Prince Gcokoma.

A family member, Vincent Dlamini who brought this matter to the public's attention, said the late widow at the time of her demise was living on the property with her grandchildren. Following her death, one of her grandchildren, Fani Mazibuko together with Masundvini Royal Kraal Indvuna wrote a letter stipulating that only Mazibuko and his sister Norah Mazibuko were the surviving grandchildren of Dlamini. At the time of Evelinah's passing, Mazibuko and his sister Norah had moved to their parental home at Maliyaduma.

However, a source said, when the matter was further investigated it was discovered that there were other grandchildren who lived on the property with their grandmother before she died. When the matter was brought to the Master of High Court in Manzini, it was demanded that further investigations be conducted to identify all the beneficiaries.

In a letter written by Vincent Nathi Dlamini addressed to Regional Administrator, Evelinah had five children, four of them were boys and one girl. However they are all deceased but survived by 13 children.

He stated that in 2015 they were contacted by an officer from the Master of the High Court in an attempt to verify the claim made by Fani Mazibuko that the only surviving grandchildren were him and his sister. He further stated that they went to the master's office accompanied by Regional Administrator Prince Gcokoma together with Khopha Dlamini who is Evelinah's brother-in-law.

Vincent further stated that Prince Gcokoma notified the Master's Office that the allegations made by Fani Mazibuko were incorrect. He also notified them that Mazibuko had no right to sell the property, only their grandfather Khopha Dlamini could represent the grandchildren in the sale of the property.

An officer in the Master's office advised them to write a letter notifying the office that there were disputes in the sale of the property, which they did and it was placed in their file. Dlamini alleged that Prince Gcokoma also notified the buyer of the malpractice in the sale of the property done by Mazibuko. The buyer is said to have acknowledged it and requested them to consider selling him the property once the matter was resolved.

However it is alleged that on the 4th of December 2016, the buyer erected a notice on the property for



UNDER DISPUTE: Constructions have begun in the plot alleged to have been sold under questionable circumstances at Ngwane Park. (Pic: Sifiso Dlamini)

an application for rezoning the property from residential to commercial.

Not long after the notice was erected, Fani Mazibuko came and plucked the roofing material, windows and doors as well as the frames and chucked out all the occupants, Evelinah's other grandchildren. One of the grandchildren who is said to have been bedridden died supposedly due to hypothermia, alleged Dlamini.

Alternative

Dlamini also said the buyer offered the grandchildren who were forcefully evicted from the property E200 each and told them that they should go and look for an alternative place to rent. He is alleged to have promised to rent a guest house for them.

Dlamini further said the grandchildren were now scattered all over the country, homeless, as their rightful home was illegally taken from them. They pleaded that the law should come to their aid, added Dlamini.

Following the recent construction underway in the property, Dlamini said they approached the Attorney General's office to enquire about the sale of the property as well as the Master of the High Court offices in Manzini where the complaint was first reported. He said they were told that according to the documents there was no malpractice in the sale of the property.

This was a surprise to them, said Dlamini, because the same office had told them that the matter would be investigated and they should rest assured that the office would get to the bottom of it.

Secondly Dlamini said when he went to the AG's office in Manzini; he was given a document for the Liquidation and Distribution Account. The document dated January 7, 2015, read the first and final liquidation and distribution account in the estate of the late Evelinah Dlamini nee Tsabedze who died on the 15/11/2014 file number EM 33/2015. Among the assets list there is one immovable property in the district of Manzini, which was valued at E285 000.

In the list of liabilities, there are claims against the estate which

include E34 764.19 which was paid to the Manzini Municipal Council for the rates owed by the property.

Also there was a deduction of E3 562.50 which was the executor's remuneration who is the accused Fani Mazibuko as well as E2 284.62 for the bond refund also paid to Mazibuko.

After all the deductions were made, the balance was E243 656.44 which when deducted equally among the twelve surviving grandchildren each would have received an amount in the region of E20 000.

The document also states that the immovable property, shall be sold and the proceeds shared among all the grandchildren of the deceased in equal shares. The document also consists of a list of all the 13 grandchildren who were to benefit from the sale of the property. The complete list of the beneficiaries is Bhokie Mazibuko, Norah Mazibuko, Fani Mazibuko, Tengetile Dlamini, Senzo Dlamini, Mcolisi Dlamini, Msimisi Dlamini, Sakhile Dlamini, Mthuthu Dlamini, Siphephiso Dlamini, Takhona Dlamini, Buyisile Dlamini and Mzwandile Dlamini. However of note is that two of the grandchildren have passed since the death of Evelinah in 2014 and they are Senzo Dlamini and Buyisile Dlamini, the other grandchildren are still alive.

In the executor's clause by Fani Mazibuko it states that, "dative in the above estate do hereby certify that foregoing account is a true account of the liquidation and distribution of the above estate and that to the best of my knowledge and

belief there are no further liabilities to be accounted for."

When contacted by this publication, one of the grandchildren by the name of Mthuthu Dlamini said, ever since they were kicked out of their home, they had been scattered all over the country. Also they were under the impression that the matter was still under investigation and surprising to them that the Master's office was saying all was in order when they promised them that the matter would be resolved.

Dlamini also said in the sale of the property, only the executor Fani and his sister Norah Mazibuko benefited from the sale of their home.

"The rest of us have not received anything from the sale, it is painful because we are left to fend for ourselves while our home seems to have been sold illegally and we cannot do anything about it," said Dlamini.

Dlamini added that he would like the world to know that people in power get away with rot since it looked certain that a deal was struck

between officials in the Manzini Master's office with Mazibuko and the buyer. He said it was hurtful how their home was taken under their nose and they were left helpless. The buyer on the other hand said, according to his knowledge there was no malpractice in the purchase of the property. He purchased the plot through his lawyer who handled all the paperwork. He also said that the complainant Vincent Dlamini was not even a relative to the late Evelinah; he is just an agitator who wants to tarnish his good name.

Beneficiaries

The buyer said according to him and his lawyer, all the beneficiaries received their share. He followed the right procedure in the attainment of the property. He even contributed in the burial of one of the deceased grandchildren, Senzo Dlamini.

When this publication contacted the executor, who is also one of the grandchildren Fani Mazibuko, who is currently employed by the buyer, he said his late grandmother left him in charge of the property's documents. When the Masunvini Royal Kraal Indvuna wrote the above mentioned letter, he had discussed with the rest of his siblings that in order for the sale and transfer to be faster, they would say that only two grandchildren were still alive.

He alleged that later when they realised that it could backfire, they decided to include all the beneficiaries in the list. Mazibuko also said that all the beneficiaries received their share, only one Mthuthu Dlamini refused to get his share since he was against the sale of the property. He alleged that Mthuthu Dlamini contacted Vincent Dlamini to lodge an opposition to the sale of the property. He also said the other grandchildren claimed their share and relocated to South Africa.

When asked for their contacts he said he should be contacted today.

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Dlamini also said the buyer offered the grandchildren who were forcefully evicted the property E200 each and told them that they should go and look for an alternative place to rent. He is alleged to have promised them that he would rent a guest house for them



LET'S PRAY: Reverend Jabulani Mazibuko reads the Bible before praying for Phil Mnisi and his wife Jabu.

PHIL MNISI LEAVES

BY SAMKELISIWE KHOZA
Ezulwini

PASTOR Phil Mnisi has left the Alliance Church and has launched his own ministry, His Harvest Fellowship Church.

Mbabane Alliance Church Pastor Johannes Mazibuko said he was so honoured to witness his church bearing fruits.

"Phil is no longer a member of the Alliance Church Eswatini; he is now a pastor to his own ministry, His Harvest Fellowship Church. However, Mnisi would remain an associate member of the Alliance Church," Mazibuko said, adding that he would continue to be Mnisi's pastor, father and mentor.



EMOTIONAL: Pastor Phil Mnisi tries to hold back tears as he delivered a speech at the launch of the new ministry His Harvest Fellowship Church held at the Sibane Hotel yesterday. (Pics: Mduzuzi Mngomezulu)

He added that Mnisi would also remain under his leadership and supervision. The official launch of Pastor Mnisi's Ministry was

NAME CHANGE

Customers, staff and the general public are hereby notified that pursuant to Legal Notice No. 80 of 2018, Swaziland Beverages Proprietary Limited has changed its name to Eswatini Beverages Proprietary Limited.

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ALLIANCE, LAUNCHES OWN MINISTRY



ENTERTAINMENT: Mbababe Alliance Choir entertaining the guests with some music.



PRAISE GOD: Pastor Cavin Ward administering the Word of God.



ALL SMILES: Pastor Phil Mnisi, his wife Jabu, Reverend Jabulani Mazibuko's wife Rose, Reverend Mazibuko and Pastor Kevin Ward all smiles during the launch.

held at Sibane Hotel yesterday. "I feel greatly honoured; I feel joy to see my ministry bearing fruit. Ministry is about results and time for reasons are no more," Mazibuko said. He explained that the gathering was

simply to witness the spiritual growth of Mnisi. Mazibuko said he had known the pastor since his junior days and had been his spiritual mentor for years. "I have watched the pastor grow, taking remarkable strides, socially, aca-

demically, career wise, economical-ly and above all remarkable strides spiritually," he said adding that he had also witnessed the commitment shown by Mnisi in everything he had been involved in.

He said Mnisi's commitment and faithful fellowship led to his ordainment in 2014 after which he continued under his leadership serving God honestly, serving the church faithfully and serving him diligently.

"Through the years under my ministry Mnisi has shown the desire to minister, having accessed him and monitored him, I realised the need and call for such, therefore I decided to release him," Mazibuko said.

Phil, wife in tears

WHEN the Mbababe Alliance Church Pastor Johannes Mazibuko was rendering the release quotes, Pastor Phil and his wife Jabu Mnisi were engulfed by emotions that tears gushed.

Mnisi said he made the decision to become the Lord's personal server nearly thirty years ago.

He said it did not come a day when he regretted that decision.

He pledged that he together with his family would honour God, His servants, His work and His congregation.

"What is happening today is not a small matter but a giant step into the unknown future. We do not know what the future holds for us but we know the one who holds the future," Mnisi said.

Mnisi, in tears, acknowledged the mentoring, counseling and fathering of Mazibuko and his wife. He thanked the Lord for bringing and using Mazibuko in his life.



BROTHERS IN CHRIST: Mazibuko shakes hands with Mnisi. On the right is Mnisi's wife Jabu who was overcome with emotions.

His Harvest Fellowship Church Services

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- Wednesday prayer and Bible study connects (6pm)

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WARM WEEK AHEAD

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

THE Swaziland Meteorological Service has predicted a fine and warm week ahead.

Today there will be morning fog at places, otherwise partly cloudy and warm but hot in the Lowveld. Heavy afternoon showers are expected. Temperatures are expected to start from 18 degrees Celsius in the Highveld rising

to 33 degrees Celsius in the Lowveld. Tomorrow, there will be morning fog patches with sunny intervals all over the country.

Thunderstorms are mostly expected in the afternoon. Temperatures will slightly drop from today's temperatures, starting from 17 degrees Celsius in the Highveld rising to 32 degrees Celsius in the Lowveld.

On Wednesday, rain showers are expected during the day otherwise cool to warm in the Lowveld.

WEATHER UPDATE

TODAY

Mbabane
18/28

Mankayane
19/29

Manzini
21/31

Siteki
20/30

Mhlume
22/32

Big-bend
23/33

TOMORROW

Mbabane
17/27

Mankayane
18/28

Manzini
20/30

Siteki
19/29

Mhlume
21/31

Big-bend
22/32

WEDNESDAY

Mbabane
16/23

Mankayane
17/25

Manzini
19/27

Siteki
18/26

Mhlume
20/29

Big-bend
21/30

'I am too broke to sponsor children'

STORIES BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

LUGONGOLWENI Member of Parliament (MP) Ntsetselelo Magongo has pleaded with the electorate not to trouble him seeking for money to pay for needy children's school fees, saying he is too broke.

Instead of giving hand-outs, Magongo said he would work hard towards the development of the constituency which he has described as a powerhouse for the Lubombo region.

The newly-elected legislator was speaking during a thanksgiving ceremony which he hosted at the Good Shepherd Primary School.

In attendance were residents mainly from Makhewu, one of the largest communities making up the constituency which comprises of only

one chiefdom.

Magongo first thanked the residents for entrusting him with the responsibility of developing the constituency which has experienced its fair share of the recent drought situation. He also voiced out his frustration on some of the duties which some residents apparently wanted him to execute.

Assistance

Without necessarily barring the residents from seeking assistance from him, Magongo said he was concerned to note the increasing number of people flocking his home to ask for monetary assistance. He disclosed that some residents would ask for money ranging from E5 000 to E15 000 for varying reasons.

Magongo said some would say they needed the money to sort out personal needs, while others want to pay for their children's school fees.

"As much as I am willing to assist people improve

their lives, it is not possible to fork out such an amount for an individual. I am too broke to do that," he said.

The MP appealed for cooperation from the residents, saying he had bigger plans for the constituency. Magongo said major projects would take place within the next five years to ensure that the constituency is amongst the well developed by 2022. He urged residents to make good use of opportunities which would be provided by national events to be hosted under the constituency. "The constituency has great potential to develop just like others near Mbabane; all we need is unity and being focused on what we want to do," Magongo said.

PLEADS: Lugongolweni MP Ntsetselelo Magongo making his remarks. (Pics: Wonderboy Dlamini)



'Lugongolweni has too many private farms'

LUGONGOLWENI Constituency is reportedly faced with land ownership problems, with a large portion of the land registered as farms for certain organisations.

This was raised by residents of the constituency during a thanksgiving party hosted by MP Ntsetselelo Magongo on Saturday. Jabulani Mamba, who was also a contestant during the

elections, pointed out that communities were currently surrounded by farms which have been left unused for the past many years.

Belongs

At present, some residents are even said to be illegally occupying land which belongs to some of those farms.

Mamba appealed to the MP to look into the issue and see if

the farm owners can be engaged to allow development projects to take place.

"We have projects which have failed in the past years, and the only reason was that they were located on privately owned farms," said Mamba.

Mamba asked the MP to raise the issue in Parliament and determine if there could be any assistance in resolving the issue.



ATTENDED: A section of the residents of Makhewu who attended the party held on Saturday.

'Govt must regulate pension for private sector'

THE electorate have called upon government to regulate the private sector in terms of paying pension for their retired employees.

Some private organisations which include hospitals are said to be paying their retired employees as little as E100 per month as pension.

These were some of the allegations made by the electorate under Lugongolweni Constituency during a thanksgiving

party on Saturday.

A resident who is employed by a missionary health facility under the Lubombo region alleged that some retired employees at his workplace were getting payout ranging from E56 to E100 as pension per month, depending on the position they held before retirement.

This is an amount which the retired employees get after collecting a certain lump sum which under normal circumstances is

about 25 per cent of the gratuity.

The resident asked MP Ntsetselelo Magongo to raise this concern in Parliament so that government could issue a gazette on the minimum pay for retired employees.

The resident said as much as they appreciated the difference between a government employee and a private organisation one, paying a retired employee a sum of E56 was an insult.



U.S. Embassy, Eswatini

J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS 2019-2020

The Embassy of the United States of America is pleased to announce the opening of competition for the 2019-2020 J. William Fulbright Scholarships.

The Fulbright Program brings citizens of other countries to the United States for Master's degree study at U.S. universities.

The Fulbright Foreign Student Program is designed for emSwati who wish to undertake study in the United States leading to a Master's degree. The applicant must have an undergraduate (4 years) degree in any of the following academic disciplines: journalism, politics/international studies, public health, economics, business, law, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), education or environmental studies.

Fulbright programs require strong academic records, and other qualifying educational or related professional experience will be significant factors in selection. In addition, preference will be given to candidates who have not previously been afforded study opportunities in the United States. **Swati students who reside in the United States are not eligible to apply.**

Interested candidates are required to attend one of the following briefings:

Monday, February 11, 2019 @ 1pm - U.S. Embassy in Ezulwini

Wednesday, February 13, 2019 @ 1pm - US Embassy in Ezulwini

Friday, February 15, 2019 @ 1pm - Swaziland National Library (Exhibition Hall)

During the briefings, detailed information on the eligibility criteria and the application process will be given.

You will need a photo ID to gain entry to the embassy premises. We can only take 50 people at each session therefore an RSVP is essential.

Please RSVP via email to MartinsSC@state.gov at least one day before the briefing.

Eswatini keen on being AfCFTA Secretariat host - PM

BY MBONO MDLULI
Mbabane

ESWATINI is still keen on hosting the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), says Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini.

He was speaking yesterday during the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU), held at the AU capital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The prime minister, in

his brief speech, re-affirmed the country's commitment to host the AfCFTA

Secretariat.

He also told the gathering that Emaswati believed that Africa's integration agenda was a critical pathway to ensure sustainable peace and prosperity for all African people, hence he encouraged all of the African leaders to sign and ratify the AfCFTA.

"As we enter Phase II of the negotiations, let us ensure that the provisions on Investment, Intellectual Property Rights and Competition Policy enable us to create a modern integrated internal market taking advantage of technology and platforms such as e-Commerce to ensure an inclusive internal market," Dlamini said.

Dlamini further assured the gathering that the country stood ready to work with all AU member states to make the implementation of a rules-based market system a reality and leave a legacy for future

generations. He commended AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat and the commissioner of trade and industry and his team for their dedicated service to the Union.

This year's session, which started yesterday, is under the theme: "The Year of Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa."

According to Egypt Today, an online publication, a closed meeting of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government took place whereas Rwandan President Paul Kagame presented his achievements while chairing the AU in 2018 in terms of institutional reform.

Kagame is supposed to be succeeded by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who will chair the AU for one year. The prime minister is expected back home by Wednesday this week.

KEEN: Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini.

Supposed dagga thief stabbed during gang fight, critical in hospital

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

A man from Nkomazi who is accused of stealing dagga from his rivals at Ndeva is in critical condition at the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital, after he was stabbed during a fight outside the Entwine bar.

The fight which involved 31 men took place along the MR 1 public road in Pigg's Peak on Saturday night.

The name of the stab victim is

known but has been withheld for now. Yesterday sources said the fight began when a gang of 14 men from Ndeva approached the 15-men gang from Nkomazi for allegedly stealing dagga last week Sunday.

Spotted

"Apparently last week Sunday a man from Nkomazi was spotted around the dagga field and it was discovered later that dagga weighing 4 kg had disappeared.

Fortunately the security guard at the field knew the supposed thief by name and reported to his superiors. Then six days after the ini-

tial dagga theft the dagga thief was spotted enjoying some alcohol with his friends at the Polani Bar," said the source.

After spotting the dagga thief, the rivals from Ndeva called their friends who rushed to the bar to commit the assault.

"The men from Ndeva raced to the Polani Bar, but caught up with the dagga thief at Entwine bar where he was in the company of his friends.

The men from Ndeva then approached the dagga thief insulting and accusing him of stealing.

This then led to the two groups clashing and a brawl ensued. During the fight the accused dagga thief was stabbed once in the chest by an unknown individual.

Stabbing

After the stabbing, the dagga thief was rushed to the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital for treatment," added the source.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident. She added that police were still investigating the stabbing.

Cops finally apprehend man who raped minor (3)

BY MELUSI MLOTSA
Siphofaneni

A man aged 24, of Mkhweli was arrested for allegedly raping his three-year-old nephew.

The incident that is still the talk of the small community happened on February 4, 2019 at Mkhweli, an area under the Siphofaneni constituency in the Lubombo region.

According to reliable sources, on the said date, the minor was heard crying by a family member inside one of the houses within the homestead.

"When they went to check what was wrong with her, they were met by the man bolting out of the room," said the source.

The source narrated that the family member found the minor naked and lying helplessly on the floor.

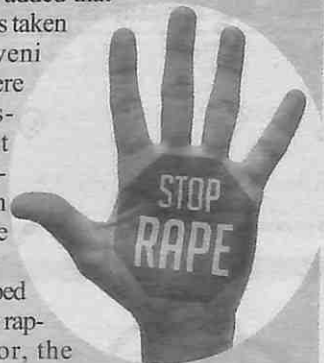
"There were signs that the minor had been raped by the man and the matter was immediately reported to the Siphofaneni Police Station," said the source.

The source added that the minor was taken to Sifobelweni Hospital where she was discovered that there was forceful penetration on her private parts.

Having escaped after allegedly raping the minor, the accused reportedly disappeared from the homestead for a number of days.

However, on Saturday, February 9, police officers from Siphofaneni finally arrested the rape accused after getting a tip-off from members of the community.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the matter and the subsequent arrest of the accused.



Eswatini leads the pack on fighting NTD's

BY SABELO MAJOLA
Mbabane

THE Kingdom of Eswatini is at the pinnacle of the list of African countries that are at low risk of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD's).

This is according to the analysis by the organisation United to Combat NTDs which looked at the five most common NTDs in Africa: blinding trachoma, the leading cause of infectious blindness; intestinal worms that can stunt the growth of children; mosquito-borne elephantiasis; snail-borne bilharzia and river blindness.

A review of 49 African countries' progress in fighting NTD's shows that countries like Eswatini, Malawi and Mali are outperforming some richer countries such as Botswana and South Africa.

The analysis, released during this week's African Union meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shows there are 15 countries in Africa all beating the 75 per cent target and on track to wipe out



the diseases, many of which are in the lowest income bracket.

The diseases affect 1.6 billion of the poorest people in the world, including more than 600m people in Africa.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) calculates that if countries treat and protect more than 75 per cent of people at risk they will beat the diseases.

Eswatini comes top of the chart with 92 per cent of the population at risk on treatment. Malawi is second with 91 per cent of the population on treatment

and Mali is third with 90 per cent.

Richer middle-income countries such as South Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Botswana were all ranked in the bottom third of the league table.

In his address during the first session of the 11th Parliament, His Majesty King Mswati III said that the health sector remains at the top of the country's national agenda and government is committed to providing resources to ensure that our populace remains healthy, happy and productive.



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Man strangles, bangs wife's head on floor

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

IT appears that violence against women and children is far from over.

This is indicated by cases appearing before the court where women and children were abused either physically or emotionally. One such case was brought before the Siteki Magistrate's Court where one Christopher Gamedze was said to

have assaulted his wife. Gamedze was charged with contravening Section 77 of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act 15 of 2018.

He is said to have unlawfully abused his wife, Sibongile Mkhonta by choking her and further banging her head against the floor several times.

The two were engaged in an argument before the man resorted to the violent act.

During his appearance before Senior Magistrate Donald Mavuso, the accused person elected to conduct his own defence after he was informed of his right to

legal representation.

The complainant sustained injuries and was taken to hospital as a result of the assault. The prosecution applied for a trial date as it intended to lead evidence in the matter.

Guilty

Meanwhile in the same court, Sifiso Mamba faced a similar offence of contravening the SODV Act. He was said to have strangled his aunt, Lomandzawe Magagula and further pressed her onto the ground, giving her the impression that she was to be sexually abused. The accused person pleaded guilty to the

charge.

He told the court that he was drunk when he committed the offence. He stated that he had also apologised to the complainant as they were staying at the same homestead.

"I did not intend to do what I did, I was too drunk to know what I was doing," he said. The accused person was found guilty of the charge. He was sentenced to a year in a correctional facility with an option to pay E2 000. The sentence was however suspended for three years on condition that he does not commit a similar offence.

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HELPING HAND: Two government truck drivers attempt to open the truck after accidentally locking its keys inside while parked in Parliament last Friday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Two men nabbed for dagga possession

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

SENIOR Magistrate Nonhlanhla Dlamini has admitted two men to E1 500 bail each for the possession of dagga.

The two appeared before Dlamini. Njabulo Ciniso Nyamane (25) from Maphalaleni was represented by Lawyer Musa Shongwe during his appearance.

He was arrested at Mbuluzi

area after he was allegedly found to be in possession of dagga illegally and it weighed 10.2kg.

He was charged with contravening Section 123 (a) as read with Section 12 (c) of the Pharmacy Act No 38/1929 as amended.

Prosecution moved that the accused be remanded into police custody until his trial date, however his lawyer also applied for bail, which was granted.

The accused is set to return to court on March 4 for trial.

Another was Mthokozisi

Mncina (19) from Malanti area under Chief Mathutha who was also nabbed for dagga possession.

He was arrested at Ekuvinjelweni for illegally possessing dagga weighing 13.7kg.

The prosecution also applied that he be remanded into police custody until his trial date and bail was not opposed. The accused jumped at the opportunity and applied for bail which was granted as well.

He is set to return to court on March 14 for trial.

Teenage girl (15) missing

BY SAMKELISIWE KHOZA
Mbabane

POLICE are looking for a 15-year-old girl who went missing last month.

Noxolo Kheswa (15) went missing on January 28, from her home, Sitsatsaweni at 10am.

"Noxolo Kheswa, 15 years of Lobamba, Mchaphozini area went missing on January 28. She was last seen wearing black jeans, grey sweater and black or white sneakers," said Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

Vilakati said it was reported that the teenager is schooling at Langeni High School, doing Form Two. She said her family is concerned by her safety.

PICO urged anyone with information to contact Regional Crime Branch Officer Fakudze at 7604 4178 or Desk Officer Lobamba Dlodlu at 7603 3862.



MISSING: Noxolo Kheswa, 15 years of Lobamba, went missing on January 28.

ESWATINI ELECTRICITY COMPANY (EEC)

Energy for the Future

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The Trustees of the Eswatini Electricity Company Pension Fund kindly invite any person who is or who knows Fezile Mhlanga who is a dependent of the late Musa. Johannes. Mhlanga to urgently contact the Principal Officer- Mfanawelisontfo Dlamini at telephone Number 24094295, during working hours.

SATISO SE ESWATINI ELECTRICITY COMPANY PENSION FUND

KWABIWA KWEMPENISHILI YABABE MUSA J. MHLANGA LOWASHONA MHLAKA 11TH NOVEMBER 2003.

Libandlalema Trustees e sikhwama sempenisheli saseEswatini Electricity Company sitsandza kumemalongu nomalowatikonga Fezile Mhlanga longumntfwana wa Musa Johannes Mhlanga lowashona kutsi batsintse Principal Officer- Mfanawelisontfo Dlamini emagesini enombolweni letsi #24094295 ngetikhatsi tekusebenta.

ISSUED BY THE EEC PENSION FUND
PRINCIPAL OFFICER

Teen nabbed for E12 000 dagga

BY SAMKELISIWE KHOZA
Mbabane

A 19-year-old lad from Malanti has been arrested for dagga worth E12 000.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said the lad was nabbed at Ekuvinjelweni on Saturday.

"Mbabane Police arrested and charged a 19-year-old male of Malanti for being found in possession of dagga weighing 15kg with a street value of E12 000 without a licence or permit while at Ekuvinjelweni area," Vilakati said in a press release.

On a similar note, two school going 19-year-old males were arrested for the illegal possession of dagga worth E60 000 around November last year. The pair later appeared before the Simunye Magistrate's Court for sentencing and were handed two years in a correctional facility with a fine option of E3 500.

The teen suspects who are originally from Lomahasha were caught with the illegal herb at Maphiveni security check-point which is guarded by the Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF).

The two teenagers were doing Form Four in one of the community high schools in Lomahasha.

Each carried a backpack stuffed with the illegal drug which was said to be 15 kilogrammes.

They covered the substance with clothes that were excessively sprayed with a strong fragrance. The teens were also suspected to be

under the influence of alcohol upon their arrest. Suspicions are that they needed courage to smuggle the drug through the security check-point hence the use of alcohol.

Moreover, Vilakati reported yesterday that Mbabane police also arrested and charged a 25-year-old man of Maphalaleni after he was found in illegal possession of dagga weighing 10.2 kilogrammes.

She said the dagga was worth E8 100 and that the suspect was nabbed while at Mbuluzi area on Saturday.

"Pigg's Peak Police arrested and charged a 24-year-old woman of Nkamanzi for being found in possession of dagga weighing 11.9 kg with a street value of E9 520 without a licence or permit while at Nkamanzi area," she said.

But why?...



THOU SHALL NOT BREAK THE LAW: A man illegally crosses the highway at Mvutshini after attending a church service yesterday. This should be discouraged as it could end in fatalities. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

All MTN customers are reminded to get their SIM cards registered as required by Eswatini Communications Commission. **Registration ends on 4th April 2019** and failure to register your SIM card will result in the disconnection of your mobile number on the MTN network.

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Mbabane Police arrested and charged a 19-year-old male of Malanti for being found in possession of dagga weighing 15kg with a street value of E12 000 without a licence or permit

Man (20) fined E2 000 for damaging property

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A 20-year-old man from Lobamba has appeared before the court for the offence of injury to property.

Banele Gwebu appeared before Senior Magistrate Nonhlanhla Dlamini.

He was arrested on January 8 at Lobamba near Mchaphozini area, whereby he intentionally damaged property belonging to one Siphelele Mamba amounting to E2 700.

The accused hit a window and scratched a car bonnet with a brick block with intent to damage the property belonging to Mamba.

The window is valued at E200 and the bonnet is worth E2 500.

He was charged with the offence of malicious injury to property. He pleaded for leniency and told the court that it was a misunderstanding and was sorry for his actions.

He further stated that he is unemployed and survived through piece jobs.

He was sentenced to two years in prison with an option to pay a fine of E2 000, however, half of the sentence was suspended.



FOCUS on DD cases

Over E1 000 fine for each DD offender

STORIES BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

THIS weekend saw quite a number of drunk drivers, including one female, appearing in court and neither paid a fine below E1 000 due to the amount of alcohol content found in their systems during their arrest.

They all made their appearances before Senior Magistrate Nonhlanhla Dlamini yesterday.

The first to be called to the stand was a 23-year-old man from Midrand, South Africa.

Babuse Ndlovu was arrested in the early hours of yesterday morning at Cuddle Puddle along the MR103 road, whilst driving a VW golf sedan and was alleged to be driving under the influence of alcohol. A breathalyser test conducted on him read 0.45mg/l.



ed on him read 0.45mg/l.

He was charged with contravening Section 91 (1) as read with Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic

Act 6 of 2007.

He told the court that he had come to visit a friend in the country and had a few drinks, but was unaware

of the legal alcohol content one is to have in his body to be eligible to drive.

He further apologised before the court and stated that such will not repeat itself in future.

He was sentenced to six months in prison with an option of a fine of E1 000.

Another drink-driving offender was Emmanuel Makama (53) from Msunduzi area.

He was arrested on Saturday at Msunduzi for allegedly driving under the influence of an intoxicating liquor that has a narcotic effect. A breathalyser test conducted on him read 0.68mg/l.

During his court appearance, he was asked to mitigate and he simply replied with "ngicela ningigwebe". As per his request, he was sentenced to eight months in prison with an option of a fine of E1 500.

Domestic violence reason for DD - Suspect

SIBUSISO Thwala (28) from Luve told the court that the reason behind him drinking and driving was that he is a victim of domestic violence and had reported the matter to the police two weeks ago.

"I have been a victim of domestic violence Your Worship and since then my life has not been stable," he said.

He further told the court that he does not usually imbibe on alcohol but it was the influence and advice of friends that lured him into the trap.

Thwala was arrested on Saturday near Queensgate for driving under the influence of alcohol.

A breathalyser test conducted on him read 0.48mg/l.

He pleaded for leniency and told the court that he had a son who is dependent on him for school fees and lunch box.

He was sentenced to six months in prison with an option of a fine E1 000.

'I was rushing my child to hospital'

A highly intoxicated driver was nabbed whilst allegedly driving his daughter to hospital.

This was revealed by Sibusiso Mkhonta who was arrested yesterday morning at Four Square Building for drinking and driving. His alcohol content amounted to 1.0mg/l.

He told the court that he had an urgent situation whereby his child fell sick and he had to rush her to hospital without considering his state of sobriety.

"I sincerely apologise Your Worship, I was rushing my daughter to the hospital when I was arrested by the police," he said.

He further pleaded for leniency and told the court that he is a parent and is still paying for school fees. He was sentenced to a year in prison with an option of a fine of E2 000.

CIT student nabbed for DD

A 23-year-old male student from Nkoyoyo made his appearance before the court for drink-driving.

Sphefu Dlamini was arrested yesterday morning near Total Gardens after driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

A breathalyser test conducted on him read 0.85mg/l.

He pleaded for leniency and told the court that he is not a regular drinker but it was a spur of a moment thing with friends which he did not think would land him in court.

"I sincerely apologise Your Worship, I am a student at CIT and such will not repeat itself," he said.

He was sentenced to eight months in prison with an option of a fine of E1 500.

Following Dlamini was the only female arrested for drinking and driving, Nothando Maseko (25) of Ezulwini, who faced two counts of contravening the Road Traffic Act.

She was represented by lawyer Musa Shongwe who made a plea on her behalf that she be released on her own recognisance, because the police had arrested and released her. She did not spend the night behind bars.

It was further applied that a trial date be set, however, it was not clear if the accused pleaded guilty or not to her crimes because her charge sheet was not read out to her.

She was arrested yesterday morning near PTS after she allegedly

drove a vehicle whilst intoxicated with liquor and alcohol content found in her system was 0.69mg/l.

She also allegedly drove the vehicle without a driver's licence and by so doing, contravened Section 16 (1) as read with Section 122 (2) of the Road Traffic Act 6 of 2007.

The order to have the accused released was granted and she was warned to appear before the court for trial which will be on Thursday.

Another was Gqiba Ntombini, a 39-year-old male from Thembelihle.

He was arrested yesterday morning and Fonteyn and was charged with allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol. When subjected to a breathalyser test, the alcohol content amounted to 0.81mg/l.

He pleaded for leniency and apologised before the court, further stating that despite his state of sobriety, he abided with all the road rules.

"Lidlojwa libhekile Nkhosi Yenkantolo, kepha ngizamile kulandzela yonkhe imitsetfo yemgwaco, kute lokonakele," he said.

He was sentenced to eight months in prison with an option of a fine of E1 500.

She was represented by lawyer Musa Shongwe who made a plea on her behalf that she be released on her own recognisance, because the police had arrested and released her. She did not spend the night behind bars



107 MOTORISTS NABBED FOR DD

BY SAMKELISWE KHOZA
MBABANE

AT least 107 motorists were nabbed for driving while intoxicated over the weekend.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said 107 drink-driving cases were reported over the past weekend.

"There were at least 107 drink-driving cases reported over the past weekend," she said in a press statement yesterday.

This past weekend's drink-driving cases had escalated when compared with that of the previous weekend which were at 80.

Drink-driving suspects have either appeared in court for their troubles or will be appearing before the magistrate this morning.

Vilakati said driving while impaired by alcohol affected motorists' skills.

She said without crucial coordination skills, a driver may be unable to avoid an impending harmful situation. "Alcohol, no matter how much, can influence one's concentration. With driving, there are many

things that require a driver's undivided concentration such as staying in the right lane, monitoring speed, being mindful of other cars on the road and traffic signals," Vilakati said, adding that alcohol dramatically reduced attention, which significantly increases the chance of an accident.

She advised motorists to plan ahead by leaving the car at home, sharing a taxi or even taking public transport or alternatively, nominating a designated driver who is not under the influence and has a driver's licence.

Parliament Tit-bits

with Mbono Mdluli

FRIDAY last week was a day on which His Majesty King Mswati III opened the First Session of the 11th Parliament.

This could only mean that the time for rhetoric is over and it is time for action. Serious action for that matter! The economy of the country is in a bad state, and we need a team of politicians that will steer the country in the right direction. Speaking of the economy that is in a dire situation, has there been a situation where the country's economy was in a good shape?

Hit the ground running

With that said, the economy of the country can still be turned around for the benefit of Emaswati. Our legislators (both the Legislature and the Executive) have to hit the ground running, as the King told them last Friday.

They have to cooperate in enacting laws that will stimulate economic growth of the country. The same goes for the Judiciary, it has to ensure that it instils confidence on Emaswati and the world at large. The world has to see Eswatini as a country where civilian life and property is protected and that calls for all the arms of government to work together and make this happen.

Go out there and work

This reminds me of what Senator Chief Ngalonkhulu Mabuza of Mafutseni said when the King summoned legislators at Mandvulo Grand Hall last year. The King had asked the legislators to make suggestions on how the economy of the country can be improved.

Many lawmakers had spoken and made their submissions. The chief, when it was his turn, simply said "everyone has heard what the honourable legislators have said. Considering all what they have said, I will simply say let us all go out and work. Bayethe! Wena waPhakathi!" Everyone in the hall was left in stitches.

The chief simply said let us all go out and work because time for fancy expression of educated ideas is over. It is only the implementation of these ideas that will put food on our table. All we need is the generation of money as a country, so that we can be able to satisfy the needs and wants of the nation, and we need that fast.

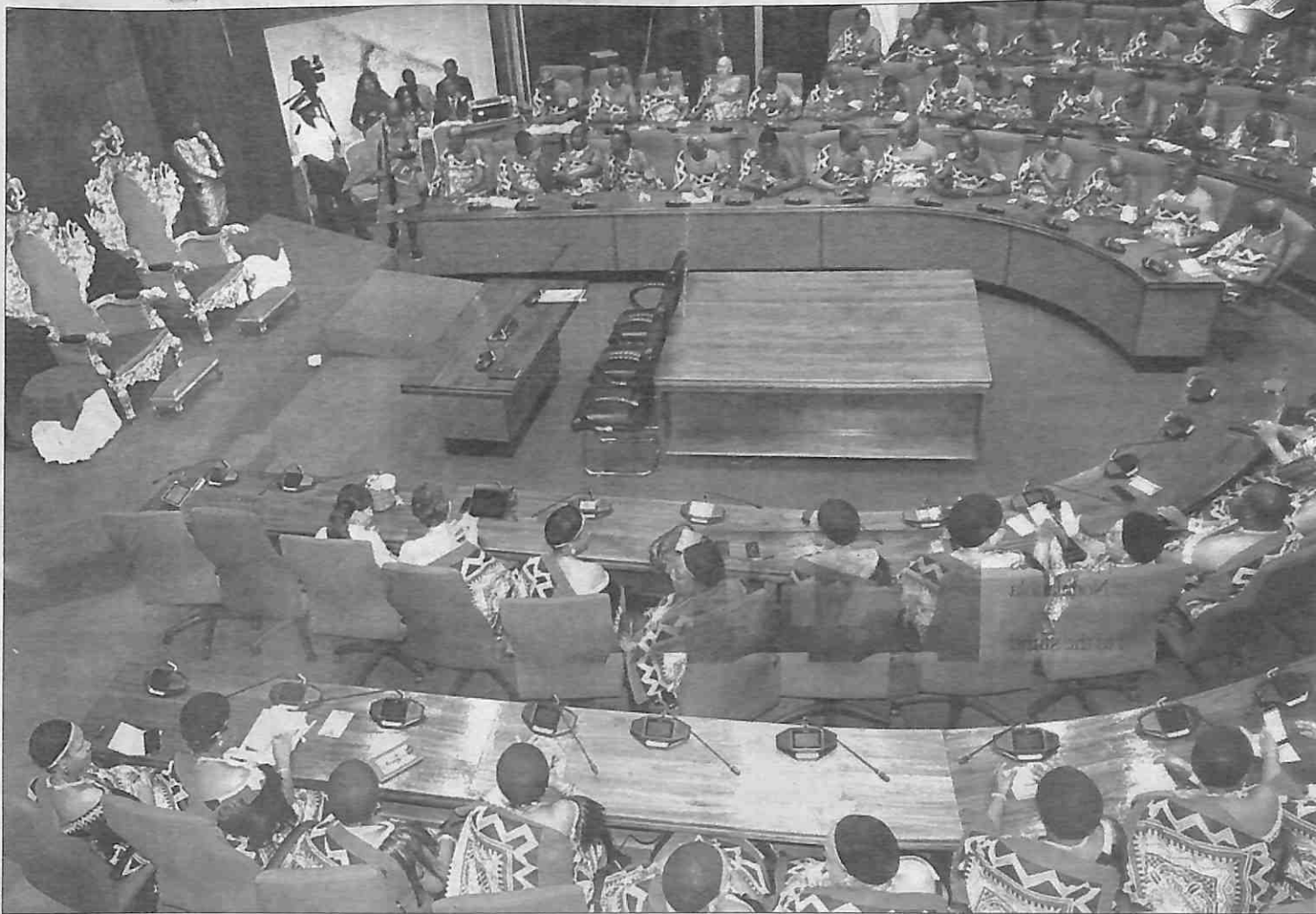
Service delivery

The King re-assured the nation that certain programmes that had been in place would still continue to be rolled out, despite the dire economic situation. Free primary education (FPE), scholarships, and elderly grants would continue to be paid. Government would continue to deliver services.

All the assurances the King gave to the nation mean a lot for our legislators. They simply mean what the King said in assuring the nation that legislators must make it happen, come rain or sunshine. Scholarships must be paid for deserving students, elderly people should be paid on time and services should be delivered.

Speaking of delivering services, the Executive should ensure that all ministries are prompt in delivering services to the people. Travel documents, identity documents should be issued on time to all Emaswati. They have to be given without any stigmatisation or being forced to make some kind of payment.

All these things mentioned above need money to be implemented and our sources of revenue are not satisfying. The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts are unpredictable and the people who are taxed in the country are bitterly complaining about being taxed to the bone. Tough decisions need to be taken, as the King said in his speech.



The Joint House awaiting the arrival of Their Majesties last Friday during the opening of parliament.

Marijuana

This reminds me about the issue of legalising marijuana. This is one of the tough decisions that have to be made. The issue of marijuana was debated extensively by the 10th Parliament, which ended up appointing a five-member select committee to investigate if we could use the herb for commercial and medicinal use.

The committee found that indeed, we could use the plant as a country for that purpose. In fact, the committee found that we were actually sitting on E23 billion. This was the kind of money we could make in a year as a country.

However, the Legislature and the Executive did not want to cooperate on this regard. The Executive stated clearly that such will not happen. The Executive argued that it could be difficult to control the use of marijuana. The Legislature, on the other hand, argued that such difficulty could be addressed because the herb needed to be used because it appeared to have many benefits.

Right now, the report is gathering dust somewhere in Parliament.

Unfortunately, all the members who were elected to look into the matter did not make it back to Parliament. This includes the mover and the seconder of the motion calling for the probe. It remains to be seen if the 11th Parliament will pursue the matter.

It looks like this is one of the tough decisions that have to be made. There is a lot we can do with E23 billion in a year. The challenges that come with implementing this important project can be managed, I believe. But the management of the challenges call for discipline from us as a country. No room for corruption, please.

Again, if we decide to embark on this huge project, we have to ensure that we take care of the people who would be removed from areas where the plant will be cultivated. Their relocation should be done neatly and they should be compensated. The affected employable people should be given the jobs that come with the project.

This term, we hope there will be less of the drama between the legislators and Cabinet ministers. We need cooperation from the two parties. The country is very sick. It seriously needs to be doctored by the team of legislators at our disposal.

MPs, Cabinet feud

Last term, there was a lot of drama between the Legislature and the Executive, especially during the last two years. Quorums could not be formed in Parliament because each of the two parties wanted to flex their muscles, showing their superiority.

Cabinet once snubbed Parliament activities after the Legislature kicked them out of Parliament. The bone of contention was the non-payment of elderly grants and the shortage of drugs in the country's health facilities. There were other issues that provoked impasse between the Legislature and the Executive. The issue of the closure of the Eswatini Christian Medical University (EMCU) comes to mind. The Executive had unilaterally taken that decision. The Legislature knew nothing about that.

During one of the impasses, one former minister told the former MPs that Cabinet did not have to report to the Legislature. They had a right to take their own decisions as Cabinet and that gave us the picture of the attitude the Cabinet of the time had. The former MPs were shocked.

What Cabinet needs to do

The present Cabinet should be brave enough to acknowledge that they are accountable to the people. They have an obligation to keep the people informed of what they are doing to improve their lives. The only way of doing this is to tell the representatives (the MPs and senators) of the people how they are working to improve the lives of the people.

If MPs and senators tell the ministers what to do to improve the economy, let us see the ministers trying their level best to implement that. If lawmakers call for a certain Bill to be tabled in Parliament, the executive needs to table the Bill as fast as they can.

What justifies taking more than five years for the Roads Authority Bill to be tabled in Parliament? We have no roads in the country and transporting goods and people is very difficult. Maybe we need to attend the Tuesday meetings to get a glimpse of what the Cabinet goes through. Maybe there is something we, the public, are missing.

The Cabinet team may earn more than the MPs, but that does not mean they are not accountable to the representatives of the people. Maybe that also needs to be reviewed. How can you earn more than the person you are supposed to report to?

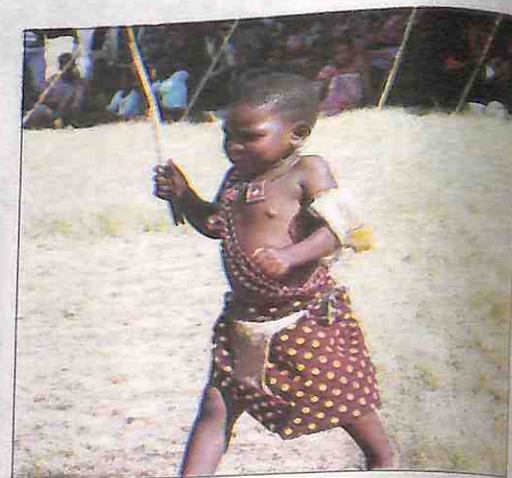
What MPs/senators should do

The legislators, especially the MPs, have a role of updating the people on what government is doing to improve their lives. We have heard stories of MPs who relocate from their areas as soon as they are elected. We understand that some of the MPs are coming from far away areas and have to rent flats within the vicinity of Parliament, but that does not justify not going to their constituencies on regular basis to update the people. We also need a law that will compel MPs to report to the electorate on regular basis.

MPs and senators should not be afraid of compelling the Executive to account. They should remember that the people also want an account from them in their constituencies. We have heard stories of MPs who have resorted to silence because they hope to be appointed to ministerial positions. This may not work for our legislators. They should not bank their hopes on something that is beyond their control. They have a duty to serve the electorate. That must come first.

INGWENYAMA CUP CULTURE COMPETITION IN SHISELWENI

REMARKS: Chairman of Ingwenyama Cup Prince Hlangabeza making his remarks during the culture competition in Shiselweni on Saturday. He is joined by Prince Bukhosi who is Chairman of the Culture Competition. **PHOSEKA JAHA:** Sigemfu Nhlabatsi walks with pride to receive his prize. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



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ENGOMENI: Emajaha from Buseleni rendering their performance. **RIGHT - JUDGES:** Some of the judges for the different categories smile for the lenses.



CULTURAL: Imbali performs ummiso.



IN NUMBERS: A view of the many people who were present for the competition pictured during the singing of incangosi. **CATCH MORE ON PAGE 16.**

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ESWATINI COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION DECISION 1/2019

DECISION IN TERMS OF SECTION 37 OF THE ESWATINI COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ACT NO 10 OF 2013 INVESTIGATION INTO THE JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MTN ESWATINI AND THE ESWATINI POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

05 February 2019

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1. On 21 December 2018, the Eswatini Communications Commission ("the Commission") published its proposed decision on the outcomes of an investigation in terms of Section 36(1)(c) of the Eswatini Communications Commission Act 2013 (No. 10 of 2013, hereinafter referred to as the "ESCCOM Act"), in respect of the Joint Venture Agreement ("the JVA") between shareholders of Swazi MTN Limited (here in after referred to as "MTN Eswatini") pertaining to conduct preventing competition in the electronic communications sector between the business of MTN Eswatini and Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation ("EPTC") as well as market allocation between MTN Eswatini and EPTC.
- 1.2. In accordance with Section 36 of the ESCCOM Act, detailed information was requested from the parties to the JVA prior to and during the public hearing conducted by the Commission as set out fully in the Proposed Decision.
- 1.3. The Commission, as per the provisions of Section 32 of the ESCCOM Act, made its proposed decision publicly available as a consultation document by way of General Notice No 13 of 2018 ("the consultation document") in terms of which the Commission afforded interested parties, as well as the public at large the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Decision by 21 January 2019.
- 1.4. The Commission's analysis and reasons thereof have been made available on the website of the Commission.
- 1.5. The Commission only received one written submission from MTN Eswatini on 21 January 2019. The Commission places it on record that the submission from Eswatini MTN's was received late after the closing time on the closing day for submission of comments. Nonetheless, the Commission decided to consider the submissions due to the potential impact of the decision on Eswatini MTN's continued business interests and in the interests of transparency.
- 1.6. Section 37 of the ESCCOM Act requires a decision that is issued by the Commission to be made in writing and for it to state the reasons upon which the decision is based. The Section also requires for the decision to be published. Further, Section 37 gives the Commission discretionary powers to determine an earlier effective date for the coming into effect of the decision, where circumstances demand.

2. FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1. The Consultation Document set out the Commission's analysis and findings with respect to the matter at hand. Since the publication of the Consultation Document which sets out the Proposed Decision, the Commission has further applied its mind to the issues raised and considered the further submissions made by Eswatini MTN in particular, that:
 - 2.1.1. MTN Eswatini and EPTC had previously agreed on EPTC's exit from MTN, but had been prevented from implementing same;
 - 2.1.2. The exit by EPTC would have occurred had the unbundling of EPTC in accordance with Section 53 of the Eswatini Electronic Communications Act, 2013 been implemented;
 - 2.1.3. MTN Eswatini cannot determine when EPTC will exit as a shareholder as this is a matter between the Government and EPTC.
- 2.2. Whilst the Commission is alive to the complexity that arises with the implementation of its decision given the role players, it cannot simply accept MTN Eswatini's views that the parties are unable to take any action whatsoever in respect of the divestiture. The divestiture of EPTC from MTN Eswatini's shareholding is a necessity in the regulated environment where legislation has evolved to recognize the difference in roles played by the respective industry players, being licensees, the regulator, government and the judiciary, amongst others. The history that MTN Eswatini seeks to emphasize existed at a time prior to the establishment of the current legislative regime, the regulatory frameworks and development of economic regulatory principles, including the very competition regulatory frameworks that MTN Eswatini highlighted repeatedly in their submissions.

Consequently, it would be remiss of the Commission to fail to acknowledge its mandate to evolve the regulation of the sector and to ensure that licensees conduct themselves in a manner consistent with modern jurisprudence and regulatory policies.

3. FINDINGS

Taking into account the foregoing discussion, the Commission finds as follows:

- 3.1. It should be noted that the Commission did not apply Section 30 of the Eswatini Competition Act, 2007 and has not made any findings on whether or not EPTC and MTN Eswatini are common entities, which if it were correct, would have the effect of lifting the prohibition on the clauses in the JVA which appear to allocate markets. Notwithstanding whether the clauses in and of themselves are anti-competitive in terms of Section 30, the Commission has found that the effect of clause 18.2 of the JVA is to limit the ability of the parties to fully execute their mandate in terms of the sector-specific regulatory frameworks and specifically the execution of their obligations in terms of their licences.

- 3.2. The Commission recognizes that the JVA is a commercial agreement between the parties as shareholders of MTN Eswatini. In an ordinary commercial setting, the JVA would be valid and lawful in a number of scenarios. However, the parties, who are licenced entities by the Commission have a number of obligations towards consumers in the market and the public at large. In addition, the licences afford the parties the privilege of exploiting a guaranteed market to the exclusion of other licenced entities who may very well want to explore the provision of services similar to those licenced entities ought to provide and to generate the types of revenues only accessible through the possession of a licenced issued by the Commission. This has the effect of distorting the market.
- 3.3. The Commission will not, at this time, make an assessment of whether the JVA violates any of the principles sought to be regulated through the Competition Act. However, the Commission will monitor the behaviour arising from the enforcement of the JVA and will pursue the investigation of any behaviour or trade practices arising therefrom and make findings and decisions on same in terms of the prevailing legislative and regulatory provisions.

4. DECISION

In light of the findings set out above, the Commission has decided as follows:

- 4.1. To afford EPTC and Eswatini MTN, as licensees, a period of six (6) months from the effective date of this decision to ensure divestiture of EPTC's shareholding in MTN Eswatini ("the Implementation Period").
- 4.2. The Commission hereby orders EPTC to take any and all actions as may be necessary to ensure it divests its ownership in MTN Eswatini within the Implementation Period.
- 4.3. The Commissions hereby orders MTN Eswatini to take any and all necessary steps to assist EPTC in implementing the divestiture.
- 4.4. In the event the parties fail to ensure the divestiture on the lapse of the Implementation Period, the Commission shall convene a hearing to establish whether any party is at fault and, in the event fault can be attributed to any of the parties, consider an appropriate penalty to be imposed.
- 4.5. That the parties are ordered to ensure that the restraint period provided for in clause 18 of the JVA is waived in the interest of the introduction of competition. The waiver is suspended for a period equivalent to the Implementation Period, after which the waiver shall become effective in the event the parties fail to ensure divestiture of EPTC's shareholding into Eswatini MTN.
- 4.6. That until such time that the parties have completed the divestiture, any disputes between the parties arising from the enforcement of the JVA, and specifically clauses 18, 20, 21 and 22, shall be reported to the Commission. The Commission shall evaluate these on a case by case basis and take such action as may be appropriate.
- 4.7. The Commission orders EPTC and MTN Eswatini shareholders to submit to the Commission separate reports on the implementation of the decision at the end of the Implementation Period. For avoidance of any doubt, the Commission expects to receive the implementation reports on or before 7 August 2019.
- 4.8. With respect to penalties to be imposed for non-compliance with legislation, the licence conditions set out herein, the Commission has decided that in light of its findings, it would be inappropriate to impose a penalty as the current situation is not completely of the wrong-doing of the parties. The Commission was also cognizant of the previous efforts by EPTC to rid itself of the constraints imposed by the JVA agreement.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1. The Commission is cognizant of the sensitive nature of the decision and the need to avoid the erasure of investment and shareholder value created through the existence of the licenced entities.
- 5.2. This, of course, necessitated that the Commission balance the foregoing against its mandate as the sector-regulator and its responsibility, ultimately, to the citizens of the Kingdom.
- 5.3. The Commission is of the firm view that the findings contained herein enable the licensees to implement the decision within the time frames set by the Commission to ensure they pave the way for unlimited competition in the ICT sector for the benefit of the consumers and, ultimately, the greater ICT Market in the Kingdom.
- 5.4. In light of the foregoing this decision shall come into force on 07 February 2019.

Date of Decision : 05 February 2019
Effective date of Decision : 07 February 2019

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SHISELWENI NEWS

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...With

Starsky Mkhonta



Youth programmes for Mathendele township

ELDERS at Mathendele Township in Nhlanguano are planning to launch youth programmes.

This is aimed at 'forcing' the youth to stay away from crime.

The elders said once they were done with consultations on how the youth programmes would be run, they would then call an 'indaba' for all the youth of the township.

They stated that they were working tirelessly to have the youth always occupied in order for them not to be involved in criminal activities.

The Council of Elders of the township have drawn up a programme to be followed this year aimed at keeping the youth busy in sporting activities and also income generating projects.

Crime in the township is rife and it is believed that most of the criminal activities involve the youth.

Anthony Maseko who is the mouthpiece of the Council of Elders said they would call a meeting where the plans of starting youth programmes would be unpacked.

He said as elders, they were worried with the way crime had escalated in

the township and were coming up with solutions.

One of these, was to have the youth occupied all the time.

He said this year, their focus would be on the youth.

"We will be concentrating on programmes which should keep the youth away from bad activities. As we do have facilities which should be used by the youth, we feel we should engage them (youth) in programmes that will keep them busy. As we have a hall, this facility can be used to organise events and other activities. We have noticed that the youth find themselves having to frequent places such as bars to play snooker or table soccer and at the end, they drink alcohol," said Maseko.

Maseko said there is also a sports field which should be used to keep the youth busy.

He said there were people who have shown interest in assisting the youth in some of the programmes to be introduced.

He said some of these people have offered to train the youth in some of the sport disciplines and also equip

them with the necessary skills.

Maseko said parents should encourage their children to participate in the programmes.

He said it was the duty and responsibility of the parents to advise their children against all bad habits which could land them in trouble.

"It is us parents who should advise our children on the consequences of being found on the wrong side of the law," said Maseko.



We have noticed that the youth find themselves having to frequent places such as bars to play snooker or table soccer and at the end, they drink alcohol



Mfeneziziyamtfoba believes RAs are important



BELIEVES: Mfeneziziyamtfoba Magagula.

MFENEZIZIYAMTFOBA Magagula believes some of government's operations are being affected as there are no regional administrators.

Magagula said there were known issues which need the attention of RAs and no one else.

He said he was optimistic that soon new RAs would be announced and things would normalise.

"There are documents which require the signature of an RA and since these posts have not yet been filled. I believe that soon we will have these positions filled. Personally,

I have been affected as there are documents which needed the RA's approval but because we still don't have an RA, I need to exercise patience," said Magagula.

Magagula said it was possible that the delay in the appointment of the RAs, the country's authorities were still trying to find the best candidates. In the previous government, the four RAs were Prince Tshakedi (Hhohho), Prince Gcokoma (Manzini), Themba Masuku (Shiselweni) and Sylvia Mthethwa (Lubombo).

were making use of any opportunity which availed itself especially in equipping the people with the necessary skills.

"We have lined up a number of programmes which are meant to assist the community to be equipped in various fields.

We want to be a skilful community so that when there is a project that requires certain skills, it is people from this community who are considered," said Dlamini.

World Vision equips 20 women with sewing skills

ABOUT 20 women from Qomintaba area under Matsanjeni South constituency have graduated after finishing a six-month training on sewing skills, a course sponsored by World Vision.

According to Bucopho of Qomintaba Doctor Dlamini, all the 20 women are now ready to be hired in any sewing business or to start their own businesses. The graduates were recently awarded with certificates.

"Our many thanks go to World Vision for empowering the women through the training. We now regard World Vision as our partner in development, these women are qualified and stand a chance of being considered in any sewing related business. However, we are not encouraging people to be trained in order to be employable, but we want to see them become employers. Otherwise we are thankful to World Vision for equipping them with sewing skills and want to see them at least starting sewing businesses," said Dlamini.

Dlamini said local schools should support the women by giving them tenders for uniforms. He said as the women were from the same area, they

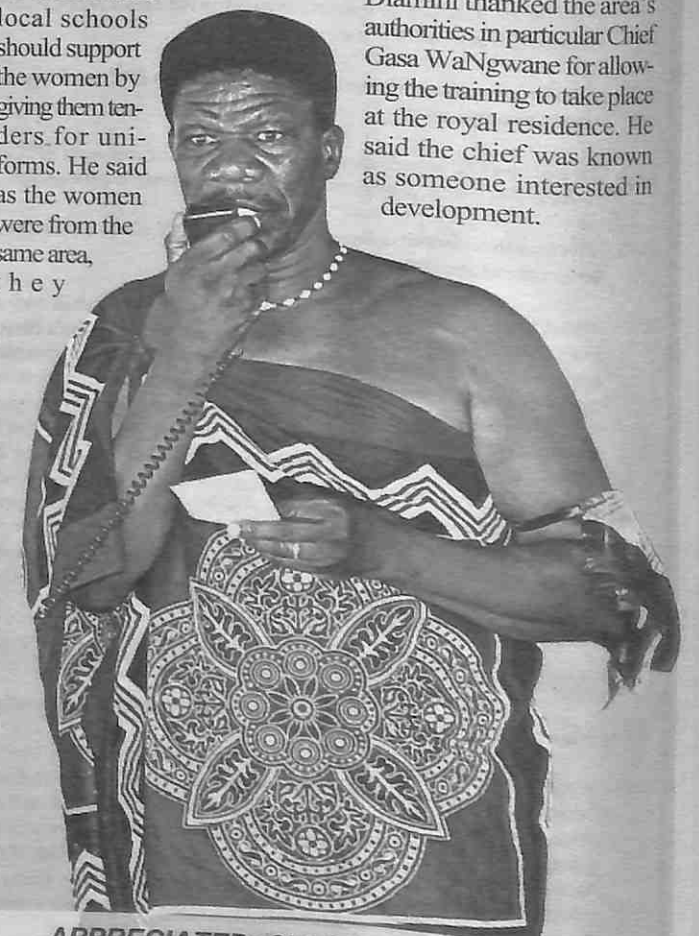
would have no problem forming an association whose focus would be sewing school uniforms.

"It is important that local schools support these women and since they are now professionals in sewing, they are ready to assist any school. We should learn to support each other. Let the skills these women have acquired not go to waste. World Vision has trained these women with the purpose of seeing them able to provide in their families," said Dlamini.

Dlamini said World Vision did not end up by sponsoring the training, but also presented brand new sewing machines to four women who were picked as having shown commitment during the training.

"When the training started, World Vision explained that four of the women would stand a chance of winning sewing machines. Indeed, during the graduation which took place at Inkhundla, four sewing machines were presented to the deserving four women and they are ready to start work," said Dlamini.

Dlamini thanked the area's authorities in particular Chief Gasa WaNgwane for allowing the training to take place at the royal residence. He said the chief was known as someone interested in development.



APPRECIATED: Chief Gasa WaNgwane.

22 TRAINED TO BE PLUMBERS

SEBENTA is assisting in the training of 22 people of Qomintaba on plumbing, a training which will last up to April.

Bucopho of the area Doctor Dlamini said the trainees consist of males and females who are mostly youth.

This is a one year training programme which started last year, ending April this year. He said they appreciated that Sebenta took it upon itself to assist

rural folk on training programmes that in the past required one to have a certain level of education.

"For Sebenta to take its time and get a plumber expert to train these people, it means a lot.

Here, Sebenta has made things easy and affordable. Each person pays E50 a month and it is E600 for the whole year," said Dlamini.

Dlamini said as a community, they

Taiwan doctors provide free medical services to communities

BY MBONO MDLULI
Mbabane

A delegation of medical doctors and personnel from Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps of the Republic of China (Taiwan), consisting of 24 medical personnel, is in the country to provide free medical services to local communities.

They will be servicing the populace until February 20, having started on February 9.

According to Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the Kingdom of Eswatini Third Secretary Violet Mu-hsuan Chen, the delegation includes 10 medical specialists in gynecology, neurology, otolaryngology, general medicine, emergency department, Chinese medicine, dental care and pharmacy as well as nurses and vol-

Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps, Volunteer Medical Mission

| Date | Town/ Constituency | Location | Distance from Mbabane |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Feb. 10(Sun.) | Siphofaneni | *Medlenya Primary School | 1hr15mins |
| Feb. 11(Mon.) | Nsoko | *Lubulic Primary School | 1hr50mins |
| Feb. 12(Tue.) | Ntfontjeni | *Hhohho Ame Primary School | 1hr50mins |
| Feb. 13(Wed.) | Piggs Peak | *Multi-purpose Hall | 1hr |
| Feb. 14(Thu.) | Kamethula (Hlatikulu) | *Etjendlovu Primary School | 2hrs (28.6 km from Hlatikulu) |
| Feb. 15(Fri.) | Manzini | *Kandinda Primary School | 1hr |
| Feb. 16(Sat.) | Manzini (Nhlabeni) | *NhlabeniMazarene Primary School | 50mins |
| Feb. 17(Sun.) | Mafutseni | *Saint Phenomena High School | 50mins |
| Feb. 18(Mon.) | Mhlambayats (Bhunya) | *Kazondwako Primary School | 1hr |

unteers. They will be working together to provide free medical services for the local inhabitants in nine towns around the kingdom.

Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps, a private NGO founded in 1995 in Taiwan, believes that med-

ical services should transcend national borders and holds as its end goal a united international community working in cooperation to bring about equitable access of health care to all populations.

"With the same goal in mind, the

Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), cooperating with the ministry of health of the Kingdom of Eswatini, organises the free medical activities in the coming days to strengthen the ties between Eswatini and Taiwan.

Woman fined E1 000 for calling neighbour witch

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

A woman from Mpolonjeni has been sentenced to a year in a correctional facility for insulting her neighbour, calling her a witch.

Nozizwe Maziya (36) appeared before the Swazi National Court after she was charged with crimen injuria. She wrongfully and unlawfully insulted Ntombizonke Matse (63) by calling her a witch.

She further accused the elderly woman of being responsible for the misfortunes which were experienced by her family.

This was said to have ensued during an argument between the two women.

When presenting her evidence before court, the complainant first told the court that the accused person was her neighbour.

Disclosed

She disclosed that the argument between the complainant and herself came as a result of children who had earlier engaged in a petty fight.

"My grandchild engaged in a fight with the accused person's child, and I whipped both of them as a reprimand measure. That is what earned me the insults from the accused person," said the complainant.

The accused is said to have hurled insults at the elderly woman until an intervention by a resident who overheard the argument.

The complainant further told the court that the accused person later came to her to apologise.

She said, however, she refused to accept the apology as it was not the first time that the accused insulted her.

The accused person was eventually found guilty by the court and was sentenced to a year in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 000 fine.



HITCH-HIKE: Hitch hikers run towards a sedan after it stopped for them at the Mbabane Government Hospital hiking spot yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



SURVIVOR: Vusi Thikazi who has recorded a statement at the Nhlangano Police Station after a chief allegedly threatened him and four others with a gun.

Chief pointing gun at five men: female cop at centre of everything

STORIES BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlangano

THE woman who is the centre of argument in an incident which almost led to a chief allegedly shooting five men at the Nhlangano Correctional Service canteen was a date to one of the men.

It is said the chief, who is a senior police officer, knows the woman from way back as she is also a police officer.

On the evening of last Saturday,

they bumped on each other while the woman was in the company of the five men.

That they knew each other, one of the men said, was not an issue but what annoyed them was when the chief failed to show respect as he pulled her closer and they kissed.

Learned

"We learned that she had known him while they were still attached at OSSU.

What angered us was when he held her firmly and kissed her. It was not just an ordinary kiss or hug but it was clear that it was

craziness pushed by love.

She was a date to one of us and the kiss with the chief angered us. Our friend tried to confront the chief about what he was doing to his girlfriend, but as their lips were seemingly locked on each other, we pulled her away from him (chief).

That was when he ran to fetch his gun and threatened to shoot the five of us," said one of the five men. On the other hand, the man who had dated the woman said he was angered by the fact that her woman kissed a 'stranger' and was humiliated.

"Wangenyanyisa lomfokati, kutsi angacabuza intfombi yami phambi kwami bese ubheka kutsi ngithule nje, kwedzelela loko," he said.

The man said he would record a statement at the police station soon as he was interested in seeing justice done after the chief pointed a gun at him and his friends.

"Vusi (Thikazi), has already recorded his statement and we will also follow suit. We will then decide which route to take should police fail to act," said the man who preferred anonymity.

One of the aggrieved men has been to the police

ONE of the five men who were allegedly threatened with a gun by a chief who happens to be a senior police officer has already recorded a statement at the Nhlangano Police Station.

It is believed that one of the men went to the police station on Tuesday to inform the police as to what actu-

ally happened.

It is alleged that police authorities have also shown interest in knowing what happened.

Question

The chief in question who holds a senior rank in the police service, reportedly attacked the men at the Nhlangano Correctional Services

canteen last Saturday evening.

Vusi Thikazi, one of the men, said he went to the police station on Tuesday to record a statement that explains what transpired on the night in question.

"We tried alerting the police through 999 on the day of the incident that our lives were in danger as some-

one was attacking us with a gun.

However, the response was that there was no car at the police station. As we were rushing to a funeral, we could not drive to the police station on the same evening.

The chief had a chauffeur and we took down the registration of the vehicle.

I have since recorded a statement and my other friends have promised

that they will also do same," said Thikazi.

Meanwhile, Police Information and Communications Officer Phindile Vilakati confirmed that there was a report being investigated related to this issue.

"We are investigating the matter. No one has opened a case in as far as this matter is concerned," said Supt. Vilakati.

Ingwenyama Cup Culture winners to pocket E50 000



MOBILE OFFICE: Dumisa Dlamini from SMVA poses in front of the mobile office meant to bring services closer to the people.



YOUNG TALENT: Prince Hlangabeza joined by Prince Bukhosi as they present three-year-old Sgemfu Nhlabatsi with his prize. He was the youngest competitor in the Imbongi category.

Youngest Imbongi (3) impresses

THE Ingwenyama Cup Culture continues to unearth talent as the youngest Imbongi Musawenkhozi Sgemfu Nhlabatsi aged three, stunned the gathering with his praise singing skills at the Shiselweni competitions.

He was one of the two juniors in the timbongi category as he was competing with Nhlakanipho Dlamini who also emerged as the youngest imbongi during the very first year of the competition.

The three-year-old from Nkomonye area next to Nzameya area was accompanied by his parents who were impressed with the young one's performance in praising the King. Prince Hlangabeza said this is exactly what the King had mandated them to do, which is to unearth talent at a tender age.

He said to see young children participating in such competitions demonstrates that there is hope for the future of the Swazi culture.

STORIES BY SIMON SHABANGU
Nhlangano

WINNERS of the Ingwenyama Cup Culture competitions will pocket E50 000 as His Majesty King Mswati III has ordered a review of prize monies won by culture groups in this prestigious competition.

Senator Prince Hlangabeza said the King gave them strict instructions to give culture groups an improved share of the prize monies in this competition which brings together soccer and culture.

The competition will run for another three years under the new sponsorship from SMVA which now stands at E12 million, increased from E9 million that catered for the last three years.

The prince made these remarks at Mbangweni Army Barracks during the Shiselweni regional eliminations of the Ingwenyama Cup Culture Competition on Saturday. He said it was for this reason that this year's prize money would be much better compared to the previous years. The winners in each of the four categories being Lutsango, Sibhaca, Ingadla and Emajaha will each walk away with E50 000 cash.

Runners-up in each of the said categories will pocket E20 000, third position will take home E15 000 while the group that will be fourth placed will get E10 000.

The overall winner in the Imbongi category will pocket a whopping E20 000, the runner-up will take home E15 000, third place praise singer will get E10 000 while the fourth placed one will take home E5 000. The prince said they were grateful to the King for blessing the reviewed prize monies, noting that this would encourage more groups to join the competition which seeks to promote culture at grass roots level.



WINNERS: Sibhaca group from Buseleni accepting their prize money for being the overall winners of their category during the culture competition in Mbangweni on Saturday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

"We were excited when His Majesty ordered the increase of the money which was announced at the prize presentation ceremony last year. We are hopeful that the groups will take advantage of the reviewed prize monies and we encourage groups to work extra hard in

order to win. It is disappointing to see the same groups winning which means that the other groups must also put extra effort to take the championship. You cannot be going to the finals to witness the same groups participating, when are you going to be the champions?" he said.

He encouraged chiefs to play their role in promoting culture in their respective chiefdoms to ensure that the groups are prepared for such competitions when the time comes. He said chiefs must frequently host culture events so that their people get used to such and further encourage them to participate in this competition.



MADE IT THROUGH: Lutsango from Mbangweni who were the overall winners in their category receiving their prize money from Prince Hlangabeza.

Ebuseleni dominate competition

EMAJAHA from Buseleni, sibhaca from Buseleni, lutsango from Mbangweni, and ingadla from Mahlolamvula are through to the finals.

The groups will be joined by Ntokozo Seyama, who won the imbongi category.

This is according to the results compiled by the panel of judges after the competition on Saturday.

Category

This year, there were four winners announced per category and only the first position in each category proceeds to the finals.

Results in full

Sibhaca category

1. Buseleni
2. Sigcumeni
3. Kaphunga
4. Mahlolamvula

Ingadla category

1. Mahlolamvula
2. Vusweni
3. Magele
4. Buseleni

Lutsango category

1. Mbangweni

2. Lavumisa
3. Maseyisini
4. Mpini

Timbongi category

1. Ntokozo Seyama
2. Sifiso Vilakati
3. Bheki Matsebula
4. Vangile Dlamini

Emajaha category

1. Buseleni
2. Nkwene

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What's in Your Mind

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Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

“

The Bible is a sacred, purposeful, universal book with information that you can't find anywhere else.

It is a Book from God, it is accurate, full of good advice, life-changing, and is inspired of God, as 2 Timothy 3:16 elaborate. It is a product of divine inspiration, a record of the relationship between God and humans and it gives us helpful principles to apply when we have problems.”

”



AS this column wraps up the issue of violence among couples, even at church, and guided by our principal verse for the past three weeks of *Ephesians 5:22*, it should sink in everybody's mind that we all have a role to play in making sure that violence is reported, however small, violence is just violence.

Just a recap of last week's discussion, the issue of submission in wake of abuse as allegedly been taken too far (authoritatively and aggressively) by some husbands and has left wives in the cold, yet the last part of the "verse-in-motion" commands husbands to love their wives, as Christ loved the church.

According to Paul, a faithful husband willingly lays down his life for his wife.

He is not a tyrant who forces her to submit to his sinful human desires, but abandons his own will, affections, and needs for her sake. *Colossians 3:19* says "husbands love your wives and do not be harsh with them."

Still on faithfulness, Paul exhorts the husband to love his wife as he loves his own body and equates the husband's care of his wife with that of Christ's for His church.

A loving husband has to submit this will to that of Christ, and in doing so, imitates Him in the marriage relationship.

In this context, the wife willingly surrenders to her husband just as her husband chooses to surrender his will to Christ. Submission based on love brings peace and harmony to the family. God did not create

THE BIBLE AND LOVE

men to lord over women nor did he create women to simply wait on men. He made them both to complement each other through healthy companionship.

The relationship between a husband is meant to be one of love, respect, and support. They are to help each other, as introduced at the beginning of the Bible in the making of Eve.

Without biblical roles of a husband being fulfilled by a strong man of God, the family unit risks the difficulties brought on by sin and spiritual distortion.

Fact is, the devil desires destruction of the family, but through Christ and proper understanding of biblical roles, the family is a strong and safe place to grow in God.

The companionship between a man and a woman is directed by the influence of the husband through his provision and protection and is covered by his caring, gentle, and graceful love for his wife and family. Husbands are not dictators, they should not demand or rule over their wives, but instead they

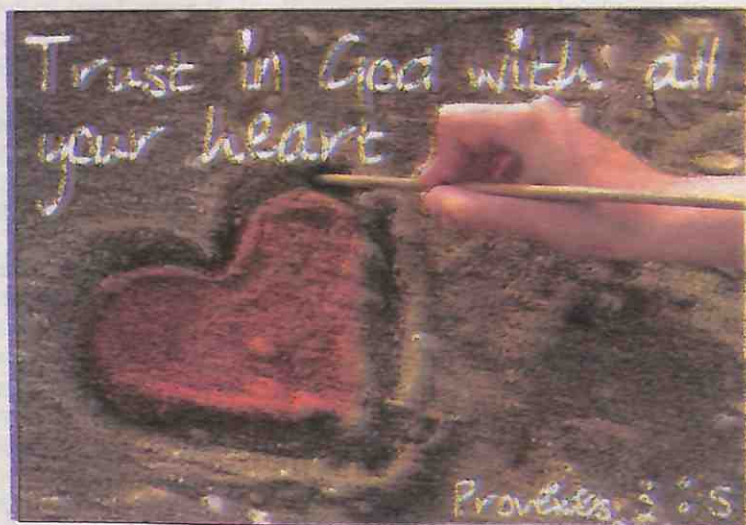
should influence their wives and families in accordance with biblical teaching, more so, exemplify, with their voice and actions, attributes that bring glory to God and value to their wives.

"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers," (1 Peter 3:7). When God, who truly loves His daughters by the way, when He gives one of His daughters to a man, His only desire is for that man to care for her.

Truth is God created men and women with natural, physical, and emotional differences.

Usually where one is weak, the other is strong, and therefore they both help each other's needs through physical and emotional intimacy.

1 Corinthians 7:2-5 addresses this "but since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. The husband should fulfill



his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ...". Sad thing is, in the long run this marital duty becomes neglected, thus birthing extra marital affairs. Counsellors will agree with me that sex (whether refused with, demanded or gotten outside the unit by either party), features prominently in couples counseling sessions. Why?

God's plan was that every home operate under the specific roles of

both a husband and a wife, and that through this they raise healthy children who honour God with their lives.

Note: A husband will never influence his wife if he does not care for her. He can demand and she may follow as a result, but he will never truly have her heart unless he provides for her needs, cares for her well-being, and protects her both physically and spiritually.

Remain Blessed.



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

ON THIS DAY

...February 11

1936 - Pumping began the process to build San Francisco's Treasure Island.

1937 - General Motors agreed to recognise the United Automobile Workers Union, which ended the current sit-down strike against them.

1938 - "The Big Broadcast of 1938" was released.

1940 - NBC radio presented "The Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street" for the first time.

1943 - General Dwight David Eisenhower was selected to command the allied armies in Europe.

1945 - During World War II, the Yalta Agreement was signed by US President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin. (Today in World War II History)

1957 - The NHL Players Association was formed in New York City.

1958 - Ruth Carol Taylor was the first black woman to become a stewardess by making her initial flight.

1960 - Jack Paar walked off while live on the air on the "Tonight Show" with four minutes left. He did this in response to censors cutting out a joke from the show the night before.

1968 - The new 20 000 seat Madison Square Garden officially opened in New York. This was the fourth Garden.

1972 - McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. and Life magazine canceled plans to publish an autobiography of Howard Hughes. The work turned out to be fake.

1975 - Margaret Thatcher became the first woman to head a major party in Britain when she was elected leader of the Conservative Party.

1979 - Nine days after the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returned to Iran (after 15 years in exile) power was seized by his followers.

1982 - ABC-TV's presentation of "The Winds of War" concluded. The 18-hour miniseries cost \$40 million to produce and was the most-watched television program in history at the time.

1982 - France nationalised five groups of major industries and 39 banks.

1984 - The tenth Space Shuttle mission returned to Earth safely.

1989 - Rev. Barbara C. Harris became the first woman to be consecrated as a bishop in the Episcopal Church.

1990 - Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in captivity.

Forget the criticism, EFF's manifesto will win votes

JOHANNESBURG - I agree with most analysts who have come out to say that the Economic Freedom Fighters' manifesto is unrealistic and unachievable.

But I believe it will score the EFF votes because primarily, that is what a manifesto seeks to achieve - at least in the realist sense of the South African politics since I have been a voter.

A simple Wikipedia search will inform you that a manifesto is "a published declaration of the intentions, motives, or views of the issuer, be it an individual, group, political party or government".

Therefore, a manifesto is a tentative statement of intent. It is an ideal. It is not a plan. It is used as a mechanism to lure votes, and that is the bottom line of all political parties considering the fact that we are only three months away from elections.

The EFF manifesto speaks to the issues that its targeted voters want addressed. When you hear your issues being given attention and expressed in a manner that resonates with your daily realities, you are bound to pay attention.

The wording is quite simple and straightforward. It doesn't need interpretation from renowned analysts or any other third party.

It speaks directly to its target audience. It is tailored to make sense to everyone, especially those whose issues are brought up.

The tone resonates with how people feel on the ground. People want change and meaningful lives now, not according to some 20 to 30-year plan.

It also taps into emotion. The manner and location of where it was presented is in line with frustrations of people in similar locations, particularly, black townships and villages and farms.

The EFF has positioned itself as a black people's party.

Yes, there is an emerging "elitist, educated middle class" but that is a very small fraction compared with



IN NUMBERS: Economic Freedom Fighters supporters during the party's manifesto launch at the Giant Stadium on February 2 in Soshanguve.

the working class mainly made up of security guards, petrol attendants, farmworkers, mineworkers, factory workers, under/unemployed and young people who are referenced explicitly in the manifesto.

Therefore that "voter market" is one to tap into. That is a voter market that feels dejected and abandoned in previous elections.

There is a chance that they are prone to vote for the first party to talk directly to them about addressing their struggles not only in their homes and communities but also in their places of employment.

Questions

Some have questioned the sanity of the EFF for having such a "promissory" manifesto but when the 18 to 21-year-old first-time voter who is the son or daughter of a petrol attendant, security guard, farmworker, mineworker, domestic worker or factory worker hears about the prospect of free education and hearing his father/mothers issues raised, it follows that he/she will be more likely to vote for the EFF.

The long list of (impossible) promises are not there by error. It is all deliberate.

Mbuyiseni Ndlozi holds a PhD in political sociology, Floyd Shivambu is a PhD candidate, Julius Malema

is a master's candidate, Godrich Gardee has a list of qualifications, Dali Mpofu is a decorated advocate ... the list is endless.

They have an infinite list of other legal, economic, political and sociological minds on their books.

That enables them to manipulate and manoeuvre their way into any and every socially significant space to lure votes.

Remember for now, the focus is on increasing support. The EFF certainly knows they will not win elections.

They will not be in government but the ability to inspire the voter to connect with the message is always necessary to sway attention of voters towards their party.

Nothing any analyst has said or written hasn't been anticipated.

Decided

The EFF decided to run with their manifesto because it draws attention, headlines and - ultimately - votes.

We cannot dismiss the role played by media coverage - whether good or bad - in influencing the direction of elections.

The very fact that so much attention is being paid to the EFF by the media is always a win for them, one way or the other.

It is worth noting that politics is not a game of logic. It is a game of delivering the most popular message. Logic makes people read and inquire. Very few make time for that.

The EFF will earn votes, not automatically because of its manifesto's logical and realist nature, but because people want a glimmer of hope, especially young people and the working class.

Many voters have lost faith in the ANC and don't trust the DA largely due to assumed "whiteness".

That gives EFF a shot at being the default party for disgruntled black folks.

Most importantly, I admit Juju's personality may be a repellent for some. At the same time it is a big draw card for others.

While some attack his personality, some are inspired by it. He says what he thinks, how he thinks, whenever the opportunity presents itself.

He is a grand opportunist and an expert manipulator. One needs that in politics.

One needs to be able to twist and manipulate situations towards the benefit of her/his aspirations.

He is a master at that.
City Press News

Why Ebola vaccine on trial in the DRC is raising hopes

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has emphasised that an experimental vaccine is playing a major role in controlling the spread of Ebola in the ongoing outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Without the vaccine, the outbreak has the potential to spiral out of control, considering the country's social and political landscape as well as the sheer ability of the virus to spread.

It's clear that having a vaccine in use early in an epidemic is a significant breakthrough in the fight against this deadly disease. And yet, six months after the first case was diagnosed, the outbreak is still not contained and cases are being reported almost daily and occasionally spreading outwards.

By the end of January, a total of 759 people had been infected with the

death toll rising to 468. This makes it the second worst outbreak in recorded history.

Normally the DRC is well prepared and has substantive experience in dealing with Ebola. But a number of factors have hampered the current situation and made it hard to contain the outbreak - even for experienced frontier medical teams.

The epicentre of the outbreak was in North Kivu province. This lies in an active conflict zone and has very little infrastructure making it very difficult to administer enough of the vaccine to ensure immunity. In addition, health workers have been confronted with widespread violent unrest due to political instability in the country. A number of units had to be pulled out following attacks. Response rates

were also slowed down following protests at the time of elections in December.

The vaccine rollout

The rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine is being tested in the DRC. It was first rolled out towards the end of the West Africa epidemic in Guinea in 2015. This was part of a phase III trial to evaluate the efficacy of the vaccine to prevent Ebola spreading among people.

Initial investigative data came from comparing a group of at-risk people who were vaccinated immediately after diagnosis of an Ebola virus case in their surrounding with a similar group of people who received the vaccine after a delay of 21 days.

The "immediate" group didn't contract Ebola while some individuals in the delayed group contracted the

disease. This evidence gave the WHO hope that the vaccine could be 100 per cent effective.

But that point hasn't yet been reached. More data and investigation are required before the vaccine is licenced for general use.

The rollout of rVSV-ZEBOV in the DRC has been done using a conventional strategy common in other vaccine trials. Called "ring vaccination", it involves vaccinating the first and second degree contacts of an infected individual. The aim is to form an immunised "ring" around every infection and prevent it from being transmitted further. Since August 2018 nearly 66 000 doses of this experimental rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine have been administered in the DRC.

The Conversation

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Kelly Rowland (Pop Singer) - February 11, 1981 (38 years)



Nasty C (Rapper) - February 11, 1997 (22 years)

JOHANNESBURG - South Africans have been shocked by the tidal wave of corruption testimony emerging from the commission tasked with probing allegations of state capture by private business interests.

Claims of systematic and widespread corruption involving patronage networks built around former president Jacob Zuma are testing the public's faith in the country's Constitution, democratic system and public representatives. Government ministers, senior civil servants and politicians from the governing African National Congress's (ANC) have also been implicated.

It is clear from the 2019 state of the nation address delivered by President Cyril Ramaphosa that the penny has dropped and that the government will finally take a hard stance against corruption. Speaking at length about state capture, Ramaphosa described the commission's revelations as "deeply disturbing".

He called for swift action to be taken, saying prosecutions against those accused must proceed and state funds must be recovered. He then announced that an investigating directorate would be established in the office of the National Directorate of Public Prosecutions. The investigator would report directly to the head of prosecutions, taking action without fear, favour or prejudice.

The new directorate resembles the old Scorpions, which was disbanded under President Zuma. It has the potential to make a real difference in fighting corruption.

Taking into consideration expert and public opinion – and based on our own analysis of 15 years of data about corruption – it's our view that Ramaphosa's apparently decisive actions should be welcomed. Corruption has, over the past decade and a half, become one of South Africans' biggest concerns.

A growing problem

Recently, Transparency International ranked South Africa 73 out of the 180 countries surveyed in its Corruption Perceptions Index for 2018, based on a score of 43 out of 100 provided by local experts. An index score below 50

Data shows South Africans welcome Cyril Ramaphosa



WELCOME: South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa.

reflects a tendency towards the "highly corrupt" end of the scale; it classifies the country as a "flawed democracy". These critical evaluations are increasingly being mirrored in mass opinion.

Analysis

Our analysis of trend data from the Human Sciences Research Council's South African Social Attitudes Survey, shows that public concern with corruption has grown appreciably over the last 15 years.

In late 2003, only nine per cent of the adult population cited corruption as a pressing challenge facing the country. This figure rose to 18 per cent in 2009, 24 per cent in 2014 and 30 per cent by the end of 2017. This means that over the period between 2003 and 2017, corruption moved from being the eighth ranked societal concern among South Africans to the third highest ranked concern (after unemployment, crime and safety).

Concerns with corruption cut across political parties (Fig 1). In late 2017, 27 per cent of those supporting the ANC cited corruption as a national priority. This com-

pared with 38 per cent of supporters of the Democratic Alliance (DA), the main opposition party. The figure among supporters of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), the country's third largest political party, was 35 per cent. Concern with corruption among supporters of other parties was 23 per cent. The share of ANC supporters mentioning corruption as a priority rose from six per cent in 2003 to 15 per cent in 2009 and 27 per cent in 2017.

Citizens

Given this groundswell of concern with corruption, it is unsurprising that only a modest share of citizens are satisfied with the government's efforts to fight corruption.

In 2017, only 10 per cent of South Africans were content with measures to curb corruption. There is, again, a broad consensus in this regard across party support lines. Only nine per cent of ANC supporters, 12 per cent of DA supporters and 13 per cent of EFF supporters believed the government was performing commendably in fighting graft.

Calling for ethical government

Alongside their general unhappiness with government efforts to address corruption, South Africans are strongly opposed to corruption. About 90 per cent of adults want politicians found guilty of bribery or other corrupt practices to immediately step down – voluntarily.

This is a resounding message that South Africans want accountability to characterise the country's politics and governance. ANC supporters were shown to hold some of the strongest anti-corruption opinions. It remains to be seen whether trust in government will improve over the next few years if Ramaphosa's promises are kept. It is clear from this data that South Africans across the board strongly favour urgent measures being taken to combat the scourge of corruption. This points to high expectations that the evidence before the state capture commission – and its final recommendations – should result in decisive action being taken against those implicated.

The Conversation

AFRICA - Much has been made about China's role and profile in Africa and the factors underlying its activities on the continent.

Less debated is the spread and depth of Russia's contemporary presence and profile in Africa.

There was a strong Russian influence in Africa during the heyday of the Soviet Union. The post-independence governments of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Somalia, Ethiopia, Uganda and Benin at some point all received diplomatic or military support from the Soviet Union.

But this began to change after the superpower started to collapse in December 1991. More than a quarter of a century later Russia's President Vladimir Putin seems to have new aspirations in Africa. This is in line with his desire to restore Russia to

How Russia is growing its strategic influence in Africa

great power status.

Putin places a high premium on geopolitical relations and the pursuit of Russian assertiveness in the global arena. This includes reestablishing Russia's sphere of influence, which extends to the African continent.

Like Beijing, Moscow's method of trade and investment in Africa is without the prescriptions or conditionalities of actors like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Russia is gradually increasing its influence in Africa through strategic investment in energy and minerals. It's also using military muscle and soft power.

Increasingly, the pressing question is: is the relationship between China and Africa as good for Africa as it is for China?

The same question applies to Russia-Africa relations.

Interaction between Russia and Africa has grown exponentially this century, with trade and investment growing by 185 per cent between 2005 and 2015.

Economically, much of Russia's focus in Africa centres on energy. Key Russian investments in Africa are in the oil, gas and nuclear power sectors.

The fact that 620 million people in Africa don't have electricity provides Russia's nuclear power industry with potential markets. Several Russian companies, such as Gazprom, Lukoil, Rostec and Rosatom are active in Africa. Most activity is in Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Nigeria and Uganda. In Egypt, negotiations have already been finalised with Moscow for the

building of the country's first nuclear plant.

These companies are mostly state-run, with investments often linked to military and diplomatic interests.

Moscow's second area of interest is Africa's mineral riches.

This is particularly evident in Zimbabwe, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia and the Central African Republic.

In Zimbabwe, Russia is developing one of the world's largest deposits of platinum group metals. Russia has also been reestablishing links with Angola, where Alrosa, the Russian giant, mines diamonds.

Discussions between Russia and Angola have also focused on hydrocarbon production. Uranium in Namibia is another example.

The Conversation

With Wisdom

● "Love the life you live. Live the life you love." - **Bob Marley**

● "Keep calm and carry on." - **Winston Churchill**

● "Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none." - **William Shakespeare**

● "Life is ours to be spent, not to be saved." - **D. H. Lawrence**

● "Life is short, death is forever." - **Chuck Palahniuk**

● "Life is short but it is wide. This too shall pass." - **Rebecca Wells**

● "The greatest pleasure of life is love." - **Euripides**

● "Fortune and love favor the brave." - Ovid
Life is a long lesson in humility." - **James M. Barrie**

● "It's better to dance than to march through life." - **Yoko Ono**

● "We are who we choose to be." - **Green Goblin**

"Begin now to be what you will be hereafter." - **Saint Jerome**

● "We have to do the best we are capable of. This is our sacred human responsibility." - **Albert Einstein**
"You have as much laughter as you have faith." - **Martin Luther**

● "The brain is wider than the sky." - **Emily Dickinson**

● "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." - **Robert Frost**

● "If you are free, you need to free somebody else. If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else." - **Toni Morrison**

● "Listen, smile, agree, and then do whatever the fuck you were doing to do anyway." - **Robert Downey Jr**

● "Magic is believing in yourself, if you can do that, you can make anything happen." - **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**

● "The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper." - **W.B. Yeats**

● "It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves." - **William Shakespeare**

"If you are not willing to risk the unusual, you will have to settle for the ordinary." - **Jim Rohn**

● Learn to say 'no' to the good so you can say 'yes' to the best." - **John C. Maxwell**

● "Great things never came from comfort zones." - **Neil Strauss**

● "I have the choice of being constantly active and happy or introspectively passive and sad. Or I can go mad by ricocheting in between." - **Sylvia Plath**

BUSINESS UPDATE

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VITALS

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Prime Rate | 10.50% |
| First National Bank | |
| Inflation Rate | 5.2% |
| 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 FEB 2019

| CURRENCY | BUY | SELL |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|
| US Dollar / SZL | 13.6465 | 13.6965 |
| British Pound/SZL | 17.6654 | 17.7301 |
| Japanese Yen/SZL | 8.0123 | 8.0394 |
| Swiss France/SZL | 13.6220 | 13.6705 |
| Botswana Pula/SZL | 1.2978 | 1.3135 |
| Australian Dollar/SZL | 9.6617 | 9.6985 |
| Canadian Dollar/SZL | 10.2482 | 10.2819 |
| Mozambique Meticals/SZL | 5.5211 | 5.5942 |
| Euro/SZL | 15.4731 | 15.5298 |
| Gold | 1,308.9900 | |
| Oil | 61.1 | |

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Gross official reserves rise to E6.4 billion

...The country's reserves were boosted by SACU receipts which slightly increased this year

BY HLENGIWE NDLOVU

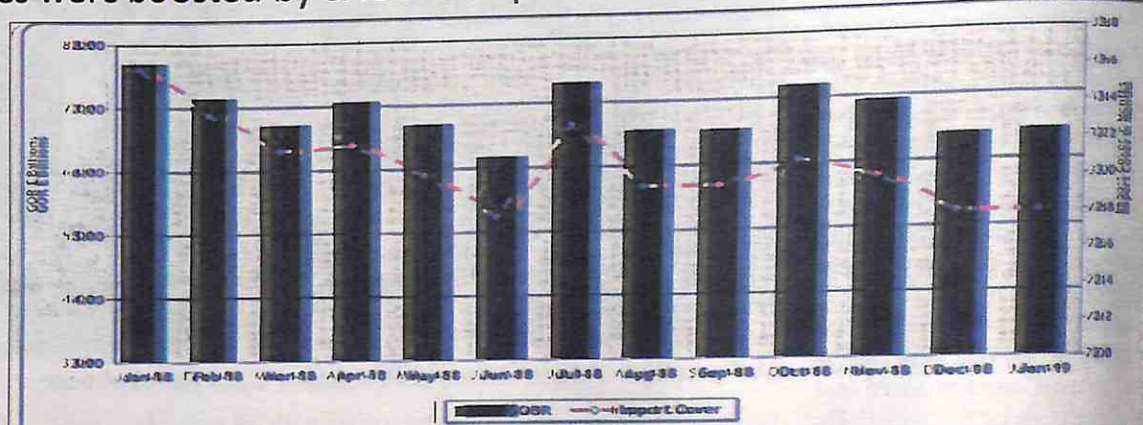
THE country's gross official reserves recently received a major boost, all thanks to SACU receipts.

SACU is the Southern African Customs Union and is the country's major revenue source.

The Central Bank of Eswatini (CBE) states in its monthly statistical report that the Gross Official Reserves amounted to E6.4 billion in January, expanding by 0.7 per cent from December 2018. The reserves were enough to cover 2.8 months of imports. Compared year-on-year, however, the reserves declined by 16.3 per cent.

The country reportedly received E5.8 billion from SACU this year, and this amount is expected to increase to E6.3 billion in the next financial year. This marks a 7.9 per cent increase.

Ministry of Finance Communications Officer Setsabile



Dlamini said the 7.9 per cent increase would go a long way in helping the country on the road to economic recovery.

"Any increase is good as it would make a huge difference in the quest to resuscitate the country's ailing economy," said Dlamini last week.

Valued in special drawing rights (SDRs), the reserves expanded by 8.7 per cent month-on-month to settle at SDR343.1 million. Year-on-year, however, the SDR value of

reserves contracted by 22.0 per cent. In the meantime, the country's economic growth is expected to rebound to a growth of 1.7 per cent in 2019 from a contraction of 0.4 per cent last year. CBE attributed the slow economic growth to challenging domestic conditions and external spill-overs.

Government has continued to experience fiscal challenges which weighed on the economy as public sector expenditure was scaled down,"

the Central Bank's Financial Stability Report states.

To slow the growth of a high fiscal deficit, government resorted to higher domestic taxation and domestic borrowing, a situation which could further weigh on economic growth.

"Higher taxes will likely erode households' disposable income and corporate profits, and over time compromise banks' asset quality," the report cautions.

Nazarene pupil meets UN Women executive director

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

SHE is not just CEO of the award-winning Manzini Nazarene High School JA Nazware Company but Sizolwethu Maphanga has proven to be a teen of many talents.

Her recent achievements in a United Nations programme for Young Women in Science and Technology earned her a special invitation from UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka in Ethiopia.

JA is Junior Achievement, a programme that equips young people with entrepreneurship skills.

The now Form Five pupil was together with another pupil from Nyetane High School in the Lubombo region, amongst 80 girls from 34 African countries who attended the first Coding Camp in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 24 August 2018.

The camp marked the launch of the African Girls Can Code Initiative, a joint programme of the African Union Commission, UN Women and the International Telecommunications Union



where she designed the winning logo to be the face of the competition.

The four-year programme is designed to equip young girls with digital literacy, coding and personal development skills. They will be trained as programmers, creators and designers, placing them on-track to take up education and careers in ICT and coding.

Initiative

The African Girls Can Code Initiative will run from 2018-2022 and is expected to reach more than 2 000 girls through 18 Coding Camps (two international, 12 regional and four in Ethiopia).

Sizolwethu, who also won the Junior Achievement Africa Best CEO in Ghana last year, jetted out to Ethiopia on Friday for

her meeting with the secretary general and returned home yesterday.

Eswatini National Youth Council (ENYC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Makhosami Dlamini said they were happy with the pupil's achievement.

"Designing and winning the logo that will be the face of this new programme by the UN is something big not only for the pupil but the country."

"That she also received a special invitation from the secretary general shows that she is an incredible child who needs to be nurtured and given the right exposure."

"She will be making some presentations during her visit and we are awaiting her return so she can share what it is she learnt during her visit," he said.

Ezulwini valuation roll exercise commences today

BY HLENGIWE NDLOVU

EZULWINI Town Board has announced that the process to compile the town's valuation roll begins today.

Chief Executive Officer Vusumutiwendvodza Matsebula said in a statement on Friday that Christian Amoako and Co Pty Ltd had been appointed to prepare the 2018/19 valuation roll. The CEO explained that the valuer will have an identification card and a letter introducing him or her to enter into and upon any land or buildings within Ezulwini at reasonable hours. "The valuer may require the owner or any person in occupation or in charge of immovable property to furnish him with information on all matters which may be necessary to enable him to correctly value such a property."

"Where necessary, the valuer will take photos (outside only) of developed properties," the CEO explained.

"The valuer may require the owner or any person in occupation or in charge of immovable property to furnish him with information on all matters"

Sondzela Backpackers scoops Best Hostel Award

BY HLENGWE NDLOVU

TWO months after the Tekuvakasha Awards stewarded by the Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA), one of Eswatini's establishments has moved on to compete on the international stage.

Sondzela Backpackers proved to be the favourite among tourists after scooping the Best Hostel Award in Eswatini at the HOSCARs Awards 2019.

HOSCARs is an acronym for Hostelworld Customer Annual Ratings. HOSCARs honoured Sondzela Backpackers, which operates under Big Game Parks during the 20th edition of the Awards.

Sondzela Backpackers is situated in Malkems within Mlilwane Wildlife



Sanctuary. Hostelworld is the leading hostel-focused online booking platform that annually honours the best hostels from all over the world as voted

by travellers.

The HOSCARs are based on millions of reviews from an adventure-seeking, passionate global communi-

ty of travellers who have experienced the place.

Sondzela Backpackers' Sales Manager Xolani Gama said the award meant a lot to them. Gama said they felt honoured to win the HOSCARs award considering that the HOSCARs are world-renowned and the most prestigious any backpackers could receive.

"The award is a reflection of the team's continuous efforts and dedication to ensuring that our guests are at the heart of everyone here. The work they put in has finally been rewarded, and on a renowned international platform," she said.

"The award for Sondzela validates on how much the staff ensures our guests are well taken care of that even when they leave our Kingdom our backpacker has left an imprint on their mind and still manage to recommend

it to others and vote it as the best. Sondzela is grateful for this recognition and will continue to offer memorable services to our clients." She said.

Gama said Sondzela was committed to offering the best services to suit the various needs of their different clients and make sure that they are content. She further said it was an amazing thing that they met the standard of the HOSCARs' winning criteria, which is value for money, security, location, facilities, staff, atmosphere and cleanliness and they intend to improve the quality of their services to satisfy their clients.

Meanwhile, when reached for comment, ETA Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini said his organisation was proud that Sondzela had put Eswatini on the map and this would work as a marketing effort at no cost to the kingdom. "We really applaud Sondzela for their achievement and the effort that they put in ensuring quality service for guests, especially international visitors. Other establishments should follow the example of Sondzela and never fear competition," he said.

Electricity company to segment customers

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) is looking to segment its domestic and small commercial customers.

The segmentation is meant to allow the company to evaluate customer needs for each market segment and decide how to maximise their satisfaction by providing superior service delivery.

This is contained in the invitation to tender documents released by the company last week and published in the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA) website.

The segmentation will include categorising customers to urban and rural, which entails a mapping exercise according to demographic location, ascertaining the possibility of differentiation and clearly defining the criteria.

Maximise

The project will also ascertain possibility of differentiation based on service delivery by defining differentiation in the electricity reticulation, structuring appropriate VIP tariff(s) to maximise margins commensurate with service delivery and also develop a segmentation model, amongst other things.

The proposal further states that the segmentation model's focus will be on domestic and small commercial customers.

"It is expected that the data will be analysed. In the process, government demographic/GIS data could be used to demarcate rural and urban to ultimately identify the target market.

The baseline survey component of the project is expected to complete the inception report within two weeks from the date of signing the agreement between EEC and the engaged team.

The quantitative and qualitative research instruments should be availed within three weeks after the tender engagement.

The overall project must take no more than three months to final completion.

Stiff penalties if MTN, EPTC fail to implement JVA

BY HLENGWE NDLOVU

THE Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) insists it will effect stiff penalties to both MTN Eswatini and the Eswatini Post and Telecommunications (EPTC) should both parties fail to get out of their Joint Venture Agreement (JVA).

EPTC is expected to have sold its shares at MTN Eswatini by June this year, and in a statement published on Friday, the regulator made it clear that both parties should submit implementation reports for the sale of these shares by August 7.

In a statement published on Friday, ESCCOM acknowledged that under

normal circumstances in the commercial setting, the JVA would have been lawful and valid in a number of scenarios, but in this case both parties have a number of obligations towards consumers in the market and the public at large, ESCCOM Chief Executive Mvilawemphi Dlamini said in the statement.

The commission also expressed concerns that under the circumstances, both companies have the potential to exploit a guaranteed market in Eswatini which may result in the exclusion of other licenced entities who may want to explore the provision of other services similar to those the licenced entities are providing. The CE cautioned that such could potentially distort the market.

Nonetheless, the commission made an undertaking, not to, at this stage, make an assessment of whether the JVA violates any of the principles sought to be regulated through the Competition Act.

Investigations

Nonetheless, an assurance was made that the commission would monitor behaviour arising from the enforcement of the JVA and further pursue investigations of any behaviour or trade practices in terms of prevailing legislation and regulatory provisions.

Worthnoting is that despite the entry of Eswatini Mobile as the third mobile service provider, the existence of the JVA restricted EPTC from effectively competing with MTN. Furthermore, from 2010

through 2012, EPTC, which was at that time SPTC, was called upon to stop selling fixed-wireless and mobile products as it was competing with MTN. At that point in time, SPTC was regulator as well as operator.

Having offered mobile phones styled One in 2010 which were subsequently blocked and with over 50 000 consumers left with useless gadgets, SPTC was also called upon to later stop offering its Fixed-phone which also left people with handsets they could not use.

On the other hand, SPTC now EPTC suffered great losses in court. The matter went as far as the international arena as it was arbitrated by the International Court of Arbitration in 2012.

UJ professors, SA media gurus for 4IR conference

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

TWO University of Johannesburg professors, researchers, chief executive officers of big media companies in South Africa and other reputable speakers are slated to share insightful presentations in the upcoming Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) conference.

The conference, championed by the ICAN Foundation, an organisation founded by renowned motivational speaker and Pastor Dr. David Molapo, will be held at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre next week Thursday and Friday.

Day one of the event will see Professor Tshilidzi Marwala from the University of Johannesburg making a presentation on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, economics and politics as well as designing a new curriculum for the future.

Other speakers on the day will be Africa Mediums Holding Director Chief Executive Officer who will address issues on digital printing solutions.

Local Researcher Dr Gugu Sibandze will present the challenges faced by Eswatini in embracing the Fourth Industrial Revolution while Eswatini Sugar Association (ESA) CEO Phil Mnsi will give an address on leadership paradigm shift.

Event Manager Ncamisile Gama said a case study on pro-actively implementing 4IR will be amongst the topics scheduled for day two and this will be presented by Armscor CEO Mr Kevin Wakeford and a training on Virtual Reality by Country Leader EON Reality Africa Daniel Naidoo.

Gama said the seminar was meant for business executives, managers and all leaders to get digital empowerment, and complimentary tactics to complement the African Growth Strategy to adapt to the forth Industrial Revolution.

"The forth Industrial Revolution has started and many Institutions of Higher Learning are playing catch up with the world. The 4IR Journey for African Universities and the rest of the Private Sector are an important step for the new dawn of Africa."

"I Can Leadership Summit 2019 is

a platform for reflection and demonstration of the understanding of the forth Industrial Revolution. A platform for engagements with other key stakeholders and leaders to optimise strategies on the forth Industrial Revolution," he said.

The programme

DAY ONE

Theme: Leadership In The 4th Industrial Revolution

Programme Director: Sindy Mabe

● Preparing for the 4IR journey in your life, families, private and public space
Lindah Khumalo CEO Syberlife Securities

● Fourth industrial revolution, economics and politics
Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala- Vice Chancellor University of Johannesburg

● Challenges facing eSwatini in embracing 4IR
Dr Gugu Sibandze - Researcher

● Skills Needed For The 4IR
Sian Louw CEO Pacific Institute

● Leadership Paradigm Shift
Phil Mnsi CEO ESA

● Digital Printing Solutions
Reg Thomas African Mediums Holdings

● Walala Wasala VUKA Leadership
Karabo Moloko CEO CoLAB

DAY TWO

Theme: Leadership In The 4th Industrial Revolution:

Programme Director: Sindy Mabe

● Practical ways to lead effectively even in tough times
Dr David Molapo Chairman: I CAN Leadership Africa

● Case study on pro-actively implementing 4IR
Kevin Wakeford CEO Armscor

● Designing new curriculum of the future
Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala VC University Of Johannesburg

● How millennials are leading the 4IR
Reabetswe Molapo CEO of I CAN Outreach Programmes

● Virtual reality training
Mr Daniel Naidoo Country Leader EON Reality Africa

● The next steps
Karabo Moloko, Linda Khumalo, Dr David Molapo, Reabetswe Molapo

AfDB Report: Africa's 2019 economic outlook

THIS year's flagship report is themed: 'Regional Integration for Africa's Economic Prosperity.'

The annual African Economic Outlook report highlights economic prospects and projections for the continent as a whole and for each of the 54 countries.

It offers short and medium term forecasts on the main socio-economic factors such as jobs, while at the same time examining the challenges and progress.

The report examines recent macro-economic developments and the outlook in Africa, focusing on the implications of external imbalances for growth and the financial and monetary challenges of integration.

It next discusses employment creation through the analysis of firm dynamism.

It then explores the economics of regional integration in Africa and the policies that can make it deliver economic prosperity.

Africa's economic growth continues to strengthen, reaching an estimated 3.5 per cent in 2018, about the same as in 2017 and up 1.4 percentage points from the 2.1 per cent in 2016. East Africa led with GDP growth estimated at 5.7 per cent in 2018, followed by North Africa at 4.9 per cent, West Africa at 3.3 per cent, Central Africa at 2.2 per cent, and Southern Africa at 1.2 per cent.

In the medium term, growth is projected to accelerate to four per cent in 2019 and 4.1 per cent in 2020. And though lower than China's and India's growth, Africa's is projected to be higher than that of other emerging and developing countries. But it is insufficient to make a dent in unemployment and poverty.

Of Africa's projected four per cent growth in 2019, North Africa is expected to account for 1.6 percentage points, or 40 per cent. But average GDP growth in North Africa is erratic because of Libya's rapidly changing economic circumstances.

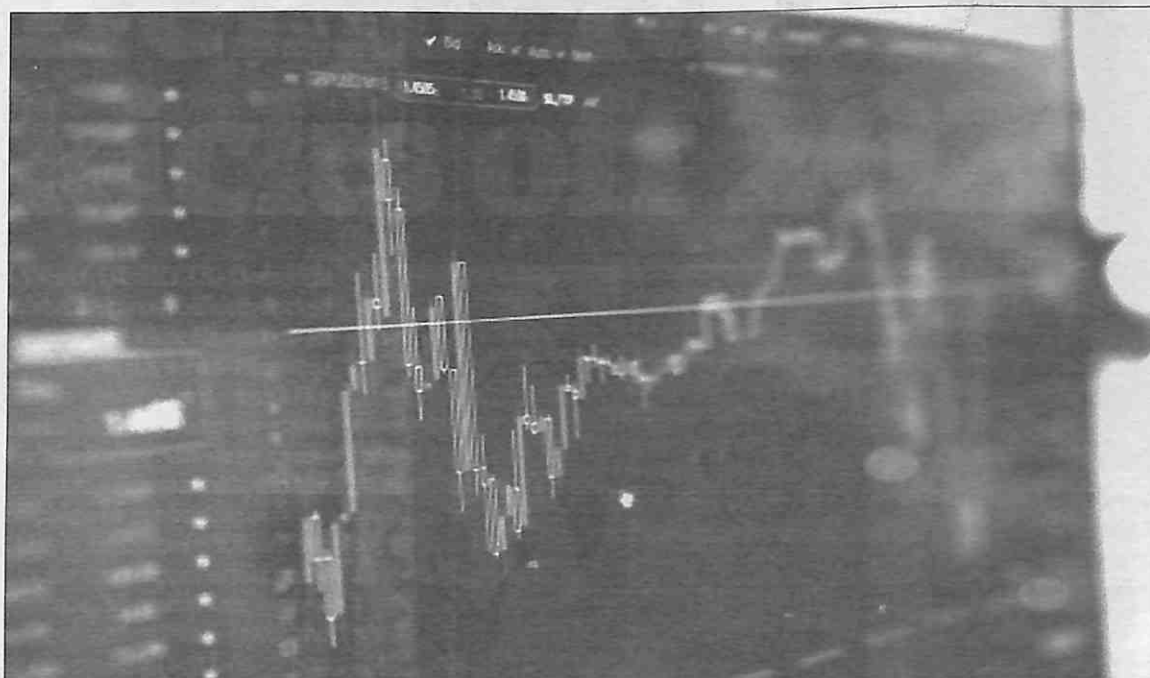
East Africa, the fastest growing region, is projected to achieve growth of 5.9 per cent in 2019 and 6.1 per cent in 2020.

Between 2010 and 2018, growth averaged almost six per cent, with Djibouti, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Tanzania recording above-average rates. But in several countries, notably Burundi and Comoros, growth remains weak due to political uncertainty.

Growth in Central Africa is gradually recovering but remains below the average for Africa as a whole. It is supported by recovering commodity prices and higher agricultural output.

Growth in Southern Africa is expected to remain moderate in 2019 and 2020 after a modest recovery in 2017 and 2018.

Southern Africa's subdued growth is due mainly to South Africa's weak development, which affects neighbouring countries.



Macro economic performance and prospects

● Africa's economic growth continues to strengthen, reaching an estimated 3.5 per cent in 2018. This is about the same rate achieved in 2017 and up 1.4 percentage points from the 2.1 per cent in 2016. In the medium term, growth is projected to accelerate to four per cent in 2019 and 4.1 per cent in 2020. And though lower than China's and India's growth, Africa's growth is projected to be higher than that of other emerging and developing countries.

● Improved economic growth across Africa has been broad, with variation across economies and regions. Non-resource-rich countries—supported by higher agricultural production, increasing consumer demand, and rising public investment—are growing fastest (Senegal, seven per cent; Rwanda, 7.2 per cent; Côte d'Ivoire, 7.4 per cent). Major commodity-exporting countries saw a mild uptick or a decline (Angola, -0.7 per cent), while Nigeria and South Africa, the two largest countries, are pulling down Africa's average growth.

● The positive growth outlook is clouded by downside risks. Externally, risks from uncertainty in escalating global trade tensions, normalization of interest rates in advanced economies, and uncertainty in global commodity prices could dampen growth. Domestically, risks from increasing vulnerability to debt distress in some countries, security and migration concerns, and uncertainties associated with elections and political transition could weigh on growth.

● Growth remains insufficient to address the structural challenges of persistent current and fiscal deficits and debt vulnerability. One way to accelerate growth in the medium to long term and overcome the structural challenges is to shift imports to intermediate and capital goods and

away from nondurable consumption goods. For African countries, a 10 percentage point increase in the share of capital goods in total imports could, five years later, reduce the share of primary goods by four percentage points, amplifying the effectiveness of diversification rooted in transferring technology and accumulating capital.

● Vigorous public finance policy interventions are needed in tax mobilisation, tax reform, and expenditure consolidation to ensure debt sustainability. Policymakers need to adopt countercyclical policy measures to stabilise inflation and reduce growth volatility. Macroeconomic policies should be used to reduce vulnerability to capital flow reversal and shift inflows toward more-productive sectors. For a sample of African countries, a one per cent increase in public savings (by reducing the budget deficit) is correlated with a 0.7 per cent improvement in the current account balance.

● For countries in a monetary union, well-functioning, cross-country fiscal institutions and rules are needed to help members respond to asymmetric shocks. Debt and deficit policies should be consistent across the union and carefully monitored by a credible central authority. And the financial and banking sector should be under careful supervision by a unionwide independent institution.

Jobs, Growth, and Firm Dynamism

● Africa's labour force is projected to be nearly 40 per cent larger by 2030. If current trends continue, only half of new labour force entrants will find employment, and most of the jobs will be in the informal sector. This implies that close to 100 million young people could be without jobs.

● The rapid growth achieved in Africa in the past two decades has

not been proemployment. Analysis of growth episodes reveals better employment outcomes when the growth episodes were led by manufacturing, suggesting that industrialisation is a robust pathway to rapid job creation.

● African economies have prematurely deindustrialised as the reallocation of labour has tilted toward services, limiting the growth potential of the manufacturing sector. To dodge the informality trap and chronic unemployment, Africa needs to industrialise.

● Key factors impeding industrialisation, particularly manufacturing growth, are limited firm dynamism. Firm growth and survival are held back by corruption, an uncondusive regulatory environment, and inadequate infrastructure.

● Estimates from Enterprise Surveys show that 1.3 to three million jobs are lost every year due to administrative hurdles, corruption, inadequate infrastructure, poor tax administration, and other red tape. This figure is close to 20 per cent of the new entrants to the labor force every year.

● Small and medium firms have had very little chance of growing into large firms. Such stunting, coupled with low firm survival rates, has stifled manufacturing activity in most African countries.

● Reviving Africa's industrialisation requires a commitment to improve the climate that supports firm growth. Industrial policies could benefit from assessing production knowledge and identifying competitive products to inform the design of robust national and subnational industrial strategies.

Integration for Africa's Economic Prosperity

● The Continental Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) can offer sub-

stantial gains for all African countries as new and timely analytics show.

● Night light data suggest that barriers to trade from border impediments have fallen over the past 20 years.

● Eliminating today's applied bilateral tariffs would increase intra-Africa trade by up to 15 per cent, but only if rules of origin are simple and transparent.

● To move to systemwide rules of origin and avoid product-specific rules of origin, regional economic community (REC) member countries should move to a single value added rule—say, 40 per cent of value added from within the REC—with a more lenient threshold for less developed countries. They should also exempt shipment sizes below \$1 000.

● Removing non-tariff barriers with countries outside Africa could increase trade and boost the continent's tariff revenues by up to \$15 billion.

● The World Trade Organisation's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) is expected to reduce trading costs by 14–18 per cent and increase world trade by 0.5 per cent, with developing and especially least developed countries benefiting the most. It is also likely to reduce the time needed to import goods by a day and a half and the time needed to export goods by almost two days.

● Implementing the TFA would increase the gains to about 4.5 per cent of Africa's GDP, or an additional \$31 billion, bringing the total real income gains to \$134 billion. (A 0.2 per cent tariff on imports from high-income countries could bring in \$850 million to finance trade facilitation projects.)

● Bold reforms, especially at the institutional level, can synchronise financial governance frameworks across Africa and remove any remaining legal restrictions to cross-border financial flows and transactions. To harmonise payment systems, RECs should pursue stronger technological advances that facilitate movement of funds across borders.

● Electricity markets in Africa have developed vertically within national boundaries rather than horizontally across countries. Trade in electricity would bring many benefits, especially to small countries, if the hard infrastructure is at scale and functioning—and if soft infrastructure (logistics) is trustworthy.

● Africa's infrastructure financing needs are estimated to be \$130–\$170 billion a year. But total commitments came to just \$63 billion in 2016, representing a financing gap of approximately \$67–\$107 billion a year. To close Africa's infrastructure deficit, RECs could consider regional infrastructure bonds, while countries could further mobilise domestic resources and provide incentives for the private sector to join public-private partnership operations for regional public infrastructure. africa.com

Focus on World News

Democrat Warren kicks off 2020 run

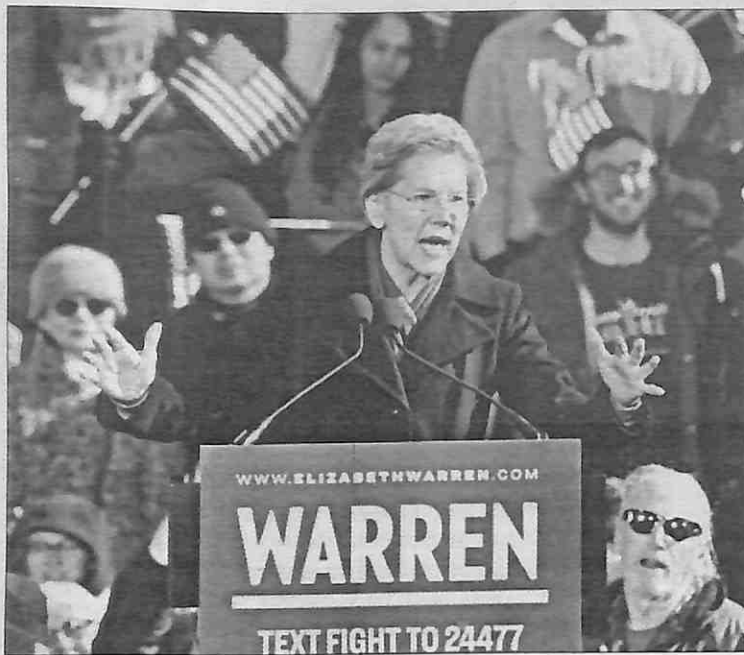
MASSACHUSETTS - Democrat Elizabeth Warren officially kicked off her 2020 White House run on Saturday with a full-throated pledge to defend working Americans, unbowed by a row over her Native American ancestry that has threatened to nip her campaign in the bud.

"This is the fight of our lives," she told cheering supporters in gritty Lawrence, Massachusetts, against "a rigged system that props up the rich and powerful and kicks dirt on everyone else."

"Millions of families can barely breathe," Warren said, in a feisty speech that struck aggressively populist and unapologetically left-leaning notes. "It is not right."

The Massachusetts senator -- who had announced her intention to run on New Year's Eve -- is among the highest-profile of the growing pool of Democrats hoping to unseat President Donald Trump in 2020.

The Democratic field is already the party's most diverse ever -- in gender, age and ethnic background -- and one of its more progressive. It includes several well-known women lawmakers, with Senator



CAMPAGNING: US Senator Elizabeth Warren.

Amy Klobuchar who was expected to join their numbers yesterday.

Battles

Warren's past battles with Wall Street have brought her a large following, and her campaign team has drawn the grudging respect of its rivals. Hoping to ride the momen-

tum of her Lawrence speech, she heads next to early-voting Iowa and New Hampshire, followed by five other states.

But for now it is unclear how badly damaged Warren is by the stubborn controversy over her claim to Native American roots, a claim Trump has

seized upon to belittle her, mocking her as 'Pocahontas.'

Hoping to put the controversy to rest, Warren released DNA tests in October -- but this backfired when they showed her to have only negligible amounts of Native blood, dating back generations. Warren ultimately apologised to the Cherokee Nation.

The matter reared its head again this week when The Washington Post published what it said was an official 1980s document in which Warren listed her race as 'American Indian.'

Trump's re-election campaign issued a dismissive statement ahead of Warren's announcement, saying she had "been exposed as a fraud by the Native Americans she impersonated and disrespected to advance her professional career." It said her "socialist ideas" would hurt workers.

"This is a story that she did not want in this launch," said John Cluverius, a political science professor at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

AFP

Global News

DRC's president urges thousands of exiles to come home

KINSHASA - Albert Tumba says he was forced to leave Democratic Republic of Congo in 2010 for neighbouring Republic of Congo.

As a journalist, he had denounced malpractice in the sports ministry and had to leave with his family out of fear for his safety.

"Threatened with death, I had to cross the river and reach Brazzaville, where I enjoy refugee status with my wife and children. Life is hard here but we are safe," the 65-year-old Tumba said.

Now, after a historic election in DRC, he believes his "long ordeal" may come to an end.

He and tens of thousands of other Congolese who fled, mostly for political reasons, to neighbouring Republic of Congo under Joseph Kabila's 17-year rule say that with opposition leader Felix Tshisekedi now president in their home country, they can envision returning soon.

The new president on Friday, during a visit to Republic of Congo's capital, invited all political exiles to come home.

"All those who have left the country and who have been pushed into exile for political or ideological reasons are free to return home," Tshisekedi said. "To you our compatriots of the diaspora, we will create favourable conditions to put an end to everything that made you flee abroad."

Everyone will be needed to move DRC forward, Tshisekedi said. He has inherited a vast, troubled nation after a disputed election that was delayed by more than two years as many feared that Kabila would try to stay in power.

AP



CALLING: DRC President Felix Tshisekedi.

Venezuela shifts oil ventures' accounts to Russian bank

CARACAS - Venezuela's state-run oil company PDVSA is telling customers of its joint ventures to deposit oil sales proceeds in an account recently opened at Russia's Gazprombank AO, according to sources and an internal document seen by Reuters on Saturday.

PDVSA's move comes after the United States imposed tough, new financial sanctions on Jan. 28 aimed at blocking Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro's access to the coun-

try's oil revenue.

Supporters of Venezuelan opposition leader and self-proclaimed interim President Juan Guaido said recently that a fund would be established to accept proceeds from sales of Venezuelan oil.

The United States and dozens of other countries have recognised Guaido as the nation's legitimate head of state. Maduro has denounced Guaido as a US puppet seeking to foment a coup. PDVSA also has

begun pressing its foreign partners holding stakes in joint ventures in its key Orinoco Belt producing area to formally decide whether they will continue with the projects, according to two sources with knowledge of the talks. The joint venture partners include Norway's Equinor ASA, US-based Chevron Corp and France's Total SA. "We would like to make formal your knowledge of new banking instructions to make payments in US dollars or euros," wrote PDVSA's

Finance Vice President, Fernando De Quintal, in a letter dated Feb. 8 to the PDVSA unit that supervises its joint ventures. Even after a first round of financial sanctions in 2017, PDVSA's joint ventures managed to maintain bank accounts in the United States and Europe to receive proceeds from oil sales. They also used correspondent banks in the United States and Europe to shift money to PDVSA's accounts in China. Reuters

BRIEFS

'Treatment of Uighurs an embarrassment'

ANKARA - Turkey on Saturday condemned China's treatment of its Muslim ethnic Uighur people as "a great embarrassment for humanity," adding to rights groups' recent criticism over mass detentions of the Turkic-speaking minority. "The systematic assimilation policy of Chinese authorities towards Uighur Turks is a great embarrassment for humanity," Turkish foreign ministry spokesman Hami Aksoy said in a statement. The northwest Xinjiang region of China, where most Uighurs live, has been under heavy police surveillance in recent years, after violent inter-ethnic tensions. Nearly one million Uighurs and other Turkic language-speaking minorities in China have reportedly been held in re-education camps, according to a UN panel of experts. AFP

Radio journalist shot dead in Mexico

TABASCO - A Mexican radio journalist was shot dead on Saturday in a restaurant in Tabasco state, east of the capital, the latest victim in what has become one of the world's deadliest countries for the press. Jesus Ramos Rodriguez was killed in the town of Emiliano Zapata, an official from the local prosecutor's office told AFP. According to local media, Ramos had hosted a news bulletin for the 99.9 FM radio station for more than two decades. The El Universal daily quoted witnesses as saying his assailant got out of a car and headed straight towards him, shooting him more than eight times at point blank range. Also, weeks after a community radio station director was murdered in the northern state of Baja California Sur, in the first such case of 2019. AFP

More violence in 'yellow vests' march

PARIS - Thousands of French 'yellow vest' demonstrators marched on Saturday for their 13th weekend of action, with scuffles in Paris and a demonstrator's hand mangled by a small explosive. There was also an overnight arson attack on the Brittany residence of the National Assembly head - though no immediate link was made to the actions against President Emmanuel Macron. The 'yellow vest' demonstrators, named for high-visibility car jackets, began in mid-November over fuel taxes then broadened into a more general revolt against a political class they view as out of touch with common people.

Reuters

Battle on between Trump, his Democrats

WASHINGTON - A clarifying week in Washington showed how ugly the war of oversight between President Donald Trump and House Democrats will become and dug new battle lines in the most intense exchanges yet of the 2020 campaign. House Democrats swung their investigative machinery into action in the most searching examination of the Trump White House so far, showing that the special counsel's probe is only one of the president's concerns. The administration and its allies made clear they will do everything possible to frustrate Democratic oversight efforts, in a way that will test the constitutional infrastructure designed to hold the executive branch to account.

CNN

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

Experts warn DA could suffer decline in support

CAPE TOWN - With just weeks to go to the launch of its manifesto, the DA is locked in intense discussions to wrap up its policies and attempt to squash internal squabbles ahead of elections.

The party is expected to outline its manifesto at an event at the Rand Stadium in Joburg on February 23.

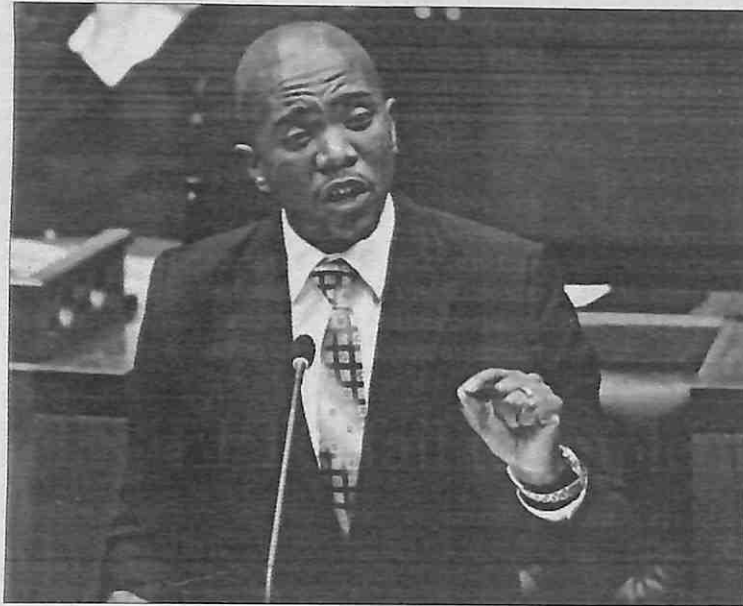
This past weekend, the party's top structures sat down for a federal council meeting in Cape Town and party leader Mmusi Maimane was expected to give a briefing yesterday on its outcomes.

High on the agenda of the meeting was said to be the issue around the DA's stance on BEE ahead of the manifesto launch, an issue that has been contentious and drawn some criticism from within and outside the party.

Mounting tensions from party leaders and talks about Maimane's future have also been up for discussion.

Political analyst Daniel Silke said the party's performance at the polls would most likely be what determines Maimane's future as leader.

"The short-term priority would be the unity of purpose leading to the election with the medium term being how the party performs in the



COULD SUFFER: DA leader Mmusi Maimane.

election and frankly Maimane's future as the leader of the party is going to be determined by the results of the elections.

"If the party can hold its own and come back into Parliament with a similar amount of votes, he might just manage to retain the position. But if the DA vote is reduced in some form or other, I think Maimane might be in trouble from a leadership perspective.

"But there is not a lot of time to assess Maimane's role as a leader; the real test will be with the voters and how they see the DA and he might be able to claim victim with Ramaphosa potentially eating into the DA votes or he faces severe criticism from within his own party, with the first potential loss of support for the DA since 1999 and that is going to be the key judgment."

Party insiders said Maimane's

hold on the party had waned after expectations that he would have the same success in Gauteng as Helen Zille did in the Western Cape fell through.

Analyst Cherrel Africa said despite Zille's ability to win the province in 2009 and then grow the support base in 2014, a win is no longer a foregone conclusion in the province.

"The DA is not guaranteed an outright majority in the province in the upcoming elections.

"They might achieve it but it is not guaranteed. Recent surveys and by-election results reveal that the DA could face declining support at the polls in May. "This is due to a number of contributory factors including the management of the drought in the Western Cape and the tumultuous exit of Patricia de Lille.

"Additionally in a dramatically changed political context, challenges such as a lack of congruence in DA leaders' public statements, the resignation of Gwen Ngwenya as the DA's policy chief and their campaign approach embodied in the #TheANCisKillingSA billboard, does not bode well for the party's provincial performance."

Weekend Argus

ANC EC stresses importance of media freedom after incident

CAPE TOWN - The African National Congress (ANC) in the Eastern Cape has stressed the importance of media freedom following an incident involving Communications Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.

Ndabeni-Abrahams attempted to block a video journalist from capturing visuals of a group of ANC supporters expressing their grievances with regard to service delivery.

The incident happened at the ANC's provincial manifesto rally at the Badibani Stadium in KwaBhaca, which was formerly known as Mount Frere.

The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has aired footage showing Ndabeni-Abrahams, shoving her hand in front of the video camera, to prevent the filming of a demonstration.

It's been reported the crowd disrupted the speech of ANC Treasurer General Paul Mashatile.

The South African National Editors Forum (SANEF) has requested an urgent meeting with Ndabeni-Abrahams to discuss the incident. SANEF has also urged party leaders to allow the media to report without fear or favour and ensure the safety of journalists at their events. Ndabeni-Abrahams has since apologised and expressed regret for her actions.

She's assured the media and South Africans at large of her unreserved commitment to media freedom.

Eyewitness News



Net closes in on Bosasa suspects

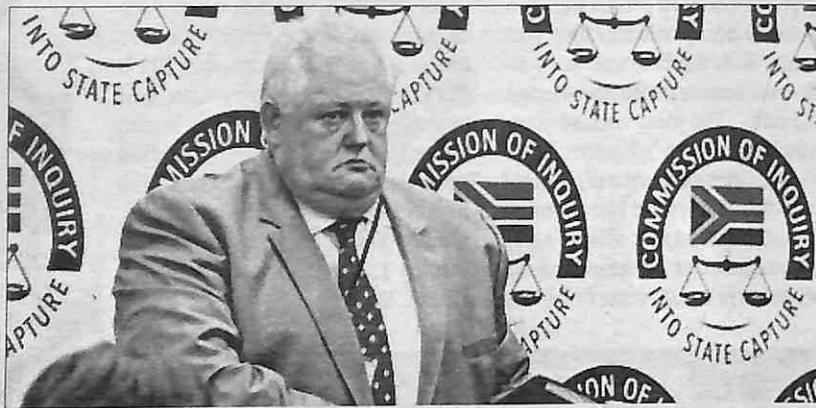
JOHANNESBURG - The Hawks assured the country this week that more arrests would follow after the elite unit failed to arrest BOSASA Chief Executive Gavin Watson despite prosecutors identifying him as key in the controversial company's criminal enterprise.

Watson's former subordinates - Angelo Agrizzi (chief operations officer), Andries van Tonder (chief financial officer), Carlos Bonifacio (chief accountant) and Frans Vorster (head of central business at the Lindela Repatriation Centre) - were arrested, appeared in court and granted R20 000 bail each.

Draft charge sheets from as far back as 2013 show that Watson, who turns 71 in July, was number three of 27 accused persons, companies and trusts.

According to the August 2013 charge sheet, Watson was to be charged in terms of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act for wrongfully and unlawfully managing the operations or activities of an enterprise and knowing or reasonably ought to have known that the enterprise conducted or participated in the conduct of its business, directly or indirectly, through a pattern of racketeering activity.

The racketeering charge carries a prison



IN DOUBT: Former Bosasa COO Angelo Agrizzi at the state capture commission of inquiry in Parktown.

term of up to 10 years.

A memorandum prepared for special director of public prosecutions Lawrence Mrwebi in April 2013 states that the prosecution of former correctional services chief financial officer Patrick Gillingham, who was also arrested and granted R20 000 bail this week, would proceed in the second half of that year.

Lead prosecutor Advocate Marijke de Kock and her colleague AGJ van Rensburg wrote to Mrwebi, informing him that the prosecution of "various individuals within, namely Danny Mansell, Agrizzi, Bonifacio, Van Tonder, Vorster and others" will be possible within six months.

In September, News24 reported that ex-national director of public prosecutions Shaun Abrahams removed De Kock as the lead prosecutor in the Bosasa matter in February 2016 due to the delays.

On Friday, De Kock declined to talk about the Bosasa matter, saying she was not authorised to do so.

Van Tonder has testified before the commission of inquiry that the controversial company's former consultant Mansell emigrated with his family to the US in January 2013 and was "very much involved in unlawful practices at BOSASA". *Political Bureau*

Former Joburg mayor in hot water for defaming Mashaba

JOHANNESBURG - The proceeds of a cost order handed down by the High Court in Johannesburg against former mayor Parks Tau will be donated to an organisation supporting women in need as a result of abuse and other social ills, mayor Herman Mashaba said on Sunday.

Last Friday, High Court Judge Willem van der Linde handed down judgment in Mashaba's application for interdictory relief against Tau, Mashaba said in a statement.

"This relief was sought pending the finalisation of a defamation lawsuit against Parks Tau for crude and shameful comments he made alleging I was sexist and anti-black. In a scathing judgment, Van der Linde held that the comment 'stretched the boundaries of legitimate political criticism into character assassination'. The High Court declared that the statements made by Tau were defamatory and interdicted the former mayor from repeating them," Mashaba said.

All other issues relating to relief, including a claim of R2 million, were deferred to the pending action Mashaba instituted for damages for defamation. In another blow to Tau, he was ordered to pay costs for the applica-

tion, including the costs of two counsel. "I have decided to donate the proceeds of this costs order to an organisation supporting women in need as a result of abuse and other social ills. I will be requesting the department of social development in the City of Johannesburg to assist me in identifying a suitable cause," he said.

On August 28, 2016, at the funeral of the late ANC councillor Nonhlanhla Mthembu, Tau "tastelessly took advantage of the opportunity for cheap politicking" and stated "The City of Joburg is today led by a man who believes that the women who are senior executives prostituted themselves to be in the jobs they are in. He says that in fact for them to earn the positions they are in they had to sleep with the leadership..."

Van der Linde held that "the degrading aspect of the statement is so egregious that it transcends the boundaries of legitimate and fair political side-swipe". "Parks Tau was also slammed for making the following defamatory remarks against me: 'We have heard views from the mayor Herman Mashaba who says that in fact if it were up to him he would not want to be black', Mashaba said.

ANA

Boy's face covered in extra-ordinary hair

RATLAM - A schoolboy from India suffers from a rare condition known as 'werewolf syndrome' which has left his entire face blanketed in hair.

Lalit Patidar, 13, from Ratlam in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, was born with congenital hypertrichosis.

The incurable condition causes abnormal amounts of fine hairs up to 5cm long to grow on a person's face, arms and other parts of their body.

Lalit, who is successful and popular at school, says he is usually accepting of his appearance but strangers sometimes throw stones and call him a 'monkey'.

Despite his condition, the teenager says he dreams of one day becoming a police officer and "putting all thieves and criminals in jail".

Lalit said: "I was born with too much hair on my face and this makes me different.

"Sometimes I wish I was like other children, but I cannot do much about it. I have got used to the way I am, and I am usually comfortable with myself."

Lalit's 42-year-old mother, Parvatibai, looks after a family of 14 at their home, including Lalit's five sisters.

She said: "In the first half an hour after Lalit was born, I was amazed to see his body covered in an extraordinary amount of hair.

"We immediately asked the local paediatrician to examine him, who trimmed off his excess hair and said that there is no cure for this.

"I have five daughters and we prayed at a lot of temples to have a son. Our prayers were answered when Lalit was born.

"He is different but still very special for me because he was born



MY PARENTS: Lalit Patidar, 13, (pictured with his parents) was born with a condition called hypertrichosis, which causes excessive hair growth and is also known as 'werewolf syndrome'. (Daily Mail)

after many special prayers."

Despite being used to his condition, Lalit says he has bad days when the hair causes difficulties with his breathing and sight.

The family have sought help for their son but there is no known cure for the condition.

There are various types of hypertrichosis, with the congenital (present from birth) form of it the rarest.

It is not known how many people suffer from this type of the bizarre disorder but estimates online suggest only around 50 people have ever been diagnosed.

Lalit's father, a 45-year-old celer and garlic farmer, Bankatlal said: "When Lalit was two years old, I took him to a big hospital in Baroda where a team of doctors examined him.

"After examining him, they told me that there is no cure for it but if they come across any cure, they will inform me."

Children at Lalit's school have

accepted the way he looks and he is intelligent and athletic.

His Headmaster, Babulal Makwana said: "Lalit has been my student for two years. He is a good in studies and excels in sports."

"He is very popular in his class and everyone is fond of him.

"Initially when he came to my school, people were taken aback, but now everyone is used to him and no one treats him differently."

However, Lalit has received more hurtful treatment in public, particularly when he leaves the village where he lives.

"Sometimes when I am out in a busy town, people come and stare at me," he said. "Some even call me monkey.

"There have been times when other kids throw stones at me and call me names. But my family and friends come to my rescue and defend me during such incidents."

"I sometimes wish to have some surgery to get rid of excess hair

because I want to be friends with everyone. They shouldn't hesitate to play with me."

But despite his setbacks, Lalit is optimistic about his future and has ambitions of joining the police force.

He said: "I want to join the police and put all thieves and criminals in jail when I grow up.

"I want to earn money as an honest policeman and with that I want to look after my mum and dad."

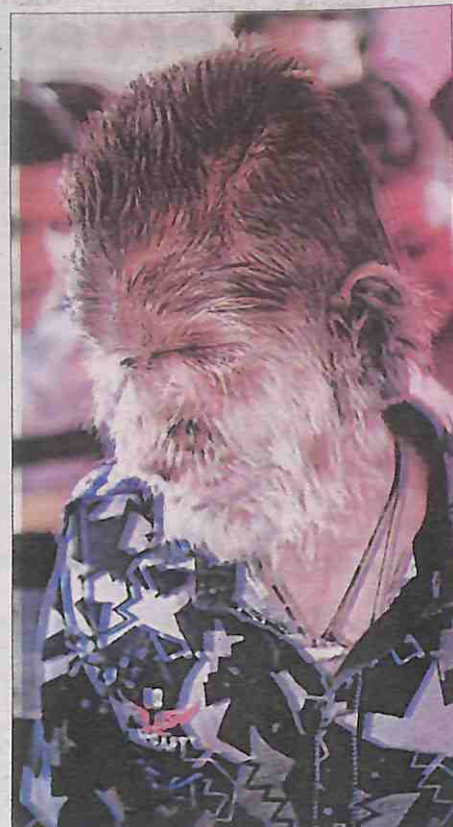
"They have done a lot for me and I don't want any complications for them when they grow old."

People with the condition tend to be covered in fine hairs which can grow to be up to 5cm long.

Children affected by genetic hypertrichosis are believed to inherit it, although it may come from a parent who doesn't have the condition themselves.

Other more common forms of the disorder may develop later on in a person's life.

Daily Mail



HAIRY AFFAIR: Lalit does well at school and is good at sports, according to his headmaster, and although other pupils were 'taken aback' when they first met him, he now has many friends.



FREE AS DOVE: Lalit says he is sometimes taunted when he leaves the village where he lives and wishes he looked normal so more people would want to be his friends.



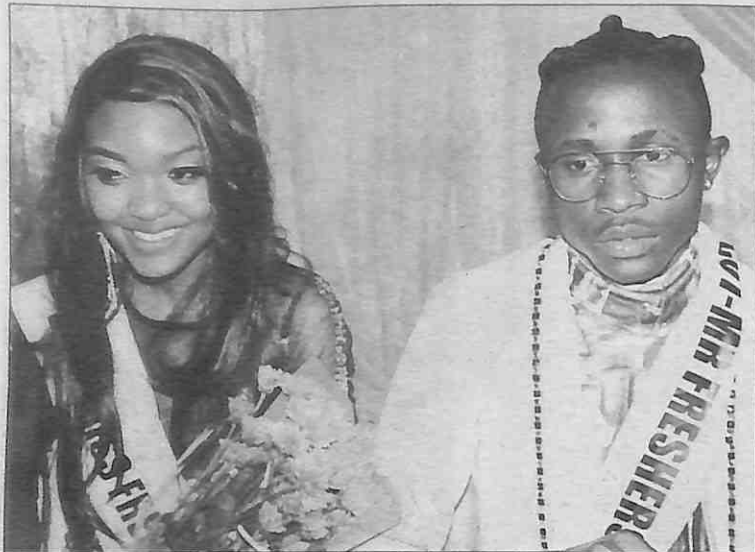
SIBLINGS: Lalit is part of a family of 14 who live together, which includes his five sisters (pictured, four of them play with their brother) and says he usually accepts the way he looks.



FAMILY: Lalit's parents, Parvatibai and Bankatlal, say doctors told them there is no cure for their son's disorder and added they were 'amazed' to see he was covered in 'extraordinary' amounts of hair when he was born.

Observer Entertainment

New Reviews ... Star Signs ... Celebrity Watch ... Cartoons



REIGNING SUPREME: Mr and Miss ECOT 2019/20 Lihle Maseko and Nosisa Lukhele after being crowned during the 2019 ECOT Freshers Ball held at Eswatini College of Technology on Friday evening.



YES: A section of the audience as they chanted 'yes' when their favourite was chosen for the Top 20. (Pics: Nokwanda Sibandze)

ECOT FRESHERS BALL A BANGER

STORIES BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

WHAT seemed to be more of a party than a pageant saw the crowning of the new Mr and Miss Eswatini College of Technology (ECOT).

Nosisa Lukhele and Lihle Maseko reigned supreme during the ECOT 2019 Freshers Ball held at the college's hall on Friday evening as they were crowned Mr and Miss ECOT.

The event started after 9pm and the students filled the hall to the rafters. Students came in their numbers to support their favourite contestants.

Clearly

It was shortly after a few minutes that the students decided to turn-up. They would dance and scream every time the DJs played music during the function's short breaks.

The students were clearly in for a night of fun.

With over 50 couples who graced the stage, it was not shocking to see some of the contestants dancing while waiting for the rest to introduce themselves.

What was also special about the pageant was that two of the judges were not only former ECOT students but they were also reigning princes during their time at the college. The judges included Ms Bubbles, Mpendulo Dlamini and Mbutfo Simelane.

JUDGES PANEL:
Mbutfo Simelane, Miss Bubbles and Mpendulo Gule were the judges of the day.



...Mr ECOT Lihle 'Slqm' sheds tears

THE founder of popular clothing brand 'Slqm' Lihle Maseko could not hold himself as he sheds tears after being announced as Mr ECOT 2019/2020.

The Office Management and Technology student said he was grateful for the recognition shown by the judges and the crowd.

"Being crowned also boosted my confidence and I think this will open doors for me. I can also use the title to promote my brand," he said.

Minfully

He also said his goal as Mr ECOT is to develop the culture of fashion by mindfully shaping people's thoughts and beliefs around the

...Miss ECOT Nosisa wants to help minorities

STUDYING towards her Diploma in Building Studies, Miss ECOT 2019/2020 Nosisa Lukhele said she was taken by surprise when the judges called out her number.

"I honestly did not see it coming. I entered the competition after being urged by my friends and all the ladies looked absolutely stunning so it came as a surprise when I was crowned," said Lukhele.

She said she wanted to help upgrade the minorities in ECOT whom she felt were overlooked.

Overall, she said the feeling of being the college's ambassador was the most wonderful in the world.

Reality

"For a moment, I felt out of place wondering if it was a reality but being crowned was amazing," she added.

Nosipho Dlamini scooped the Second Princess title and Best Dressed couple. Bongekile Simelane scooped the First Princess title.

However, the crowd was not



CROWD'S FAVOURITE:
First Princess Bongekile Simelane who drove the crowd crazy when walking down the ramp.

happy with the first princess' title as they booed the judges.



TEARS OF JOY: Mr ECOT Lihle Maseko was overcome by emotions after being crowned.

JAZZ SHOW AT THE VIBE POSTPONED

BY SIMANGALISO ZWANE

take place at The Vibe on Saturday, has been postponed indefinitely.

When the Entertainment Desk arrived at the venue at 5pm, there were a num-

ber of fun lovers who were minding their business, socialising and not bothered. One of the show organisers Menzi Mtsetfwa stated to this publication that

they were still going to announce when the show would take place.

"We can only announce a change once everything has been confirmed to us. There's always quite a lot going on behind the scenes when an event is

cancelled," Mtsetfwa said.

The line-up of artists who were set to perform included Archie Morale, Themabela, Police Afro-jazz band, Zwyle Soul, Sibaya and Itallo Dlamini, to mention a few.

THE jazz festival, which was set to



LET'S DANCE: Ballroom and Latin dancers showing the contestants and audience how it's done during Let's Dance Eswatini! launch which was held at House on Fire on Saturday.

Let's Dance Eswatini! successfully launched

.... Tickets up for grabs

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

HOSTED by Bailamos Dance Studio and Wanner Dance Studio, Let's Dance Eswatini! has been launched.

Tickets to the inaugural dance competition are now available.

This was revealed by the event coordinator Suzan Esteves at the launch which was held at House on Fire on Saturday.

Slated for March 2 at same venue; HOF, tickets to the dance competition are vying at E400 for VIP, which includes dinner and E150 for general.

They can be purchased at House on Fire Gallery, Computronics at Riverstone Mall in Manzini, Luxy Garden Restaurant at Corner Plaza in Ezulwini, or eDish Café at Computronics in Mbabane.

During the launch, Esteves revealed that they were also giving away tickets.

"You can win tickets to the

event by going to the LDE Facebook page and participating in the 'Show us Your Moves' contest.

"Fans and amateur dancers alike are invited to send us videos of their best dance moves! Give us some kwassa kwassa or graceful ballet, your best voshu or an epic dab.

"Every genre of dance is welcome! Send us a DM with your dance video by the end of day each Friday, and we will announce the winners every Saturday morning. "The contest runs right through the month of February and so there will be one winner each week. At the end of the month, we will choose a final winner who will get a grand prize of two tickets to the event, and we will share your

video on our social media platforms," she said.

The celebrities have been paired with top Ballroom and Latin dancers.

Dancing together in this competition are Gciniwe Fakudze and Wakhile Mkhonta, Penny Bouwer and Basil Magongo, John Pires and Neliswa Bhembe, Jordy Shiba and Phumelele Thwala as well as Siphesihle Nkwanyana and Sthembis Mthembu.

"Couples will present two choreographed dance performances at the event, the first of which will be a Ballroom and Latin dance, and the second will be a genre of the celebrities' choice. "Catch couples dancing cha cha and tango, as well as kwaito and kizomba. Practices have already started and you can keep up to date with activities by watching the videos of interviews and practices on the Let's Dance Eswatini! YouTube channel," Esteves said. Esteves stated that winners would be determined from a combination of judges' scores and audience voting. "There will be three judges, one professional dance sport adjudicator from South Africa, and two local celebrity judges. The audience voting system will be announced ahead of the event. We would like to thank House on Fire, Line Media, Mananga Management Centre, Ngwenya Glass, Matrix Active Gym, Serendipity, In Motion Gym, Imax Active Gym, Fitness Zone Matsapha, Apollo Printers and Sportz House for their support in making this event happen," she concluded.



ITS ON: Sam captured directing the proceedings of the launch. She will also be the MC of the night at the dance competition.



SASSY: Let's Dance Eswatini! event coordinator Suzan Esteves captured with one of the celebrity contestants Gciniwe Fakudze.



BE READY: Top Ballroom and Latin dancers who will be paired with the celebrities posing for the lens.

I WISH TO BE SWAMA PRESIDENT - GINO KASH

BY DELISA THWALA

G-Star Entertainment founder Gino Kash is vying for Eswatini Music Association (SWAMA) presidential seat next term.

Seeing that the current SWAMA executive will step down in 2020, Kash saw it fitting to avail himself for the SWAMA presidential seat.

Kash said he would love to dedicate his 8am-5pm schedule to serving the industry.

Speaking to this publication last week, Kash said his interest was to take on the works that has been implemented by former presidents and also add more value and credibility to the association and its stakeholders.

Kash made it clear that he was not suggesting that he would do better

than the current President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini.

He said he was more than passionate to implement structures that would see the arts and music fraternity grow by means of daily improvement and sustainability to stakeholder's brands.

SWAMA President Melusi Dlamini said this was a commendable ambi-

tion coming from a young person. "There is nothing wrong with aspiring to serve and I really encourage young people, especially those interested or involved in the arts to strive to join the leadership of such bodies," Dlamini said.

Current

He also confirmed that the term of

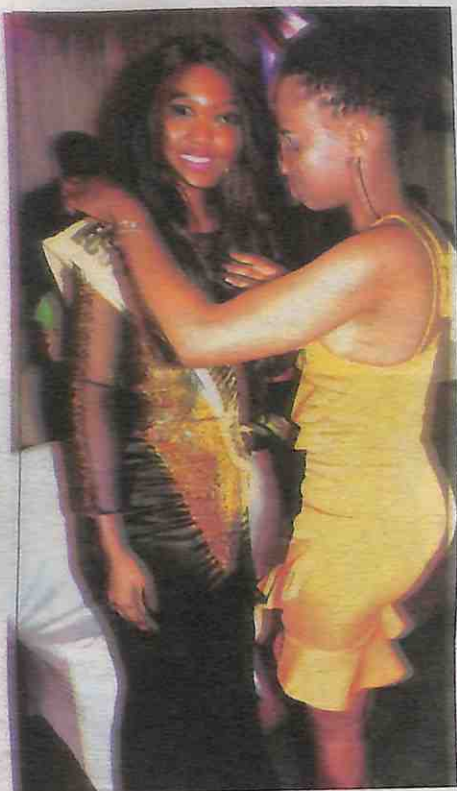
the current team started in November 2017 and will run until 2020. Dlamini said he will not run for a second term.

"I think such positions should not be occupied by the same person for a long time as it makes it redundant," he added.

Dlamini said he would be more than willing to hand over the ropes to a young, energetic and more capable individual. "It is actually in the hands of the artists themselves; they have the voting power," said Dlamini.

ECOT Freshers Ball

held at Eswatini College of Technology



QUEEN: Outgoing First Princess Zanele Masina, who represented outgoing Miss ECOT, handing over the baton to newly crowned Miss ECOT Nosisa Lukhele.



THE NEWLY CROWNED: The newly crowned Mr and Miss ECOT Lihle Maseko and Nosisa Lukhele and their runners-up at the ECOT Freshers Ball which was held last Friday Evening. (Pics: Nokwanda Sibandze)



TOP 20: The Top 20 couples waiting in suspense for the winners to be announced.



WATCH ME: This student could not help but dance for the crowd.



BEST DRESSED COUPLE: Best Dressed Couple award went to Second Princess Nosipho Dlamini and her partner Second Prince Kiefer Smith.



BEST DRESSED: Best Dressed Female Temanyandzeni Maphalala and Best Dressed Male Mlindi Dlamini.



FACEBEAT: Some of the ladies showing off their makeup as they wait for the judges to announce the winner.



GOLDEN PRINCESS: Thando Tsabedze went for a white and gold dress.



THE LADIES: Miss ECOT Nosisa Lukhele and her Princesses Bongekile Simelane and Nosipho Dlamini after being crowned.



STYLE: Eventual winner Lihle Maseko and his partner Tenele Mhlongo.



ALL RED: Mndeni Mhlanga introducing his date Nontobeko Makhanya.



MR LYRICS: Local rapper Seawater gave the crowd a taste of what he can do.



SOUL TUNES: ECOT student and artist Zwile performing during the concert.



MAKE ME PROUD: Miss ECOT 2017/18 Gcebile Matse took to the stage to encourage the upcoming queen and king.



AS I LEAVE: Outgoing Second Princess Andile Mdluli dancing for the crowd.



THUSO PHALA: Nosipho Ngwenya and her date Sebenele Dlamini decided to do a Thuso Phala.



COUPLED UP: Bakhe Gama and his date Vuyisile Tfwala also wowed the crowd with their outfits.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

Michelle Rodriguez dragged for defending Liam Neeson

HOLLYWOOD- The war that erupted over Liam Neeson's comments about once going out to try kill a black man continues to rage, with Fast and the Furious star Michelle Rodriguez the latest to get involved. Promoting his new film Cold Pursuit this week, Liam told The Independent how after a friend of his was raped, he once "went up and down areas with a cosh, hoping I'd be approached by somebody - I'm ashamed to say that - and I did it for maybe a week, hoping some 'black ba*t**d' would come out of a pub and have a go at



DRAGGED: Michelle Rodriguez.

me about something, you know? So that I could ... kill him." *Times Live*

Michael B Jordan acquires rights for film adaptation

HOLLYWOOD- Michael B Jordan's latest acquisition of the rights to adapt African fantasy novel, Black Leopard, Red Wolf, is proof that the Hollywood star can't get enough of stories about Africa. The Hollywood Reporter this week claimed that the star has acquired the rights to the film, based on a novel by Jamaican writer Marlon James.

The novel is set in a fantastical African country and draws on several mythological elements, and "decidedly adult themes". It has been dubbed the "African Game of Thrones." It's no lie that the acquisition has lit up some excitement on the streets. Just the thought of an



CAN'T GET ENOUGH: Michael B Jordan.

African version of Games of Thrones is entertaining. Yass Michael yass. *Showbiz*

Somizi planning to release own musical

PRETORIA- After launching into the spotlight on legendary local theatre show Sarafina, Somizi is set to return to the stage with his very own musical.

Somizi has always had his eye on theatre but in an interview with Marc Lottering on Metro FM this week, he announced that he was looking to produce his own musical.

"You have ignited my love for musicals. I am writing a musical because of you," he told the Aunty Merle musical creator.

The star was involved in Gibson Kente's musical drama How Long? Last year as a choreographer and



NEW HEIGHTS: Somizi.

said at the time musical theatre is alive and well in Mzansi. "Some people may think theatre in South Africa is dying. *Times Live*

'We live in a world that's so money obsessed'

AUCKLAND PARK - Nandi Madida decided to drop some pearls of wisdom to warn upcoming artists about the danger of being robbed.

"We live in a world that's so money obsessed, it's important not to forget that relationships are paramount too, in fact something that is worth more than money is maintaining relationships and having a good reputation. Money comes and goes.. it's important that your character is rich," she said.

In a lengthy thread Nandi reflected on how she was nearly robbed and advised other artists to be wary.



WARNS: Nandi Madida.

"Now I know why artists die poor even though they have millions due to them, it's so sad. Myself and my friend almost became a victim in one case." *Times Live*

Naomi Campbell heads to Mzansi for Forbes summit

CAPE TOWN- Supermodel Naomi Campbell will headline Forbes Woman Africa Leading Women Summit that starts on Friday in Durban. This year's event takes place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre. Campbell and other speakers, including KwaZulu-Natal MEC for economic development, tourism and environmental affairs Sihle Zikalala, will get the chance to engage through panel discussions. Guests will also attend the awards gala dinner to celebrate women who have made a



TRAVELLING THE WORLD: Naomi Campbell

remarkable impact in business, sports, science, entertainment and leadership categories. *Times Live*

Tweeps are losing their mind over Ariana Grande's 'bold' moves

NEW YORK- The way Ariana Grande's fanbase is growing, the girl could fart and she'd still be dubbed the best to ever do, so it was no wonder that when she dropped her new album last Friday it was hailed as a solid project.

The star released her latest album Thank U, Next and even those who thought she was overhyped were impressed. Besides the often deep lyrics and silky vocals, fans were super impressed with a track they believe should be her next single: Break up with your girlfriend, I'm bored. They may be on to something because the track already has a music video featuring Riverdale's Charles



POPULAR: Ariana Grande.

Melton. For many, it was Ariana's vocals that have set her apart as a muso and they were there with the meme of appreciation for the album. *People Magazine*

Cassper stands up for his bestie Inno

SANDTON- After being told to reflect on the reasons behind his "falling out" with some of his friends and industry mates, Cassper chose to give a shoutout to his gardener and bestie Innocent.

The cute message expressed how much Cassper was grateful to have Inno in his life and talking to Inno is one of the "most therapeutic things" he's ever experienced.

"My best friend and I. One of my biggest blessings. Talking to this guy on a daily is one of the most therapeutic things I've ever experienced. He always has a word of encouragement. Love you my dawg." And while Cassper ignored the many questions that followed his



PROTECTIVE: Cassper Nyovest.

post about things like wasn't Carpo his best friend and what really went down between him and Riky, he wasn't about to ignore the tweet that called his bestie a "garden boy". *Times Live*

Boity on new single

PRETORIA- Boity Thulo is not letting up on her new found career as a music artist, releasing a new track today that she says was partly inspired by late Motswako rapper HHP. After the runaway success of her first ever single late last year, the TV star announced this week that she was dropping a second single this weekend named Bakae.

Speaking to TshisaLIVE ahead of its release, Boity said that she wanted to do something different with Bakae.

"This track is different because I am rapping in vernac. I don't think people have seen that side of me yet. It



RELEASING: Boity Thulo.

is almost like Motswako trap. That is how I see it." She said that she had always wanted to release something with HHP and was saddened by his death last year. *Times Live*

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST



TODAY



CROSSES THE LINE: Mpiyakhe.

Mpiyakhe, driven to desperation, crosses the line, while Qaphela makes a countermove that threatens the very heart of the Zungu family. Busi is upset when she realises Ntwenhle and Dabula's connection is getting stronger.



TODAY



DANGEROUS GAME: Gabriel.

Gabriel plays a dangerous game since he feels invincible after the debate. Lincoln proceeds with his plan to mentor Obakeng and Gatanga is suspicious of Makgorometsa's behaviour?



TODAY



HOPEFUL: Mulalo.

Mulalo's name is up for political position. Molehi and James' marriage is at a point of no return. Vho-Mukondeleli is persuaded by a man.



TODAY



APPROACHED: Mampho.

Sabelo wonders whether to return Suffo's money. Maponya and Madikgetla argue over the prime suspects. Mampho is approached by a hot stranger.

Me: *accidentally drops a plate*
 Mom: Take even the ones in the cupboard and break them too



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Aquarius January 20 – February 18

It scares you when life seems like it's slipping through your fingers and you can't slow it down. But it isn't life that's playing tricks on you. You aren't seeing things as clearly as you should be. You feel a little left out, but don't worry. You're just out of energy. Try and think of this empty feeling inside as a kind of purification or a much-needed break from everything.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

It scares you when life seems like it's slipping through your fingers and you can't slow it down. But it isn't life that's playing tricks on you. You aren't seeing things as clearly as you should be. You feel a little left out, but don't worry. You're just out of energy. Try and think of this empty feeling inside as a kind of purification or a much-needed break from everything.



Aries March 21 – April 19

You've always been sensitive to the pain of an unhappy childhood, Aries. Today you can no longer stand the thought of all those children living in misery, victims of war or other atrocities. And this becomes especially painful when you take a look at the happy children full of joy around you. You may think that it's time for you to do something about it. You may be right.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

You may feel like you need to work for a cause or political party, Taurus. The period you're in right now is bringing you closer to social issues or humanitarian causes and pushing you to think about what you can do for people less fortunate. You can help develop a new strategy as far as human relations are concerned. Don't hesitate to listen to your heart and be a little more generous in life.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

Unfortunately, Gemini, this may be a period of conflict and tension in your family life, especially where siblings are concerned. Don't you think it's time to deal with these problems once and for all? It would be nice to build a new relationship with them. It might be painful, but it's up to you to take the first step. Call a family meeting and put all your cards on the table.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

You now seem to be able to do everything you want to do, Cancer. Things are going well as you reap the rewards of important past decisions you made. The obstacles that tended to get in your way are history now. Your family is happy and healthy. Your success is encouraging you to make plans for the future. It also enables you to look forward to much better days for you and those close to you.



Leo July 23 – August 22

You need to be more spontaneous, Leo, and stop trying to organise other people's lives. You will see that it isn't so hard to just let things happen. The unexpected also has a special charm. You're a slave to routine. You need to take a big bite out of life and put your trust in chance for a while. The people around you would like to see more originality in your personality. Listen to them.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

You're a hard worker, Virgo, and you expect the same from the people around you. Today you may want to take a look at your personal and work relationships. Demanding person that you are, you may be concerned about the quality of your friendships. Don't be afraid to separate good from bad. Life is too short to devote your energy to bad relationships.



Libra September 23 – October 23

Watch for any errors in orientation or strategic mistakes, Libra. You may be having some communication problems with almost everyone today. You feel like whatever you say falls on deaf ears and that no one really wants to listen to you. Don't get frustrated. Relax and see it with humour. Just be an observer for one day and see what happens.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

At the moment, there's a great deal of electricity in the air, especially in your life at home. Ignore those people who try to provoke you. Don't get involved in conflicts that could degenerate into fights. Go somewhere to be alone. Reenergise by really listening to your desires, feelings, and instincts. Why not spend the afternoon in a museum, for example?



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

If people say that you're stubborn when you're just determined, let them talk, Sagittarius, and do what you need to do. However, when you think you're being determined but you're actually being obstinate, you may want to listen to the people around you. They don't tell you to calm down because they're jealous of you but because they care about you. They may not know that you hate to lose.



Capricorn December 22 – January 19

It's time to face up to certain things about yourself that you may have denied for some time, Capricorn. You have only yourself to answer to, so relax. You aren't the first one to have to deal with old issues that probably aren't as shameful as you think. You don't have to be proud of them. You can't keep hiding them from yourself. This could cause more problems than dealing with them once and for all.



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WRITINGS

PUZZLE CHOICE

MYTHICAL CREATURES

Can you find the mythical creatures hidden in the box? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

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LOL
Laughing Out Loud

BOY AND FATHER

A boy asks his father:

Boy: Daddy why do I

have to go to bed?
 Dad: Because the bed
 won't come to you

USELESS FACTS

1. The average American butt is 14.9 inches long.
2. More bullets were fired in 'Starship Troopers' than any other movie ever made.
3. 60 per cent of electrocutions occur

- while talking on the telephone during a thunderstorm.
4. The name of the girl on the statue of liberty is Mother of Exiles.
5. 3.6 cans of spam are consumed each second.

BRAINTEASERS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FRIDAY'S BRAIN-TEASERS

1. Which weighs more: a tone of chocolate or a tone of balloons?
Answer: They both weigh the same

2. Two fathers and two sons went ice skating and they all hired skates. Only three pairs of skates were hired. How is this possible?

Answer: They were grandfather, father and son.

TODAY'S BRAINTEASERS

1. If there are 15 oranges and you take three, how many do you have?
2. A man fell down a three-storey staircase but didn't get hurt. How is this possible?



DSTV
Feel every moment

NEWS



THE cliché is that women are the ones who take weddings, let alone wedding attire, more seriously than men.

However, we're learning that our brothers want to look just as good at a friend or family member's nuptials! We take a look at how the Isibaya gents swagged up for the Zungu wedding!

Duma – The traditionalist

On any given day, you'll catch Duma in a suit. So you'd think at a wedding he would be killing in one of his fine suits again.

But if there is one thing we know about Duma it's that he respects and honours his Zulu heritage.

So it makes sense that we would dress as a classic induna in *injobo nebeshu*.

Jabu – The Modernist

A crisp white shirt with a bit of print is how Jabu decides to celebrate his culture honouring both his Zulu culture and modern taste.

S'khaleni – The Joburg Zulu Boy

S'khaleni may not be the kind of Zulu Boy from eBhutesini, but he is Zulu through and through.

He chose to dress up in dashiki-like gear with the unique Zulu headgear worn by men of high ranking and some beads - and we're loving it.

THE ZULU GENTS - ISIBAYA



Dabula – The Suited King

He has often been described as nothing more than a Joburg boy trying to make it in eBhutesini while understanding nothing about it.

Chief Dabula has proven this to be true in some cases but not true in

many more ways. As Cebisile said, "He is more complicated than that."

A modern king he chose to attend the Zungu wedding in a classic fitted checked suit and a crisp white shirt.

Sengwayo – The Big Induna

Mpiyakhe Zungu is a many of many

contradictions that seems to both confuse and make sense.

He is a killer and a peacemaker, a traditionalist and a modern man.

When it comes to his wedding, he keeps it strictly traditional opting to wear amashoba, *injobo nebeshu*.

Grownish Season 2 Episode 1 Recap

ZOEY Johnson's return to campus doesn't go as she would've imagined.

After spending the Summer holidays attempting to figure out their individual passions, Zoey Johnson, Nomi Segal, Ana Torres, Aaron Jackson, Chloe and Halle Bailey, Vivek Shah and Luka Sabbat, returned to campus in Wednesday night's season 2 premiere of *Grown-ish*, to find that the world is still against them.

The girls' moved into a room that was less than appealing and Zoey was less than impressed with Luca, who himself was away in Paris.

Not only did Luca make no attempt to call her, but she had to find out from none other than Aaron that Luca was back in town. When she eventually managed to find Luca, he was high on weed and couldn't even commit to finishing a movie with her.

Zoey's friends weren't much help either. They assembled a visual presentation to showcase her and Luca's differing body language. They even went as far as revealing that they have a "Zuca-911" group dedicated to Luca and Zoey's unravelling.

Although by the end of the episode, their relationship issues weren't completely solved, the fact that they dropped the L-word says speaks volumes. Don't miss *Grown-ish* Season 2 every Wednesday at 19:30 only on 1 Magic, DSTV Channel 103.

MZANSI TALENT NOMINATED IN THE SAFTAS!

ALL your fav Mzansi shows and talent nominated in the SAFTAs!

Congratulations to all the Mzansi Magic shows and talent that scooped up a number of nominations at the 13th South African Film and Television Awards. Take a look to see if your favs were part of the list!

Best TV Soap

Isibaya

Uzalo

Rhythm City

Best Actress - TV Soap

Nomzamo Mbatha - Isibaya

Kgomotso Christopher - Scandal!

Dawn Thandeka King - Uzalo

Best Actor - TV Soap

Pallance Dladla - Isibaya

Jamie Bartlett - Rhythm City

Sdumo Mtshali - Isibaya

Best Supporting Actress - TV Soap

Gcina Mkhize - Isibaya

Nokuthula Thabethe - Isibaya

Linda Sebezo - Isibaya

Best Supporting Actor - TV Soap

Abdul Khoza - Isibaya

Khaya Dladla - Uzalo

Melusi Mbele - Isibaya

Best Actor - Telenovela

Presley Chweneyagae - The River

Hlomla Dandala - The River

Siyabonga Radebe - Ring of Lies Season 2

Best Supporting Actress - Telenovela

Nthathi Yolisa - Ring Of Lies Season 2

Vele Manenje - Ring Of Lies Season 2

Ferry Jele - The River

Best Supporting Actor - Telenovela

Warren Masemola - Ring of Lies Season 2

Lawrence Maleka - The River

Zenzo Ngqobe - The River

Best TV Drama

Lockdown 2

The Herd

Tjovitjo

Best Actress - TV Drama

Dawn Thandeka King - Lockdown 2

Zola Nombona - Lockdown 2

Thuso Mbedu - Is'thunzi Season 2

Best Actor - TV Drama

Sello Maake Ka Ncube - The Herd

Warren Masemola - Tjovitjo

Mothusi Magano - Emoyeni

Best Supporting Actress - TV Drama

Lorcia Cooper - Lockdown 2

Pamela Nomvete - Lockdown 2

Zikhona Bali - Is'thunzi Season 2

Best Supporting Actor - TV Drama

S'dumo Mtshali - Is'thunzi Season 2

Thulani Shange - Is'thunzi Season 2

Terence Bridgett - Knapsekêrels

Best Factual & Educational Programme

Kick it

Cishe Ngafa Season 1

Case Closed, Justice Served, The Teenage Serial

Killer

Best Variety Show

Jan

DSTV Mzansi Viewers' Choice Award

Starlight Classics Johannesburg 2017

Best TV Presenter

Nico Panagio - Survivor South Africa: Philippines

Katlego Maboe - In Die Kollig Met... Katlego

Maboe Series 1

Sithembiso Dliwayo - Mi Kasi Su Kasi

Waldimar Pelser - kykNET Verslag in gesprek

Kabelo Mabalane - Kick It

Bonang Matheba - DSTV Mzansi Viewers' Choice

Award

Melo Moloto - Hectic On 3

Johan Stemmet - Noot vir Noot Series 43

Thando Thabethe - Thando Bares All

Sivuyile Ngesi - The Man Cave Season 6

Katlego Maboe - Tropika Island of Treasure Maldives

Most Popular TV Soap/Telenovela

Uzalo

Suidooster

Isidingo (The Need)

Binnelanders

Skeem Saam

Isibaya The Bomb

Rhythm City

Imbewu

Getroud met rugby

Scandal!

Isithembiso

Hope

Broken Vows

The River

Ring of Lies Season 2

Best Achievement in Hair and Make-up - TV Drama

Lockdown S2 - Babalwa Carol Djieutcheu

Knapsekêrels - Angi Boshoff

The Docket - Wendy Klassen and Kayla Morris

Best Achievement in Art Direction - TV Drama

Tjovitjo - Vivienne Mahloko

The Herd - Annemarie Jacoba Erasmus

The Docket - Ilze Van Den Berg, Richard Rehbock

and Nazo Maloyo

Best Achievement in Art Direction - TV Drama

Ring of Lies S2 - Edward Liebenberg and Vincent

Moreki

The River - Amanda Scholtz

Broken Vows - Sam Dell

Best Achievement in Scriptwriting - TV Drama

Lockdown S2

The Herd

Emoyeni

Best Achievement in Directing - TV Drama

The Herd - Ernest Nkosi, Denny Miller and Thabang

Moleya

Tjovitjo - Vincent Moloi

Side Dish Dilemma 1 - Mandla Ngcongwane

Best Achievement in Wardrobe - TV Comedy

Emoyeni - Honey Makwakwa

Lockdown S2 - Gisella McLeod

The Docket - Mncedisi Mbombo, Tayla Smith

and Thuli Mlangeni

Best Achievement in Cinematography - Telenovela

The River - Gaopalelwe Kabe and Trevor Brown

Hope - Michael Goba

Ring of Lies S2 - Ntobeko Dlamini and Marc

Brower

Best Achievement in Sound - Telenovela

Ring of Lies S2

The River

Broken Vows

Best Achievement in Editing - Telenovela

Ring of Lies

Hope

The River

Best Achievement in Original Music - Telenovela

Ring of Lies - Ngane Sikobe

The River - Brendan Jury

Hope - Abe Sibiya

Best Achievement in Scriptwriting - Telenovela

Ring of Lies S2

The River

Broken Vows

Best Achievement in Directing - Telenovela

Ring of Lies S2

Hope

The River

Best Telenovela

Ring of Lies

The River

Broken Vows

Best Achievement in Cinematography - TV Soap

Isithembiso - Sevation Maslamoney and Zeno

Peterson

Uzalo - Sanele Mgobhozi

Imbewu - Marc Brower

Best Achievement in Sound - TV Soap

Isibaya - Vaughan Phillips and Mark Phillips

Isithembiso - Vaughan Phillips and Mark Phillips

Uzalo - Timotheus Du Preez

Best Achievement in Editing - TV Soap

Isithembiso

Uzalo

Scandal!

Best Achievement in Scriptwriting - TV Soap

Isibaya

Isithembiso

Binnelanders

Best Achievement in Directing - TV Soap

Isibaya

Isithembiso

Isidingo

Congratulations to all and stay tuned to Mzansi Magic for more of the best entertainment!

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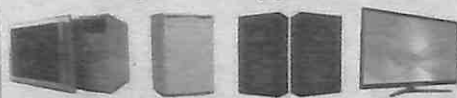
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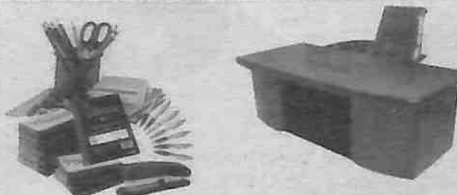
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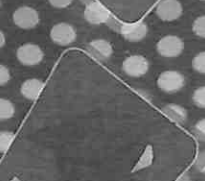
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ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP

Liverpool under more pressure than Man City

LONDON - Liverpool's 29-year wait for a domestic title means they are under greater pressure than Manchester City in the race for the Premier League, according to Neil Custis.

The Reds beat Bournemouth 3-0 on Saturday to move back ahead of City on goal difference ahead of their clash with Chelsea, live on Super Sunday.

It is now 34 Premier League home games since Liverpool last tasted defeat, winning 24 of them, but while Tottenham and Chelsea still have to visit Merseyside, there is a growing sense that it will be away from Anfield where the title race will be decided.

Jürgen Klopp's side travel to face Manchester United live on Sky Sports on February 24 while they also have the derby against Everton at Goodison Park at the start of next month.

Liverpool came close to winning the Premier League title in 2009 and 2014, and Custis believes City hold the upper hand given their pedigree and track record of winning trophies under Pep Guardiola.

He told the Sunday Supplement: "The pressure on Liverpool is huge,

and I think in the end, City are going to win this, and they're going to win it by six points maybe. They've got more strength in depth.

The argument that they've got more games to play I don't think works against them.

"I think you get on that run, and it can all work in your favour - you look back to United in the Treble season when they were playing every three days, and you talk to players then about it and they say it was perfect, because they just couldn't be stopped.

"I think City will look back at that Newcastle game as the one which changed it for them.

That was the night they were playing on auto-pilot believing they could just go out and win it without putting the effort in, but you've got to match the opposition for desire even if you have the better players.

"That will be the game that changes it for City as I don't think they'll make that mistake again. Having Sergio Aguero fit and firing again is the major plus-point, because he's the greatest foreign player ever to come to the

Premier League.

"You've got a core of players who've done it, won it in the past and know what's needed to get over the finish line and win.

"We know how the pressure on Manchester United to get that first title after 25 years, and how they collapsed towards the end when Leeds won it, Liverpool have also done it under Brendan Rodgers, I think that's huge and that puts more pressure under Liverpool every game than City."

Georginio Wijnaldum's sublime finish in the 3-0 win over the Cherries was the first time in the Premier League since Boxing Day that a player other than Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane or Roberto Firmino scored in the Premier League.

The Independent's Jack Pitt-Brooke believes Liverpool had been grinding out results for a period before the recent draws with Leicester and West Ham, believing they have shown an over-reliance on Salah, who now has 17 league goals this season.

Sky Sports

Warnock hits back at links to Willie McKay

LONDON - Neil Warnock claims he is the victim of a 'vendetta' over links to the intermediary involved in the deal to bring Emiliano Sala to Cardiff last month.

Warnock says he had little choice but to use Willie McKay's help in signing the Argentine from Nantes for £15million in January.

Sala's body was recovered from a plane wreckage in the English Channel this week, after it crashed into the sea on the way from Nantes to Cardiff on January 21.

McKay helped organise the doomed flight and was involved in the transfer that brought Sala to the Premier League club.

Warnock admitted to The Telegraph, "It's been bad, really bad behind the scenes." - and he moved to distance himself from links to McKay.

He said: "It's suggested I am big pals with Willie McKay. Am I? I don't think I am. He is an agent. You need these agents if you want to do a deal." The 70-year-old revealed that access to McKay was fundamental in sealing the deal: "Ask anyone in the game, if you want a player from France or a French player, 99 per cent of the time you will have to deal with Willie McKay or someone like him.

"If you want to get the job done, then you need the Willie McKays of this world. Someone suggested that if I went to Sala's funeral that McKay would be standing alongside me. That was just distasteful. "There has been a vendetta in some quarters, of that I am sure, and our chairman has told me he doesn't want me to reply to them as it would destabilise the club."

Daily Mail



Guardiola considering moving Fernandinho to defence

LONDON - Pep Guardiola admits he is struggling to find a successor for his magnificent Brazilian midfielder Fernandinho as he plots to extend the 33-year-old's career with a possible switch to defence.

Fernandinho played there, to the surprise of many given that England centre-half John Stones was left on the bench, and turned in a superb display in last week's 3-1 win over Arsenal.

But with Fernandinho out of contract next summer, by which time he will be 35, Guardiola may repeat what he did with Javier Mascherano at Barcelona and look to move him there permanently. "I think he can play in that position, I am pretty sure," said Guardiola.

"He is fast, he is strong in the air, good going backwards and when he sees the football in front of him, his vision for the pass inside, switch

of play is excellent.

"So he is intelligent to go forward or go backwards, so he understands everything. Of course he has to train more at it. I think he can do it, but his position is as a midfielder player."

"I know what is going to happen when we lose when Fernandinho plays in that position. I am a genius, huh?

"But he can play there because we analyse the skills and what we need. We need a guy who understands the build up and that is why we use him. *Daily Mail*

MAGNIFICENT: Manchester City midfielder Fernandinho.



'Mourinho should never have been Man United manager'

LONDON - Jose Mourinho should never have been appointed as Manchester United manager, says Jack Pitt-Brooke, although fellow Sunday Supplement panellist Neil Custis did not agree.

The Portuguese coach left Old Trafford in December after a turbulent two-and-a-half years in charge, and was replaced by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer - who is yet to lose a game. Players such as Paul Pogba, Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial look revitalised under the Norwegian, and The Independent's Pitt-Brooke believes it shows how wrong Mourinho was for Man Utd.

"The successes of Solskjaer over the last few weeks are a repudiation not just of Jose this season, which was obviously a Mourinho season as Antonio Conte would have called it, but of the first two seasons as well," he told Sunday Supplement.

"United are playing so well now

and Pogba, Martial and Rashford are so good that it proves that Mourinho should never have been appointed in the first place.

"When you build a squad with some of the most talented players in Europe, to appoint someone who doesn't really have an interest in getting the best out of them is a bit of a betrayal to those players and they would always have been better served by getting a better manager in 2016 who wanted to get the best out of them.

"He wasted the potential of those players so much that simply winning the Europa League or the League Cup doesn't make up for it. The cons massively outweigh the pros of Jose's two-and-a-half years at United. "It's difficult to think that had they appointed someone who was better suited to get more out of Pogba, Martial and Rashford back in 2016, they would be in a much better place." The Telegraph's Chief Football Correspondent, Jason Burt, also agreed, adding: "I think Mourinho was a poor appointment in the first place. It was the wrong guy and the wrong time for him to go to that club."

SKY Sports

United can mount title challenge next year

LONDON - Nemanja Matic says Manchester United can mount a title challenge next season after they moved into the Premier League's top four for the first time since the opening weekend of the campaign.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's superb start to life as caretaker manager continued with a comprehensive 3-0 victory for United at strugglers Fulham.

Anthony Martial scored a superb solo effort in between two Paul Pogba goals at Craven Cottage, putting United back in the Champions League spots after a six-month absence.

They had been 11 points off fourth when Jose Mourinho was sacked in December but Solskjaer's side have dropped just two points since his December appointment and Matic was buoyed by the lat-

est win.

"We knew that if we win then we will be in fourth position," said the defensive midfielder.

"Of course, Chelsea have one game less, but we are happy for three more points.

"We played well, we fight for each other. Clean sheet, we scored three goals, so we are very pleased."

AFP

Benni McCarthy applauds SAFA for helping Bafana

CAPE TOWN - Cape Town City coach Benni McCarthy has welcomed the

PSL's co-operation with SAFA over the rescheduling of fixtures to accommodate Bafana Bafana next month.

SAFA recently lodged a request to the league in order to have several fixtures moved so as to help Bafana coach Stuart Baxter with preparations for their all-important final 2019 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier away to Libya, which has been scheduled for March 22.

With the FIFA date set to commence just four days prior to the match, it would prove a nightmare to get the squad assembled in time and prepare adequately for the encounter that will decide the national team's AFCON faith.

According to Baxter, the

league have since granted the association's request by bringing forward a number of fixtures scheduled for 16 and 17 March.

McCarthy - Bafana's all-time leading goal scorer - has lauded this sort of co-operation and believes it is imperative to the future success of the national team.

Dependent

"It's important that the federation [SAFA] and the PSL have a sound relationship, because ultimately the national team is dependent on the club's players," commented McCarthy.

"We want our national team to compete and qualify for major competitions like the AFCON and the World Cup, and that hasn't been the case in the last few years.

"So, if the league can help by making more time for Bafana to have good preparation for important games [such as this against Libya], then so be it. I think it's good."

AmaZulu end CTCFC's unbeaten run



DURBAN - Tapelo Nyongo's cracking free-kick guided AmaZulu to a 1-0 ABSA Premiership win over Cape Town City at King Zwelithini Stadium in Umlazi on Saturday evening.

Kermit Erasmus missed an early penalty for the visitors who squandered a chance to move within four points of league leaders Bidvest Wits. Victory propels Usuthu seven points clear of the relegation zone.

City were awarded a penalty in the sixth minute following a reckless tackle by Phumlani Gumede on Erasmus. The former Orlando Pirates forward dusted himself off and stepped up to take the penalty, but was denied a first Citizens goal by the impressive Siyabonga Mbatha in the AmaZulu goal.

The AmaZulu shot-stopper was at it again in the 18th minute as Gift Links failed to find the back of the net after being played through on

goal by Erasmus. Mbatha produced another top save to keep the score at 0-0.

Both teams showcased plenty of desire as the half went on, but neither could break the deadlock before the interval.

Teko Modise was unlucky to see his attempt canon off the crossbar in the 55th minute, but it would be the hosts to open the scoring against the run of play courtesy of an eye-catching strike from Nyongo.

The defender's unstoppable free-kick from the edge of the area in the 64th minute left Peter Leeuwenburgh with no chance.

Nyongo's strike sucked all the life out of City who had dominated the game up until that point and despite a late surge forward in search of the equaliser, they failed in their attempts to conjure a point.

Victory over City follows a 2-0 win away to Mamelodi Sundowns as Cavin Johnson's men now set their sights on another title challenger - Orlando Pirates. *SuperSport*



Chippa to make decision on Nigerian striker

DURBAN - Chippa United are expected to make a decision on a Nigerian striker that has arrived at the club and has been training with the team.

After recently signing Botswana international goalkeeper Mwampole Masule, who joined the club as a replacement for Daniel Akpeyi after the Nigerian shot-stopper's move to Kaizer Chiefs, the Chilli Boys have welcomed Oke Akpoveta for training with Clinton Larsen's team.

The Nigerian forward has previously played in Denmark and Sweden for the likes of Brondby, Lyngby and Helsingborg, among other clubs.

According to sources, the 27-year-old is set to be given some time to impress for a chance to potentially join the Port Elizabeth outfit at a later stage.

The Chilli Boys are keen on using all the options they have to strengthen the squad for a chance to move the team away from relegation zone.

Soccer Laduma



It's called poor decision making - Radebe

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs legend Lucas Radebe has bemoaned coach Ernst Middendorp's decision to bring on defensive midfielder Willard Katsande for striker Leonardo Castro far too early in the game.

Chiefs were leading 1-0 when Middendorp brought on Zimbabwean international Katsande on for Castro in the 66th minute, giving Pirates defenders less to worry about as the Colombian forward was keeping them busy with his runs and ability to hold up play.

When Castro went off, Chiefs were no longer

a threat to Pirates who began to take control of the game and eventually equalised through Theminkosi Lorch with a cool finish as the game finished 1-1.

"It was still early, because that means you invite pressure from Pirates and they equalised," the former Leeds United captain tells KickOff.com. "For me I think it's poor decision making in terms of the coaching."

Both sides missed out on an opportunity to close in on ABSA Premiership log leaders Bidvest Wits, who were beaten 2-1 by Highlands Park at Makhulung Stadium on Saturday.

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Man United handed European boost with Edinson Cavani

PARIS - Manchester United have been handed a huge boost ahead of their crunch Champions League clash with Paris Saint-Germain, with talisman Edinson Cavani set to sit out through injury.

The reigning French champions are already without the world's most expensive player Neymar, who is battling for fitness after a re-occurrence of a foot injury which plagued him last season.

Cavani may now increase the woes of PSG, after recently picking up a thigh

injury during a recent Ligue 1 clash with Bordeaux.

The Uruguayan scored the only goal of the game from the penalty spot in PSG's victory, but limped off in pain during the latter stages.

"We don't have good news for Edi. My feeling is that it will be very difficult for him to play," said Manager Thomas Tuchel after the tie.

"The club will wait a little longer, but in my opinion the news will not be good. Hope is very, very small."

Tuchel had kept the likes of Leandro Paredes and Kylian Mbappe in reserve ahead of the last-16 first leg at Old Trafford. Injuries are mounting for the Parisians, who will also likely be without play-maker Marco Verratti.

Speaking about the situation of his current XI, Tuchel admitted he may need to revert to a different game plan.

"There are lots of plan Bs now," Tuchel told reporters following the Bordeaux win. "Without Neymar, maybe without Marco, maybe without Cavani, now

we need a plan D.

"I can't think about so many different plans in advance. We have to analyse Manchester United, we have to stay calm and confident. If two or three key players are not here, it's our duty to find solutions. It's very difficult if we play with our best team, it's a big challenge. If we are missing lots of key players, it's an even bigger challenge, but we will be ready on Tuesday, I think." *Daily Mail*

TO MISS: Edinson Cavani.



COUTINHO DETERMINED TO STAY AT BARCA

BARCELONA - Philippe Coutinho is prepared to fight for his future at Barcelona.

The Brazilian midfielder cost the club £145m when he joined from Liverpool but has struggled to live up to expectations at the Catalan club.

Chelsea and Manchester United are among the clubs to have been alerted to his situation amid reports Barcelona would be willing to listen to offers for the 26-year-old, however he remains

determined to prove his worth.

Coutinho has been starting for Barca and has scored eight goals this season despite the fact he has yet to match the standards of consistent performance he set for himself while at Liverpool.

Though there are concerns, his mind is set on recapturing his form after battling hard to make the dream move from Anfield happen in the first place and he wants to stay at the Camp Nou.

Daily Mail



De Jong intends to be like Messi and 'never leave' Barca

BARCELONA - The Ajax midfielder has a deal in place which will see him head to Camp Nou over the summer, with the Dutch star excited to be living the dream

Frenkie de Jong is yet to link up with Barcelona, but the Dutch midfielder is already looking to emulate Lionel Messi and ensure that he will "never leave" Camp Nou.

The 21-year-old, who has starred for Ajax since stepping out of a famed academy system in Amsterdam, is readying himself for a high-profile switch.

A €75 million (£66m/US\$85m) transfer has been put in place and will be pushed through in the summer window.

De Jong is excited to be fulfilling a childhood dream of representing the Blaugrana and is hoping to follow in some illustrious footsteps once he arrives in Catalunya.

He told Het Kontakt of a long-running saga which saw his future called into question on a regular basis before Barca finally got their man: "Initially the interest went through my agent, who talked to the clubs, but when it became more serious, I came in.

"Paris Saint-Germain was a good option, but Barcelona has always been a dream, and I'm happy with my five-year contract.

"If I succeed, then the chances are that I will never leave, just like Messi."

De Jong will officially become a Barcelona player on July 1.

Once the formalities of a move are finalised, he can then prepare himself for a new challenge in La Liga.

He already has the shirt number in mind that he would like to fill at Camp Nou, but no decision has been taken as yet regarding the name which will appear on his jersey.

"In July I sign my official contract in Barcelona and I am also being presented to the fans and the press," added De Jong.

"Playing with 21 would be nice, because that is kind of my number. The selection for the new season is not yet known so I'll have to wait and see. There is an idea to play with Frenkie on the back of the shirt. Nike prefers that from the point of view of merchandising. I'm not sure if I want to."

Goal



MUNICH - Defending champions Bayern Munich trimmed the gap in the Bundesliga table to five points behind Borussia Dortmund on Saturday as Robert Lewandowski scored his 100th goal at home in a 3-1 win over Schalke 04.

Dortmund had earlier blown a three-goal lead at home to Hoffenheim, who scored three times late on, in a dramatic 3-3 draw.

Bayern dominated at Munich's

BAYERN CUT DORTMUND'S LEAD

Allianz Arena, taking the lead after new Schalke signing Jeffrey Bruma bundled the ball into his own net on 12 minutes.

Counter-attack

Schalke pulled level when Turkey international Ahmed Kutucu finished a brilliant counter-attack on 25 minutes to beat Sven Ulreich,

Bayern's stand-in keeper with Manuel Neuer sidelined by a thumb injury.

Poland striker Lewandowski restored Bayern's lead just 90 seconds later when he netted his 100th goal at the Allianz Arena in the red shirt.

James Rodriguez then went close for Bayern, while Thiago Alcantara cleared a Weston McKennie head-

er as Schalke threatened to equalise before halftime.

US international McKennie hit the post after the break for Schalke, but Serge Gnabry sealed Bayern's win with a header on 57 minutes after Lewandowski directed the ball towards goal with a bicycle kick.

Super Sport

SOLARI HAS REVIVED REAL, AND THEIR LIGA TITLE HOPES

MADRID - Written off after a dire start to the season under Julen Lopetegui, the Blancos are now second following an impressive 3-1 win over Atletico Madrid

Once the controversy dies away, only reality will remain.

There was a lot to argue about after Saturday's absorbing derby at the Wanda Metropolitano but what is indisputable is that Real Madrid's 3-1 victory over city rivals Atletico puts them back in the Spanish title race.

With this impressive victory, Los Blancos moved above Diego Simeone's side in the Liga standings and to within five points of Barcelona, who face Athletic Club at San Mames today.

From Casemiro's spectacular overhead kick to Sergio Ramos's ice-cool penalty and Gareth Bale's drilled finish for the third, this was a big performance for the big occasion from Real,



who inflicted the hosts' first home defeat in all competitions this season.

It brought back memories of Real under Zinedine Zidane, when the Frenchman led them to a 3-0

win at the Vicente Calderon in November 2016.

That was the last time any side in La Liga managed three goals at Atletico, merely underlining the monumental nature of Real's achievement.

The Rojiblancos had only conceded four home goals in La Liga this season before this game, but Real, with new-found confidence flowing through their veins thanks to Santiago Solari, made themselves right at home.

That was evident in the way Vinicius Junior attacked down the left flank, with the 18-year-old nonplussed by having to take on the division's meanest defence.

A couple of early tussles saw him given rough treatment by Atletico's hard men and other players may have shrunk away from such a physical challenge but Vinicius simply rose to it.

Goal



HAT-TRICK: Sergio Aguero scores sublime hat-trick as Man City hit Chelsea for six and reclaim Premier League top spot.

RAMPANT MAN CITY HUMILIATE CHELSEA TO RECLAIM TOP SPOT

LONDON - Sergio Aguero netted his second hat-trick in three games as Manchester City humiliated Chelsea with a 6-0 thumping to move top of the Premier League standings.

City got off to a blistering start as Bernardo Silva's cross deflected into the path of Raheem Sterling, who rifled the ball into the back of the

net. It got better for the home side after 13 minutes when Aguero sent a superb strike into the top corner from 25-yards, making up for his early horror miss.

Five minutes later, the Citizens were three goals ahead as Aguero completed his brace with a finish from six-yards out after latching onto Ross Barkley's poor header.

The fourth goal arrived on 24 minutes with Ilkay Gundogan getting in on the act with a curling effort from the edge of the box.

The Blues could only carve out one clear-cut opening in the half as Gonzalo Higuain forced Ederson into a fine save with dipping volley from distance.

Ten minutes into the second half, City were awarded a penalty when Sterling was brought down in the box. Aguero stepped up and converted the spot-kick to complete his hat-trick. Pep Guardiola opted to withdraw a couple of his stars for the final 25 minutes as Aguero and Kevin de Bruyne made way for Gabriel Jesus and Riyad Mahrez.

Sterling, who got the opening goal, rounded off the scoring with ten minutes remaining by turning home a cross from Oleksandr Zinchenko. City now back to the top of the standings, while the Blues have dropped to sixth place after their goal difference took a significant dip.

Daily Mail

SuperSport end Komphela's unbeaten run at Arrows

DURBAN - SuperSport United struck late in the second half to secure a thrilling 3-2 win over Golden Arrows in the ABSA Premiership on Sunday afternoon.

New signing George Lebesse - on loan from Mamelodi Sundowns - was only named on the bench, although Mxolisi Macuphu was handed his SuperSport debut. The game started off slowly, with the first real opening arriving on 19 minutes when Nkosinathi Sibisi was on hand to clear an effort off the line after Nkosingiphile Gumed was beaten.

SuperSport were not to be denied on 26 minutes as Aubrey Modiba did well to pick out Evans Rusike, who made no mistake with a header from close range.

The lead was doubled two minutes later through Macuphu, who sent a towering header into the far corner following a superb cross from Teboho Mokoena.

After a disappointing first half, Arrows came out fighting in the second and earned themselves a penalty on 56 minutes following a foul Knox Mutizwa, who stepped up to convert from 12-yards out.

The hosts then drew level just after the hour mark with Seth Parusnath sending a fine past Ronwen Williams following some good work by Danny Venter.

SuperSport coach Kaitano Tembo responded with a change with 20 minutes remaining as Lebesse made his debut, with Modiba making way.

Arrows continued to push for a winner in the closing stages, while they manage to force Williams into a save after 82 minutes.

Soccer Laduma



DIVING HEADER: Davinson Sanchez dives in ahead of Harry Maguire to open the scoring for Tottenham just after the half-hour mark

Spurs sink Leicester to stay in title hunt

LONDON - Tottenham kept alive their bid to gate-crash the Premier League title race as Davinson Sanchez's first goal for the club and Hugo Lloris's penalty save inspired a 3-1 win over Leicester yesterday.

Mauricio Pochettino's side took the lead through Sanchez's first half header, but they were indebted to Lloris for keeping out Jamie Vardy's spot-kick

after the interval at Wembley.

Christian Eriksen netted moments later and although Vardy got one back, Son Heung-min's late strike ensured third-placed Tottenham clinched a fifth win in their last six league games.

The north Londoners are five points off the top of the table as they try to catch pace-setters Liverpool and Manchester City.

While Tottenham are still outsiders to win their first English title since 1961, their ability to stay in contention, despite injuries to key players Harry Kane and Dele Alli suggests they shouldn't be completely written off.

This gritty success was the ideal preparation for hosting Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League last 16 first leg on Wednesday. *Daily Mail*

Celtic miss out on top-four spot

POLOKWANE - Bloemfontein Celtic missed the chance to into the top four in the ABSA Premiership after they played to an entertaining 2-2 draw with Baroka yesterday evening.

Baroka were in desperate need for three points, which prompted head coach Wedson Nyirenda to re-call striker Jemondre Dickens, while Celtic handed a debut to Mzwanele Mahashe.

The home side's intentions were clear from the onset as the returning Dickens proved to be real handful with his movement although he was unable to test Patrick Tignyemb.

It was Celtic who broke the deadlock as Tshogofatso Mabaso raced beyond the Baroka defence to latch onto a long ball before firing past Elvis Chipezeze at the near post on 26 minutes.

Baroka weren't behind for too long as a mix-up in communication ended with Celtic defender Mpusana Tani nodding the ball into his own net.

The turnaround was complete for the hosts shortly before the break. Dickens turned provider to tee up Mduduzi Mdantsane, who sent a low strike into the far corner from just inside the box.

Soccer Laduma

LOGS

| Premier League | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|--|--|
| Team | Pl | W | D | L | F | A | Gd | Pts | | |
| Bidvest Wits | 20 | 11 | 4 | 5 | 29 | 17 | 12 | 37 | | |
| Mamelodi Sundowns | 17 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 22 | 11 | 11 | 34 | | |
| Orlando Pirates | 19 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 27 | 18 | 9 | 33 | | |
| Cape Town City | 18 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 29 | 21 | 8 | 30 | | |
| Bloem Celtic | 19 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 21 | 19 | 2 | 28 | | |
| Kaizer Chiefs | 19 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 23 | 18 | 5 | 27 | | |
| Polokwane City | 17 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 22 | 19 | 3 | 27 | | |
| SuperSport United | 18 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 17 | 16 | 1 | 26 | | |
| Golden Arrows | 19 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 24 | | |
| Highlands Park | 19 | 4 | 10 | 5 | 22 | 22 | 0 | 22 | | |
| AmaZulu FC | 19 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 22 | 24 | -2 | 20 | | |
| Black Leopards | 19 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 18 | 28 | -10 | 20 | | |
| Baroka FC | 19 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 20 | -6 | 17 | | |
| Chippa United | 19 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 14 | 22 | -8 | 16 | | |
| Free State Stars | 18 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 29 | -14 | 16 | | |
| Maritzburg Utd | 19 | 18 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 8 | -12 | 11 | | |

| English Premiership | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-------|----|--|--|
| Team | Pl | W | D | L | F | A | GDPts | | | |
| Manchester City | 27 | 21 | 2 | 4 | 74 | 20 | 54 | 65 | | |
| Liverpool | 26 | 20 | 5 | 1 | 59 | 15 | 44 | 65 | | |
| Tottenham Hotspur | 26 | 20 | 0 | 6 | 54 | 25 | 29 | 60 | | |
| Manchester United | 26 | 15 | 6 | 5 | 52 | 35 | 17 | 51 | | |
| Arsenal | 26 | 15 | 5 | 6 | 53 | 37 | 16 | 50 | | |
| Chelsea | 26 | 15 | 5 | 6 | 45 | 29 | 16 | 50 | | |
| Wolverhampton | 25 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 33 | 32 | 1 | 38 | | |
| Watford | 26 | 10 | 7 | 9 | 34 | 34 | 0 | 37 | | |
| Everton | 27 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 36 | 39 | -3 | 33 | | |
| West Ham United | 26 | 9 | 6 | 11 | 32 | 39 | -7 | 33 | | |
| Bournemouth | 26 | 10 | 3 | 13 | 37 | 47 | -10 | 33 | | |
| Leicester City | 26 | 9 | 5 | 12 | 31 | 34 | -3 | 32 | | |
| Crystal Palace | 26 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 27 | 34 | -7 | 27 | | |
| Brighton | 26 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 28 | 39 | -11 | 27 | | |
| Burnley | 26 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 29 | 47 | -18 | 27 | | |
| Cardiff City | 26 | 7 | 4 | 15 | 24 | 47 | -23 | 25 | | |
| Newcastle United | 25 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 21 | 33 | -12 | 24 | | |
| Southampton | 26 | 5 | 9 | 12 | 28 | 44 | -16 | 24 | | |
| Fulham | 26 | 4 | 5 | 17 | 25 | 58 | -33 | 17 | | |
| Huddersfield Town | 26 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 14 | 48 | -34 | 11 | | |

| Spanish La Liga | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|----|--|--|
| Team | Pl | W | D | L | F | A | GDPts | | | |
| Barcelona | 22 | 15 | 5 | 2 | 60 | 23 | 37 | 50 | | |
| Real Madrid | 23 | 14 | 3 | 6 | 40 | 27 | 13 | 45 | | |
| Atletico Madrid | 23 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 33 | 17 | 16 | 44 | | |
| Sevilla | 22 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 36 | 23 | 13 | 36 | | |
| Getafe | 23 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 28 | 19 | 9 | 35 | | |
| Real Betis | 23 | 9 | 5 | 9 | 26 | 29 | -3 | 32 | | |
| Alaves | 22 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 22 | 27 | -5 | 32 | | |
| Valencia | 23 | 6 | 13 | 4 | 24 | 20 | 4 | 31 | | |
| Real Sociedad | 23 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 27 | 25 | 2 | 31 | | |
| Eibar | 22 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 29 | 30 | -1 | 29 | | |
| Leganes | 23 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 25 | 27 | -2 | 29 | | |
| Espanyol | 23 | 8 | 4 | 11 | 27 | 37 | -10 | 28 | | |
| Levante | 22 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 32 | 40 | -8 | 27 | | |
| Athletic Bilbao | 22 | 5 | 11 | 6 | 23 | 28 | -5 | 26 | | |
| Real Valladolid | 23 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 19 | 28 | -9 | 26 | | |
| Celta Vigo | 23 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 35 | 39 | -4 | 24 | | |
| Girona | 23 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 23 | 33 | -10 | 24 | | |
| Rayo Vallecano | 23 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 27 | 40 | -13 | 23 | | |
| Villarreal | 23 | 3 | 11 | 9 | 23 | 31 | -8 | 20 | | |
| SD Huesca | 23 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 23 | 39 | -16 | 18 | | |

| Italian Serie A | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|----|--|--|
| Team | Pl | W | D | L | F | A | GDPts | | | |
| Juventus | 22 | 19 | 3 | 0 | 46 | 15 | 31 | 60 | | |
| Napoli | 23 | 16 | 4 | 3 | 42 | 18 | 24 | 52 | | |
| Inter Milan | 23 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 32 | 16 | 16 | 43 | | |
| Atalanta | 23 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 50 | 31 | 19 | 38 | | |
| Roma | 23 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 44 | 30 | 14 | 38 | | |
| Lazio | 23 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 32 | 25 | 7 | 38 | | |
| AC Milan | 22 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 29 | 21 | 8 | 36 | | |
| Torino | 23 | 8 | 10 | 5 | 28 | 22 | 6 | 34 | | |
| Sampdoria | 23 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 39 | 30 | 9 | 33 | | |
| Florentina | 23 | 7 | 11 | 5 | 33 | 25 | 8 | 32 | | |
| Sassuolo | 22 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 34 | 33 | 1 | 30 | | |
| Parma | 23 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 24 | 31 | -7 | 29 | | |
| Genoa | 23 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 30 | 40 | -10 | 25 | | |
| Spal | 23 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 20 | 32 | -12 | 22 | | |
| Cagliari | 22 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 19 | 31 | -12 | 21 | | |
| Udinese | 23 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 18 | 31 | -13 | 19 | | |
| Bologna | 23 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 18 | 35 | -17 | 18 | | |
| Empoli | 23 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 27 | 45 | -18 | 18 | | |
| Frosinone | 23 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 17 | 43 | -26 | 16 | | |
| Chievo | 23 | 1 | 9 | 13 | 19 | 47 | -28 | 9 | | |

| German Bundesliga | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-------|----|--|--|
| Team | Pl | W | D | L | F | A | GDPts | | | |
| Borussia Dortmund | 21 | 15 | 5 | 1 | 54 | 23 | 31 | 50 | | |
| Bayern Munich | 21 | 14 | 3 | 4 | 47 | 24 | 23 | 45 | | |
| M'gladbach | 21 | 13 | 3 | 5 | 41 | 21 | 20 | 42 | | |
| RB Leipzig | 21 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 38 | 18 | 20 | 38 | | |
| Eintracht Frankfurt | 21 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 40 | 27 | 13 | 33 | | |
| Bayer Leverkusen | 21 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 37 | 32 | 5 | 33 | | |
| Wolfsburg | 21 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 32 | 30 | 2 | 32 | | |
| Hertha Berlin | 21 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 34 | 31 | 3 | 31 | | |
| Hoffenheim | 21 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 41 | 32 | 9 | 30 | | |
| Werder Bremen | 21 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 36 | 32 | 4 | 30 | | |
| Mainz | 21 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 23 | 33 | -10 | 27 | | |
| SC Freiburg | 21 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 29 | 37 | -8 | 23 | | |
| Schalke | 21 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 25 | 32 | -7 | 22 | | |
| Fortuna Dusseldorf | 20 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 22 | 39 | -17 | 22 | | |
| FC Augsburg | 21 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 29 | 37 | -8 | 18 | | |
| Stuttgart | 20 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 17 | 44 | -27 | 15 | | |
| Hannover 96 | 21 | 3 | 5 | 13 | 20 | 44 | -24 | 14 | | |
| FC Nurnberg | 21 | 2 | 6 | 13 | 17 | 46 | -29 | 12 | | |

solonje!

ESWATINIBANK CUP GRAND OPENING



TWO AGAINST ONE: Mbabane Swallows captain Tony Tsabedze being marked by Masundwini Royal Swallows' Sifiso Dlamini and Samkelo Mndzebele during the EswatiniBank Cup 2019 grand opening at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Mbabane Swallows won 4-1. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)a



HEADER: Shooting Stars' Sabelo Mhlanga and Young Buffaloes' Fanelo Mamba in a heading duel. Buffaloes won 6-0.



CLEAR: Masundwini Royal Swallows' Samkelo Mndzebele clearing the ball away from Mbabane Swallows' Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa.



MORE GOALS: Buffaloes scoring their sixth goal.



WE THANK YOU: Manzini Wanderers players appreciating their supporters after the game.



LIKE A CAT: Shooting Stars goalkeeper Mzwakhe Mavuso winning the ball from Buffaloes' Phiwa Dlamini.



HIGH BALL: Swallows' Njabulo Ndlovu and Sandile Hlatshwako battling for the ball with Masundwini Royal Swallows goalkeeper Mnotfo Mbingo.



MY BALL: Mbabane City's goalkeeper Bheka Christie winning the ball from Wanderers' Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe.



IT'S INSIDE: Mbabane Swallows captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze scoring the team's first goal.



WELL BEATEN: Wanderers third goal scored by Sicelo 'Junior' Simelane.

ESWATINIBANK CUP GRAND OPENING



DONE DEAL: Sicelo Simelane joined by Njabulo Magongo in celebrating his goal.



DULA WESELI: Manzini Wanderers' Johson Blay Mensah scoring the team's second goal against Mbabane City.



BALL CONTROL: Wanderers' Johnson Blay Mensah controls the ball while City's Ndumiso Dladla pushes him.



PROGRESS: Eswatini Football Association President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa chatting with Minister of Sports Harries 'Madze' Bulunga while EswatiniBank MD Zakhele Lukhele listens.



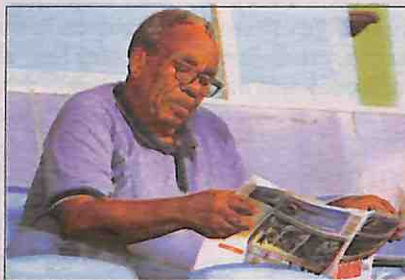
SLOW MARCH: Soccer fans having fun at the grand opening.



END OF THE ROAD: Dejected Shooting Stars players after the final whistle.



AT LAST: Mbabane Swallows supporters in jubilation after the referee blew the final whistle.



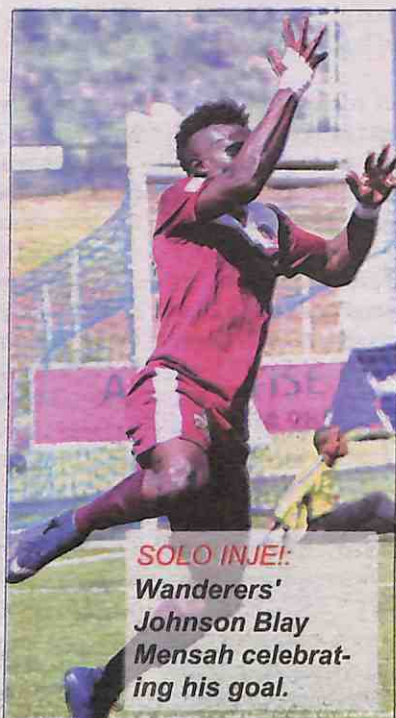
FRESH NEWS FIRST: Mbabane Highlanders patron Moses Dlamini reading a copy of the Sunday Observer while watching the EswatiniBank Cup matches at the stadium.



ON AIR: Royal Swallows' Stanley Mnisi heading the ball while Mbabane Swallows' Sizolwethu Shabalala closes in.



CHALLENGE: Mbabane City's Xolani Dlamini challenging Manzini Wanderers' Pako John Mahaabo. Wanderers won 5-0.



SOLO INJE! Wanderers' Johnson Blay Mensah celebrating his goal.



ASAKHULILE AMATHOLE: Defending champions Young Buffaloes celebrating their first goal scored by Phiwa Dlamini.

FOOTBALL TALK

All your latest WORLD FOOTBALL News

● Manchester City are set to sign 14-year-old England youth international Morten Spencer, who plays on the wing or as an attacking midfielder, from Sunderland for £200 000. City Manager Pep Guardiola's scouts are under orders to find home-grown talent. (Sun on Sunday)



● Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea, 28, is insisting on £350 000-a-week wage demands, which would make him the club's second highest earner behind £400 000-a-week Alexis Sanchez, 30. (Sunday Mirror)

● Arsenal boss Unai Emery will reignite his interest in Mainz centre-back Gbamin after a failed bid for the 23-year-old last summer, despite the Bundesliga club demanding £40m - £5m under Emery's entire summer transfer budget. (Sunday Express)

● Tottenham fear summer target Adrien Rabiot, the 23-year-old Paris St-Germain midfielder, could be snapped up by Liverpool or Barcelona. (Daily Star Sunday)

● Manchester United are planning a £50m move for Fulham's 18-year-old left-sided player Ryan Sessegnon. (Sunday Express)

● Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola admits he is struggling to find a successor for Brazilian midfielder Fernandinho, and is considering switching the 33-year-old to a centre-back during the final years of his career. (Goal)



● Everton could turn to Leeds boss Marcelo Bielsa if they decide to part company with under-fire Manager Marco Silva. (Sunday Mirror)

● Chelsea are monitoring Everton forward Richarlison, 21, who is also on the radar of AC Milan, Paris St-Germain and Atletico Madrid. (Daily Star Sunday)

● Manchester United caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has moved one step closer to landing the permanent job after his agent met co-owner Avram Glazer and Executive Vice-Chairman Ed Woodward following Saturday's win at Fulham. (Sunday Mirror)

● Barcelona are keen to strengthen at left-back and have identified Lyon's Ferland Mendy, 23, Filipe Luis, 33, of Atletico Madrid and Real Betis' Junior Firpo, 22, as targets. (MundoDeportivo)

● Manchester United have contacted Tanguy Ndombele's representatives over a possible summer move for the Lyon midfielder. (Le 10 Sport, via Mail on Sunday)

● Ajax defender Matthijs De Ligt's decision to link up with high-profile agent Mino Raiola could scupper a move to the Premier League, with the belief in Holland that English clubs are reluctant to deal with Raiola. Manchester City, Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Chelsea and Tottenham have all watched the 19-year-old. (Sunday Mirror)



'Buffs' hit six past Shooting Stars

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Shooting Stars (0)0
Young Buffaloes (2)6

SOCCER – ARMY side Young Buffaloes are through to the last 16 of the 'Solo Inje' Eswatini Bank Cup after thrashing Super League side Shooting Stars 6 – 0.

Buffaloes, who were captained by burly forward Phiwa Dlamini in the absence of both Nkosingphile Tsabedze and Nhlanhla Gwebu, were not lenient towards the minnows, who had two notable experienced players in their captain and former Mbabane Highlanders and Matsapha United forward Msimisi Ncanywa and Sibusiso Mabelesa.

The Dominic Kunene-led charges were using their wing-play as Fanelo 'Order' Mamba and Ali Matse



NET: Another Young Buffaloes goal against Shooting Stars.

worked on stretching the Shooting Stars defence, something that Stars tried to resist until the 25th minute when the army side broke the deadlock. Sanele Ngcamphalala played a short corner with Wandile Maseko, who then gave a great through pass

to Wandile Mkhonta for an easy finish. Buffaloes continued to dominate and were back at it again in the 40th minute, doubling the lead through Sanele Ngcamphalala, who finished off a through pass from Sandile Gamedze. The match went

to the recess with 'Amathole Ezinyathi' leading by the two goals.

After the recess, Buffaloes came back stronger and the first real chance fell for Phiwa Dlamini, who linked up well with 'Order's ball, but his shot was well-saved by Shooting Stars goalkeeper Mzwakhe Mavuso.

Dominic Kunene then introduced the trio of Ndumiso Dlamini, Wandile Shabangu and impressive youngster Lindani 'Rio' Mtasenjwa for Fanelo Mamba, Ali Matse and Siboniso Ngwenya, while at the other end, seasoned forward Msimisi Ncanywa limped off the field with an injury.

Buffaloes then added three goals thanks to an own goal by Mlondi Mdluli, a brace from substitute Ndumiso Dlamini and one by Phiwa Dlamini to finish off the encounter and claim a spot in the last 16 of the tournament.

We don't have Landers in mind – 'Buffs'

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

SOCCER – YOUNG Buffaloes are not under the pressure of thinking about Mbabane Highlanders, a team they will play a final with.

This was said by the team's striker Phiwa Dlamini, who was captaining the team during their Eswatini Bank Cup last 32 match against minnows Shooting Stars yesterday.

"We always try to focus on one match at a time. Today, our focus was on Shooting Stars and we would like to congratulate and thank them for such a great game. They weren't a walk in the park, they really gave us a run for our money and they showed that they are a very strong side.

"We can't start thinking about Highlanders, but on bettering ourselves before that match.

We will get into that battle when it's time for it," he said. Coming to the match, Dlamini said he was glad his teammates stuck to the

coach's plan.

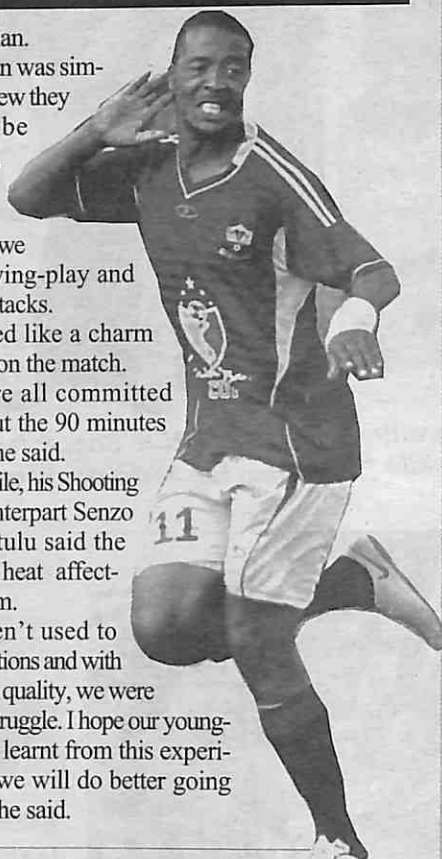
"The plan was simple; we knew they would be compact, so we just wanted to make sure we use our wing-play and counter attacks.

It worked like a charm and we won the match.

We were all committed throughout the 90 minutes of play," he said.

Meanwhile, his Shooting Stars counterpart Senzo Mngometulu said the scorching heat affected his team.

"We aren't used to such conditions and with Buffaloes' quality, we were bound to struggle. I hope our youngsters have learnt from this experience and we will do better going forward," he said.



NOT UNDER PRESSURE: Phiwa Dlamini.

EBA proud of boxers after SA open tourney

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

BOXING – Eswatini Boxing Association (EBA)'s Secretary Thabsile Mngomezulu has congratulated local boxers Zweli and Thabiso Dlamini for hoisting the country's flag high in a tournament hosted in Tshwane, South Africa.

The two boxers are from Matsapha Boxing Stable, and the tournament they took part in involved boxers from the host country, Mauritius and the locals.

It was hosted by the South African National Boxing Organisation (SANABO) at the Transnet Engineering Boxing Academy in Tshwane over the past weekend.

"Their performance painted a good picture of the standard of boxing in the country.

They represented us all well, and we hope they shall continue to do so in future tournaments," she said.

Mngomezulu revealed that Zweli squared up against a boxer from Mauritius on Friday and won a gold medal, before beating a South African boxer on Saturday.

On the other hand, Thabiso won a silver medal in his bout on Friday, and then lost to an Olympian in his fight on Saturday. His opponents were not immediately identifiable.

"We are not sure when they shall be coming back home as we have not been made

aware of their training schedule. However, we have been informed that everything has been going well as evidenced by their performance in the tournament," she said.

The two boxers are beneficiaries of a scholarship by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The idea is to sharpen their skills ahead of the Tokyo Olympic Games next year, but before that, they would have to take part in qualifying tournaments, including the world championships later this year.

The IOC uses its National Olympic Committees (NOC)'s to manage such scholarships, which in the case of the locals' case is the Eswatini Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (EOCGA).

Venomous Green Mamba subdue Vultures

BY JONGILE XUBA

Vultures..... (0)1
Green Mamba..... (0)3

SOCCER – A Mthunzi Mkhontfo inspired Green Mamba beat Zibonele Vultures 3-1 to book their spot in the last 16 of the Eswatini Bank Cup yesterday.

The match was played at Killamey Sports Ground with all goals coming in the second half as under-dogs Vultures showed that they were determined to make Green Mamba work hard for the win.

Mxolisi Mkhontfo was a constant threat pulling the strings from midfield, setting up his teammates and Solomon Oladele came close to breaking the deadlock in the 28th minute but his volley skewed wide.

Vultures also got a golden opportunity through Celucolo Siphepho in the 30th minute after he received a cross from the right flank which he was unable to head down. Green Mamba almost went into the break ahead when Mxolisi Mkhontfo struck the top post from a set piece on the stroke of halftime to end the half.

The second half was a fire cracker affair with three goals coming in quick succession. Vultures struck first in the 50th minute when a defensive lapse gave Mlungisi Ngwenya space in the box and he rifled his shot

past Thokozani Mkhulisi. That goal seemed to have sprung Green Mamba into life as Mxolisi Mkhontfo found the equaliser in the 55th minute.

He took a set piece from the edge of the box and this time was able to beat the goal-keeper Nkhululeko Maseko.

That goal opened the flood gates as Musa Dlamini made it 2-1 for Green Mamba in the 57th minute.

The striker controlled the ball outside the box, turned and charged into the box before despatching a hard shot past the keeper, who was

rooted to the spot. Vultures ran out of ideas, cutting a frustrated figure as they resorted to playing long balls that could not find their attackers.

A brace was on the cards for Mxolisi and he found his second when poor ball handling by the keeper gifted him the ball as he slotted it into an open net in the 76th minute.

Mamba never looked uncomfortable after the insurance goal and they held out for what was a comfortable win in the end to advance to the last 16 of the cup competition.

THE TEAMS

Vultures - Nkhululeko, Celucolo, Mankhona, Velaphi, Mpendulo, Banele, Mlungisi, Ayanda, Sebenene, Mcolisi, Mxolisi
Green Mamba - Thokozani, Thabo, Thabiso, Sanele, Banele, Somerset, Mxolisi, Njabulo, Phinda, Mthunzi, Solomon, Sidumo

Five-Star 'Weslians' thrash City in 'Solo inje'

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Manzini Wanderers..... (4)5
Mbabane City..... (0)0

SOCCER – MANZINI Wanderers displayed a five-star performance to see off a disjointed Mbabane City and book a place in the last 16 of the 2019 Eswatini Bank Cup.

The three-times runners-up outclassed the National First Division outfit with a 5-0 beating during a one-sided affair played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The 'Weslians' were a thorn in the flesh of the capital city side as they were three goals up within the opening 15 minutes of the third game of grand opening affair witnessed by over 3 000 fans.

Wanderers showed their intention as early as the third minute when they were awarded a spot kick after their South African winger John Pako was brought down inside the box by defender Ndumiso Dladla.

Former Mbabane City playmaker Mancoba 'Spider' Maseko made no mistake to give Wanderers a deserved lead by sending City goalkeeper Mlungisi Mamba the wrong direction.

The 'Weslians' were in cloud nine two minutes later after Ghanaian strik-



SHISA MPAMA: Manzini Wanderers players celebrating their fifth goal. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

er Johnson Mensah made it 2-0 with a sublime header provided by a Mancoba Maseko corner.

Wanderers recent signing John Pako

then registered his name on the scorers chart just before the first quarter with a low shot which deflected on the opposition defender Mayibongwe

Mlipha.

Seasoned midfielder Sicelo 'Junior' Simelane ensured a healthy lead for his side before the breather as he netted the fourth goal of the contest in the 37th minute after meeting a Njabulo Magongo pass inside the box.

The second half saw little action from both sides after Wanderers wrapped up the contest in the opening half. The two coaches Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati and Linda Msibi made some few changes that did not make much impact for prolonged stages of the second stanza.

Wanderers brought in Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe and Mpendulo Ngidi for Johnson Mensah and Mancoba Maseko, respectively, while Mbabane City brought in Meshack Lushaba for Bonkhe Motsa.

Wanderers eventually sealed their party three minutes before fulltime through a clinical strike from Njabulo Magongo which came from a Jose Machado low cross.

The teams

Wanderers - Romanus, Machado, Mthobisi, Sihle, Sifiso, Lihle, Junior (Mhlengi), Njabulo, Mensah, Pako, Mancoba (Ngidi)

Mbabane City - Mlungisi (Bheka), Bonkhe (Meshack), Ndumiso, Mayibongwe, Mpendulo, Moses, Colani, Mancoba, Msimisi, Njabulo, Bonginkhosi

We were killed off by the early goal - Linda Msibi

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – MBABANE City head coach Linda Msibi attributed their 5-0 loss to Manzini Wanderers to the early goal scored by the opposition.

The former Royal Leopard midfielder said they quickly lost momentum after conceding the opener during the Eswatini Bank Cup round 32 encounter played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

"Things didn't go according to plan after we conceded the early goal as we eventually lost our shape at the back. We failed to recover from that setback and most of my players were affected by stage fright since they are not used to playing in front of a big crowd.

"We have learnt something out of this match despite the loss. We did well in the last 15 minutes of the match where we showed composure. I am confident we will improve in future," he said. Meanwhile, the winning coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati said they were still a good working progress despite their big victory over the former Premier League side.

"I would like to thank Mbabane City for giving us a good game and we are still 50 to 60 per cent to the level where I want us to be in terms of performance.

The early goal helped us to unsettle the opposition and we managed to break them afterwards. "We had a difficult second half as complacency kicked in among my players. We will continue working hard as a team in the upcoming matches," he said.

Stage fright affected us – Royal Swallows coach

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – MASUNDVWINI Royal Swallows' coach, Dumisa Malaza blamed stage fright for his team's exit in the last 32 of the Eswatini Bank Cup yesterday.

In a post-match interview after losing 1-4 to Mbabane Swallows, the coach stated that it was the first time for a majority of his players to play in an atmosphere where there were as many fans as there were yesterday. He said they had planned to stop Swallows' wingers from being effective but ended up conceding as all the goals came from the wings.

"We tried what we could as we were playing a big team. We did not want to be seen as having come to the game to donate the victory to Swallows, and I believe we did what we could in the game," he said.

Mbabane Swallows' coach Musa Manyatsi said the result was good but admitted that Royal Swallows gave them a difficult game.

"I think what we witnessed in this game is the importance of coaches' education as it was clear from the start that our opponents had a plan for the game. We had to change our strategy in the second half and play more crosses into their box as they had too many players at the back, which made it hard for us to penetrate them," he said.

Manyatsi added that altering their strategy worked as they were able to score more goals by shooting from distance to bypass the opposition's packed defensive line.

We are on the right track - Sihle Mkhonta

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – MANZINI Wanderers vice-captain Sihle Mkhonta believes his team is on the right track towards reclaiming its glory days.

The former Bad Boys defender said the team still needed

to work hard despite leading the 'Weslians' to a 5-0 victory over Mbabane City during the Eswatini Bank Cup match played yesterday.

"I am happy we played well today and I believe we can do better until we get to the highest level.

We still have a long way to

go if we want to achieve our goal but we will continue working hard as a team in the upcoming matches and see what we can get at the end of the season," he said.

On the other hand, his Mbabane City counterpart Mayibongwe Mlipha said they played well despite the big

loss to his former team.

"I think we played well but were only let down by a lapse in concentration in the opening stages of the match where we conceded an early goal.

The first goal destabilised us as we lost shape at the back and conceded more goals afterwards. We need to regroup and shift our focus to the league."

"We need to regroup and shift our focus to the league."

'TT' hat-trick as 'Birds' sail over Royal Swallows

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

M. Royal Swallows..... (0)1
Mb. Swallows..... (1)4

SOCCER – MBABANE Swallows produced a stellar second half display to outsmart Masundvini Royal Swallows 4-1 at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

This was a game in the last 32 of the Eswatini Bank Cup.

After a not so impressive first half, the 'Beautiful Birds' from Mbabane upped the tempo of the game in the second stanza to complete a routine passage into the last 16. Royal Swallows would take confidence at the fact that they were able to stifle their opponents for much of the opening period and could have gone to the interval at par had they converted their chances. A thorn to Mbabane Swallows' flesh was winger Samkelo Mndzebele, who showed in the game that with proper guidance, he can be a really good player on the right wing. He got the first chance of the game for the Manzini Super League side in the 7th minute, which ironically represented

the number on the back of his shirt but shot wide from a tight angle. His chance was followed up by a dipping effort by 'Umkhonto KaShaka's Sandile Hlatshwako, but Royal Swallows' keeper, Mnotfo Mbingo did well to stop the ball from looping over his head. A thunderous shot by Stanley Mnisi for Royal Swallows in the 12th minute was then tipped over the bar by Sandanezwe Mathabela as Royal Swallows appeared to surprise their more illustrious opponents with more efforts on goal.

Rebounding

Tony 'TT' Tsabedze then used his experience to collect the ball a few metres from the centre line, drove through a couple of defenders before rebounding the ball off Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa to score the opening goal. This was in the 22nd minute, and the strike underlined a lively start to the match. Royal Swallows continued to press forward and were unlucky when a curved shot by Jackie Dlamini in the 30th minute forced a quick reaction from Mathabela, who made a stunning save to tip the ball over for a corner.

The chances were coming thick and fast on both ends, and Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu

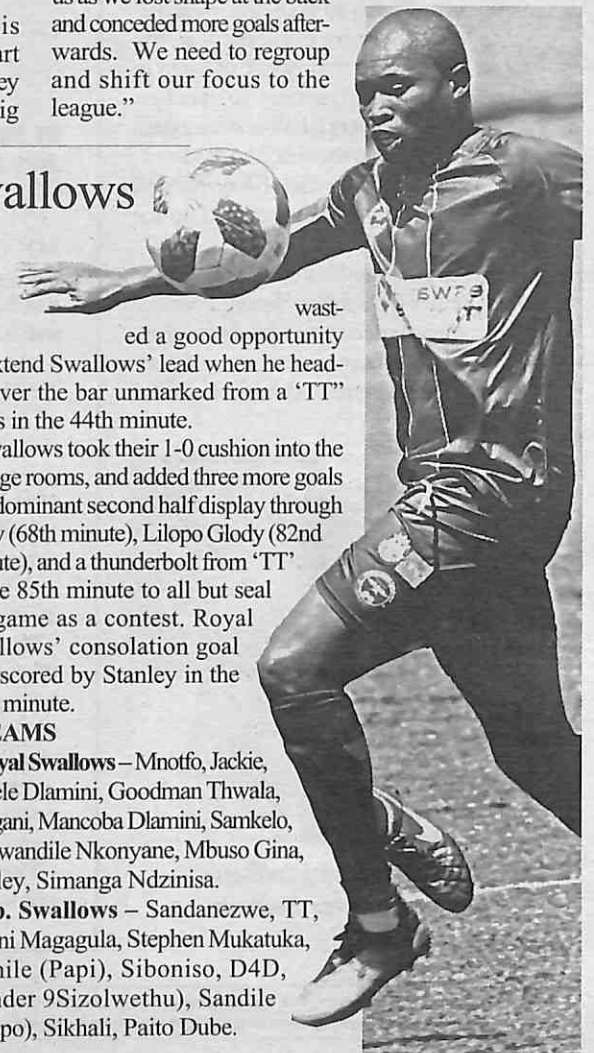
wasted a good opportunity to extend Swallows' lead when he headed over the bar unmarked from a 'TT' cross in the 44th minute.

Swallows took their 1-0 cushion into the change rooms, and added three more goals in a dominant second half display through Tony (68th minute), Lilopo Glody (82nd minute), and a thunderbolt from 'TT' in the 85th minute to all but seal the game as a contest. Royal Swallows' consolation goal was scored by Stanley in the 76th minute.

TEAMS

Royal Swallows - Mnotfo, Jackie, Banele Dlamini, Goodman Thwala, Bongani, Mancoba Dlamini, Samkelo, Mnzwandile Nkonyane, Mbuso Gina, Stanley, Simanga Ndzinisa.

Mb. Swallows - Sandanezwe, TT, Colani Magagula, Stephen Mukatuka, Sakhile (Papi), Siboniso, D4D, Wonder 9Sizolwethu, Sandile (Lilopo), Sikhali, Paito Dube.



Results

EswatiniBank Cup

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Green Mamba | 3 - 1 | Zibonele Vultures |
| Young Buffaloes | 6 - 0 | Young Movers |
| Mbabane Swallows | 4 - 1 | M. Royal Swallows |
| Manzini Wanderers | 5 - 0 | Mbabane City |

Premier League

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Tottenham Hotspur | 3 - 1 | Leicester City |
| Manchester City | 6 - 0 | Chelsea |
| Fulham | 0 - 3 | Manchester United |
| Crystal Palace | 1 - 1 | West Ham United |
| Huddersfield Town | 1 - 2 | Arsenal |
| Liverpool | 3 - 0 | AFC Bournemouth |
| Southampton | 1 - 2 | Cardiff City |
| Watford | 1 - 0 | Everton |
| Brighton | 1 - 3 | Burnley |

ABSA Premiership

| | | |
|---------------|-------|-------------------|
| Baroka FC | 2 - 2 | Bloem Celtic |
| Golden Arrows | 2 - 3 | SuperSport United |

51 goals scored, EswatiniBank MD applauds

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – 51 goals were scored in the EswatiniBank Cup last 32 round prompting Eswatini Bank's Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele to applaud teams for the effort.

Mbabane Highlanders were the biggest winners as they scored nine goals past National First Division League side City Warriors, whilst both Vovovo FC and Young Buffaloes pumped six goals past their opponents over the weekend.

Manzini Wanderers were next with five goals in their game against Midas Mbabane City at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

Speaking after the round of 32 came to a climax during the Grand Opening yesterday, Lukhele said the tournament started on a high and he was particularly impressed with the high number of goals scored in the first 16 matches.

"We urge teams to continue with this spirit as goals bring excitement to the game. It was very impressive of them to score so many goals in only 16 matches, and we hope the trend shall continue until the end of the tournament," he said.

He also thanked the fans for being well behaved and urged them to keep up the good spirit.

Secretary to the EswatiniBank Cup's Management Committee Simanga Nhleko also congratulated teams for their effort. He also urged fans to continue supporting the tournament and maintain their good behaviour.

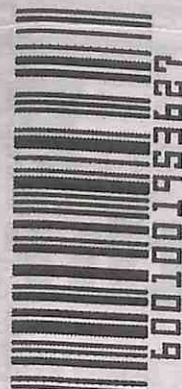


IMPRESSED: EswatiniBank's Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele

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Monday February 11, 2019



GOAL BONANZA IN 'SOLO INJE' AS...



JOY: Manzini Wanderers and Young Buffaloes fans celebrate their teams victories during the Eswatini Bank Cup games played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

BIG GUNS ADVANCE

BY MPHIKELELI MSIBI
Sports Editor

SOCCER – 'SOLO INJE', Premier League big guns Manzini Wanderers, Mbabane Swallows, Young Buffaloes and Green Mamba made it in the last 16 of the EswatiniBank Cup yesterday when it rained goals at Somhlolo National Stadium.

The army side were the highest scorers in a 6-0 win against Shooting Stars as there were upsets during the triple header played at Somhlolo National Stadium. The opposition did not pose any threat and 'Buffs' had little trouble in dispatching minnows. This match went to break with Buffaloes leading 2-0 through goals scored by Wandile Mkhonta and Sanele Ngcamphalala.

They upped the tempo in the second half where they scored four more goals as they reached the last eight with relative ease.

It was an easy match for the defending champions even though Shooting Stars tried their best on the day. The second game saw Mbabane Swallows struggle to eventually win 4-1 against a very stubborn Masundwvini Royal Swallows.

The minnows would trouble Swallows now and again as they defended resolutely and it was

● No major upsets in the EswatiniBank Cup last 32 games played over the weekend

Swallows captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze, who eventually broke the deadlock.

'TT's goal was a result of a great solo run as he dribbled past defenders before passing the ball to Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa, who also made a deft touch, allowing the captain to score with ease. This match went to break with Swallows leading 1-0.

Header

Swallows continued to press in the second half and again it was 'TT', who this time scored with a beautiful header. Royal Swallows were not to despair as they also scored to make it 1-2 which proved to be a consolation, following a good interchange of passes. They continued to pile pressure in search of an equaliser but it was Swallows, who scored their third goal through substitute striker Lilopo. 'TT' proved to be the hero when he scored his team's fourth goal completing his hat-trick after a beautiful strike that was written class all over it as the minnows were dumped out. The last match at Somhlolo saw Manzini Wanderers make light work of Midas City as they won 5-0.

The 'Weslians' outclassed the National First Division outfit in front of the over 3 000 fans who watched the games. Their first goal was from the spot after their South African winger John Pako was brought down inside the box with former Mbabane City playmaker Mancoba 'Spider' Maseko giving Wanderers the lead.

Two minutes later Ghanaian striker Johnson Mensah made it 2-0 with a sublime header with John Pako registering his name on the scorers chart with a low shot which deflected on the opposition's defender in the 37th minute.

Seasoned midfielder Sicelo 'Junior' Simelane ensured a healthy lead for the side before the breather as he netted the fourth goal shortly before the match went to recess. There was nothing much to write home about in the second stanza as the 'Weslians' had already done the damage with Njabulo Magongo netting the fifth goal with a clinical strike. Wanderers were without dribbling wizard Mike Dombo but were too strong for the NFD side.

Elsewhere Green Mamba beat Zibonele Vultures 3-1.