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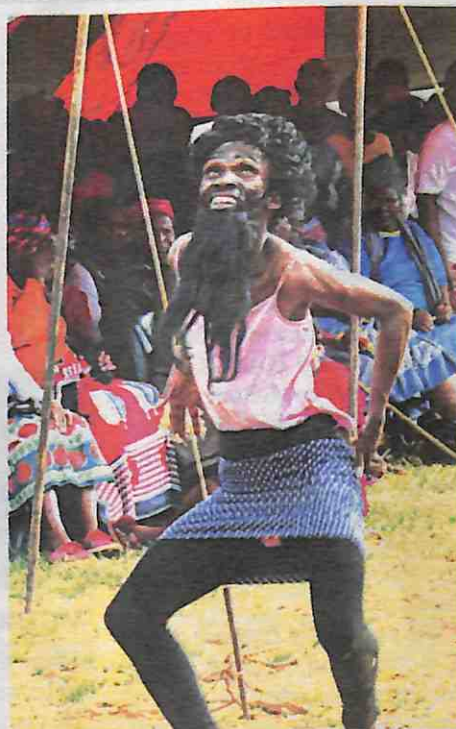
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**CROWD PULLER:** This clown took centre stage during Nkwene Member of Parliament Vulimpompi Nhleko's thanksgiving ceremony on February 1 at Nkwene Umphakatsi. (Pics: Starsky Mkhonta)

## Showdown in Phakama estate row

PAGES 4-5

## Cash strapped teacher kills himself

PAGE 4

# PSAs want 14.4% CoLA in budget

STORY ON PAGE 3

...claim govt owes them cost of living adjustment accumulated in the past two financial years

**SUPER SPECIALS!!**

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BY SAMKELISIWE KHOZA  
Matsapha

**EMBATTLED Matsapha Mayor Sandlane Zwane hated corruption, hence other councillors were against him.**

These sentiments were submitted by Councillors Mavela Shongwe and Bongani Mkhathshwa yesterday before the Commission of Enquiry to probe into the Matsapha Town Council affairs.

Shongwe, during his submission, strongly refuted corruption and abuse of unopposed motions allegations that were thrown towards Zwane by the other councillors for two days of submissions.

He said Zwane hated corruption and he (Shongwe) would not have fallen under his side if he was corrupt as is alluded by the other councillors.

Shongwe also introduced himself to the commission that he was a member of the Matsapha Town Council Finance Committee.

"I am a puppet of truth, not a package of someone as it is alluded. I strongly stand for the truth. If there was evidence that Zwane was somehow involved in corruption, I would not be on his side," Shongwe said.

He said chaos within the council ensued after an audit tender was granted to the PWC over KPMG, who happened to score a 100 per cent when graded and compared to the other audit firms.

He said the policy within the ministry of housing and urban development stated clearly that an audit firm should not audit for a period that is over three years hence PWC won the audit tender.

# 'SANDLANE VICTIMISED FOR HATING CORRUPTION'

Shongwe said with the ratepayers complaining about unaccounted for funds, which they too as councillors could not account for while under KPMG, they came to the decision to grant PWC the audit contract.

He was further questioned by Commissioner Benito Jones if indeed council meetings were turned into those of Bongani Mkhathshwa and Zwane's meetings, as other councillors simply became bench fillers. Shongwe said the councillors were obligated to raise their hands whenever they had questions, not that the chairperson only gave his faction the opportunity to speak during meetings.

Was it proper for Zwane to move a motion and Shongwe and Mkhathshwa seconding that motion, that is the question that was posed by Jones based on August 2 last year minutes. Shongwe said Zwane moved that motion because he saw that Matsapha would bene-



**VICTIMISED: Matsapha mayor Sandlane Zwane.**

fit from that tender granting not that he was acting corrupt.

He clarified that Zwane never abused power of the unopposed motion, but acted within his authority as the chairperson of Matsapha.

He appeared tongue-tied when

asked why he acted swiftly and investigated other councillors he felt were corrupt, yet turned a blind eye on Zwane's doings. Chairperson of the Commission Lungile Magagula raised that there were issues of fraud against Zwane that

## Commission's independence questioned

Moreover, Councillor Mavela Shongwe went further and questioned the commission's independence, posing questions whether the commission's recommendations to the Minister of Housing, Prince Simelane, would not be compromised by the fact that other personnel from the ministry also submitted evidence to the commission.

were previously reported, yet Shongwe said corruption allegations against Zwane never reached his ears.

Magagula said it was previously reported that Zwane was involved in a fraud act relating to windows and containers.

## Mkhulu sells land twice, strikes it rich

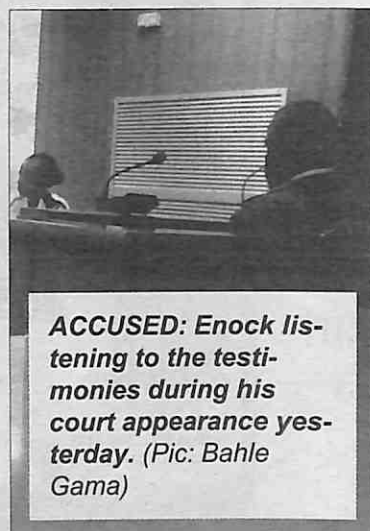
BY BAHLE GAMA  
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

**AN elderly man of Mvutjini is at the centre of a land sale controversy, in which he is alleged to have conned two buyers of the same land E70 000.**

Enock Motsa, 63, appeared yesterday before Senior Magistrate Nonhlanhla Dlamini.

Theodette Semanana, a tenant at Mona Flats, a teacher by profession, parted with E36 500 and allegedly gave it to Motsa for a piece of land. She told the court that on August 4, 2018, her employee by the name of Maxwell Dlamini, told her of an advert referring to the sale of land issued in the name of one Sindisiwe.

She alleged that the young man told her of the advert because she was interested in building a home of her own instead of losing money every month



**ACCUSED: Enock listening to the testimonies during his court appearance yesterday. (Pic: Bahle Gama)**

to landlords. She contacted Sindisiwe and made arrangements to see the land, which happened instantly. She told the court that she, her employee and Sindisiwe went to see the land. "I loved the land and requested that she makes arrangements for me to see the land owner," she said. The owner intro-

duced himself as Mandla Enock Motsa.

Motsa told her that a lot of people were interested in the land, but if she really wanted to secure it, she should pay immediately and it was agreed that cash would exchange hands inside Sindisiwe's house.

During their meeting, the accused told the victim that she had to pay E30 000 upfront. On the day of the payment Motsa is said to have arrived with a female companion he introduced as his girlfriend. He was handed over the money and Motsa then took out E1 000 and gave it to Sindisiwe as a token of appreciation for advertising the land for him, and the rest was given to his girlfriend, who put it in a handbag. Motsa then asked for a lift from the buyer, who dropped him off in Matsapha.

End of August, Motsa called her and told her she had to pay E5 500 for a cow to be presented to the chief, as per the Khonta land acquisition process

on Swazi Nation Land.

Theodette was ordered to take the money to a Dvuba homestead, that was identified to her as the Indvuna's homestead at Mnyamatsini. She presented the money before the alleged Indvuna, who was allegedly in the presence of his wife and she was told that the money would be taken to the chief at Mpolonjeni.

She left the Dvuba premises with the accused and her employee and a short distance from the homestead, the accused is said to have told them that he was returning to the homestead because he wanted to drink *emahewu*, they left.

Again in September he called her, requesting that she pays E1 000 to be introduced to the community and she did so through mobile money.

The money was transferred to Motsa's number. After sending the money, she then called him to enquire when she would be officially handed the land and he told her that he was busy as it was elec-

tion time. From then, his phone was off and she kept on calling and if she would be lucky he would tell her he was busy, until his number was unreachable.

She then decided to report to the Dvuba homestead that she was having difficulty getting in touch with Motsa. Amidst that, there was a funeral in which the Indvuna's wife told the complainant that her husband would confront Motsa at the funeral. Another blackout ensued until she paid another visit to the Dvubas, but again she was told that a daughter who had been a student at UNESWA had committed suicide.

She further told the court that she made attempts to find the chief, to find out if the money had been delivered to him and the attempts were futile. After all the frustrations, she reported the matter to the Lobamba police station. A few months later, she was called to the police station and was imported that the accused had been captured.

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# PUBLIC SERVANTS WANT 14.4 PER CENT CoLA IN BUDGET

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI  
Mbabane

**PUBLIC** sector associations (PSAs) are calling for a 14.4 per cent CoLA provision in the national budget to be tabled in a fortnight.

The PSAs claim that government owes them 14.4 per cent in respect of the cost of living adjustment (CoLA) which was accumulated in the past two financial years. This was said by Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) Secretary General Sikelela Dlamini.

Dlamini said this when making known their expectations regarding the budget that is expected to be delivered by Finance Minister Neal Rijkenberg in the next two weeks. Dlamini said the issue of CoLA must be catered for in the budget.

He said the civil servants' salaries had not been adjusted for a very long time now. He insisted that that had eroded the buying power of the workers, amid the inflation rate that was ever increasing. The secretary general said government owed them 14.4 per cent of the salaries earned by the civil servants.

He further said the percentage



**DEMANDS:** Swaziland National Association of Teachers Secretary General Sikelela Dlamini.

owed by government in respect of CoLA was expected to increase in the 2019/2020 financial year because that would mean another year for the government.

"We are looking at the Central Bank of Eswatini (CBE) to inform us on the inflation rate in April when the next financial year starts and we will be informed of the exact percentage owed to us by the government in the three years," Dlamini said.

Dlamini further said the workers wanted nothing less than the 14.4 per cent owed to them by the government.

He stated that the minister of finance should include at least the 14.4 per cent when he delivered the budget in Parliament.

National Public Service and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU) President Aubrey Sibiyi echoed Dlamini's words. He said it was imperative for the government to

allocate a certain amount for the civil servants' salaries to be increased in the form of the owed CoLA. He said the civil servants had been patient for far too long now and they had to be given what was due to them because life was difficult for the workers.

The CoLA impasse between government and the civil servants started last year in July when government offered to give them zero per cent increment. The government stated that it did not have the money to implement the CoLA, hence it offered the zero per cent.

The civil servants did not accept this as a series of strikes and marches followed thereafter. In September last year, the Industrial Court stopped the PSAs who wanted to take to the streets to try and force government to give them the CoLA. Government had gone to obtain a court order to stop the workers from striking because there was no Legislature or Executive at the time.

The Industrial Court stopped the PSAs though recognising that the strike was lawful. The PSAs shifted the strike to January 28. Again, the Industrial Court stopped the strike because the matter was still before it.

## Allocate 26% budget to education – SNAT

**GOVERNMENT** should allocate at least 26 per cent of the national budget to the education sector.

This was a view expressed by the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) as it was expressing what it expected the budget to cover. SNAT Secretary General Sikelela Dlamini said this was important because education was a very large sector in the country.

He further said education was the very basic sector through which all the country's development goals could be achieved. "This country has a goal of reaching the much-talked-about first world status in 2022. For this to happen, education has to be given the percentage we are talking about. We also have to ensure that by 2030, we achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Number 4, which talks about the accessibility of education for all citizens of the country," Dlamini said.

He further said the education ministry had to ensure it took care of the free primary education (FPE), orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) programme, and to ensure that tertiary education was accessible for all Emaswati. Dlamini said all that needed a serious budget directed to the ministry of education and training so that it could all be achievable.

## Elderly should be given E2 000 per month – NAPSAWU

**THE** elderly people should be given E2 000 per month and this year's budget should cater for that.

This was said by NAPSAWU President Aubrey Sibiyi yesterday when stating what they would like this year's budget to cover.

Before stating what his union would like the budget to cover, Sibiyi stated that it was unfortunate that people had their own expectations and government, on the other hand, did things its own way.

Sibiyi said if the government did the will of the people, it would cater for the elderly people and fight to ensure that they earned more than they were getting. He believed it could be possible for the government

to pay E2 000 per month to the elderly people. It was a disgrace for the elderly people, Sibiyi observed, to earn E400 per month because they had a lot of responsibilities.

He further said the health and education sectors needed to be strengthened in the country. The issue of lack of drugs and nursing staff must be dealt with in the budget.

The budget also needs to respond to the educational needs of the country.

He said the tertiary education had been increased by almost 400 per cent.

That meant that government had to find ways of ensuring that Emaswati had access to education from primary to tertiary level.

garbage at Zakhele Police Camp. Information gathered from reliable sources is that the discovery was made by the council employees who were doing their daily duties of collecting rubbish around the police village at around 8am yesterday.

The source said after the discovery, the employees alerted police officers at the camp to come and look at the refuse bag. The discovery also drew attention of members of the public who were passing by who commented that the find happened at a rather unusual place.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that a foetus was found. She said the foetus was found outside the gate of the camp. "Police are investigating the matter," she said.

It is not the first time a foetus has been discovered in a police camp as in 2017 a similar discovery was made at Lobamba. It was alleged that a police recruit was involved in the dumping of the foetus.

However, the allegations were not proved at Lobamba.

## Budget in the next two weeks

**THE** budget speech is expected to be tabled in about two weeks from now.

This was said by Minister for Finance Neal Rijkenberg on Friday last week in Parliament.

He was interviewed by Eswatini Broadcasting and Information Services (EBIS). Rijkenberg was interviewed shortly after His Majesty King Mswati III had finished delivering the speech from the Throne.

Considering what the minister for finance said, the budget speech might be delivered on the first day next month.

However, the minister is yet to issue the exact date when the budget speech is to be delivered.

The King, in his speech from the Throne last Friday, called upon the government to ensure that the budget is prepared according to the money available in the coffers of the government.

ernment.

This means this year's budget might be less than that of last year.

In the past years, the government used to deliver the budget based on mere numbers.

It was a budget formulated on the hope that certain streams of revenue for the country would be able to finance the budget. Currently, the country has two main streams of revenue.

### Taxes

They include the receipts the country gets from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the revenue collected internally in the form of taxes.

The country is supposed to get a E500 million increase from the SACU receipts this year.

However, despite this, His Majesty the King noted that the future of this country's revenue was not so certain.

He even called for the SACU mem-

ber countries to review the revenue-sharing formula.

In the 2017/2018 financial year, the budget was at E21.8 billion. However, most of the projects that were budgeted for ended up not being financed, due to the cash flow problems. Regional Development Fund (RDF) and Micro Projects were not adequately financed and that remained a thorn on the flesh of the MPs at the time.

### Decision

This called for the MPs to reject the budget, something that was a first of its kind. However, they were to later reverse their decision. The budget went ahead as it was.

In the 2018/2019 financial year, the budget was reduced to E21.6 billion. Again, it became difficult to finance many of the country's projects because of the cash flow problems. It remains to be seen how the situation will turn out this year.

## Foetus at Zakhele Police Camp

BY MELUSI MLOTSI  
Mbabane

**MANZINI** Municipal Council workers made a grisly find when they stumbled on a foetus stashed in a refuse bag while collecting

garbage at Zakhele Police Camp. Information gathered from reliable sources is that the discovery was made by the council employees who were doing their daily duties of collecting rubbish around the police village at around 8am yesterday.

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However, the allegations were not proved at Lobamba.



# Another **showdown** in Phakama

BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

**POLICE** were called in to intervene in a stand-off among offspring of the late business mogul and bus owner Richard 'Phakama' Dlamini, with a faction getting impatient due to delays in the distribution of his estate.

The yesterday morning scuffle resulted in a fire being started and the fleet of buses stopped from leaving the premises until the estate issues were cleared.

When contacted, one of Phakama's daughters said the commotion was after most of them expressed impatience due to waiting for so long for the distribution of the estate, while they waited on the sidelines when the other siblings were busy enriching themselves from the family estate.

The angry daughter said the issue began sometime last year when she allegedly hijacked one of the buses on its way to Phakama business premises in Malkerns. She is alleged to have grabbed a bag full of money and ran off, leaving the bus driver and conductor perplexed.

...The daughter said they were tired of watching their siblings benefit, while they got nothing, so they decided to take action

The bus driver and conductor called other family members, before driving off to the Malkerns police station, where they reported the hijacking.

She said later that day, the police came and took her and her mother in for questioning. She added that she told the police that she did not steal the money, as she had a right to take the money, simply because it belonged to her father. She was later released and the police advised her not to do it again.

## Commotion

Three of Phakama's children yesterday morning at around 2:30 are alleged to have been at the scene of the commotion at the business premises entrance in Malkerns. They allegedly insisted that no bus would be allowed to leave until they got what was rightfully theirs.

The daughter said they were tired of watching their siblings benefit, while they got nothing, so they decided to take action. Yesterday, they decided to go to Malkerns at the busi-

ness site and started a fire in an attempt to expedite the process of liquidation and distribution of the estate.

Dlamini said what annoyed them the most was that they were overlooked by the other siblings. She added that all they wanted was what was rightfully theirs.

"We are tired of waiting, our father died on December 20, 2013 and still we have not received anything. We don't understand why the executor is delaying the estate distribution because he is the one in charge of the whole process, as his name is in the will. By doing this, we are provoking a reaction from him," said one of the children.

## Distribution

Police had to intervene and ordered them to put out the fire and allow the buses to leave. She said in the company of police, one of the managers showed them a letter from the Master of High Court, which states that the deadline for the liquidation and distribution of the estate was February



**UMLILO:** The burning fire lit at the gate by the aggrieved children of the late Richard Phakama Dlamini. (Pics: Sifiso Dlamini)

28, and they were advised to wait for that day. Dlamini said they were not aware of the letter and after they were made aware, they decided to call off the protest.

When contacted, the executor of the estate Muzi Dlamini said he was not aware of any commotion at the business premises. When this publication contacted the manager who revealed the letter to the fed up children, his

mobile phone rang unanswered for the better part of yesterday afternoon.

When contacted, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that the matter was reported to the police. She said police attended to the matter and it was resolved amicably. She further added that there was no damaged property and no one was arrested.



**REST IN PEACE:** The teacher, Sibusiso Hlophe.

## CASH-STRAPPED TEACHER KILLS HIMSELF

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

**A male teacher at Mnotfweni High School in the Lubombo region has ended his life after he was embattled with family and financial problems, it has been established.**

Mnotfweni High School is a new school under the Siphofaneni constituency.

The teacher, Sibusiso Hlophe, taught History and Geography at the same school. Ironically, Hlophe's death came less than five months after another teacher of Kamkheweli, in the same region, killed himself in August 2018 also due to financial problems.

This is a sad story of Hlophe (46) who died on February 3, 2019 around midnight after he is believed to have intentionally taken an overdose of his medication due to pressure from the financial problems. Reliable sources revealed that Hlophe's life was not so smooth over the past three years.

## Insignificant

His financial situation had become so dire that he would rely on his mother for just about the most insignificant of bills. He also could not adequately fend for his children and that took a toll on him, say sources.

His mother was equally living from hand to mouth, given that she was only a pensioner of Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation.

Sibusiso was laid to rest at Ngwane Park Cemetery last Saturday after a night vigil at his parental home at Eteteni, Matsapha.

When this publication visited the homestead of the deceased on Sunday the family was found still in mourning. The mother, Hildah Hlophe, could not control her emotions as she nar-

rated how her son died.

Hildah, 67, said it pained her to see her son's life deteriorating at that rate for the past three years. She confirmed that the problems encountered by the deceased were family and financial-related.

She said for the past three years her son was swimming in debts that resulted in him taking home a paltry E200 at the end of each month.

She disclosed that his bank cards were kept with loan sharks, the shylock, as collateral for the outstanding debts he was repaying.

## Transferred

She said her son told her several times that he wanted to resign from the teaching profession or he would end his life because no matter how hard he worked, he still earned virtually nothing.

She said she remembered that when her son was transferred from Dvokodweni to the new school in 2018, there was no accommodation at Mnotfweni High School.

She said her son used to commute from Matsapha to Mnotfweni and would sometimes accumulate debts to pay conductors in the public transport.

She said Sibusiso later relocated to Phuzamoya, where he rented a flat so that he could reduce the transport costs. It must be mentioned that Phuzamoya is approximately 15 kilometres from Mnotfweni High School.

"I would try to convince Sibusiso not to resign, encouraging him that things would get better. Little did I know that he would finally take his life," said the distraught mother, repeating the same account she had given to mourners.

She further disclosed that on February 3, at around 10pm she heard her son crying from his house which is not far

from the main house.

Arriving there, she said he confessed to her that he had intentionally overdosed with tablets he was taking daily for an undisclosed sickness.

As he made the confession, he kept vomiting, said the mother, who then gave him water and he appeared to be recovering. "It never even crossed my mind that I should call an ambulance. He then told me to give him a blanket because he was shivering from the cold and that I should switch off the lights because he wanted to sleep. I didn't know that he was talking about an eternal sleep and it was during that night when I last spoke to him," said Hlophe.

## Overdose

"The doctors certified him dead at Raleigh Fitkin Memorial (RFM) Hospital, where the overdose was confirmed by the doctors," she added.

"I am a pensioner earning a lousy E2 200 a month, the money was not enough for me to help my son and I would sometimes give him the little I have."

Both teachers and pupils of Mnotfweni High School spoke highly of the deceased. They said for the past months, he was looking stressed but they did not ask him what was really troubling him.

Hlophe enrolled at William Pitcher Teacher's Training College where he completed in 1996. Some of the schools where he once taught at are Mphini Primary and Dwalile High School. He left behind six children.

Principal of the school Jethro Mngommetulu said they were devastated as a school to lose such a hard-working teacher. He said it would be difficult to fill the void left by Hlophe.

Mngommetulu also confirmed that in the last week before Hlophe met his death, he was looking stressed.



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Deadline for submission of applications is 08<sup>th</sup> March 2019



# estate row



**AFTERMATH:** The dark spot at the gate is where the fire was made blocking traffic going in and out of the Phakama business premises.



**TINKHUNI:** The firewood used to fuel the fire blocking the gate.

SANU students who will be implicated in the violence act that resulted to one student admitted at RFM, stand to be expelled.

Last week Friday, students from the Faculty of Health allegedly stormed one of the classrooms under the Faculty of Education and they carried with them a toxic chemical, which they spewed inside the classroom, resulting to five students losing consciousness after inhaling the chemical. One of the students was said to be greatly affected by the chemical and she is still admitted to the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital.

#### Investigating

The college is currently investigating the matter with the help of institution's dean, police and security guards.

SANU Marketing Manager Petros Mavuso said as an institution, they are always there to offer assistance to the students through the DSA office and he discouraged resorting to violence.

"The matter of allowances is between the students and their sponsor, which is government, but ours as an institution is to offer assistance to the students through the DSA office in their quest to attain the allowances," he said.

## Implicated students stand to be expelled

...Students from the Faculty of Health allegedly stormed one of the classes under the Faculty of Education and they carried with them a toxic chemical which they spewed inside the classroom, resulting to five students losing conscious after inhaling the chemical

STORIES BY SABELO MAJOLA  
Mbabane

AMID the class boycott that has seen students engaging in violence which resulted to one student being admitted to Raleigh Fitkin Memorial (RFM) Hospital, the Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU) has given students their mid-term break earlier than stipulated.

SANU students are currently engaged in a class boycott over, among other issues, delayed living allowances.

In a memo that was issued by the institution's Registrar, Stanley Ngqwane he notified the students that their mid-term break had been brought forward so that it commences on February 11, which

was yesterday, instead of next week Monday as scheduled.

"All ongoing students are notified that Senate has resolved to bring forward the mid-term break so that it starts on February 11, 2019.

#### Issue

"This time should allow the government of Eswatini sponsored students to resolve the issue of allowances. Students shall be informed when classes will resume," reads the memo.

The students were supposed to deliver a petition to the ministry of labour and social security yesterday over their allowances, but the move was cancelled because of multiple reasons, including that most students are at home due to the mid-term break.

The SANU students' body issued a

memo apologising to the students on the cancellation of the proposed petition delivery, stating that the students representative council was currently organising a journey to the Ministry to hear on the issue of allowances and feedback will be provided.

#### Petition

The memo was issued by SRC president Tholumuzi Simelane.

"As the SRC, we pass our sincere apology that going to Mbabane is no longer possible. We are aggrieved as you are comrades, pending the delay of allowances and other issues that were going to be addressed and delivered through the petition."

Shortage of funds was also listed among the things that hindered the delivering of the petition.



## SANU students break early amidst strike



## CONGRATULATIONS YOUR MAJESTY!!

"Let us give credence to sentiments expressed by the nation at sibaya where all acts of corruption and malpractice were castigated. If we are to make a meaningful turn around to our economy, we need to fight, control and eliminate all forms of corruption with punitive measure to protect our resources and restore financial stability." An excerpt from the Speech from the Throne 2019.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE ANTI CORRUPTION COMMISSION WISH TO CONGRATULATE HIS MAJESTY FOR THE GREAT SPEECH AND TIRELESSLY SPEAKING UP AGAINST CORRUPTION IN THE COUNTRY.

BAYETHE, WENA WAPHAKATHIII



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# Mhlongo's CEO contract remains valid- Court orders

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE  
High Court

**MBABANE City Council Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gideon Mhlongo's contract remains valid, the High Court has said.**

High Court Judge Mbutfo Mamba, in his judgment, has ordered that until and unless declared invalid by a competent authority, Mhlongo's contract remains valid.

Judge Mamba stated that suspended Councillor Sikhatsi Dlamini lacks the standing to challenge the renewal of the CEO's contract of employment between the city council and Mhlongo. "Of course, ratepayers indeed residents of a municipality have an interest in its municipal manager being properly appointed but this does not, without

further ado, qualify it as a necessary interest, something more is required for these reasons, I hold that the applicant has failed to demonstrate or establish that this application is urgent consequently the application is refused with costs," Judge Mamba ordered.

## Proceedings

However, the court noted that on the issue of legal standing, it is clear that the applicant (Dlamini) has the requisite standing to challenge his suspension and the proceedings that resulted in such suspension.

Dlamini had filed an urgent application at the High Court, seeking an order for review of the decision of the committee that sanctioned his suspension and further disputed the authority of Mhlongo, a deponent, in an affidavit filed before the court. According to Dlamini in his papers, the deponent

was the CEO of the city council until July 31, 2018 when his contract expired, further stating that his tenure was not extended by any other contract. The matter had been brought under a certificate of urgency before Judge Mamba, where Dlamini was seeking, inter alia orders that pending finalisation of the matter, he be allowed to attend council meetings in his capacity as the chairman of the finance committee.

Further, he was seeking an order that the mayor, CEO, Sithembile Hlanze, Sabelo Magagula, Bongani Dlamini, the municipality and the ministry of housing and urban development or anyone acting in their behalf or authority, be interdicted, restrained from removing or preventing him from going about his duties.

He was also seeking the order declaring the CEO not the municipality's

CEO, arguing that his contract lapsed on July 31, 2018. Dlamini had submitted that on May 25, 2018 at an adjourned special meeting held at council chambers, council resolved by seven votes to four that the contract of the CEO was not to be renewed and that the council resolution not to renew the contract was confirmed in a letter to the ministry of housing and urban development, cited as the seventh respondents.

## Documentation

He further submitted that a letter was written to the then minister of housing, informing him of the council resolution and the minister in turn requested documentation considered during appraisals process of the CEO's performance. He submitted that on June 8, a motion was moved by councillor Thamsanqa Mkhonta of Ward 8 that

the then CEO be sent on a leave of absence for the remaining period of his contract with full pay and reasons for this motion were explained as the irretrievable breakdown of the working relationship with Mhlongo and council.

Following the renewal of Mhlongo's contract by the then minister contrary to the council resolution, Dlamini submitted that they then sought legal opinion as regards the then minister's move. "I humbly submit that the legal opinion has been obtained from the city council's attorneys of record and the opinion is clear that there is no contract for the deponent (Mhlongo) to continue in the position of CEO of the city council, the legal opinion is also clear in that the then minister acted unlawfully by directing the Mbabane City Council to renew the deponent's contract," Dlamini had submitted.

He was also seeking for an order of court, reviewing and setting aside the proceedings held by the disciplinary panel and the decision issued by the mayor for non-compliance with the rules of natural justice and Section 21 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

## Man's (46) bail application opposed for raping gogo (60)

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE  
High Court

A 46-year-old man has been arrested for having sexual intercourse with Gogo (60) and is facing the crime of rape.

Charged under the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act of 2018, Thishela Andreas Mamba of Macetjeni is accused of raping the elderly woman in that he wrongfully, unlawfully and with intent had sexual intercourse with the 60-year-old without her consent. The Crown has filed a notice of intention to oppose the bail application, as it has been cited in the charge sheet that the applicant (Mamba) raped a defenceless woman. According to the charge sheet, the accused raped a defenceless female adult aged 60, and further he did not use a condom, exposing the complainant to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, inflicting a lifetime trauma by raping her. The Crown is opposing his bail as it has filed a notice of intention to oppose.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL CONSENT IN TERMS OF THE MBABANE TOWN PLANNING SCHEME OF 2016

I/We, SIBUSISO GAMA, the owner(s) of the property in question, hereby make a Public Notice in terms of Clause 1.6 of the 2016 Mbabane Town Planning Scheme, that I/We wish to apply for **SPECIAL CONSENT** to establish (description of development) **An outdoor wedding venue and Garden Chapel on Plot of Township/Portion of Farm Portion 63 (a portion of portion 47) of farm no. 73.**

Any one having an objection to this application may lodge their objections, in writing, with the Mbabane City Council at P.O. Box 1, Mbabane, Swaziland not later than 12 March 2019, that is, 21 days from the last publication of the Notice, namely, on 19 February 2019.

R/N 201045

## LUCKY ESCAPE



**UPSIDE DOWN:** The driver of this Toyota 4x4 Double Cab was lucky to be alive after the car landed in this position when he lost control of it while travelling up the Malagwane Hill yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

## Man hacks wife, disappears into thick night

BY BAHLE GAMA  
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

**A wife narrated before court how she was hacked by her husband last year.**

Lucky Vilakati was arrested and charged with contravening the SODV Act, in that he attacked his wife on December 23, last year.

During trial, the accused sat quietly listening to his wife detailing before court the events that unfolded on the day she was hacked.

She told the court that on the said day, she called her husband and asked him for their children's clothes and he said there was none and would not give them anything.

After the call, she and her eldest child went to town to shop in preparation for Christmas.

When shopping, she met up with her friend, whom she identified as Thabsile Ngozo and she ordered her child to return home.

"We went to buy drinks and chilled for a bit whilst catching up and at six in the evening, she decided to leave and I remained behind," she said.

Hours after her friend had left, she decided to check outside from where she was having drinks, and realised that it was dark and the time was 8pm.

She realised that there was no longer transport to take her home.

She then went to hike at Total service station.

## Dropped

At around nine at night, a car driven by one Sibusiso Ngidi, who she said also resided around her area, stopped and gave her a lift.

During the drive, he told her that he was driving home but she requested that he dropped her at Mantabeni. Ngidi had no problem driving her there because it was late, and upon arrival, she further pleaded that he drop her off at home and she would pay him and he did not decline.

The entire time she was sitting at the backseat of the car driven by Ngidi.

Upon arrival at her matrimonial home, as she was about to emerge from the car head first, her husband charged at her with a bushknife with intent to hack her on the head and she used her left arm to shield herself and instead of her head, her arm was hacked.

## Rushed

She said she raised an alarm, calling her mother-in-law, who rushed to see what was happening while her husband fled.

It was unclear where the gentleman who had given her a lift disappeared to, but she told the court that after being hacked by her husband, she and her mother-in-law called an ambulance and the police. Neither of the two attended to them.

Due to the sustained injuries, they asked a neighbour to rush her to Mbabane government hospital, where she was attended to and dis-

charged, but was told to return the following day and when she did, she was admitted.

She further revealed to the court that prior to the hacking, she and her husband had fought about the woman he is currently residing with and it was unclear what had led to him hacking her.

## Question

"He told me he doesn't want me anymore," she said.

The accused was also given an opportunity to question his wife as per his right since he was conducting his own defence.

He asked his wife as to what time she arrived at home on the day of the incident, and she responded that it was around 10pm.

The accused blamed the complainant of lying, as he claimed she had returned home at midnight.

He further asked how she had seen that he hacked her with a bush knife, and she replied that the car had lights and when she alighted from it, she saw the bush knife.

The trial continues on February 22.



# 3 men convicted of attempted murder

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE  
High Court

**THREE** employees from a Siphofaneni based sugar cane cutting company were yesterday convicted for attempting to kill their employer and further stealing his cellphone worth E500.

High Court Judge Doris Tshabalala found them guilty of attempting to kill Bhekithemba Maziya on the first count and guilty of stealing a cellphone Samsung GT E2220 valued at E500 from him.

The three were charged with attempted murder in the first count in that on December 20, 2013 at or near Mabudlweni area at Siphofaneni in the Lubombo region, each or all of them acting jointly in furtherance of a common purpose did unlawfully and with intent tried to kill Maziya by shooting him with a firearm.

According to evidence brought before court, on the night of December 20, 2013, the complainant (Maziya) and his girlfriend Nelsiwe Shongwe were sleeping when they were awakened by noise coming from barking dogs outside at around 2300 hours.

Maziya told the court that he went to

peek through one of the windows and saw people outside and further observed that all four windows to his house were guarded by at least one person and further saw another human figure at the two windows to their bedroom.

In his evidence, he stated that shots were fired from outside through the window into the bedroom shattering the window in the process and he used a broom stick to try and scare the attackers and that is when he was shot by a subsequent shot fired at him and the assailants entered the house through the window, prompting him to escape from the bedroom to another room in their three-room house before calling for help.

According to Maziya, two of the attackers were known to him as they are employees at his company Fundukuwela Investments. When the incident happened, the company had closed for Christmas holidays since December 10, 2013 and was to resume operations on January 8, 2014.

After an alarm was raised, his brothers arrived in a car and the thieves bolted away after failing to find money which they shouted they were looking for. Maziya was taken to the police sta-

tion before being rushed to the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial (RFM) Hospital.

Maziya informed the court in his evidence that two of the armed men were employed by his company and his employees were supposed to get their Christmas bonuses on the previous day of the incident but the money was not paid to them as the payment day fell on a holiday.

He stated that the attack was motivated by the non-payment of the bonuses since they shouted for a money bag when they broke into his house, only to find an empty money bag.

They were later caught and arrested by the police. One of them sold the cellphone to his uncle for a lousy E30 and they later made confession statements before the Siteki Magistrate's Court.

He stated that the attack was motivated by the non-payment of the bonuses since they shouted for a money bag when they broke into his house, only to find an empty money bag

## Judgement reserved on SNAT 'spot check' forms matter

BY SIBELO MAJOLA  
Mbabane

purposes of intimidation and harassment.

**TEACHERS** will have to wait until February 21 to know what the judgement is in the matter between them and the ministry of education and training over the infamous spot check forms.

The matter, in which teachers want government to stop implementing the data collection form system, was heard at the Industrial Court yesterday.

The Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT), through their Secretary General Sikelela Dlamini, submitted in the court papers that the exercise was introduced for the

SNAT is demanding that the data forms and 'spot check' forms should be withdrawn forthwith as they are infringing on fundamental rights and freedom of teachers. They also want the ministry to stop abusing their members who are head teachers and make them to be agents of the state through being used to breach or stop a legitimate strike and they also want the ministry to prioritise on teachers' issues by honouring the agreement of having monthly scheduled meetings with SNAT National Executive Committee. The judgement on the matter is slated for February 21 at the Industrial Court.

## CLEVER CAT



**HUNTER:** A cat cautiously climbs down a retainer wall as it quietly searches for something to eat at Ezulwini yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

# JUDGMENT RESERVED IN GOVT APPEAL ON E1M COMPENSATION

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE  
Supreme Court

**THE** Supreme Court has reserved its judgment in an appeal filed by government following an award of E1 million compensation to a man who was shot by members of the Eswatini Umbutfo Defence Force (UEDF).

The Supreme Court reserved the judgment to a date to be communicated to both counsels by the registrar.

Representing government in the civil appeal yesterday was the office of the attorney general while Howard Pokwane Nkambule was represented by Rodrigues and Associates law firm.

The High Court last year granted an order that government should pay Nkambule E1 100 000 for damages he suffered after being shot by the soldiers while at a bus station during the night.

Principal Judge Qinisile Mabuza issued the order in favour of Nkambule and the quantum of damages as per Judge Mabuza was the above money as she noted that the plaintiff (Nkambule) had not proved loss of earnings and could not be awarded anything under that head.

However, the High Court noted that the injuries that he suffered were very severe.

Justice Mabuza had further ordered that the action succeeds and the plaintiff is awarded damages in the sum of E1 100 000 together with interest and costs, inter-

Justice Mabuza awarded him the following;

- Pain and suffering - E350 000
- Permanent disability - E200 000
- Loss of amenities to life - E400 000
- Future medical expenses - E150 000
- Total - E1 100 000.

est on the amount awarded at the rate of nine per cent per annum *a tempore morae* with effect from November 14, 2001 when combined summons and particulars of claim were served upon the defendant.

### Alternative

The plaintiff on November 7, 2001 issued summons against the attorney general (the defendant in the court a quo) in which he claimed payment of the sum of E1 428 000 in respect of damages; interest thereon at the rate of nine per cent per annum *a tempore morae*; costs of suit and further and alternative relief.

The attorney general was sued in his capacity as government legal advisor and legal representative.

The claim was directed at members of UEDF who were represented by the attorney general.

The claim was defended by the attorney general in the court a quo.

The cause of action arose on or about February 3, 1997 at Mvutjini, in the Hhohho region.

It was alleged that the plaintiff was wrongfully assaulted by members of the Defence Force whose full and further

particulars are unknown to the plaintiff and in the cause of the assault the plaintiff was shot in the face.

The defendant (applicant in the present application) denied the allegation by the plaintiff, in particular that the stated members of the Defence Force or any person or persons acting on their behalf assaulted or shot plaintiff.

### Disabled

It is stated in the particulars of claim that as a result of the assault, the plaintiff sustained severe injuries and has become permanently disabled in the following respects; he has suffered permanent injury to his jaw and mouth, experiences a poignant pain in his jaw, has difficulty eating solid foods, cannot run and participate in sport and is now unable to lift heavy objects.

The attorney general, in response, stated that he has no knowledge of these allegations, denies them and put Nkambule to the proof thereof who had stated that at the time of the assault, the said members of UEDF were at all material times acting within the course and scope of their duties as they drove a government vehicle and some occupants were in UEDF uniform. Meanwhile, also on appeal was the matter involving Floyd Mlotjwa and Webster Lukhele who are appealing against the judgment of the High Court which ruled in favour of Manzini North Member of Parliament Macford Sibandze in his 2018 national elections victory.



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- Manage the utilisation of the organisation's finances according to established policies, plans and procedures;
- Preparation of monthly payroll and PAYE annual reconciliations;
- Manage the Information Management Systems (currently Loan Performer and Pastel) and ensure that it provides the required reports;
- Monitor performance against financial plans and provide relevant and timely information to the board, donors, senior management, auditors and stakeholders;
- Coordinate with external auditors to ensure timely and expeditious facilitation of external auditing requirement;
- Manage the preparation of financial proposals and related supporting documentation for donors, external financiers, regulatory authorities as needed;
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P.O. Box 2140 Manzini

**Closing Date:** 20 February 2019



# Hyena MCC, Inyatsi Cycling crew donates to Big Bend care-points



**TOUCHING THE NEEDY:** Local motorcycle group the Hyena MCC and Inyatsi Cycling crew donated about 200 bags of rice to different care-points around Big Bend on Sunday. The Hyenas and the Inyatsi Cycling crew started their partnership last year and they have visited a number of communities through the good work. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

**THERE YOU GO:** Bra Siv gives a bag of rice to another woman, who also helps in the care-points.



**PAPERWORK:** Hyena MCC members Mattie and Gumba checking the list of the beneficiaries before the start of the presentation.



**PARTNERS:** Hyena MCC members and the Inyatsi Cycling crew pose for a group photo.



**COLOURS:** The Hyena crew members show their colours at the start of the donation.



**ONE FOR YOU:** Founder of the Hyena MCC Matasatasa hands over a bag of rice to one of the caregivers. (R) **DELIVERING:** Some of the employees of Inyatsi help to deliver the bags of rice during the donation.



**PILE:** The about 200 bags of rice that were donated on Sunday.

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# Ingwenyama Cup Culture Manzini Regional eliminations



**ADDRESS:** Chairman of the Ingwenyama Cup Prince Hlangabeza making his remarks, while Culture Committee Chairman Prince Bukhosi looks on during the Manzini Regional eliminations of the Ingwenyama Cup Culture Competition held at Mavuso Trade Centre on Sunday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



**WE CAN:** Young praise-singers Mkhuleko Shabalala and Takitsi Motsa after receiving their prize monies. (R) **HERE:** A view of the action at Mavuso Trade Centre.



**FUTURE:** Indlamu junior group from Mkhiweni showing off their skills.



**KABABA:** Ingwenyama Culture Cup PRO Sandile Nxumalo and Thembekile Dlamini with the judging panel hard at work.



**LET'S GO:** Indlamu group from Mphankomo closing off their performance in style.



**RYTHM:** Mambatfweni Indlamu group doing what they know best.

## KaShali Pro-Learning High School

### 2018 SGCSE RESULTS

The Directors, Management and Staff of KaShali Pro-Learning High School, take this opportunity to congratulate the SGCSE Class of 2018 for the excellent results in the final examinations, where the school obtained position 38 out of 255 schools in the Kingdom of Eswatini. Our gratitude goes to the Almighty, who has constantly sustained this school all these years. We also extend our gratitude to the parents who have cooperated in making Pro-Learning a success.

We note with sadness the continued use of English Language as stumbling block to the academic progress of many students in the country. It is indeed an embarrassment that after 50 years of independence, we still have the former colonialists' language as an entry requirement in institutions of higher learning within the Kingdom of Eswatini. This is done in even courses which have nothing to do with the mastery of the English Language. We therefore urge the Ministry of Education and the relevant stakeholders to put the interest of the country first and remove this unnecessary barrier with immediate effect.

Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
 First Language: Siswati: C Mathematics: A Geography: A Physical Science: B	 English Language: B Mathematics: A* Business Studies: B Physical Science: B	 First Language: Siswati: B English Language: A* Biology: C Mathematics: D Physical Science: C Religious Education: C	 First Language: Siswati: A English Language: A* Biology: A* Mathematics: B Physical Science: A Geography: C Religious Education: C	 English Language: B Physical Science: A Business Studies: A*
Meiso Khaya Simelane	Nombulelo Nhlako	Swelihle Ndlovu	Lungiswa Nkambule	Hlobile Mkhanta
Samkeliso Dlamini	Niabulo Bhembe	Nhlonipha Ndlovu	Randzile Sukati	Nosinko Ntintane

Call (+268) 76118139 for more information



# MAN FINED E700 FOR STEALING BEER AT RITZ

BY MELUSI TSABEDZE  
Swazi National Court

A 40-year-old man from Mantabeni under Chief Jabhane in the Hhohho region has been arrested for stealing alcohol at Ritz Food and Beverages shop in Mbabane.

Happy Dlamini was nabbed

Saturday by the police after stealing four Castle beer bottles from the shop.

## Beer

Upon gaining entry at the outlet which is located at Gwamile Street, Dlamini illegally and purposefully tried to steal beer bottles that were under Fikile Motsa's custody.

Court President Chief Lembelele

Dlamini and Clerk Winile Malinga were presiding over the matter.

The court learnt that Dlamini ordered four Castle beer bottles (750ml each) at the counter.

The bottles were brought to him at the counter, but he left them and went to the meat fridge, taking some meat that was for sale and headed back to the counter where he paid only for the meat.

When he returned from the fridge to get the meat, Dlamini is said to have used another line that was shorter than the one he had used before when ordering for his drinks, leaving behind the beer.

## Paid

"He paid for the meat and went back to the first counter where he had left his beers. Upon reaching that counter, he claimed the alco-

hol as his.

He simply took the beers that were inside a plastic bag and headed towards the exit door together with the meat he had paid for. I decided to pursue him. The total amount of the beer he had stolen is E75.76," said Nkosinathi Dlamini, a security guard at Ritz.

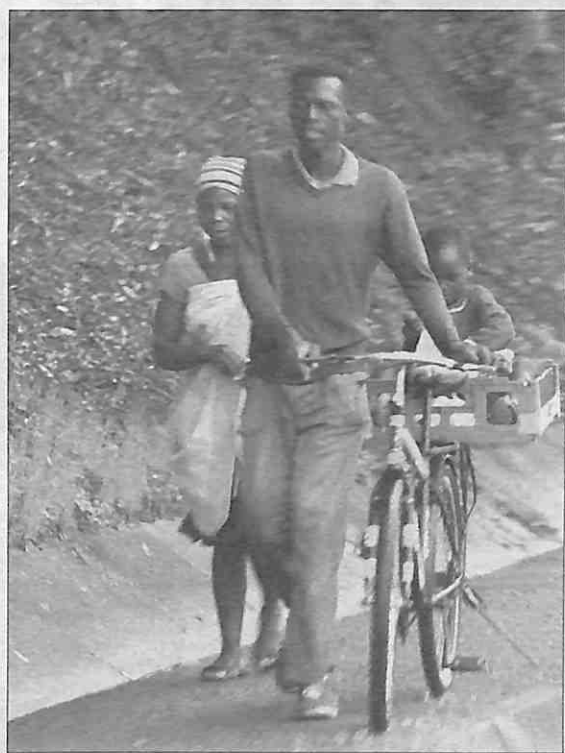
Worth noting is the fact that Dlamini was not a first offender in the case. Late last year in December, at the same shop, the management had to forgive him for committing the same offence. He had stolen six wine bottles.

Then, a security guard followed the accused who was already crossing the street. Dlamini is said to have been surprised by the fact that the security wanted to arrest him.

"Sewebe ludziwo lolukhulu, what must the court do with you," asked the court president.

He was sentenced to seven months in a correctional facility or pay a fine of E700.

## Hamba Mfana



**FAMILY MAN:** A man leading his family back home after spending some time around the city yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

## Dlangeni man accused another of witchcraft, fined E800

BY MELUSI TSABEDZE  
Swazi National Court

A 49-year-old man from Dlangeni, under Chief Nsukumbili in the Hhohho region, has been arrested for insulting another.

Musa Bulunga was on January 5 arrested by the police after he insulted Simon Gama from the same area.

Bulunga said Gama trimmed his daughter's hair for witchcraft purposes.

The court learnt that two minors from Dlangeni got hold of a misplaced pair of scissors.

One of the two toddlers actually took the pair of scissors and started to trim the other younger girl's hair.

The two youngsters were alone when the incident happened.

Bulunga's daughter had long hair, and when she returned home, it was noticed that her hair had been trimmed.

The accused told the court that they went looking for the hair the next day and they could not find it.

Bulunga pleaded guilty to the charge of verbal assault, but he maintained that his daughter's hair was really cut by Gama's son.

When mitigating, the accused told the

● *When mitigating, the accused told the court that when he arrived at home on February 5, Gama's son had trimmed his daughter's long hair. Bulunga then sent his 26-year-old son to report the matter at Gama's homestead; however, the complainant did not respond.*

court that when he arrived at home on February 5, Gama's son had trimmed his daughter's long hair. Bulunga then sent his 26-year-old son to report the matter at Gama's homestead; however, the complainant did not respond.

Bulunga also stated that Gama once left them in the middle of a meeting and they had to make conclusions without his presence. The accused told the court that they had to wait for 30 minutes while Gama was talking on the phone.

Gama told the court that he and Bulunga were related through their grandmothers but, now they quarrel a lot over livestock and other issues.

The complainant told the court that Gama was not telling the truth when he said his daughter's hair was cut for witchcraft purposes.

The court also learnt that the two had met whilst crossing the Mbuluzi River

and Bulunga was driving his car.

The accused first ignored Gama and then reversed his motor vehicle to him.

"Bulunga said *umntfwanami uyagula ngoba tinwele tajutjwa, umncutse leni*," Gama said in court.

The court then wanted to know why Bulunga told the complainant that his daughter was sickly.

"The reason I reported the matter to Gama is because Gama's wife works at the pre-school where my daughter attends classes. My daughter was with Gama's son when her hair was trimmed. Also, Your Honour, Gama is one of the elders in the area and we sometimes tell him what's affecting us as a community," said Bulunga.

He further told the court that it has been six weeks since his daughter fell ill. The accused was fined E800 or face imprisonment of eight months.

## Two SA men arrested for illegal gun possession

BY SAMKELISIWE KHOZA  
Mbabane

THE police arrested two South African men for the illegal possession of guns on Saturday.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said the Nhlengano police arrested and charged two men for the unpermitted possession of firearms.

Both men were nabbed while at the Mahamba Border Post on Saturday at around 1530 hours.

"Nhlengano police arrested two men of Msinga, South Africa, aged 60 and 55 for being found in possession of firearms without a licence or permit while at Mahamba Border Post," Vilakati said, adding that the 60-year-old man was in possession of a 9mm Parabellum pistol with 13 live rounds of ammunition.

She said upon arrest, the 55-year-old man was in possession of a 45 ACP Griffon pistol with nine live rounds of ammunition without a licence while at Mahamba.

## Mechanic fined E4 000 for drink-driving

BY SIZWE DLAMINI  
Pigg's Peak

A motor mechanic has vowed never to drink bugaru again after he was fined E4 000 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Sandile Nhlengethwa (24) was arrested on Saturday evening at Mayiwane while driving a VW station wagon along the MR6 public road.

He was arrested after patrolling Pigg's Peak police noticed that the station wagon had a faulty rear brake light.

The police then stopped the station

wagon and asked Nhlengethwa to take a breathalyser test.

After taking the test, Nhlengethwa was found to have a blood alcohol content of 1.64ml of alcohol in his system.

This is way above the legal blood alcohol limit of 0.37ml.

## Arrested

After failing the breathalyser test, the accused was arrested and taken to the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court where he vowed to never drink bugaru again because the brew was potent.

"The brew is the reason why I was arrested. Your Worship you will be

shocked to learn that I only drank two cups of it; but I got so drunk that I even forgot my own name. I will never ever drink bugaru again because it causes problems."

## Unemployed

He added that currently he was unemployed, but made a living as a bush mechanic at Mayiwane.

"I have two young children that I look after so may the court take pity on my circumstances," he said.

Principal Magistrate Joe Gumede sentenced the accused to two years in a correctional facility if he failed to pay a fine of E4 000.





# ROLL CALL NOTICE

## THE JUDICIARY OF ESWATINI



CRIMINAL MATTERS BEFORE HER LADYSHIP  
JUSTICE F. NHLABATSI ON THE 13TH  
FEBRUARY 2019 AT 09:30 AM.

CRIMINAL MATTERS BEFORE HER LADYSHIP JUSTICE F. NHLABATSI ON THE 13TH FEBRUARY 2019 AT 09:30 AM.				Nomfundo Nomphumelelo Dvuba	Mr M. Mbhamali		Bongekile Sibongile Dlamini	Mr V. Thomo
CASE NO. COUNSEL	PARTIES	DEFENCE		Rex V Thokozani Dlamini	Mr M. Mbhamali	55/14	Rex V Mbongiseni Tununu Mndzebele	Mr M. Mbhamali
424/13	Rex V Mlungisi Dlamini Dingane Mduduzi Mhlongo Jimmy Kheswa Mboweni	Mr S. Nhlengetfwa M. Dlamini Mr B. Xaba	188/13  201/15	Rex V Mangaliso Clint Greenhead	In person	217/14	Rex V Vulindlela Kunene	Mr M. Mbhamali
349/13	Rex V Bongani Dlamini Mphumelelo Ndwandwe Celimhilo Dlamini	X. Mthethwa " "	243/15	Rex V Ntokozo Kenneth Simelane	Mr S. Gumedze	241/14	Rex V Malungisa Mabuza	M. Sithole
26/15	Rex V Happy Sonnyboy Mwelase	Mr S. Nhlengetfwa	22/15	Rex V Thakhi Gama	Ms N. Ndlangamandla	329/14	Rex V Thandeka Msitsini	Mr. S. Hlengetfwa
200/13	Rex V		94/14  29/14	Rex V Ellias Gwebu	Mr S. Gama			
----- NOSIPHO MAZIBUKO ACTING REGISTRAR OF THE HIGH COURT								

NOSIPHO MAZIBUKO  
ACTING REGISTRAR OF THE HIGH COURT



**WORK DONE:** RSSC employees pose with the children after the long day of charity work.



**FACELIFT:** Employees painting the structure.

## RSSC EMPLOYEES SHOW SWEETER SIDE

BY SAMUKELISIWE KHOZA  
Mbabane

EMPLOYEES of the Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC) have brought smiles to nursery school children and teachers of Mhlume Inkhulisa by painting the school's structure.

The employees put their tools down for a good cause as they visited the pre-school at Mhlume to paint, cook, play and cultivate a garden, also situated within the school premises.

A group of about 30 employees from various departments proved that there is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up, which was indeed a success, as they revamped the building and left everyone in the nursery school excited.

RSSC Corporate Social Investment Manager Phindile Lukhele-Dlamini said: "The objective of the initiative is to work hand in hand with the employees in uplifting communities. Investing in communities forms part of the RSSC culture and is widely



**PLANNING THE JOB:** RSSC employees discussing the allocation of duties before commencing with the charity work.

understood and supported by employees. Therefore, their response to such outreach activities is often overwhelming.

This challenges the public affairs office to constantly innovate in this regard, whilst some ideas emanate from the employees themselves."

Employees at RSSC have been witnessed helping the needy through various initiatives over the past years, from donating clothes, shoes, food to wearing school uniforms themselves as an initiative of commemorating schools opening terms for the

needy little ones.

The company itself has an open mandate of being an active contributor to the socio-economic development of the Kingdom of Eswatini and through various ideas and concepts, RSSC has lived to that mandate, to date.

**What the employees said:**  
Vusi Mamba (Mhlume Factory)

"I am happy to be part of such an initiative, courtesy of RSSC. I learnt a lot of things today, such as pouring my heart to the needy and also

the art of painting. I would like to thank RSSC for the continuous efforts in ensuring that the underprivileged are taken care of, especially in the neighbouring communities."

**Phila Mncina**  
(Laboratory - Mhlume Factory)

"I am overwhelmed by the way I contributed in making sure that the children wake up to a good-looking structure, which is conducive for learning. Such activities will lead in us unitedly eradicating poverty as a nation and RSSC has always led by example in community development."



**CARING:** IMS Manager Philile Dlamini plays with one of the children at the centre while feeding him.



# 'TAKE OUR CULTURAL TALENT



**DIGNITARIES:** Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga joined the Manzini Regional eliminations of the Ingwenyama Cup Culture Competition held at Mavuso Trade Centre on Sunday. He is pictured with Mangomeni Ndzimandze, Prince Mbuyisa, Prince Hlangabeza and Prince Bukhosi, among the dignitaries present. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

**WINNERS:** Ngculwini Ingadla showing off their skills before the judges gave them a ticket to the finals.



...“The level of competition in this region was very high, and I think time has come that we take this to another level

**STORIES BY SIMON SHABANGU**  
Manzini

**MBELEBELENI** Sibhaca, Ngculwini Ingadla, Zombodze Lacwebetelako, Bhinkinkosi Lutsango and Imbongi Mfundo Dlamini, aka Mabhamulane are through to the finals of the Ingwenyama Cup Culture competition and will be representing the Manzini region.

They were the eventual winners during the regional eliminations held at Mavuso Exhibition and Trade Centre on Sunday.

This was a tightly-contested region, as a number of groups came through to participate in the competition. In the timbongi category alone, over 20 praise singers came through to compete, whilst all the other categories realised a significant growth in the number of participating groups.

Speaking at the close of the regional eliminations, Prince Hlangabeza, who is the chairman of the Ingwenyama Cup Competition, said it was time the cultural performances displayed by the groups

be recorded and used to market the country. He said the level of performances was impressive, stating that time had come that the cultural activities be exported and used to attract tourists.

“The level of competition in this region was very high, and I think time has come that we take this to another level. I stand to be advised by you whether to go and request that His Majesty blesses the exporting of these performances,” he said.

The prince said groups must take their talent serious and understand that they are not doing this for themselves but for the country.

He said it was expected that the whole country will benefit from the talent the groups have displayed. He encouraged the groups to work hard and take their craft serious. He said the cultural performances must not end when the Ingwenyama Cup Culture competition comes to an end.

“This must not stop here, but should be done regularly at chiefdom level. I note with concern that there are groups who were known to be leaders in the competition,



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## TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are hereby invited from suitably qualified contractors, registered with the Construction Industry Council of Swaziland (CIC) in Category M4 or B4, for the Supply and Installation of Piggery Equipment for Sibukosemphumakudze under LUSIP 1 in the Lubombo Region, Siphofaneni Area.

Preference will be given to local contractors, with 60% Swazi shareholding, and registered with the Construction Industry Council of Eswatini. Tender documents may be obtained after payment of a non-refundable tender fee of E350.00 to the Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE). Documents will be on sale from the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019, starting at 08:30am to 15:00 pm at the ESWADE Siphofaneni Main Office up to the day of a compulsory clarification meeting and site visit with representatives of the Employer which will be held at ESWADE Siphofaneni Offices, LUSIP 1 boardroom.

Tenderers attention is drawn to the table below which indicates the Contract No, Contract Title, Tender Bond, CIC category, Site Inspection date and the closing date for submission of tenders. Late, incomplete, telephoned or telegraphic tenders will not be considered.

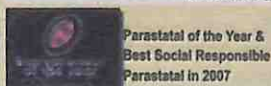
Contract No.	Contract Title	Tender Bond	CIC Category	Site Inspection Date/Time	Closing of Tender
SWADE/0391	Supply and Installation of Piggery Equipment for Sibukosemphumakudze	E5,000.00	M4 and B4 Only	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2019 10:00 am	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2019 14:00 PM

Completed tenders should be delivered in a sealed envelope to the ESWADE Head Office and the envelope should only show the Project Name, Project Number and addressed to:

Chairman of the Tender Board  
Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE)  
MVA Building, 3rd Floor  
Mbabane  
Eswatini

Any actions or tendencies that will be interpreted as an attempt to interfere with or influence the tendering process will result in immediate disqualification of the Tenderer. Enquiries, administrative and technical, relating to the Tender listed in the table above may be addressed to Mr Bongani Magagula. Tel No. 23441873 or 23441671/2/3 Fax No. 23441665 E-mail: [bonganimagagula@swade.co.sz](mailto:bonganimagagula@swade.co.sz).

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## TENDER NOTICE



**INVITATIONS TO TENDER FOR**

<b>TENDER NO.</b>	<b>SRA 2019/003</b>
<b>NAME</b>	<b>PROVISION OF PRINTED STATIONERY</b>
<b>CLOSING DATE</b>	<b>8<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 2019</b>

The Swaziland Revenue Authority is seeking services from experienced companies for the above mentioned services. Only companies that can demonstrate that they are suitably qualified and have previous experience and capacity to implement similar projects will be considered.

Tenderers should submit the following:

- Company profile
- Technical & Financial proposals
- Original Copy of Valid Tax Compliance Certificate
- Certified Copy of Valid Trading License
- Certified Copy of Valid Labour Compliance Certificate
- Police clearance for company Directors
- Company audited annual financial statements for the past 3 years
- Names and contact details of at least three (3) reference customers

Interested companies should access the tender documents from the SRA website at [www.sra.org.sz](http://www.sra.org.sz) and from the Swaziland Public Procurement Regulatory Agency website at [www.sppra.co.sz](http://www.sppra.co.sz). Tenders must be placed in the above closing date at:

Eswatini Revenue Authority Building  
Ground Floor Reception, Portion 419 of Farm 50  
Ezulwini, Along MR 103 (Mvutshini-Gables Road)

Compulsory Pre-tender Briefing Dates

TENDER NAME	PRE BRIEFING DATE	VENUE&TIME
PROVISION OF PRINTED STATIONERY	18 FEBRUARY 2019, 10 AM	SRA HEADQUARTERS PORTION 419 FARM 50 EZULWINI ALONG MR103(MVUTSHINI-GABLES ROAD AT 10 AM

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



# TO THE WORLD'



**EKUNYAWENI:** Mambafweni Indlamu group doing what they know best.

but they have since disappeared. We discourage that because their talent is needed to promote the country," he said.

Meanwhile, Manzini Regional Secretary Samkeliso Dlamini thanked His Majesty for the competition, stating that it will go a long way in reviving the culture in the country.

He said this must not be a project, but a programme because it plays a critical

role in promoting culture and uniting the people.

He said it was his prayer that the stakeholders involved in the competition get together and find a way of making this a continuous competition, which will be run forever.

He said one strategy would be to introduce the competition at Inkhundla, level then spread it to regional level and final-

ly to the national competition stage. He said this would also ensure that all the chiefdoms were represented, which will in the long run promote the culture countrywide.

Dlamini said as the Manzini region, they were proud to have been able to produce large numbers of participating groups, who displayed top notch performances.



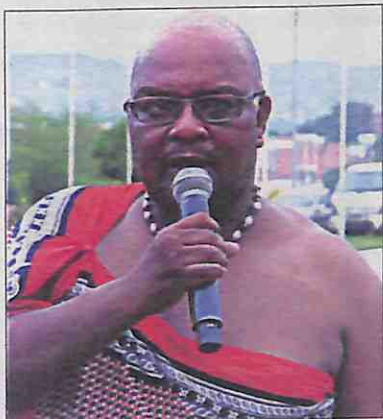
**FLAIR:** Lutsango from Bhhekinkosi rendering the performance which won them the first position.

## SMVAF introduces new system of compensation

**THE** Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund has announced a new system of compensating road accident victims, where they first treat and compensate.

This was said by the fund's CEO, Helmon Vilakati, when addressing the gathering in Manzini during the Ingwenyama Cup Culture Competition held at Mavuso Exhibition and Trade Centre on Sunday. Vilakati urged the nation to be patient with them, stating that research has shown that the system that has been used over the years was not effective, because people get the money and use it willy nilly without sparing some to use in the event there are complications as a result of the accident.

"We have now introduced the system, whereby we first treat the person and be sure that they are as fit as possible, depending on the injuries before we can then start issues of talking about compensation. There is an outcry that there is delay, we acknowledge that, but we ask for patience because at the end of



**CHANGE:** SMVAF CEO Helmon Vilakati.

the day, this meant to make sure the person will live longer and possibly be able to return to employment and spend more time on earth with his or her family. This is for a good cause and we urge the nation to work with us," he added.

### Eliminations

He also congratulated Prince Hlangabeza and his committee for the success of the regional culture eliminations, stat-

ing that as a fund, they were happy about the success of the competition. He said they took pride to see that the country's cultural heritage was being revived. He thanked His Majesty for the wisdom of including culture in this competition, stating that the combination of the two (culture and soccer) has shown positive results over the years. Vilakati also urged chiefs and members of parliament to invite the fund to their respective areas if they have events, so that they can come to educate the nation about their services. "We have bought this mobile office which we want to put to good use. The intention is to bring our services closer to the people so we encourage communities to be in touch with us. This bus is meant to reach all the corners of the country and people will get all the services they could have received from the office," he added.

Vilakati also thanked the SMVAF staff members for working tirelessly through-out the competition, stating that they have dedicated themselves to even working on weekends.

## Manzini Regional Culture Competition Results

### Indlamu

1. Mbelebeleni
2. Velezizweni
3. Ngculwini
4. Kunjelu

### Ingadla

1. Ngculwini
2. Emphankomo
3. Kwaluseni
4. Nsingweni

### Timbongi

1. Mfundo dlamini
2. Nyatsi Dlamini
3. Mpumelelo Nkhambule
4. Sibonginkhosi Tfwala

### Lutsango

1. Bhhekinkhosi
2. Ngculwini

### 3. Khuphuka

### 4. Zombodze

### Emajaha

1. Zombodze
2. Mahlangatja
3. Emampondweni

### JUNIORS CATEGORIES

### Timbongi

- 1- Takitsi Motsa
- 2- Mkhuleko Shabalala

### Ingadla

- 1- Nsingweni
- 2- Mampondweni

### Indlamu

- 1- Mkhweni


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d. Business Administration  
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b. A+: Cert 6 Months  
c. N+: Cert 6 Months  
d. Dip in IT: 2 Years  
e. Diploma in Web and Graphics Design: 1 Year
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d. Public Health
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## LUBOMBO NEWS

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Email: observersiteki@realnet.co.sz...With  
Wonderboy Dlamini

THE executive committee of Lugongolweni Inkhundla has been urged to always consult with the umphakatsi whenever they had a project to implement.

An inkhundla's executive committee is made up of the Member of Parliament, indvuna yenkhundla (being the chairperson) and bucophu. The area's MP, Ntsetselelo Magongo on Saturday hosted a thanks-giving party for the electorate under Makhewu community. Speaking during the event, indvuna of the umphakatsi Morris Mbuli first commended the MP and his team for coming back to the residents to thank them

## 'ALWAYS CONSULT WITH UMPHAKATSI FOR PROJECTS'

for their votes and further affirm their promises, which they made during elections.

## Urged

Mbuli then urged the executive committee of the inkhundla to work in cooperation with imiphakatsi when implementing development projects.

Mbuli noted that in most instances,

the umphakatsi would only learn of development projects taking place under its jurisdiction through other forums, such as the media without having been formally informed by bucophu. Under normal circumstances, bucophu liaises with the umphakatsi and the inkhundla.

"The fact that we are gathered

here is a good indication that you will consult with the umphakatsi whenever you are implementing projects," said the indvuna. Mbuli then called upon the residents to cooperate with the executive committee of the inkhundla to ensure sustainable development.

He warned the residents against

causing division which may delay development projects. Likewise, Mbuli urged the MP to work in unity with his team, and ensure that they always have a common goal.

"You must know that the people are looking up to you, if they see you divided, the constituency is doomed," said Mbuli.

## Tenele Dlamini moves from selling ice block to shop owner

**WAITING for a monthly salary can be very stressful, especially when the money you earn is too little to cater for your daily needs.**

This is what inspired Tenele Dlamini (29) of Siphofaneni into becoming an entrepreneur, selling cosmetics to both individuals and retailers. Her hard work has also been recognised by the ministry of commerce, industry and trade. Dlamini walked away with an award under the Lubombo Regional Entrepreneur of the Year Awards which were held at Siteki Hotel yesterday. She was awarded for being the most improved entrepreneur.

## Business

Speaking during an interview with this publication, Dlamini narrated how she quit her job and started her own business, selling ice blocks on the streets. Dlamini disclosed that she was employed as a shop assistant in a book shop, when she realised that working for somebody else was not helping her in any way. "I was earning E800 per month, and this was too little to cater for my needs. I decided to leave the

job and started selling ice blocks on the streets of Siphofaneni," she said.

Dlamini said a few months into the world of entrepreneurship, she then expanded and started selling perfumes to individuals. She got her stock from neighbouring South Africa. Dlamini said she continued trading as a vendor until a time when she decided to open such small shop for her cosmetic products. By this time, she registered her business as Place of Power Cosmetics. Dlamini said her business flourished over a few months, and she started selling her products to other vendors. "I am now operating more like a wholesaler, because some shops already buy their stock from me," she said.

Meanwhile, Dlamini said she has recently enrolled for an accounting course at one of the institutions in Manzini.

She said she was doing this so that she can manage her cash flow, and be able to see if her business was making profits or not. Her ultimate goal is to grow into a large scale business under the cosmetics industry.



**THANK YOU:** Tenele Dlamini receiving her award of being the most improved entrepreneur in the Lubombo region.

## Agri-business winner urges youth to start small

**ONE does not need to have large sums of money to start a business.**

Hloniphile Mavuso of KaLanga is one of the now successful entrepreneurs, who knows how to start a business with as little as E1 000. Mavuso was awarded for excelling under the agri-business category. This was during the Lubombo Regional Entrepreneur of the Year Awards, which were held at Siteki Hotel yesterday. When speaking to this publication, Mavuso disclosed that she started off by selling Table Charm products, one of the companies selling cosmetic products. A few months later, Mavuso said she then developed and started raising chickens for resale.

These were indigenous chickens, broilers and layers. "While I was doing this, I knew that my ultimate goal was to start a piggery business, where I would produce in large scale," she said. Mavuso said she traded with chickens for a cou-



**YOURS:** Hloniphile Mavuso receiving her award from Director of SMEs Mluleki Dlamini and Siteki Mayor Bhukumuzi Ngomane.

ple of years, until she felt fit enough to start her piggery business.

She eventually started her piggery business and sold meat portions to individuals. Some of her customers would buy on credit, and pay at the end of each month. Mavuso disclosed that she never

asked for a loan to start her business, but she used the little resources that she had to start with the little that she could afford. "I would like to encourage young people to start with the little they have, as opposed to going for loans which they may end up unable to repay," said Mavuso.

## Entrepreneur creates eight jobs

**NOSIPHO Mavundla, an entrepreneur with no specific education background, is a proud employer of eight people.**

Mavundla provides bridal services, registered as Nice and Easy Bridal Boutique.

She was yesterday presented an award during the Lubombo Regional Entrepreneur of the Year Awards, which were held at Siteki Hotel. Mavundla disclosed that she grew up under a poor background, a situation which inspired her to work hard to sustain her family.

Mavundla said since childhood, she enjoyed putting her grandmother's hut in order, decorating it with flowers which she would pick from the bushes.



**JOB CREATOR:** Nosipho Mavundla.

She eventually realised that she was actually practising her calling, and that she could make a living out of it.

"I remember my first project was at church where I was asked to decorate the church for a special service which was to be hosted in a few days," Mavundla said.

## Services

Mavundla said she then started offering her services for free during some occasions, until she decided to use her talent as a means to make money. "I never went to school for this, it came naturally," Mavundla said, adding that she was now operating from a well-organised set-up and registered as a company.

She also disclosed that through her natural talent, she has created jobs for eight people. Moreover, she has trained other people who have shown interest to start similar businesses.





## FOCUS on DD cases

# Stress drives woman to the bar, nabbed for DD

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE  
Manzini Magistrate's Court

**THE stress of finding out that your teenage daughter is pregnant just after you have paid school fees for the whole year can sometimes push you straight into the nearest bar.**

This is exactly what happened to Zanele Khoza (50) of Ndwandwe area who was nabbed for drink-driving. According to the charge sheet, on Saturday, at about 2159 hours near Mathayini along Duma public road in the Manzini District, Khoza, being the driver of a Kia vehicle registered PSD 442 BM, wrongfully and unlawfully drove the said motor vehicle on a public road under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drug, thus contravening Section 91(1) as read with Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Act No.6 of 2007.

She pleaded guilty to the charge. Khoza told the court that if she could be able to turn back the hands of time, she could. This was because she was not proud of her act of driving while she was under the influence of alcohol. She left the court in stunned silence when she revealed the reason behind her excessive drinking. Khoza recorded 0.88mg/l when a breath specimen was conducted on her. She told the court that after finding out that her teenage daughter was pregnant, she did not know what to do. To avoid hurting her, she left her home to try clear her mind.

"Your Worship, I didn't know what to do after realising that my daughter was pregnant. I had just paid her school fees for the whole year since we all know schools have just opened for the year," she said.

Khoza said she was very angry at her daughter for making a fool out of her.

She then took a drive in an attempt to clear her mind. That was when she ended up having a few alcoholic beverages. Following the stress relieving beverages, according to her, she was nabbed by the police on her way back home.

Magistrate Xolile Nxumalo found her guilty of the charge. She was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment with an option to pay E1 500.

"Your Worship, I didn't know what to do after realising that my daughter was pregnant. I had just paid her school fees for the whole year since we all know schools have just opened for the year," she said

## STRESSED KOMBI DRIVER NABBED FOR DD

**AN allegedly stressed kombi driver was nabbed for drinking and driving.**

Sifiso Tsabedze of Mpembekati area was charged with contravening Section 91(1) of the Road Traffic Act of 2007 in that on Saturday, near KaHlobile along MR31 public road in the Manzini District being a driver of a motor vehicle registered BSD 713 AH, a Toyota kombi mini-bus, he wrongfully and unlawfully drove the said motor vehicle on a public road while he was under the influence of an intoxicating liquor or drugs. His alcohol content was 0.79

mg/l, which is above the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

Tsabedze appeared before Magistrate Xolile Nxumalo on Sunday. As a public transport operator, he was told that he is putting people's lives in danger. Tsabedze told the court that there were no passengers in his vehicle when he was nabbed for driving under the influence of alcohol.

### Astating

He told the court that he wanted to clear his mind following a series of devastating issues that he was faced with. He did not disclose the nature of

the issues that he was faced with that landed him in trouble.

"Your Worship I was trying to relieve myself of stress by drinking alcohol. Mind you it was after hours, it is just that I was driving the mini-bus," he said.

He concluded by voicing out that he was a first time offender and had no intention of committing such an offence in the future, no matter how stressed he can be. Tsabedze was found guilty of the charge and was sentenced to 10 months in prison with an option to pay E1 500 fine.

son. I wouldn't just drink alcohol and then take my car and speed on the road," he said.

Ndlangamandla added that he even told the arresting officer 7295 Constable Sicelo Mkhwanazi the reason for his speeding. He said he received a phone call from his sister pleading for assistance since his brother-in-law was extremely sick. He was found guilty of all charges. On the first count, he was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment with an option to pay E1 700. On the second count, he was sentenced to four months imprisonment with an option to pay E600.

"Your Worship, I am a responsible per-

## Sick sibali lands man behind bars

**A hurried call by his sister to come and pick up his sick brother-in-law landed Mandla Ndlangamandla of Nsongweni area in jail for over-speeding and driving under the influence of alcohol.**

Ndlangamandla was in court facing two traffic offences. He was arrested at Sidvokodvo near Riders' Ranch along MR9 public road in the Manzini region. He was driving a Honda Fit registered QSD 509 CM and did wrongfully and unlawfully drove the said vehicle under

the influence of an intoxicating liquor with a reading of 1.09mg/l.

He was also charged with contravening Section 54 (4) (a) as read with Section 122(4) of the Road Traffic Act 6 of 2007 in that on Saturday, at about 0900hrs, he drove the said motor vehicle on a public road at a speed of 79km/h, in excess of the general limit which is 60km/h thus contravening the Act. Ndlangamandla told the court that he was rushing to fetch his brother-in-law at Mankayane.

"Your Worship, I am a responsible per-

## 'I MAGICALLY FOUND MYSELF IN MANKAYANE'

**A 24-year-old man informed the court that he magically found himself at Mankayane town after taking the car to the garage.**

Mavakhe Dlamini (24) of Velezizweni area appeared before Magistrate Nxumalo facing three traffic charges. Firstly, he was charged with contravening Section 91(5) as

read with Section 122 of the Road Traffic Act of 2007. According to the charge sheet, on Saturday at around 1934 hours near Siyakhula Hall at Mankayane, he occupied a driver's seat of a motor vehicle registered KSD 595 CM while he was under the influence of alcohol with a reading of 0.46mg/l.

He was further charged with contravening Section 16(1) as read with Section 122(7) of the road Traffic Act 6 of 2007.

He was found driving the said motor vehicle on a public road while it was unlicensed.

In addition, he was charged with driving the above stated motor vehi-

cle without a driver's licence.

In his defence, he told the court that initially he was taking the car to a mechanic.

However, he 'magically' found himself and his friends at Mankayane town when where he was nabbed by the police.

"I really don't know how we ended up at Mankayane because the plan was to take the car to be fixed at a

garage," he said.

He was found guilty of all three counts and sentenced to four months imprisonment on the first count with an option to pay E600 fine.

On the second count, he was sentenced to six months in prison with an option of E800 fine. On the last count, he was sentenced to three months imprisonment with an option to pay E500 fine.

## MARULA TASTING LANDS MAN IN JAIL

**A crowd can sometimes lead you astray and this is a lesson that Sithembiso Tfwala learnt on Sunday in court.**

Tfwala (34) of Nyakeni area appeared before Magistrate Nxumalo charged with contravening Section 91(1) as read with Section 122 of the Road Traffic Act of 2007 that he committed on Sunday.

Tfwala was driving a Honda sedan registered XSD 036 CM on MR31 public road near KaHlobile under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs with a reading of 0.77mg/l, which is above the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

Tfwala left the court in stitches when she blamed everything on his friends and marula brew.

"Your Worship, it is not like I drank intentionally.

In fact, I only tasted the brew," he said.

He told the court that he only had one cup of marula brew. He further stated that he only

drank the cup after seeing his friends enjoying the seasonal brew.

He added that seeing the state his friends were in, he was tempted to taste the brew.

He told the court that if he knew that the brew had so much alcohol content in it, he wouldn't even have touched it.

### Assured

Tfwala further told the court that he was not a regular drinker and it was his first time in court.

He further stated that when he was stopped by the police officers, he did not think that he had so much alcohol in his system because he was stable. He assured everyone in court that he does not have any intentions of getting closer to any intoxicating drinks because of the expense and embarrassment that comes with them.

He was found guilty of the charge and was sentenced to 10 months in prison with an option to pay E1 500 fine.

## LIST OF PEOPLE ARRESTED IN MANZINI FOR DRINK-DRIVING OVER THE WEEKEND

Names	Recording	Sentence
Allister Groaning (42 years)	0.8 mg/l	10 months/ E1500
Lucky Mandla Dlamini (54 years)	0.43 mg/l	6 months/ E800
Mduduzi Dlamini (40 years)	0.43 mg/l	6 months / E800
Samuel Zwane (54 years)	0.92mg/l	10 months/ E1 600
Mcolisi Sibandze (34 years)	0.69mg/l	10 months/ E1400
Banze Rodrigues (46 years)	1.16mg/l	12 months/ E1800
Sifiso Ndlovu (41 years)	1.15 mg/l	16 months/E2300
Hlobisile Hlanze (27 years)	0.56 mg/l	8 months/ E1200
Themba Dlamini (59 years)	0.43mg/l	6months/ E800
Magagula Makhosahlangene (24 years)	1.38 mg/l	12 months/ E2 000
Norman Maziya (46 years)	1.00mg/l	12 months/ E1 700





**HELLO:** Minister of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Princess Sikhanyiso greets European Union (EU) Ambassador to Eswatini Esmeralda Hernandez Aragones, while EU Head of Cooperation Ariane Labat and ICT Principal Secretary Maxwell Masuku look on. This was yesterday at the ICT ministry when the EU dished over E82 million to improve the ICT sector in government. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

## SRA gets more than E2m

**ESWATINI Revenue Authority (SRA) has been given an amount of about E2 836 320 by the European Union (EU).**

This money was given to SRA for the installation of ASYCUDA World Performance Management System (ASYPM).

This project is to facilitate the effective monitoring of trade flows and the effectiveness of trade facilitation measures by tracking the performance of the system, as well as the officers using it. The ASYPM is a system specifically designed to work with the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA), which is a computerised system to administer Eswatini's customs.

The ASYCUDA system helps in making revenue collection more efficient and it further reduces both the clearing time and the administrative burden on the trading community. It also generates trade data that can be used for statistical economic analysis. Managing the performance of this system is critical to ensure that cross-border trade remains effortless in Eswatini.

The EU also allocated €10 500 (E163 275) for IT experts to develop a web-based information management system for approval and certification of plants and plant products. This system will provide a harmonised solution for issuing phytosanitary certification that contributes to facilitating safe trade.

An amount of €40 000 (E622 000) was allocated for the development of an electronic veterinary drugs and medicinal database. This project seeks to support an official harmonised national database system for the control and regulation of veterinary drugs and medicinal substances in Eswatini.

The system is expected to promote Eswatini's compliance with international standards in the regulation of veterinary drugs and medicinal substances, ensure prudent and responsible use of veterinary drugs and medicinal substances especially in food producing animals, thus ensuring safety of food of animal origin and fostering trade partners' confidence and such promote international trade.

An amount of €26 250 (E408 187.50) was also allocated for research and innovation collaboration within Africa and Europe to monitor ICT-related activities. This project focuses on strengthening ICT-related research and innovation cooperation between African and Europe by fostering greater coordination of ICT-related research and innovation activities to inform policy formulation and research collaboration, and coordinating stakeholders to formulate research priorities and activities addressing socio-economic challenges and strengthening African innovation ecosystems.

# EU dishes out E80m for ICT improvement

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI  
Mbabane

**THE European Union (EU) has dished a sum of E82 823 167.13 to the Government of Eswatini to assist in improving the information, communication and technology (ICT) sector.**

The money was announced yesterday at the ministry of ICT by EU Ambassador to Eswatini Esmeralda Hernandez Aragones.

Aragones had gone there with EU Head of Cooperation Ariane Labat.

Organisations to benefit from this kind gesture include government ministries and parastatals such as the prime minister's office, ministries of finance, natural resources and energy, agriculture, ICT, National Agricultural Marketing Board (NAMBoard) and Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA).

An amount of €136 000 (E2 114 800) has been allocated for the implementation of an e-government technical assistance project. This project seeks to assist the government in implementing its own e-government strategy and action plan. The project also seeks to align the e-government programme to the whole transformation project, including innovation and change. This is to improve public administration through the use of ICTs.

A sum of €4 380 000 (E69 109 000) has been allocated towards the Integrated Financial Management and Information System (IFMIS).

This project is aimed at supporting the automation and integration of public financial management processes, including budget formulation, execution (e.g commitment control, cash/debt management, and treasury operations), accounting and reporting.

IFMIS solutions significantly improve the efficiency and equity of government operations, and offer a great potential



**Minister of ICT Princess Sikhanyiso making her remarks, while PS Maxwell Masuku listens.**



**REMARKING:** EU Ambassador to Eswatini Esmeralda Hernandez Aragones making her remarks, while EU Head of Cooperation Ariane Labat takes notes.

for increasing participation, transparency and accountability for sound Public Financial Management (PFM).

The EU also allocated €283 580.61 (E4 409 678.49) for the supply of ICT and GPS equipment for the sustainable land administration and management project in the country. This project aims at improving the security of tenure and access to land for the rural poor people, thereby improving food security. EU has supplied the Land Management Board (LMB) and 23 chiefdoms with GIS equipment and tablets, as a pilot project to do the mapping for house-

holds' use of land under the DCI-FOOD project for land administration and management at national, regional and chiefdom level.

The ministry of agriculture has also benefitted from the donation as €267 518.08 (E4 159 906.14) has been allocated for Agricultural Marketing Information System (AMIS). This is a web-based portal that aims to provide relevant information to all agricultural stakeholders, allowing them to have better access to information related to market demand and supply for increased opportunities to market access.

## EU assistance came at right time – Princess Sikhanyiso

**THE European Union's (EU) assistance has come at the right time for the ministry of information, communication and technology (ICT).**

This was said by Minister for ICT Princess Sikhanyiso as she was commenting on the assistance rendered by the EU to the ICT ministry. The princess mentioned that the ministry of ICT was given a task by Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini, of ensuring that the ICT sector was improved by the ICT ministry.

She said there was a need to implement the e-government strategy and that was a very huge task that lied ahead for the ministry. She said she hoped that the EU would be there to assist as the ministry wanted to help the country in moving towards Vision 2022 using ICT.

The minister said the EU had been there for the country during hard economic times, and it had never ceased to be of great help to the country. The minister related that one of their main objectives is to

digitise the ministry of home affairs.

The ministry of home affairs is responsible for gathering information on Emaswati who were born and registered to be citizens of the country.

It should be easy to have access to such information.

She further stated that it was important for her ministry to encourage the use of the block-chain technology to protect the rights of producers in the country.

It could be artists or writers of certain movies. This would remove the middleman and pay money straight to the person who deserved to get the money.

Minister Princess Sikhanyiso further said the blockchain technology could be used to protect property owners by keeping information related to the properties in the country. She told urged EU Ambassador Esmeralda Hernandez Aragones to always be there to render advice to the ministry of ICT, as she was from a first world country.



**HAVE A LOOK:** The ambassador presenting some documents to the minister.





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What's in Your Mind

## Features &amp; Opinions

Refresh What You Think

**NIGERIA is preparing for its general election.**

But will it be credible? Nigerian voters are well aware that the elections will not be won solely by votes or popular consensus. There are several other variables that influence election results.

These include the incumbent's control of state security apparatuses, grassroots structures, and control of institutions such as market traders associations, and the National Union for Road Transport Workers.

The road transport workers' union, which acts as a canopy for bus drivers, conductors, and motor park touts in South-western Nigeria, has a history of providing foot soldiers for employment as election thugs with skills in ballot box snatching and voter intimidation tactics.

In addition, the possibility that the election could be rigged cannot be ignored.

Questions around the credibility of elections in post-independence Nigeria can be traced as far back as the 'First Republic' which lasted from 1960 - 1966. After allegations of massive rigging in the 1965 elections the country's western region was engulfed in the infamous 'Operation Wetie' riots.

The riots pitted rival political groups against each other leading to Nigeria's first military coup in 1966. From then on the country experienced a series of coups. Between 1966 and 1999, when the country made a decisive break with military politics, Nigeria experienced eight military coups. In that same time period three general elections were conducted.

**Tumultuous past**

The years outside of military rule were comparatively brief and arguably overshadowed by the spectre of the military. When elections did happen they were plagued by strong allegations of electoral fraud. Since 1999, when the country broke with military rule, five elections have been conducted all of which have been tainted by controversy.

It's clear to see that Nigeria has survived a tumultuous political history. Going into this next election, questions still remain about the credibility of the country's electoral system, and the viability of its governance structures. Looking back things have often gone wrong, but are there instances where things have worked out well for the electorate?

I would argue that there have at least two instances when voters got what they asked for. One is the June 1993 presidential election, which is considered to have been relatively free and fair in its conduct, its eventual annulment notwithstanding. Another is the presidential election of May 2015 when the incumbent Goodluck Jonathan, gracefully accepted defeat by conceding to President Muhammadu Buhari.

Yet I still feel that Nigeria's electoral system needs a complete overhaul if it's to perform its functions with as little external interference as possible.

**Shadow of military rule**

The country has been ruled by military administrators more than it has by democratically elected leaders.

For 29 years of Nigeria's independent history military dictators have had a grip on its leadership. This is compared to just 20

years of democracy. The result has been that electoral rigging and malpractice are rife within Nigeria's electoral process.

Since 1999, Olusegun Obasanjo and Muhammadu Buhari, both of whom were previously military dictators spent a combined 12 years in power.

President Buhari is now seeking a second term.

As a result, there are still those who argue that the country's transition from military rule to democracy is not quite complete.

The executive arm, for example, still maintains certain authoritarian characteristics that are reminiscent of the military era. One of these is the use of the armed forces to manipulate election processes. For instance, during the recent gubernatorial elections in Ekiti and Osun states voter intimidation by the security forces was rife. This was done to scare away opposition voters and give the ruling All Progressives Congress an edge.

**The electoral commission**

Another factor to consider is the supposed independence and impartiality of the Independent National Electoral Commission which is in charge of running the elections. Critics point to the fact that the commission chairperson and others in

the commission are nominated by the president. This calls into question the credibility of the entire electoral commission.

Further, Buhari has just appointed Amina Zakari as the new collation officer. Zakari will oversee the committee responsible for the national collation centre from where results of the presidential election will be announced.

But Zakari has been alleged to have a family relationship with the president. This has raised suspicion within opposition circles that the government intends to rig the polls.

To make matters worse, the behaviour of the electoral commission in previous elections hasn't always been above reproach.

This has lent credence to the criticisms about the body's impartiality. In the run up to the 2007 general for example, the Supreme Court ruled that the commission had no power to disqualify candidates in the eleventh hour as it had purported to do in the case of opposition candidate Atiku Abubakar.

The opaque nature in which recent gubernatorial elections have been held has also added to the fears of a rigged presidential poll.

The September 2018 gubernatorial election in Osun, for example, was panned by election observers as being riddled with voting irreg-

ularities like voter harassment, and interference by 'inappropriate persons'. These irregularities were reinforced by the high number of security officers deployed to the state during the election period.

The involvement of the security apparatus in tilting this tightly contested election in favour of the ruling All Progressives Congress is considered to be an indicator of how things could pan out in the general election.

**Role of outsiders**

Observers like the European Union and the US also exert a measure of influence on Nigerian elections. By ramping up the rhetoric on the importance of free and fair elections they play into the hands of the opposition who have historically appealed to foreign powers to umpire the electoral process.

Incumbent governments, on the other hand, have typically been on the other side of the argument. Nigerian governments have often cited what they call the 'neo-imperialism' of countries like the UK and the US and decried their interference in Nigeria's sovereignty. This resistance to foreign interference was most recently evidenced in comments made by Kaduna State governor, Nasir El-Rufai, who threatened foreign observers with death

if they engaged with local politicians.

Former president Goodluck Jonathan also trotted out the 'foreign interference' trope when he claimed in his recently published memoir that the US played a hand in ensuring that he lost the 2015 election.

And a few weeks ago the ruling All Progressives Congress joined the bandwagon when they issued a statement telling the EU to not undermine Nigeria's sovereignty.

**Not all grim**

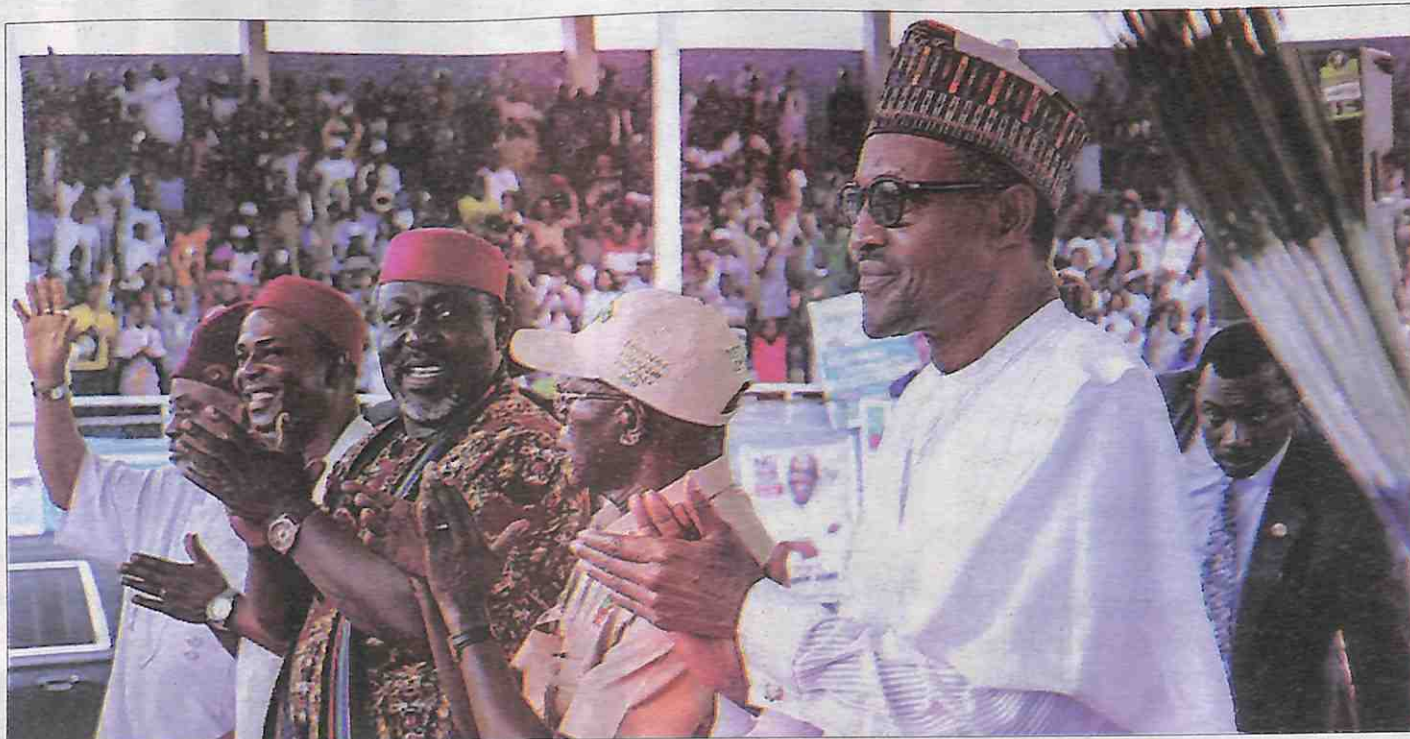
Despite all of the above, it's not all grim. There are some positive precedents that can be built on.

For example, despite predictions that there would be election violence during the 2015 poll, Jonathan did the honourable thing by conceding defeat to Buhari.

His concession reinforced the notion that elections need not be a 'do or die' affair.

This peaceful transition after just one presidential term in office also set a positive trend for elections across Africa.

But with the slim margin between the incumbent, Buhari, and his main contender Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party - this narrative might need to be reinforced when Nigeria goes to the polls again on February 16. *The Conversation*



**ALL SET:** President Muhammadu Buhari attends a campaign rally ahead of the February 16 elections.

# NIGERIA HAS A HISTORY OF DODGY ELECTIONS: ...will it be different this time?



## ON THIS DAY

...FEBRUARY 12

**1971** - James Cash (JC) Penney died at the age of 95. The company closed for business for one-half day as a memorial to the company's founder.

**1973** - The State of Ohio went metric, becoming the first in the US to post metric distance signs.

**1973** - American prisoners of war were released for the first time during the Vietnam conflict.

**1985** - Johnny Carson surprised his audience by shaving the beard he had been wearing on "The Tonight Show."

**1993** - In Liverpool, England, a two-year-old boy, James Bulger, was lured away from his mother at a shopping mall and beaten to death. Two 10-year-old boys were responsible.

**1998** - A US federal judge declared that the presidential line-item veto was unconstitutional.

**1999** - US President Clinton was acquitted by the US Senate on two impeachment articles. The charges were perjury and obstruction of justice.

**2001** - The space probe NEAR landed on the asteroid Eros. It was the first time that any craft had landed on a small space rock.

**2002** - Kenneth Lay, former Enron CEO, exercised his constitutional rights and refused to testify to the US Congress about the collapse of Enron.

**2002** - The trial of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic began at the UN tribunal in The Hague. Milosevic was accused of war crimes during the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

**2002** - Pakistan charged three men in connection with the kidnapping of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in Karachi.

**2002** - Princess Stephanie of Monaco and Franco Knie won a defamation-of-character lawsuit against the Swiss magazine "Facts." The case involved a photomontage created by the magazine.

**2003** - The UN nuclear agency declared North Korea in violation of international treaties. The complaint was sent to the Security Council.

**2004** - Mattel announced that "Barbie" and "Ken" were breaking up. The dolls had met on the set of their first television commercial together in 1961.

**2013** - North Korea conducted its third underground nuclear test.

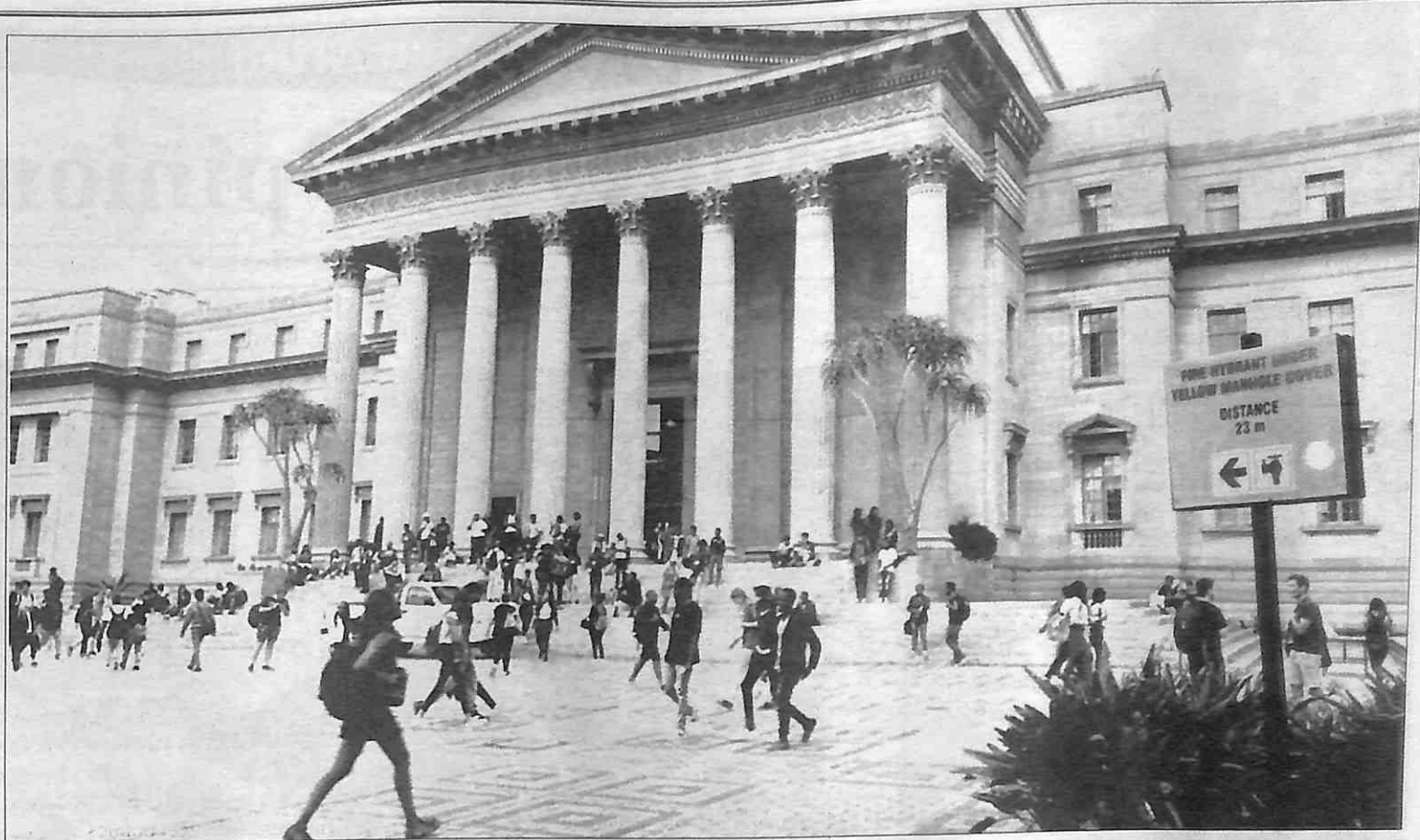
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**Abraham Lincoln**  
(Former US president) - February 12, 1809-Apr 15, 1865 (56 years old)



**Jesse Spencer** (TV actor) - February 12, 1979 (40 years old)



**FOR EDUCATION:** Students are seen in front of the Great Hall at the University of the Witwatersrand last Thursday.

# Ramaphosa's education plans don't quite make the grade

**CAPE TOWN** - South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address, delivered in Cape Town on February 7, has attracted a fair amount of praise.

But while the speech scored an A for its vision and plan for economic renewal, it scored an F for education.

If the amount of time spent on a topic during the speech is any indication of where the president's priorities lie, then those concerned about South Africa's education system – at all levels – have reason to be concerned.

Early on, he listed "improving education" as one of the government's five most urgent tasks, but he didn't elaborate on this point until well into his second hour of speaking. In fact, more time was given to tourism than education.

One can appreciate that the president had many pressing points to make about the country's dysfunctional parastatals, and weeding out corruption.

It's likely that the audience he was most concerned about were potential foreign investors, not ordinary citizens concerned about the safety of their children on university campuses after a week of protests or those who worry about the quality of basic education.

But it would have been good to hear Ramaphosa use his brief time at the podium to give a considered, thoughtful – and sobering – assessment of the state of South Africa's

entire education system.

He could have acknowledged that, after 25 years as a democracy, the country's education system hasn't yet turned the corner from deep dysfunctionality to sustained success. And this critical assessment should have been accompanied by a strategy to map the way forward.

## BASIC EDUCATION

Instead, Ramaphosa spoke of his government's commitment to basic infrastructural backlogs, such as toilets. Ensuring that schools have basic infrastructure in place is critical. But the fact that the president had to raise this as an issue at all is a shame to the minister of basic education. Ramaphosa made similar promises in his 2018 State of the Nation Address about school infrastructure development, which the department of basic education hasn't delivered on.

These infrastructural problems should have been sorted out a decade ago, especially given that the department has been taken to court to make it happen. The focus now should be on substantive educational issues.

It would have been important to hear the president comment on South Africa's ongoing challenges in producing school leavers who are qualified for first year university mathematics.

The president also created a fanfare by announcing the rollout of e-tablets for all school children. If he sincerely believes that access to

this form of technology is one of South Africa's most pressing problems, he has been badly advised by his minister.

Technology is merely a tool for teaching and learning. If the teaching and learning experience is poor for a variety of reasons, access to a tablet will make no difference.

Where are the country's skills going to come from to compete in the fourth industrial revolution? Probably not from giving pupils access to e-tablets when the principles of basic numeracy are still not properly taught.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

With respect to the technical and vocational education and training sector, Ramaphosa echoed the same promises that have been made before, vowing to build up this sector so it can contribute to the development of technically skilled graduates. No one will disagree with this.

But what should have been discussed was the progress or lack thereof that has been made in the past five years to strengthen this important sector.

This was among the former minister of the department of higher education and training's priorities, and is high on the current minister's list, too. So: what progress has there been on their watch?

The week leading up to Ramaphosa's speech saw student protests erupt on a number of university campuses. One protest ended in tragedy: Mlungisi Madonsela, a

student at the Durban University of Technology, was shot dead – allegedly by a security guard hired to protect the campus. Ramaphosa acknowledged both the protests and Madonsela's death. But the sector urgently needed some stabilising assurances. Will the promise of 'free education' for the poorest be delivered on now and in the future?

Is the state thinking beyond the current crises to issues of financial sustainability for the future?

What happens to academically eligible students whose National Student Financial Aid Scheme funding runs out after four years?

Finally, Ramaphosa rightly lauded the achievements of the Square Kilometre Array, which will be the world's largest radio telescope when it's completed in the mid-2020s.

But the reality is that sustaining this kind of research will require investment in South African universities' research capacity.

It would have been good if the president had acknowledged the deplorable conditions of research funding in universities and the huge risk this presents to the country unless it is addressed.

Academics and the public need to know that this is on the president's radar – and, specifically, how this trend will be reversed.

Overall, the president failed to convince ordinary South Africans that education – arguably one of the most important contributors to a thriving society – is in good hands.

*The Conversation*



# SA's dilemma of land reform



**JOHANNESBURG - The land reform dear to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is not only of concern to white farmers.**

As large landowners, mining groups are also afraid of paying the price of a massive and unbridled redistribution of land.

South African mines, which have long been at the forefront of the economy, have been in slow decline for years, suffering from falling commodity prices and rising production costs.

In this difficult context, the government's desire to accelerate the redistribution of land to the black majority in the country, to correct the inequalities inherited from apartheid, has chilled the entire sector.

There will be no seizures of mines or agricultural properties. All this is first and foremost politics.

His plan to allow expropriations without compensation even had the effect of a scarecrow...

Three months ago, the CEO of the giant Anglo American made the terms of the debate very clear. If ownership of mining lands is not guaranteed, he said, investors will flee.

"We must find sustainable and inclusive solutions," said Mark Cutifani, "South Africa's willingness to boost foreign investment on

its soil can only be met if the government details its plan on land in detail.

The rating agency Moody's, which has placed South Africa under close scrutiny, shares its concern.

"Uncertainty continues to limit short-term investment," she warned in June. "If reform were to prove costly for companies, the decline in investment would be even more pronounced."

Determined to involve foreign companies in the recovery of its economy, Cyril Ramaphosa received the strong and clear message. So he took advantage of his big annual raid this week in Cape Town to try to reassure the mining sector.

## DON'T BE AFRAID

"Investors should not be afraid, their property will not be taken from them," he promised.

Land reform, he recalled again this week, aims to "repair (...) the original sin committed against black South Africans during colonisation and apartheid".

A quarter of a century after the fall of the white racist regime, three-quarters of the country's agricultural land is still in the hands of the white community, which represents only eight per cent of its 55 million inhabitants.

Still under discussion in Parliament, the expropriation without com-

pensation project has already had its first effect.

On the ground, it has exacerbated the struggle of local populations against mining companies to oppose the expansion of their activities, reclaim their land or, failing that, enjoy a (small) share of their profits.

"The mine affects our lives because we no longer have land," says Milicent Shungube, spokesperson for the community of Emalahleni (north), in conflict with the Glencore mining group.

"We tried to get them to leave, but to no avail," he continues. "So we'd like to enjoy it. They make billions of dollars in profits, but we don't see anything of it."

Last year, however, the justice system required Mines Minister Gwede Mantashe to consult with the community of Xolobeni (southeast) before granting a permit to the Australian company Transworld Energy and Mineral Resources (TEM). A rare victory for the people.

## LAND REFORM IS A POLITICAL TOOL

However, industry experts do not expect a flood of decisions against the mining industry.

"There will be no seizures of mines or agricultural properties, anticipates AmakaAnku, from the

Eurasia analysis centre, "all this is first and foremost politics".

The parliamentary elections of 8 May in sight, the intentions of the head of state did not escape his rivals. In particular that of the radical left Julius Malema, whose red-bereed supporters have increased their "wild" land occupations in recent years. Cyril Ramaphosa "plagiarises our programme", he had more fun on Thursday. "It would make no economic sense (for the president) to attack productive land," insists analyst AmakaAnku.

During his state of the nation speech on Thursday, the head of state cautiously stated that the first redistribution operations would target "state-owned plots," particularly in urban areas.

"Strong statements," says Sanisha Packirisamy, an analyst with Momentum. "There is more certainty now in the mining sector, but the land issue may still deter some investors."

The companies, on the other hand, seem ready to play the game. If the balance between justice and development is maintained.

"The industry recognises the need for progress on the land issue," summarises South African Chamber of Mines spokesperson Charmaine Russell, "we hope this will be done in a way that does not affect investor confidence." *AFP*

## Wit and Wisdom

● "Lack of direction, not lack of time, is the problem. We all have twenty-four hour days."  
— ZigZiglar

● "Cry. Forgive. Learn. Move on. Let your tears water the seeds of your future happiness."  
— Steve Maraboli

● "Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart."  
— Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

● "Do what is right, not what is easy nor what is popular."  
— Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

● "Happiness is not the absence of problems, it's the ability to deal with them."  
— Steve Maraboli, *Life, the Truth, and Being Free*

● "The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them into the impossible."  
— Arthur C. Clarke

● "No matter how much suffering you went through, you never wanted to let go of those memories."  
— harukimurakami

● "Though nobody can go back and make a new beginning... Anyone can start over and make a new ending."  
— Chico Xavier

● "If there's a single lesson that life teaches us, it's that wishing doesn't make it so."  
— Lev Grossman, *The Magicians*

● "Only the dead have seen the end of war."  
— Plato

● "The trouble is if you don't spend your life yourself, other people spend it for you."  
— Peter Shaffer, *Five Finger Exercise*

● "Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart."  
— Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

● "You talk when you cease to be at peace with your thoughts."  
— Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

● "May you live every day of your life."  
— Jonathan Swift

● "We have to dare to be ourselves, however, frightening or strange that self may prove to be."  
— May Sarton

● "Man is the only creature who refuses to be what he is."  
— Albert Camus

● "If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?"  
— Laurence J. Peter

● "One, remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Two, never give up work. Work gives you meaning and purpose and life is empty without it. Three, if you are lucky enough to find love, remember it is there and don't throw it away."  
— Stephen Hawking

## 'SOMEONE MUST ACCOUNT'

**ADDIS ABABA - Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara says justice must be served to the victims of the 2010 post-election violence, following the acquittal of ex-president Laurent Gbagbo by the International Criminal Court.**

Ouattara told Radio France International, on the sidelines of the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, that his comments on the acquittal have to be reserved, since "it's an ongoing trial".

But he added: "Someone must be responsible for the 3 000 deaths. I hope that justice will shine a light on that, it is what the victims are asking for."

ICC judges acquitted Gbagbo and his aide Charles Blé Goudé on charges stemming from a wave of violence after disputed elections in the west African nation in 2010.

More than 3 000 people died on both sides of the Ivory Coast conflict after Gbagbo refused

to concede defeat to Ouattara, his internationally backed rival.

Gbagbo, the first former head of state to stand trial at the ICC, is currently living in Belgium under conditions, pending a possible prosecution appeal following the acquittal on January 15.

He had been held in the Netherlands since 2011.

The ICC's unwillingness to let Gbagbo return to Ivory Coast is thought to have been linked to the country's refusal to surrender Gbagbo's first wife, Simone, despite an outstanding ICC warrant for her arrest for her role in the post-election violence. She was convicted and jailed by the courts there in 2015, but Ouattara granted her an amnesty last year along with 800 others.

## Investigations must continue

Ouattara denied that any pressure had been brought to bear on the ICC to prolong the deten-



**WANTS JUSTICE: Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara.**

tion or trial of Gbagbo.

"Interfering with international or national justice, this is not how I manage my country... let justice take its course," he said, refusing to discuss any possible return of Gbagbo. "Let's wait and see." *Africa News*



# BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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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 11 FEB 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	13.5895	13.6395
British Pound/SZL	17.5726	17.6372
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.0641	8.0908
Swiss France/SZL	13.5922	13.6409
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2951	1.3108
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.6404	9.6827
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.2277	10.2614
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	15.3874	15.4440
Gold	1,311.0600	
Oil	61.46	

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Standard Bank

# Eskom unbundling won't affect Eswatini

...ESERA announces contingency plans to increase Eswatini's electricity production by 80 MegaWatts for the next five years, to avoid heavy reliance on imported power

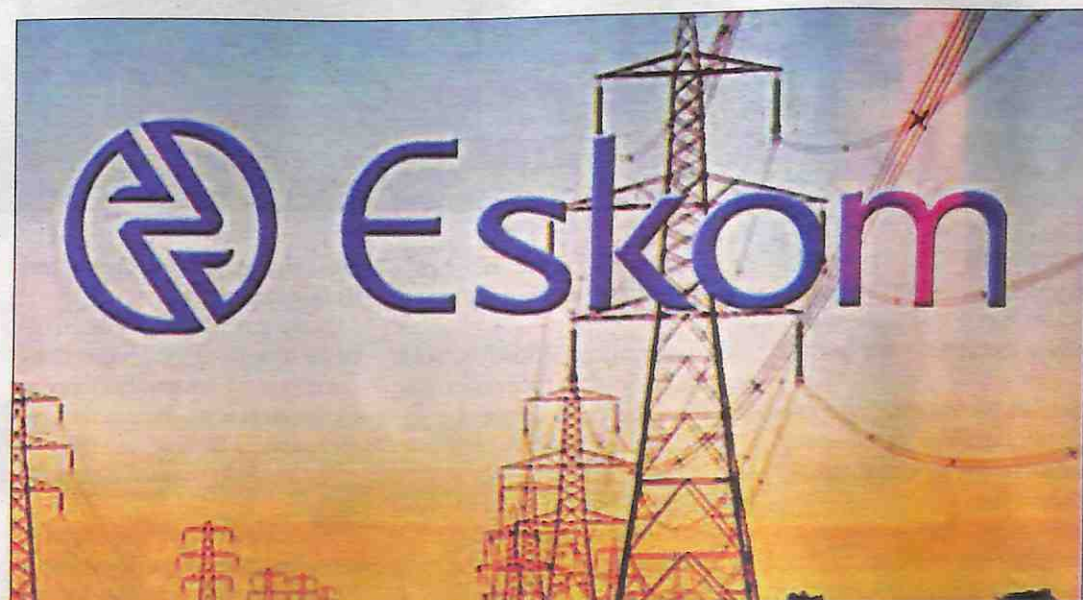
BY HLENGIWE NDLOVU

WHEN South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the unbundling of power supplier ESKOM into three distinct state-owned units namely: Generation, transmission and distribution, local electricity users could not stop feeling uneasy, because most of the country's power comes from South Africa.

Nonetheless, the country's energy regulator ESERA has assured the nation that ESKOM's unbundling will not affect the kingdom in any way.

ESERA is the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority.

ESERA Manager Consumer and Stakeholder Sikhumbuzo Nkambule explained yesterday that ESKOM's unbundling would not have a negative effect on its power supply to Eswatini. He explained: "The unbundling of ESKOM is an effort to improve efficiency and productivity, as well as better manage the operations of the utility.



This is an internal strategic decision that should not negatively affect service delivery to ESKOM's customers". He clarified that Eswatini is among the international customers that ESKOM exports her power to and that there are time-bound binding agreements between the South African power utility supplier and its customers, which are meant to ensure smooth and reliable supply of power.

Nkambule made an assurance that any challenges that may have an impact on the supply of power are always communicated in advance. In the meantime, the ESERA consumer and stakeholder manager also made it clear that the kingdom nonetheless is not banking on hopes of long-term reliance on imports for power supply.

He announced that ESERA, working closely with the ministry of natural resources and energy, is working to improve security of supply through the Short Term Generation Expansion Plan (SGEP), which stipulates that the country should have up to 80 MegaWatts of generation capacity in the short-term.

This project should be implemented within five years starting in 2018 and has already been approved by government. Nkambule explained that the main idea is to gradually increase this capacity in line with the Energy Master Plan, which is targeting generation projects up to year 2034.

South African publication Finance24 said ESKOM's unbundling had attracted mixed

reactions from different unions. The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA), one of three recognised unions at the power utility, rejected the unbundling exercise. The union is reportedly concerned that the unbundling would lead to the privatisation of Eskom, which would lead to job shedding. In contrast, COSATU called for President Ramaphosa to make a commitment that the restructuring would not lead to job losses. "We appreciate the president's commitment to a just transition. But he did not say what exactly does that mean. Workers only want one thing. Job security," COSATU parliamentary coordinator Matthew Parks said in a statement. COSATU is the Congress of South African Trade Unions

## Eswatini remains on negative B2 Moody's rating

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE prevailing financial and economic pressures have seen the country remain in a negative B2 rating from reputable rating agency Moody's.

A B2 rating is one that is within speculative grade Moody's Long-term Corporate Obligation Rating. Obligations rated B2 are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.

According to the latest ranking by Moody's, Eswatini remains in the same rating as the previous rating announced by former minister of finance, Martin Dlamini in his budget speech last year.

Ratings by credit agencies are considered important for all countries

as they give insight into the level of risk associated with investing in a particular country, including political risk.

CBE Governor Majozi Sithole said after the opening of the 11th Parliament last Friday that it was imperative for the nation to note the importance of the ratings which place the country in a position that it can repay loans received.

He said it was important that the nation embraces the recommendations given by the rating agency in order to show that the country can move away from negative rating.

"By the time they come back, the country should have improved further," he said.

Eswatini had received its first rating from Moody's at around March last year as revealed by then Minister

of Finance Martin Dlamini after presenting the budget speech.

The finance minister said B2 was generally based on the country's small and slow growing economy which he also described as being relatively well integrated, diversified and resilient.

Some of the issues in which the country was rated on previously included:

1. Economic strength assessed at Low (+), reflecting the country's relatively small and slow-growing economy, but well integrated and resilient on top of its middle-income status.
2. Institutional strength constrained by governance challenges that have been hampering fiscal policy-making and progress with structural

reforms.

3. Moderate (+) fiscal strength that balances low public debt-to-GDP ratio which is below regional and similarly-rated peers, against structural fiscal weaknesses that has caused rapid debt accumulation and increased interest costs in recent years.

4. Moderate (+) susceptibility to event risk, which reflects on-going government liquidity challenges.



Eswatini had received its first rating from Moody's at around March last year as revealed by then Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini after presenting the budget speech





# Hhohho EYA winner operates SRA canteen

BY HLENGWE NDLOVU

THERE is no doubt that the recently-crowned Hhohho Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) winner Sindisiwe Simelane, the owner of Café 360 Restaurant in the New Mall in Mbabane, is a woman of many talents.

There is also no doubt that her biggest strength lies in the gourmet industry, because apart from Café 360, the Hhohho region's leading entrepreneur recently bagged a toughly contested SRA canteen tender, outshining giants like Fedics, which had also shown interest in this tender. SRA is the Eswatini Revenue Authority. The SRA canteen is also open to members of the public.

Simelane was crowned Hhohho EYA regional winner last week in an awards ceremony held in Pigg's Peak, where she outshined several other contestants to scoop the region's most coveted award. In an interview with the Business Desk, Simelane said Café 360 was started in 2016 when it first opened at the Mbabane Main Post Office behind the post boxes.

"Our next stop was operating the canteen at the new Real Image building, the operation was also open to the public, which helped more people get to know our brand," she said. It was in January last year that the Café 360 restaurant was opened at the New Mall. Winning the regional award has motivated Simelane to contest in the national EYAs. Apart from Café 360 and operating the SRA tender, Simelane also co-operates the Mugg and Bean eatery at The Gables Galleria with her sisters. She has also been involved in consulting work in food safety management systems and strategy related work.

She said the secret to her success in business thus far had been living daily up to these values: Respect, honesty, integrity and service delivery. Café 360's tag line is: #Great Food #Great Service # Great Atmosphere. The ever-ambitious

...Sindisiwe Simelane is leaving an undeniable footprint in the gourmet industry, as she also operates the Mugg and Bean Restaurant in Ezulwini with her sisters



**BEST OF THEM ALL: Hhohho Regional EYA winner Sindisiwe Simelane of Cafe 360 posing with Acting Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Jabulani Mabuza and SEDCO Managing Director Dorrington Matiwane.**

## EYA STATISTICS FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS

● EYA winners for the past four years	70
● Total cash disbursed (excluding car prize)	E829 500
● Number of people employed by winners	393
● Total turnover by winners	E73 491 319.72

Café 360 owner sees the business growing and spreading to other parts of the country and beyond borders in the next five years.

### Position

When quizzed on how she survives in business amid the country's tough economic position, she said: "The economy has been tough, particularly in 2018. We survived by ensuring that we maintained consistency in our product quality and service delivery to retain our customers who; in turn vouch for our brand, thereby opening doors for us to access new opportunities and meet new customers".

Her advice to other entrepreneurs is: "Always deliver and over deliver on the service you have promised". The EYA competition was started by the ministry of commerce, industry and trade in 2002 with the aim of encouraging and promoting a spirit of entrepreneurship and competitiveness among SMEs in Eswatini.

Speaking during the Hhohho EYA awards ceremony, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Mabuza, who was represented by the Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza said through EYA, the ministry strives to uncover exceptional businesses that have demonstrated outstanding leadership and innovativeness in their business ventures. In its 16th edition this year, this competition has recorded a 35 per cent increase in the number of applicants.



## Youth Fund implores govt to action King's pronouncement

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

WITH His Majesty King Mswati III declaring the youth as the cornerstone of Eswatini's development and economic growth, the Youth Enterprise Fund has implored government to put into action the pronouncement.

The Fund's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Bhikizwe Maziya, said the speech from the throne has set the tone for government and route, which they should take. "We are excited by his Majesty's speech and are looking forward to doing better as youth in the country. The King has set the tone and we are expecting government to

take action by putting in the right resources for the fund to continue improving the lives of the country's youth. "Now that His Majesty has spoken on the importance of the Youth, we are hoping for an improved budget allocation so that we can follow suit and implement His Majesty's wishes effectively," he said.

In his speech delivered during the official opening of the First Session of the 11th Parliament, the King highlighted that the youth remains the cornerstone of Eswatini's development and economic growth, as they continue to represent the highest percentage of our national population statistics.

"As they face more challenges,

we will require a comprehensive, coordinated and multi-sectoral response in creating an enabling environment for youth development. We encourage the youth to take advantage of the Youth Enterprise Fund, which is aimed at empowering them and guaranteeing financial inclusion.

"This will ensure our youth are engaged in meaningful activities that keep them away from destroying their lives at an early stage. We do encourage the business community, our development partners and friends of the kingdom to avail more opportunities that would help the nation realise the full potential of our youth in all spheres," he said.

## Speedily implement King's suggestions, UNESWA economist urges govt

STORIES BY SIMON SHABANGU

UNIVERSITY of Eswatini (UNESWA) Senior Agricultural and Applied Economics Lecturer Dr Daniel Dlamini has said government must regulate the informal sector, address electricity supply, tackle crime and corruption, as well as customs and trade regulations in order to realise a turn-around in the country's economy.

He said the King's speech was spot on and that the business community and government should address the issues highlighted by His Majesty King Mswati III in his speech from the throne last week Friday. Addressing questions posed to him by the Business Desk, Dr Dlamini said the informal sector needs to be regulated to avoid unnecessary competition with established business people who are paying rent and taxes to government. He said in most cases, the established business people are locals and foreign traders involved in illegal business dealings.

"The informal sector is very important and plays a huge role in the economy, but it needs to be regulated. They must have designated areas to trade to avoid a situation where by they even do business in front of other business establishments, who happen to be in the same line of business. This becomes unfair because most of the informal traders do not even have

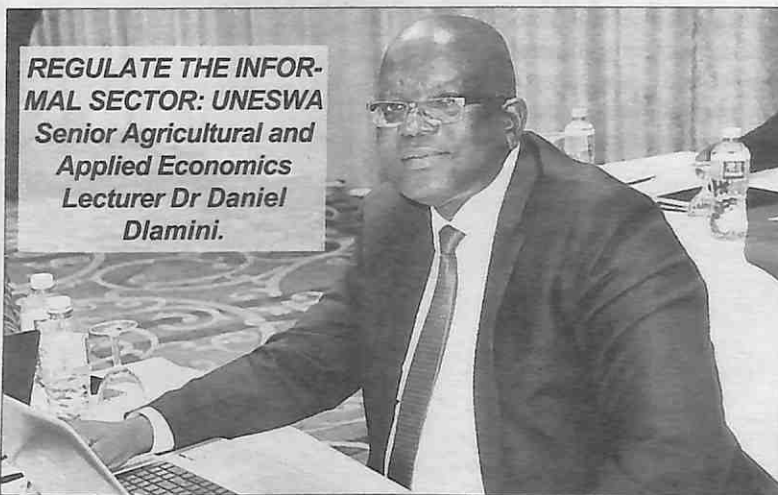
trading licences and do not pay tax," he said.

Dlamini described electricity supply as another critical matter, which needs government's immediate attention. He said power connection costs are currently very high in the country as they discourage investors. He said government needs to address these issues because they frustrate business people who would have been doing a lot in the rural areas but because of such obstacles they eventually give up. "The issue of electricity is a huge challenge because it escalates what we call sunk costs, or rather costs of starting a business," he added.

He said customs is another equally sensitive issue, which adversely affects businesses. "When business people bring their goods into the country, there are always delays at the entry points which affect business because, some of the imports are raw materials. If the materials are delayed for more than a day at the border, it causes problems for the business," he said.

"The King was spot-on in saying there is a need to have one-stop shops which will then reduce the number of days for one to get all the documentation needed to start up a business. Even the money paid for registration is currently expensive. As one of the means of improving the ease of doing business as said by the King, the costs need to be reviewed," he added.

**REGULATE THE INFORMAL SECTOR: UNESWA Senior Agricultural and Applied Economics Lecturer Dr Daniel Dlamini.**



## 'Eswatini exporting too many jobs'

UNESWA agricultural economist Dr Daniel Dlamini says the country is importing way too many goods from other countries, yet it produces lots of raw materials, which are later imported back as finished products.

He said the country imports even the simplest and smallest of things, which results in the exporting of jobs.

He said the country would have created many job opportunities, if for instance, instead of selling corn cornflakes be manufactured locally and selling tomato sauce instead of selling tomatoes.

He said the King spoke at length on agro-processing, which means now government needs to have an import substitute policy which will put control on the imports that come into the country.

"An export based policy is key and it could be complemented by import substitutes on processed foods. The country imports too much of con-

sumption demand. Hence, we are indirectly exporting jobs to where the food comes from. The issue of value addition and agro-processing is long overdue," he noted.

### Designated

Dr Dlamini said food processing industries must be prioritised and supported. He also said a special vehicle in the form of financing and the establishment of special economic zones designated for food industries should also be established.

"The national industrialisation plan must focus on agricultural products. Government should support the establishment of agro-processing incubators to improve quality.

"The expansion of agricultural production will be key to supply stock to the industries. There is also a need to pay special focus on commercial farming, where agricultural graduates could be supported with land and start up financing," he said.





# UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

**UNDERSTANDING** the different financial products and services offered by financial services providers is essential in making the best choice that suits the needs of the consumer in the long run.

Financial service providers operating in the country are diverse and they provide a variety of products and services.

## 1. Insurance policies

An insurance policy is a formal contract issued by an insurance company to the insured. It covers the insured against unforeseen misfortune such as death, loss or damage of property.

It can cover car, houses, appliances, life and more.

The benefits of having an insurance policy include;

**Risk cover** - an insurance policy ensures that your loved ones are covered against any possible risk that may befall you and they can continue to enjoy a good quality of life even if you die.

**Life stage needs** - Insurance policies not only provides for financial support in the event of an untimely death but also acts as a long term investment. Such could be your children's education, building a dream home and more.

**Protection against rising health expenses** - depending on your insurance policy, some of them offer the benefits of protection against dreaded diseases and hospitalisation expenses. This benefit is of critical impor-

tance given the increasing incidence of lifestyle diseases and escalating costs to access medical specialists.

**Safe and profitable long term investment** - taking an insurance policy is a safe and profitable long term investment option.

**Accrued income through annuities** - Life insurance specifically is one of the best instruments for retirement planning. The money saved during the earning life span is utilised to provide a steady source of income during the retired phase of life.

## 2. Retirement funds

A retirement fund is commonly referred to as pension fund. This is a

fund that is meant to generate stable growth over the long term and provide pensions for employers when they reach the end of the working years and retire.

To ensure a good retirement life, you need to start putting money aside for your retirement.

**Advantages of investing in a retirement fund;**

Investing in a retirement fund is essential in securing one's financial freedom past employment age. Some of its benefits include;

**Accrued high returns**

Investing in a retirement fund as soon as you start working provides

higher returns when you reach your retirement age. It should be noted that the longer you invest, the more your money will earn interest and the maturity value will be even more.

**Enhanced quality of life**

The FSRA encourages consumers to invest in a retirement fund in order to have an improved and maintain a better quality of life after retiring.

**Health care cover**

Old age comes with a lot of health complications. Such include illnesses that can require medical specialists to cure or manage. If you do not have a pension, you will have less chances of evading sicknesses result-

ing in a deteriorating state of life. The availability of funds will ensure that you get improved health care, better nutrition and a maintained healthier lifestyle.

## 3. Capital Markets

Capital markets channel savings between suppliers of capital such as retail investors and institutional investors, and users of capital like businesses, government and individuals.

**Trading on the Capital Markets**

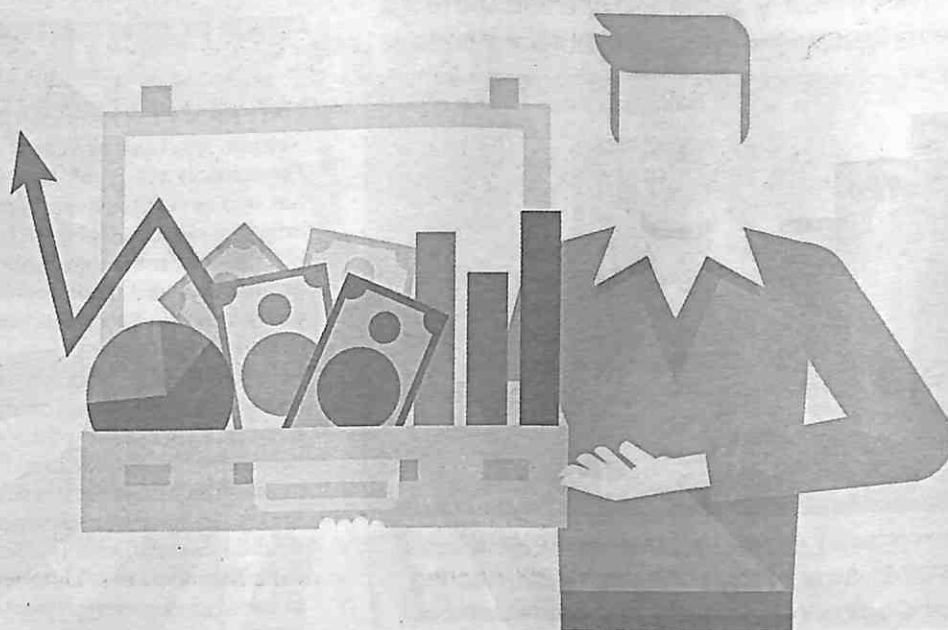
Bonds and other long term debt instruments are traded on organised exchanges, such as the Eswatini Stock Exchange.

Previously issued bonds and long term debt instruments are traded on the secondary market, whereas the primary market is where new bonds and long term debt instruments are issued.

**Intermediaries in the Capital Market**

To facilitate the saving and investment process in any economy, financial intermediaries must exist. The financial intermediary is basically a middleman who facilitates between investors and those in need of funds. There are more financial products you can choose from in the Swazi market. We will continue to discuss them in next week's article.

Information provided in this article is meant for financial literacy purposes only and should not be construed as financial advice. For comments or enquiries please contact us on 2406 8000 or email us at; [stakeholder@fsra.co.sz](mailto:stakeholder@fsra.co.sz)



## World's love of avocados sees Africa's coffee producers pivoting

**EU - Avocado imports have soared around the world, mostly to the European Union and the United States, but China and Japan are now importing thousands of tonnes of the multifaceted green fruit too.**

Even as US imports of avocados slowed slightly, the taste for avocado has globalised.

Avocados may have originated in South America, but it is Africa that is cashing in on the world's love of avocados.

In 2017, Kenya overtook South Africa as Africa's largest avocado exporter. Before the leap, South Africa was fourth after Peru, Chile and California as the world's exporters of the popular Hass avocados. Kenya's coffee farmers caught on, and switched to avocados, making 10 times as much as they did from coffee. Avocados now make up 17 per cent of Kenya's horticultural exports, accord-

ing to the International Trade Centre.

Also deflated by the falling price of coffee beans, Tanzania is beginning to invest in avocado farming. This week, one of the country's largest avocado growers, Africado, announced that it had secured 2.5 million euros (\$2.8 million) to scale up its business. To its credit, Africado spotted the opportunity in avocados early. Africado was founded in 2007, and has partnered with Wastfalia, an avocado producer based in South Africa's avocado Limpopo province. It's located in Tanzania's coffee growing Kilimanjaro region. They work with 2 000 local farmers along with their own orchards to target the European market. With the loan from Finland, they also plan to diversify to other avocado varieties and nuts.

In 2012, Africado was awarded a grant to build a processing, cold-chain and packaging facility that would allow it to

ship avocados straight to the port of Mombasa. Before the Africado facility was set up, Tanzania's avocado growers used to send their produce to Nairobi for packaging and export, but the journey left a lot of the fruit bruised or spoiled, leading to high losses. The early success of Tanzania's avocado crops has also convinced some banana farmers to try avocados. This sort of investment falls under aid-for-trade, used by nascent industries in developing countries. These schemes have not always been sustainable, but Kenya, South Africa and Tanzania are taking advantage of a global culinary trend to develop their agricultural markets, and the infrastructure needed to grow it. If, by some culinary disaster, avocados fall out of favour, African farmers will be ready to take advantage of the next trendy crop.

*Quartz Africa*

...In 2012, Africado was awarded a grant to build a processing, cold-chain and packaging facility that would allow it to ship avocados straight to the port of Mombasa.



# Focus on World News

## Global News

### NIGERIA ELECTION:

## ELECTION OFFICE BURNT DOWN SIX DAYS BEFORE POLLS

**PLATEAU STATE** - An office for Nigeria's election commission has been burned down just six days before the country is due to vote in a general election.

The fire in Plateau State has destroyed everything needed to vote, including ballot boxes and voting slips. A spokesperson called it a setback for the preparations for the election but is quoted in *This Day* as saying that it is too early to suspect sabotage.

The general election is due to be held on Saturday.

On Sunday, President Muham-

mmadu Buhari warned of potential electoral fraud.

"The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has raised concerns over laundered money being funnelled into vote buying," he said in an editorial published in the *Pulse* newspaper.

He is running for re-election in Saturday's poll where more than 84 million people are registered to vote. Although there are many presidential candidates, analysts say Buhari's main contender is former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar.

BBC



**UP IN SMOKE:** An office for Nigeria's election commission which was burnt down. (AP)

## 'Withdrawal of US forces in Syria to start in weeks'

**WASHINGTON** - The United States is likely just weeks away from starting the withdrawal of ground troops from Syria ordered by President Donald Trump, the top US commander overseeing American forces in the Middle East said on Sunday.

US Army General Joseph Votel, head of the US Central Command, cautioned that the exact timing would depend on the situation in Syria, where US-backed fighters have launched a final assault against Islamic State enclaves near the Iraqi border.

The US military has already started withdrawing equipment from Syria. Asked whether the withdrawal of America's more than 2 000 troops would begin in days or weeks, Votel said: "Probably weeks. But again, it will all be driven by the situation on the ground."

"In terms of the withdrawal ... I think we're right on track with where we wanted to be," Votel told reporters traveling with him during a trip to the Middle East.

"Moving people is easier than moving equipment and so what we're trying to do right now is again (to) kind of clear out those materials, that equipment, that we do not need." *Reuters*

## Algeria's Bouteflika confirms run for 5th term

**ALGIERS** - Ailing President Abdelaziz Bouteflika declared he will seek a fifth term in April elections in a message published by state media on Sunday, after he was endorsed by his party and the ruling coalition.

The 81-year-old head of state uses a wheelchair and has rarely been seen in public since suffering a stroke in 2013.

"Of course, I am no longer the same physical force as before -- something that I have never hidden from the people," said Bouteflika, according to the APS news agency, as he apparently broke his silence on his intentions for the April 18 poll. "But the unwavering desire to serve... has never left me and it allows me to transcend the constraints linked to health troubles which everyone may one day face," the president reportedly added. Known for wearing a three-piece suit even in the stifling heat, Bouteflika gained respect from many for his role in ending Algeria's decade-long civil war, which official figures say killed nearly 200 000 people. *AFP*

## May rejects pivot towards Brexit customs union compromise

**LONDON** - Prime Minister Theresa May has rejected the idea of targeting a customs union with the European Union, pouring cold water on hopes from some that she could shift her Brexit policy to win over the opposition Labour Party.

Britain is due to leave the EU on March 29 but has yet to find a deal which is acceptable to both Brussels and lawmakers at home, raising the prospect of a disorderly exit that could damage the world's fifth largest economy.

Brexit has divided Britain at every level from voters to Cabinet, and raised fears internationally that it will weaken the West. Brexit sup-



porters hail it as casting off a failing German-led project.

Last week, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn set out the conditions under which he would instruct his party to support a n-

exit deal in Parliament. Foremost was a demand that May seek a "permanent and comprehensive UK-wide customs union".

The EU has urged May to grasp Labour's compromise offer rather than press ahead with her preferred option of getting her own divided party onside by renegotiating a clause in the exit agreement relating to the Northern Irish border.

But May's office published her reply to Corbyn late on Sunday, showing little appetite for a U-turn which would risk splitting her fractious party by ruling out the scope for Britain to strike its own trade deals around the world.

"I am not clear why you believe it would be preferable to seek a say in future EU trade deals rather than the ability to strike our own deal?" May wrote in a three-page letter.

May and her government have repeatedly said membership of a customs union would prevent it having an independent trade policy - something they have promoted as

one of the main economic benefits of leaving the EU.

Although May welcomed the prospect of future talks with Corbyn to try and find a compromise, the letter gave no ground on their central point of disagreement.

That leaves May battling to persuade a reluctant EU to look again at the Irish backstop - a fallback policy designed to prevent the resurrection of a hard border in Ireland if talks to find a long-term trade arrangement fail. Brexit Minister Stephen Barclay met EU negotiator Michel Barnier yesterday ahead of a crunch moment in Parliament on Thursday, when lawmakers will try to force May to change course or give up control of the exit process. May will promise lawmakers a second opportunity to influence the Brexit talks later in the month in a bid to stave off any rebellion from within her own party by those who fear Britain could end up leaving without a deal.

*Reuters*

**NO WAYS:** Prime Minister Theresa May.

## BRIEFS

### Ramaphosa to chair AU in 2020

**ADDIS ABABA** - President Cyril Ramaphosa has been announced as chairperson of the African Union for 2020, taking over from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. The announcement was made on Sunday at the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The session was held over two days under the theme 'The year of refugees, returnees, and international displaced persons - towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa'. "It presents an invaluable opportunity to reflect on and address the root causes of forced displacement in Africa," the presidency said. *IOL*

### Zim soldiers need protection

**HARARE** - Zimbabwean army officials have been advised not to appear in uniform in public for fear of retribution from angry civilians. An internal memorandum was circulated on Friday, instructing service men not to wear their uniforms outside their barracks. "[The] Zimbabwe National Army [ZNA] has directed that with immediate effect, no military uniform will be worn outside cantonment areas. This applies to members commuting to and from places of work, intra- and intercity commuting. "Take note that after working hours, members are to put on civilian clothes and leave their uniforms in cantonment area."

*IOL*

### Junta chief decries coup conjecture

**BANGKOK** - Thailand's junta chief yesterday dismissed rumours of an impending coup as "fake news," as speculation ricocheted across a kingdom unsettled by the ill-fated political union between a princess and a party allied to the powerful Shinawatra clan. Conjecture has coursed through Thailand since Friday when the Thai Raksa Chart party proposed Princess Ubolratana, King Maha Vajiralongkorn's elder sister, as a candidate for premier after the March 24 election.

Hours later, a royal command from the king appeared to put a pin in her unprecedented political aspirations.

*IOL*

### US shutdown talks stall

**WASHINGTON** - Talks between congressional Republicans and Democrats aimed at averting another US government shutdown have broken down without agreement.

The negotiators were hoping for a deal by yesterday to give Congress time to pass legislation by Friday, when last month's federal funding deal runs out.

The disagreement centres on President Donald Trump's insistence on a bill that funds a US-Mexico border wall.

The previous shutdown, lasting 35 days, was the longest in US history.

Hundreds of thousands of workers were furloughed or worked without pay. *IOL*



# Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

## ANC FAILED TO DO BASIC THINGS - MOTSOENENG

**RUSTENBURG - The African National Congress has failed to do "basic things" African Content Movement leader Hlaudi Motsoeneng said on Sunday.**

"The ANC is an Old Testament. They failed to provide title deeds and now they are talking of lands. How can you be able to provide land when you failed to provide title deeds? Within six months, the ACM will provide title deeds and double old age pension grants," Motsoeneng told supporters in Boitekong near Rustenburg.

He also promised pensioners free water and electricity. He was in Rustenburg to drum up support for his new party ahead of the May 8 general elections. The for-

mer SABC COO said he was the only person "tested" on service delivery.

"Vote for me now so that I can change your lives now. Now is the time, enough is enough. North West is rich. You have money here; there are mines around you; 90 per cent of these mines must be owned by the community," he said.

He promised that under an ACM-led government the minibus taxi industry would get subsidies because they transported poor people. "Those using Gautrain and planes have money. Why do we have to subsidise them? The taxi industry transports poor people, they must get subsidy. In our government, taxis will not pay e-tolls. In fact we are going to scrap the e-

tolls," he said to rousing applause.

He also promised to create jobs, adding that the ANC failed to provide free education. "There is no free education. Students countrywide cannot get accommodation and they cannot get their results because of outstanding debts. Where is free education?" he asked.

Despite the ANC holding an event a few metres away from Motsoeneng's meeting, the event went off peacefully. Some people went to the ACM rally to get free purple party T-shirts, then went to the ANC event and took off the ACM T-shirt, exchanging them for ANC T-shirts.

ANA



## 'ANC's bee model has disempowered many South Africans'

JOHANNESBURG

**Democratic Alliance (DA) leader Mmusi Maimane says the African National Congress (ANC)'s model of black economic empowerment has failed to benefit most South Africans but instead has disempowered many.**

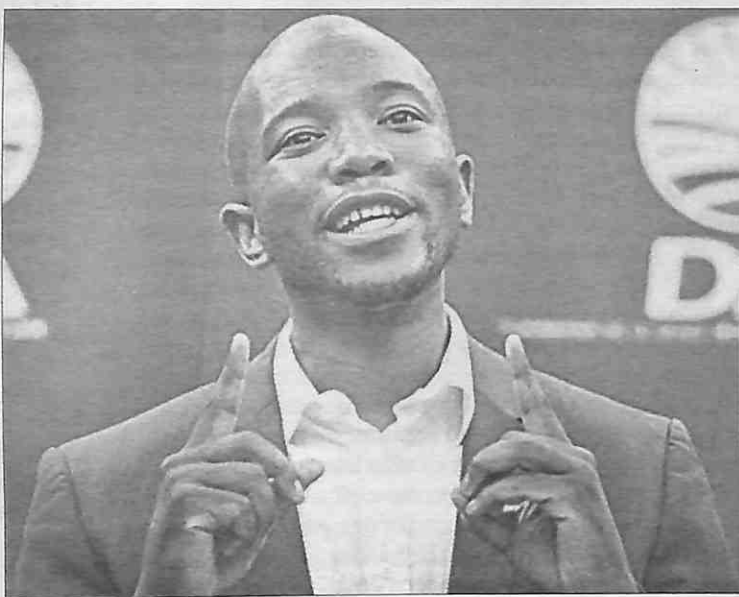
The party has been vocal about its intentions to abolish the programme once it comes into power.

Maimane says that BEE has failed to address the injustices of South Africa's past.

"If it doesn't work, on the other hand, it perpetuates a situation where 25 years on, we still have to say race is a proxy for the disadvantaged; we still have to recognise that it is black South Africans that are left out. So, I think we'll get there but we're not there yet."

He says the current model of the programme is only benefitting a select few.

"It produced, in many ways, the Gupatas. I want the BEE that works for all South Africans; a BEE that



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

includes more people. I want more black South Africans, more black students to be able to benefit.

"While you and I are busy trying to have a debate about whether we should give shares to Gwede

Mantashe and his politically connected people, South Africans are being left out."

In 2018, the DA tried to clarify its position on Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment.

It said its economic policy will focus on empowering black people, but it will rely less on race as criteria.

Earlier in 2018, the party leaders made public their disagreement on the policy, with some claiming that it was ditched.

The party said it unreservedly supports the goal of economically empowering black South Africans who are currently left out of the economy.

The DA said that no policy can negate that race still remains a proxy for disadvantaged South Africans.

Following public disagreements on the party's stance on the empowerment policy, the party said that all party leaders should rally behind the decision.

The DA said that as it builds one South Africa for all, they will rely less on race as the inequality gap closes in the country.

Eyewitness News

## Mahumapelo back in the saddle in North West

**NORTH WEST - The ANC has said it will allow the disbanded North West provincial executive committee under former premier Supra Mahumapelo to return to office despite being opposed to the South Gauteng High Court ruling that declared its decision to disband the structure illegal.**

ANC acting national spokesperson Zizi Kodwa said the ANC had already filed papers to oppose the ruling.

Kodwa said the party would still allow the PEC's reinstatement as it wanted to ensure unity to the party in the troubled platinum province,

which has been engulfed in factional battles that saw its list conference being repeatedly postponed last year until earlier this year. "We filed papers last week already to oppose the ruling. But our intention as the ANC is to ensure that there is unity in North West, so whatever we do now must be in order to ensure that there is unity," Kodwa said.

Last week, the High Court ruled that the disbandment of the PEC by the ANC national executive committee last year was unlawful and set it aside, as its branches had not been consulted and no tangible reasons were provided for disbanding it.

The court interdicted the provincial task team (PTT) under Premier Job Mokgoro, which was set up after the disbandment, from performing its role, and ordered the PEC to be reinstated by Friday.

**Eyewitness News**

## De Lille in running as Good party WC premier candidate

**CAPE TOWN - The recently formed Good party on Sunday announced four candidates.**

Patricia de Lille is the party's choice for Western Cape premier, while Lehlohonolo Mtshali is the Gauteng candidate.

De Lille started the Good party late last year after walking away from the Democratic Alliance (DA) following a public spat and legal battles.

Mtshali resigned as a DA councillor in the Ekurhuleni Metro in January 2017. Now he returns to politics as Good's Gauteng premier candidate. "Youth unemployment, I think, it's the biggest issue here in South Africa."

Vivian Law's name has been put forward for the North West.

Law was involved in politics until she resigned as a Congress of the People NEC member in 2011.

"I started an NGO called Parliament of the People and we've been doing work on the ground in our communities." Good's Northern Cape premier candidate is Leonard McKay. He resigned as an ANC member in 2010.

Party officials are now on a drive to present its election manifesto to the people, starting in the Western Cape this coming weekend.

Eyewitness News



**TO ANNOUNCE: Patricia de Lille.**



# 'IT WAS IN SELF-DEFENCE'

- Georgia businessman who was pictured holding a gun and standing over two dead baby elephants insists he killed the creatures in self-defence when they charged him - after social media backlash targeted his business
- TopGen Energy partner, Mike Jines, is seen holding gun over two dead elephants
- The hunt took place in October 2018 and photos were shared online in January
- Social media users have called the photos 'horrible', 'sad' and 'sickening'
- Some have threatened Jines and others have called for boycott of his company
- Jines is now claiming that the two elephants were shot dead in self-defence

**LONDON** - A Georgia businessman, who was pictured holding a gun as he and another man stood over two dead elephants, claims he killed the animals in self-defence when they charged at him.

Mike Jines, a partner with TopGen Energy in Alpharetta, Georgia, made the claim after the photo went viral on social media and critics started targeting his business.

Thousands of social media users have accused Jines and professional hunter, Max 'Buzz' Delezenne, of killing two baby elephants on an African 'trophy' hunt in Zimbabwe.

The hunt occurred in October 2018, but the images weren't shared on social media until last month.

Darel Eisman shared the photos in a Facebook post, which has more than 56 000 shares.

"Apologies for the disturbing photo," Eisman wrote. "If you're really upset by what you see, than make this go viral along with an email letting Mike Jines know what you think," Eisman added.

He also included Jines' email address in the post.

Thousands commented on the post calling the photos 'horrible', 'sad' and 'sickening'.

"It utterly breaks my heart to see such cruelty going on those scumbags who killed this poor innocent creature should be punished, hunters should be banned as a lot of animals in Africa are now on the verge of extinction how tragic," one Facebook user wrote.

"You have no heart, no soul. This is sickening and pathetic. It's just so sad to see this," another angry Twitter user wrote.

Another tweeted: "There's evil, and then there's you #mikejines one can only hope the universe and all that is just punish you for killing those elephants. Boycott #TopGenEnergy."

Since the photos emerged, Jines says he's focused on "making sure people understand the actual facts as opposed to the mischaracterisation of the information on social media".

He told CBS 46 that the elephants shown in



**STOP THE KILLINGS:** Thousands of social media users have accused Jines and professional hunter, Max 'Buzz' Delezenne, of killing two baby elephants on an African 'trophy' hunt in Zimbabwe. (Daily Mail)



**Rebecca Schwartz**  
@BeccaSchwartz1

You have no heart, no soul. This is sickening and pathetic. It's just so sad to see this. #CharltonMcCallumHuntingSafaris #MikeJines #BuzzCharlton #MaxDelezenne

♡ 3 1:52 PM - Feb 8, 2019



**Zowe**  
@zowe\_batman

There's evil, and then there's you #mikejines one can only hope the universe and all that is just punish you for killing those elephants. Boycott #TopGenEnergy



**Katie Robson**  
@katieRobson

Why would anyone trophy hunt?

the photos "were shot in self-defence, in an unprovoked charge and both elephants were fully mature cows, not juveniles".

Jines also said that the animals were shot in full compliance with laws and regulations in both Zimbabwe and the US.

Daily Mail

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# Observer Entertainment

New Reviews ... Star Signs ... Celebrity Watch ... Cartoons

## STREET VENDOR ARRESTED FOR PIRACY

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

A street vendor on Sunday afternoon was arrested at Sigodweni, Matsapha for music piracy.

Information gathered states that he was found by police selling pirated CDs of local gospel music singers.

The arrested man was found with forged CDs of Mduduzi Nezinceku Zemagawugawu, Phathwakahle Mabuza, Police Gospel Messengers, Shongwe and Khuphuka, Frans T Dlamini, Shiba and Travellers, Ndawonye, Ncandweni, Amandla Egazi, Nduduzo Matse,

Make Maculuve, Amadodana Aseweseli, The Swazi Christian Church in Zion and Galuja Nebabhuli bemlilo.

According to a source, all these artists have been called to make statements at the police station.

Confirming the matter was Royal Eswatini Police Service Chief Police Information and

Communications Officer (PICO) Superintendent Phindile Vilakati, who said the matter is currently in court.

### Piracy

Information gathered by this publication two weeks ago states that any person guilty of music piracy will be liable to a fine not exceeding E 20 000 or to

imprisonment not exceeding three years, or both, depending on the offence. This is the Copyright Act of 1912.

It states that a person cannot tamper with work without the authority of the owner of the copyright. Any person who causes a literary or musical work to be performed in the public, or any person who

causes a broadcast to be re-broadcast (knowing that the copyrights subsists in the work and the performance) shall be found guilty of an offence.

However, the Copy Right, Neighbouring Act 2 which was enacted by His Majesty King Mswati III and the Parliament of The Kingdom of Eswatini in March 2018 - to repeal and replace the Copyright Act of 1912 is still not operational. If this act was operational, the culprits would have to pay a total amount of E25 000.

The new Act works eligible for copyright include musical works, artistic works, audio visual works, sound recordings, broadcasts etc. Matters like ideas, concepts, discoveries, news, and speeches will not be eligible for copyright.

It states that ownership of any copyright shall vest in the author of the work or the person under whose direction the work was created. Where a person commissions a photograph, portrait, sound recording, graphic work and pays for it, the commissioner will own the copyright of work done. It states clearly that copyrights may be transmitted and an owner of the copyright may assign his or her economic rights to any other person or country, whether in full or partly.

# STOP PIRACY

## Smallz on being a comedian

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

It has been a debate all over social media for the past couple of days, the issue of repetition of jokes by comedians amongst other issues.

Comedian Smallz, who seemed to be left out on this conversation, had a few words to say on the matter.

On the issue of recording of jokes by the audience while a comedian is still on stage, Smallz said it depends on the preference of the particular comedian.

"I for one do not mind videos to be taken, but at the end of the day if a comedian is not comfortable with it, then I believe that is their choice. I know of some comedians that got famous because of videos that were taken of them on stage, so it is not that much of a big deal for me," said the comedian. Another issue was that of repetition of jokes by comedians.

Smallz shared with this publication that it was part of the profession to repeat jokes. "A joke needs time to grow, I can perform a joke today and realise that if I have added something to it, it would have been better, but at the end of the day, we need to make sure that we do not repeat the entire set of jokes but just a few with added information or parts," he said. The comedian said knowing your audience was also important because you cannot repeat jokes to the same people who attend your shows every time.

This means as a comedian, it is important to know your crowd. He said it was very hard to find new content for comedy shows, so repetition of jokes is something that happens in the industry. It is okay to repeat jokes but try by all means to prune it and modify it, for it to become a bigger and better joke, it is key to respect your audience as a comedian by not repeating a set 100 per cent" he said.



## SA Zanda Zakuza excited about collaboration with Tendaness

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

SOUTH African singer Zanda Zakuza, last week, took to her Instagram to share with her fans that she was working with Eswatini's very own Tendaness and was excited to hear what they made together.

The singer is known for her features in songs such as 'Club controller' and 'Skeleton move' featuring the likes of Prince Kaybee and Master KG, respectively. Zakuza posted a picture of Tendaness and herself in studio in Durban and captioned, "Got to work on something totally different with our handsome Swazi connect @tendaness the other day. I'm so excited to

hear how it turns out."

She is signed to Open Mic Productions, a company owned by Molau Rammala. She has worked with the likes of DJ Tira, Prince Kaybee, Donald and the legendary Doc Shebeleza.

Tendaness said he was also excited about his upcoming album. The self-titled album is set to drop in March will also feature some other artist, both locally and internationally.

"Working with Zanda was awesome, she has such a powerful voice and we managed to create something special. I cannot wait for people to hear it," said Tendaness.

The producer said the album had been cooking this project for two years and he has put a lot of work into it.

"I am excited to let the people hear this project," headed. Last year, the artist started a movement dubbed 'Tendamix,' where he celebrated local artists. He also released a number of singles such as 'Jika' features LO and Bholoja, 'Love me' featuring Velemsemi and many others. He also won the award for Best Collaboration at the MTN SWAMA Awards last year December.



## SWAZI JIVE TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

BY DELISA THWALA

HAVING operated for over a decade, the Swazi Jive Entertainment stable has finally come up with a way to give back to the community and finally appreciating the support from their fans, by launching a movement which will see them donate to their neighbourhood care points.

Speaking to the Entertainment Desk yesterday, Swazi Jive Director Sakhile Nkambule said they were rallying young people to rise above and not only help themselves but also their communities respectively.

He stated that they were open to any form of donation; it could be

monetary funds or food and clothes that could be brought forth.

"We are accepting any form of donation anything that will help someone else who does not have.

"Since we launched this drive, over 200 people have signed up to help and the numbers are still going up. We are amazed.

"People have been really great. They realised that it's less about me or the brand, but about the principle of giving and being selfless, teaching the youth that it's 'cool' to love and help the less fortunate," Nkambule said.

He further urged more people to sign up for the donation and lend help since it will go a long way and they were not doing it for Swazi Jive, but for the less-privileged.



**BLESSED IS THE HAND THAT GIVES:**  
Swazi Jive Director Sakhile Nkambule.

## DJ SoWhat leaves G-Star Entertainment

BY DELISA THWALA

QCOM DJ SoWhat has left his recording stable; G-Star Entertainment.

The spinner revealed last week on social media that he has left his home stable, which is under the directorship of Gino Kash.

However, he could not reveal his reasons of leaving the stable.

"It was my decision to leave the stable and I'm not ready to talk about the issues, but it's those issues that made me decide to leave," he said.

He assured his fans that he was still going to play and be available for bookings.

"You guys should expect more of my music this year, and I'm also planning to grow my brand," said the spinner.

DJ SoWhat is the resident DJ at Club Finesse, and he is known for the 'Friday Gqom Possession Nights'.

He joined the G-star Entertainment in 2017 and now he is going solo as he left the stable due to unforeseen cir-



**GONE: DJ So What.**



**UNDERSTAND: Gino Kash.**

cumstances.

"I'm seriously not looking for another stable right now or any time soon. However, I'm open to working with someone in the future, who will manage me as DJ SO WHAT. But for now I want to solely focus on myself and grow my brand further," he said.

Speaking to his former manager Gino

Kash, he said, "Regarding all the artists who recently left the stable, it was never about productivity but it's an issue of finances. "They do not understand that cash or funds that come into the business don't mean profits, G-Star is a still a growing entity and the artists who decided to leave did not understand that," Kash stated.

## HOF TO HOST VALENTINE'S TRAFFIC LIGHTS PARTY

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

AS Valentine's Day approaches, House on Fire did not want to be left out as they are to host the Traffic Light Party scheduled for February 15.

This was revealed by House on Fire Communications Officer Wandile Dlamini through a press statement yesterday.

"This HOF Valentine's themed event promises to continue delivering on a host of amazing DJs to make this a night to remember," read the statement. The statement explained how the party will go about. "Traffic light stickers will be available at the door. These will be your ticket to love's fast lane! Choose a red sticker if you are taken, orange if you are undecided and green if you are single. Those inspired



**LIGHTS ON: Traffic Light, dj Mkey, DJ Lu and Ophis.**

may come dressed in your traffic light colour of choice," continued the statement. Tickets will be available at the door at E80. Doors open at 8pm. Music will be dished out by DJs SoWhat, Mkey, Ophis, DJ

Lu and DJ Supa CDQ, who will be the surprise guest. DJ Supa CDQ is a 22-year-old hip hop DJ who has been a regular nightlife feature along Mbabane-Manzini corridor for the past four years.

## FIRST EVER ARTS SUMMIT IS HERE

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

THE first of its kind, Eswatini Arts Summit will be held from February 14 to 15 at the Eswatini Electricity Company auditorium in Manzini.

Themed 'The future of art-artist as the nucleus', the summit will be facilitated by South African kwaito founder and jazz legend Don Laka.

The summit is brought by Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture (ENCAC), with the aim of focusing on the vital and transformative impact of artists, in both local communities and global economies.

Artists will meet under one roof to give a diag-

nosis of the arts industry, with the aim of moving it forward.

Presentations will be conducted by SAMRO; a film casting agency, festival directors such as Sakhile Nkambule, Jiggs Thorne, media channels, independent film-makers, film production and many more.

The two-day gathering will start at 9am on both days. According to ENCAC CEO Stanely Dlamini, the summit is their way of proving that the industry is now at a professional level.

"The two day summit will deal with different aspects of the industry. The first day will focus on the music part, where Don Laka will be facilitating the conversation," said Dlamini.

He mentioned that the second day will focus

on production, theatre and drama. Dlamini said they would have a number of South African actors, including some from Isibaya, Uzalo and other important people in the production industry.

Dlamini urged all artists, including up-coming and aspiring artists, to attend the summit. "Everyone is invited to this summit because this is a one of a kind summit that will help us upgrade our industry," added Dlamini. For registration, artists can call 2505 4437 or send a WhatsApp message to 7693 6128. Registration is free.



**SUMMIT: Don Laka.**



**MUSIC'S** biggest night brought out some major star power, in a show hosted by the one and only Alicia Keys.

The 61st Annual Grammy Awards went down on Sunday night at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, with a show packed with performances from musicians, including Camila Cabello, Cardi B, Miley Cyrus and Shawn Mendes and Dolly Parton.

With stars including Jada Pinkett-Smith, John Mayer, BTS and New England Patriots' Julian Edelman presenting as well, it was one exciting night.

**HERE IS A LIST OF WINNERS IN THE MAJOR CATEGORIES FOR THE GRAMMY AWARDS:**

**Album of the Year:** Kacey Musgraves, *Golden Hour*

**Record of the Year (best overall song performance):**

Childish Gambino, *This Is America*

**Song of the Year (recognising song writing):**

Donald Glover (Childish Gambino) and Ludwig Göransson, *This Is America*

**Best New Artist:** Dua Lipa

**Best Music Video:** Childish Gambino, *This Is America*

**Best Rap Album:** Cardi B, *Invasion Of Privacy*

**Best Rock Album:** Greta Van Fleet, *From the Fires*

**Best Pop Vocal Album:** Ariana Grande, *Sweetener*

**Best Pop Duo/Group Performance:** Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper, *Shallow*

**Best Urban Contemporary Album:** The Carters, *Everything Is Love*

**Best R&B Album:** H.E.R., *H.E.R.*

**Best Alternative Music Album:** Beck, *Colors*

**Best World Music Album:** Soweto Gospel Choir, *Freedom*

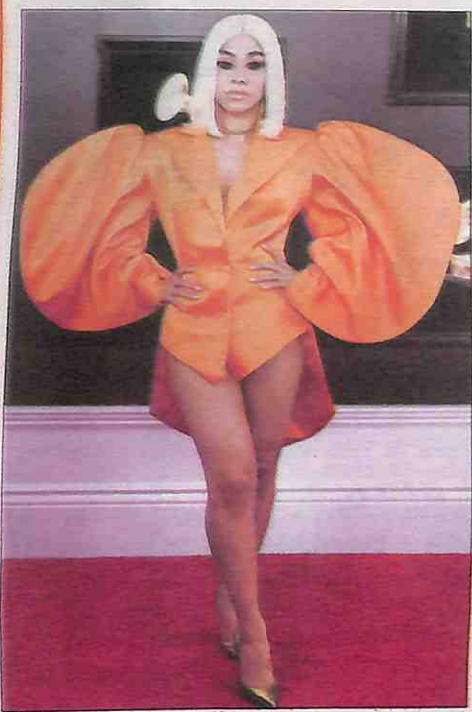
# TOP-NOTCH FASHION AT THE



**HONOURED:** Kacey Musgraves accepts the Album Of The Year Award for 'Golden Hour' onstage during the 61st Annual Grammy Awards on Sunday in Los Angeles, US.



**FLOWER:** Cardi B, who was clearly paying tribute to designer Thierry Mugler's Fall 1995 collection. She wore a pink dress that looked more like a flower blooming with Cardi in the middle.



**ORANGE HENNESSY:** Hennessy Carolina looked sexy in her stylish orange number.



**IN FEATHERS:** Jada Pinkett-Smith on the red carpet at the awards in a feather-inspired outfit.



**RIGHT - SASSY:** Singer Ashanti went for a black and gold gown.

**FAR RIGHT - FASHION GURU:** Jernnifer Lopez looked stylish upon her arrival.

**LEFT - STYLE QUEEN:** Singer Janelle Monáe always brings something different to fashion.



**COUPLE GOALS:** Kylie Jenner all cosy with Travis Scot upon arrival.

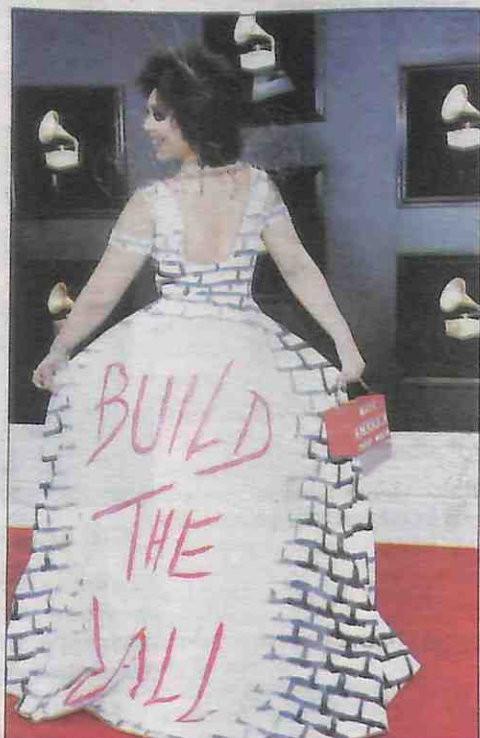




# 2019 GRAMMY AWARDS



**SUIT:** Canadian singer Shawn Mendes well suited- up.



**BEAUTY:** Joy Villa on the red carpet in a brick wall written dress, saying 'build the wall'.



**LEGEND:** Singer and actress Dionne Warwick also attended the Grammy's.



**RIGHT - QUEEN:** Toni Braxton looking all sorts of fine.



**PINKY:** Katy Perry's sugary pink 'pinata' dress was far from flattering and, to make matters worse, she looked so awkward and uncomfortable in it.



**MEN IN BLACK:** BTS, also known as the Bangtan Boys, upon their arrival at the awards.



**FAMILY:** Alicia Keys in a vivid red, button-down dress by Armani and her husband, Swizz Beatz.



**BLACK:** Eve in her simple yet classy black outfit.

**RIGHT - DUET:** Miguel captured with Nazzariin Mandi on arrival.  
**SECOND RIGHT - SILVER:** Award-winning singer and actress Lady Gaga in her metallic gown.



**CLASSY:** Backstreet Boyz suited- up.



**ANGELIC:** Singer Meghan Trainor went for a crispy white jumpsuit.

**LEFT - MAGIC GIRL:** Miley Cyrus went for a black suit.



# Celebville

International Celebrity News

## Michelle Obama thrills with her surprise Grammys appearance

**LAS ANGELES** - Michelle Obama made a surprise appearance on the Grammys stage Sunday to deliver a message about music and women's empowerment alongside superstars Lady Gaga, Jennifer Lopez, host Alicia Keys and actress Jada Pinkett-Smith. "Music shows us that all of it matters, every story within every voice, every note within every song," said the former first lady of the United States, looking glam in a sparkling gunmetal pantsuit with a 1970s-esque wrap jacket. "Is that right, ladies?" she said to resounding applause. At the start of



**SURPRISE: Lady Gaga, Jada Pinkett Smith, Alicia Keys, Michelle Obama, and Jennifer Lopez.**

the segment, Lady Gaga; a big winner on the night — said: "They told me I was weird, And music told me not to listen to them." *Times Live*

## Blac Chyna claps back at her mom over Dream's Custody

**LAS VEGAS** - Blac Chyna's response to her mother accusing her of being an unfit parent can be summed up in just four words: new number, who dis?

Sources close to Chyna tell TMZ, BC and her mom, Tokyo, haven't seen each other in at least two years so it's impossible for her to have a clue about how she parents Dream, much less who should have custody.

TMZ broke the story, Tokyo told us Rob Kardashian deserved to get custody of Dream until BC gets her s\*\*\* together. She thinks Chyna's series of bad choices -- as in this, this and this -- show she's not mommy material right now. So much for blood being thicker than water.



**CLAPS BACK: Blac Chyna.**

Ironically, our sources say Chyna thinks it's Tokyo's bad life decisions that drove a wedge between them years ago - although they wouldn't say exactly what Tokyo did wrong, in her daughter's eyes. *Times Live*

## Soweto Gospel Choir takes home their 3rd Grammy

**JOHNESSBURG** - The Soweto Gospel Choir flew the SA flag high at the prestigious Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday night, where they walked away with their third Grammy.

The group walked away with the Best World Music Album award for their album Freedom. Sunday's win marked the third time the group took home a trophy at the prestigious awards.

The award was received by album producer Diniloxolo Ndlakuse Shimmy Jiyane, Mary Mulovhedzi and Mulalo Mulovhedzi, whose late father David Mulovhedzi co-founded the group with producer



**CONGRATS: Soweto Gospel Choir.**

Beverly Bryer 17 years ago. *Sowetan Live*

## Thishiwe Ziqubu makes grand return

**JOHANNESBURG** - Actress Thishiwe Ziqubu rocked the red carpet for the first time, with partner Mandisa Nduna, after completing her seven-month ancestral calling. Ziqubu proudly rocked her traditional healer beadwork as she stunned at the season two premiere of MTV Shuga in Montecasino, Johannesburg, on Wednesday night. She told Sowetan she just had her homecoming celebration two weeks ago. "I just finished everything two weeks ago. So I'm like a newborn baby. It's my first time leaving the house today to come here," Ziqubu said. "So that's why I'm all over the place because I'm just



**BACK: Thishiwe Ziqubu.**

overwhelmed." Ziqubu directed five episodes of the educational series set to premiere on MTV Base on Tuesday. *Sowetan Live*

## Marilyn Monroe, Joe DiMaggio's honeymoon album up for auction

**NEW YORK** - Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio's marriage only lasted nine months, but the memories of their honeymoon live on, and you can own the photos!! Hollywood's 'it' couple for a hot minute in the '50s eloped in San Fran in January 1954 and took a plane to Japan shortly afterward to celebrate, but there was also some baseball business to handle. Their photo album from the trip features several shots of the couple, but there's also a running storyline of the MLB legend -- who was a few years retired at the time



**LEGENDS: Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio' albums.**

-- and his old baseball buddy, Lefty O'Doul, trying to get baseball up and running in Japan. *Times Live*

## Cardi B Brings Offset onstage to accept Grammy

**LAS ANGELES** - Cardi just won Best Rap Album -- beating out Mac Miller and others - and she brought her hubby, Offset, onstage with her to accept her award. She even referred to him as her husband, and thanked him in what amounted to a hilariously sweet speech. Yeah, they're back together, no doubt about it now. It was certainly an emotional moment, so much so, apparently, that somebody actually collapsed on the stage right after Cardi delivered her remarks. A source at the show tells us the person who fainted was a female member of the pit area. Cardi B and Offset are officially a red carpet couple again -- 'cause they just publicly reunited for the first time since their



**LOVEBIRDS: Offset and Cardi B.**

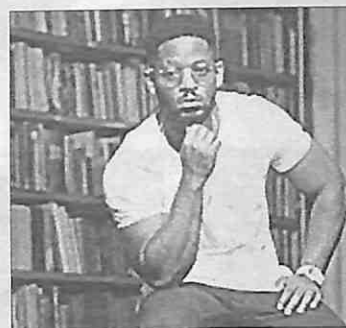
split last year. The rappers showed up Sunday at Staples Center dressed to the nines -- especially Cardi, who was clearly paying tribute to designer Thierry Mugler's Fall 1995 collection. *TMZ*

## Prince KayBee 'Wajellwa' and he's very cross

**DURBAN** - Hot selling muso Prince KayBee became famous a few years ago for break-out hit Wajellwa, meaning you're being cheated on.

Now Prince KayBee and his production sidekick, TNS, have had a major fall-out allegedly over a 'side chick'. This has led not only in Prince KayBee taking back the Golf 5 he had bought TNS, but also postponing the launch of his latest album the two had worked on. The pair had chemistry in the studio, collaborating on bangers such as Banomoya and Club Controller.

A furious Prince KayBee, real name Kabelo Motsamai, dumped the girl last month after finding out she could be shagging TNS.



**CROSSED: Prince KayBee.**

Responding to the allegation, TNS, real name Nkazimulo Ngema, told Sunday World he was shocked by the allegations over the woman he refers to as Prince KayBee's side chick. *Sowetan Live*

## Ntando, Khaya Mthethwa's bundle of joy has arrived!

**PRETORIA** - Celebrity couple Khaya and Ntando Mthethwa announced that their baby made his grand entry into the world on Friday. Khaya revealed that Ntando gave birth by sharing a picture of their newborn's tiny little hand. The musician also gushed over his wife. "Yesterday, I experienced a love I never knew existed! Nyambose, Dingiswayo siyakwamukela. @mthethwa\_ntando I have no words to thank you Sthandwa Sami. Ngiyabonga." Khaya and Ntando first revealed in December that they were set to become parents. "Thank you for carrying one the greatest gifts in my life! May



**BUNDLE OF JOY: Khaya and Ntando Mthethwa.**

God bless this new journey babe, Mthethwa Ntando. Now is it a boy or a girl?" The couple, dated for three months before tying the knot in December 2017. *Times Live*

## WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST



TODAY

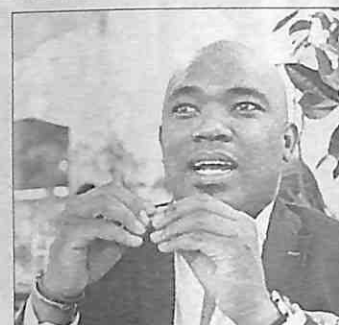


**ICU: Saddam.**

Blade finds a shocking new lead and Judas and Mpiyakhe are forced to make a deal. Saddam's life hangs in the balance, and Lillian is increasingly distraught. Meanwhile, Busi's jealousy grows.



TODAY



**SHOCKED: Gabriel.**

Gabriel is shocked by Majola's request. Lalage expects the impossible from Anja. Makgorometsa takes a huge risk.



TODAY



**NOMINATED: Malulo.**

Mulalo's name is up for political position. Moliehi and James' marriage is at a point of no return. Vho-Mukondeleli is persuaded by a man.



TODAY



**OPENS UP: Mampho.**

Things are not looking good for either Lungile or Sabelo, with both set to be punished for crimes they did not commit. Mampho tells Joe the truth.



PICTURE OF THE DAY

I just said "Hence" in a community meeting now they can't hold meetings without me



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Legal matters should definitely work in your favor today, particularly any involving property. You're likely to feel positive about life, Capricorn, and your home life should be especially gratifying. Sex and romance also could be on your mind. If you can get together with a lover, you will probably grow quite a bit closer. Artistic projects, particularly regarding the home, should also go well.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

Your financial situation could undergo some positive upheaval now, probably as the result of a career advance. This process is likely to continue today, Cancer, as social events put you in touch with valuable contacts. It might be a good idea to listen to others today and not try to voice ideas of your own or make any decisions. Too much input could lead to mental overload and a lack of focus.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

A call from a romantic partner could lead to an intimate get-together, Aquarius. It's likely to be highly gratifying emotionally and bring you closer together. Passionate poetry and sexy novels could especially appeal to you right now. If you're into writing, you could channel your rush of sensuality into producing results that are so well thought out that they surprise even you. Get started!



Leo July 23 – August 22

A powerful desire for change could have you thinking of traveling, Leo, or perhaps relocating to a distant state or foreign country. Friends who live far away could be trying to convince you to join them. This isn't a minor decision. It requires careful thought. You might be tempted to act impulsively, but wait for a while. In a few days, you will know if the change is right for you.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

Creative projects that you may have been working on for a while could prove especially ego boosting, Pisces. You're doing a great job. A change of employment and increase in income may be in the works. If you don't feel passionate about what you're doing, expect the chance to become involved in an enterprise that you do feel strongly about. New ideas and opportunities could change your life.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

Some vivid and interesting dreams could bring a lot of repressed memories up and force you to confront them. This could be a bit disconcerting, Virgo, but still positive. Psychological obstacles to financial success and romantic happiness could be cleared away, which could change your life. It's vital that you write down your dreams. You won't want to miss out on this.



Libra September 23 – October 23

A transformation in your circle of friends could occur today and change your life, Libra. Someone exciting could move in nearby, and you could hit it off. Expect stimulating conversations and fascinating new information. If you aren't currently involved, this person could be a potential romance. At least you will make a new friend. Take a close look and don't initiate things too quickly.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

Opportunities to do well-paying creative work could come to your attention today, Scorpio, perhaps online. You will probably like it, as it may give you freedom. Whether you actually want to try it or not depends on your situation. You might want to get some chores done around the house today in order to leave free time tomorrow for whatever you want to do. Something exciting might happen.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

Sagittarius, you probably feel especially sexy and passionate now. You may enjoy browsing through catalogues of rich fabrics or furniture. Erotic novels could also appeal to you. If you're currently involved, you may want to spend the evening alone with your partner. If you aren't, don't be surprised if you attract someone new.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



HOME WORD SEARCH

PUZZLE CHOICE

TOUCH WOOD

Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.



BABY BROTHER



A little boy was so excited because his mom told him he is getting a baby brother. He repeated that to his teacher every day, when he came to school, "I'm getting a brother." One day his mom allowed

him to feel the baby's kicks in her belly. The next day he came to school and didn't say anything to his teacher, so the teacher asked him, what happened to his brother. He replied, "I think mommy ate him."

USELESS FACTS

1. There's a systematic lull in conversation every seven minutes.
2. The buzz from an electric razor in America plays in the key of B flat; Key of G in England.
3. There are 1 575 steps from the ground floor to the top of the Empire

- State building.
4. The world's record for keeping a Lifesaver in the mouth with the hole intact is seven hours 10 min.
5. There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's Brainteasers

1. If there are 15 oranges and you take three, how many do you have?  
**Answer:** You took three, so you have three.
2. A man fell down a three-storey staircase but didn't get hurt. How is this possible?

**Answer:** He fell off the bottom step

Today's Brainteasers:

1. Before the discovery of Mt. Everest, what was the highest mountain on Earth?
2. What holds more water when it has more holes in it?



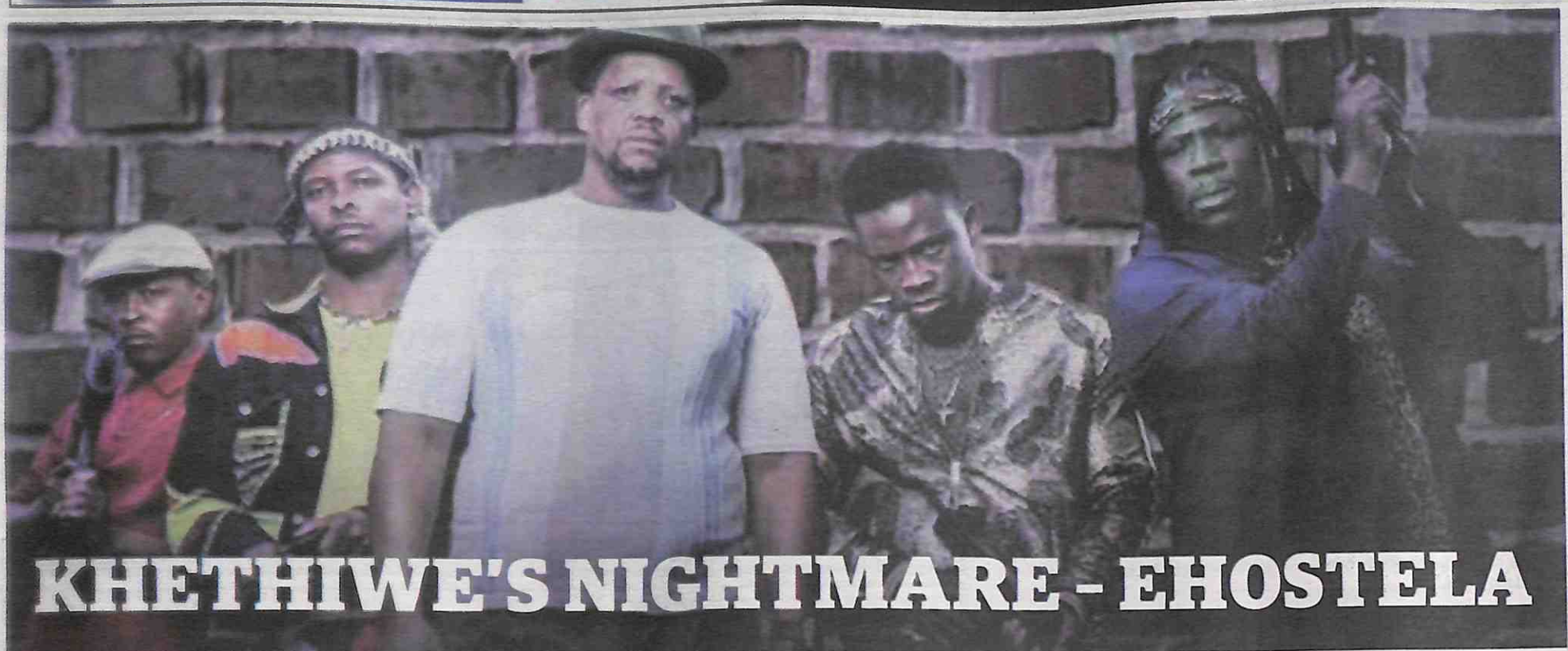


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**IS there anything worse than finding out the love of your life killed your father.**

The truth cannot remain hidden forever and you cannot always choose when it will be revealed. No one knows this better than Khethiwe.

On her wedding, the day that should have been the happiest of her life, she finds out that the man who is now her husband, killed her father in cold blood

just weeks before. The shock, tragedy, humiliation and heartache cannot be described.

Now Khethiwe faces a tough choice. Does she stand by the man she loves or does she let the reality of who Mndeni truly is and what he is capable of sink in and leave a situation her mother warned her about long ago.

Mndeni and Khethiwe's relationship has not had an easy road. Khethiwe's

mother was against the union from the beginning. Warning her against the dark secret lives of the man from eHostela.

However, when Khethiwe learned that her own father had lived eHostela and only left when he married her mother, she saw it as fate repeating a beautiful love story.

Most of Mzansi is struggling to separate Mndeni the killer from Mndeni

'The people's bae'

The choice to love and stay with Mndeni may have been both the worst and best she had made. Mndeni is a trained killing machine. As a hitman, he has killed many people including his last hitman job - Khethiwe's father. On the other hand he is a respectful and kind man who absolutely loves Khethiwe. Most of Mzansi is struggling to separate Mndeni the killer

from Mndeni 'The people's bae' opting to forgive and forget what he did to Khethiwe's father.

Now the question remains for the star-crossed lovers: Can Khethiwe also forgive and forget what Mndeni did to her father?

Don't miss #eHostelaMzansi every Sunday at 20:00 to see what fate has in store for the KhethuMndeni love story!



## Retweet and WIN with The Bachelor SA

### Put your Twitter fingers to the test!

We've met South Africa's very first Bachelor, hunky Lee Thompson - and now, we're all counting down to the premiere episode of what looks to be South Africa's newest television obsession The Bachelor SA, on Valentine's Day. To ensure you never miss a Rose Ceremony, we've set up a competition tailored just for you. All you have to do is let your Twitter fingers do the talking.

Retweet our competition post on our official Twitter account @MNet and we'll remind you when to watch! Lots of prizes to be won, plus 10 lucky retweets will also WIN something extra to spoil themselves with.

### Terms and conditions:

- The Competition runs from January 25 to February 14 and is only open to users residing in South Africa.
- Entrants each stand a chance of winning one of the ten (10) prize items.
- Winners will be chosen based on the predetermined retweet numbers

that will be set for the duration of the Competition.

- Entrants are allowed to enter once. Each entrant is allowed a single retweet over the course of the campaign

- When a participant hits the lucky predetermined retweet number they will receive a winners reply on twitter. Each entrant must then send the requested contact details within three days (72 hours) of receiving their winning tweet.

- All the information provided or related to this Competition shall be captured by an approved third party service provider for the purpose of running the Competition only.

- Only entries received during the Competition period as stipulated in clause 1 above will qualify as potential winners.

- The Competition is only open to natural persons 18 years or older. Entries received from business accounts held by legal persons (amongst others Corporates and SMEs, etc.) are excluded from participating and winning in the Competition.

## Mamphumuwa and Kelello's Love Story - OPW

**MAMPHUMUWA** and **Kelello** met back in university, in 2011. She was a first year student, he was doing his second year.

You know how it is during orientation week, right? First year students get assisted by some of the returning students (Student Leaders) and Kelello happened to be one of them.

For some stranger reason, Mamphumuwa didn't want the student leaders to know she was a first year student, so she wore a head scarf and a badge.

To her surprise, Kelello found out she was actually a first year student and directed her to where the rest of the first years were being assisted with registering.

They soon became friends and most of their friends questioned their friendship at the beginning. One day, one

of their mutual friends had a birthday. When everybody had gone to sleep that day, Kelello went to Mamphumuwa's room to have a little chat with her.

He kissed her that day and that was how their relationship started. It was Kelello's father who found out first about the relationship. His mother learnt about it a bit later on.

Kelello did say singing and dancing has always been the cornerstone of their lives. Boy, did we see some amazing dance moves at their wedding! Guess Mamphumuwa knew there'd be a lot of dancing when she picked out that traditional outfit design, eh? It called for them to wear sneakers, allowing them the freedom to dance. Check out how their designs looked.

Now, Kelello's favourite colour is blue and what wedding stone fits this

than the sapphire? So, when he picked the rings, he had this in mind. The good thing was that Mamphumuwa also loved the one he picked out for her.

Ever walked into a room so beautiful, you thought you just walked straight into heaven? Well, that's exactly how one could describe Mamphumuwa and Kelello's décor. They sure knew how to pick the right colour schemes. See what we're talking about below and let us know what you think.

And with that, the couple ticked off all the items on their Wish List and had themselves a beautiful wedding ceremony and traditional wedding.

Tune into Our Perfect Wedding to share in more Mzansi couples' love stories on Mzansi Magic, DStv channel 161.





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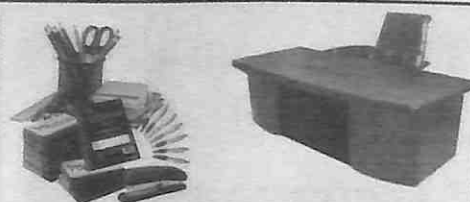
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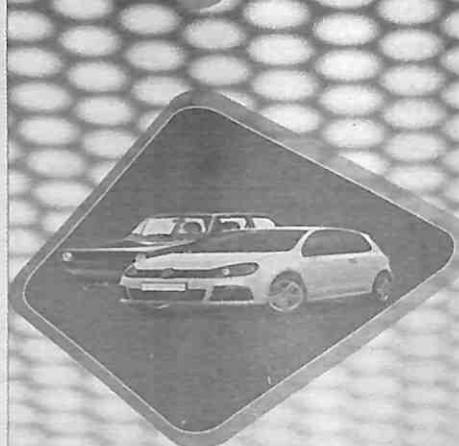
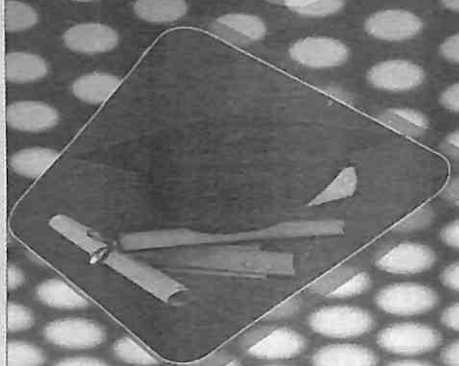


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# UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

## Di Maria with point to prove

PARIS - An expensive flop who lasted just a single season at Manchester United, Angel Di Maria might be keen to prove a point when he goes back to Old Trafford as a Paris Saint-Germain player tonight.

The Argentine, who turns 31 later this week, has a vital role to play for PSG in their crunch Champions League last 16, first leg against a resurgent United with Neymar and Edinson Cavani out injured.

Those absences will place even more of an onus on Di Maria to show why PSG were prepared to make him their superstar signing in the summer of 2015, two years before Neymar and Kylian Mbappe arrived in the French capital.

The former Benfica and Real Madrid man cost United a British record transfer fee of just under £60 million (almost 75 million euros at the time) in 2014, but he was an unmitigated failure in England.

Di Maria scored only three times in 27 Premier League appearances in 2014-15 for a United side who finished fourth, a long way behind champions Chelsea.

His time in England was also marred by an attempted burglary on his family's home outside Manchester that reportedly left his wife and daughter terrified, and keen to get away.

His manager that year, Louis van Gaal, had hailed Di Maria as "world class" on his arrival, but their relationship quickly turned sour, with the player blaming the Dutchman for playing him out of position.

"I only stayed one year. It wasn't the best period of my career, or they didn't let me have my best time there," Di Maria said in a recent interview with radio station France Bleu.

"There were problems with the coach at the time. But thanks to God, I was able to come to PSG and be myself again."

United made a loss when they sold Di Maria for €63 million, but it was very much PSG's gain.

Spain for his slender frame, Di Maria is in his fourth season in Paris and recently extended his contract to 2021.

He has scored or created more than 70 goals in Ligue 1 for PSG, although he was signed chiefly to win big Champions League games and has been unable to prevent his side being knocked out in the last 16 in each of the last two seasons.

Nevertheless, if Di Maria's days in Paris seemed numbered after Neymar and Mbappe signed in mega-bucks deals at the start of last season, he ended up being one of his team's most consistent performers in the last campaign. *SuperSport*

## Buffon sends warning to team-mates

PARIS - Gianluigi Buffon has told his PSG team-mates that they need to improve in every area if they are to take anything from tonight's game with Manchester United.

The French giants, who go into the first leg of their last-16 Champions League clash on the back of three unconvincing results, will face a United side in fine form.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has won 10 of his 11 games in charge since taking charge and Buffon admits PSG must up their game to avoid defeat at Old Trafford.

Speaking after an Edinson Cavani penalty earned Thomas Tuchel's men a 1-0 win over Bordeaux on Saturday, Buffon said: "I appreciated the victory but I did not like the match."

"We have to improve mentally and in our attitude, to have more of a spirit of sacrifice for the team."

PSG will be without Cavani, who picked up a thigh injury at the weekend, and star man Neymar, who is suffering with a foot problem.

*SuperSport*

## UNITED READY TO FIGHT

### POGBA LEADS WAY

While Jose Mourinho butted heads with and routinely dropped Paul Pogba, Solskjaer has built his side around the French World Cup winner, with stunning results.

Pogba has scored eight goals and provided five assists in his past 10 games. "Before the coach arrived I was in the shadows, on the bench, and I accepted that," said Pogba. "It is a pleasure to play again. Now I am always smiling."

### RASHFORD REBORN

The fact Marcus Rashford was rested at Fulham to keep him fresh for PSG, while Romelu Lukaku was handed a rare start says a lot for the change in his fortunes under Solskjaer. The 21-year-old was never trusted with a consistent run of games as a central striker under Mourinho. In United's last European home game against Young Boys, the Portuguese coach did not hide his disgust when he missed an early chance.

No longer fearing the consequences of a missed opportunity, Rashford has scored six goals in eight starts since the change in management and finally looks set to deliver on his abundant potential.



### ALL SMILES

Solskjaer outlined his first task as putting smiles back on the players' faces but the feel-good factor has galvanised the fans just as much as his squad. Once a European fortress, United's three home games in the group stages produced just one goal and Sevilla also secured a rare away win in the Champions League to dump United out at this stage last season. The decibel level has risen since Solskjaer's arrival, even for humble opposition in Huddersfield, Bournemouth, Reading, Brighton and Burnley.

### LINDELOF LIKE A NEW SIGNING

Mourinho spent most of his final season complaining that he had not been furnished with the experienced centre-back he demanded in pre-season, while chopping and changing his defence. Solskjaer has put his faith in Victor Lindelof, who started the first 10 games under the new boss before being left out of Saturday's 3-0 win at Fulham to rest for tonight's challenge.

## Verratti could return to face Manchester United

PARIS - Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Marco Verratti could make a return to face Manchester United in the Champions League after returning to training with the French club.

PSG coach Thomas Tuchel revealed on Friday that Verratti had trained with the rest of the squad and is set to start against Bordeaux on Saturday at the Parc des Princes.

The Italian midfielder had been rated a serious doubt to face United in tonight's Champions League clash at Old Trafford after suffering an ankle injury in January.

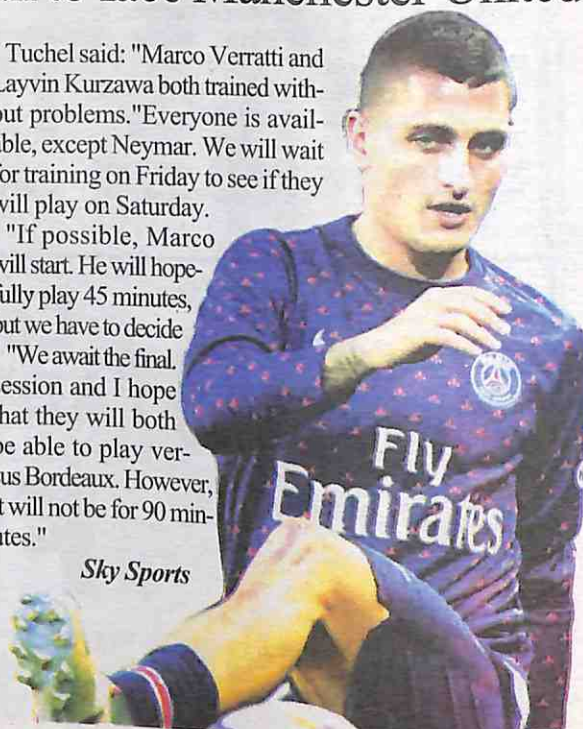
The news of Verratti's comeback will come as a welcome boost to the French side who are already without star player Neymar, who will miss both legs of the tie against United after fracturing his metatarsal.

Tuchel said: "Marco Verratti and Layvin Kurzawa both trained without problems." Everyone is available, except Neymar. We will wait for training on Friday to see if they will play on Saturday.

"If possible, Marco will start. He will hopefully play 45 minutes, but we have to decide."

"We await the final session and I hope that they will both be able to play versus Bordeaux. However, it will not be for 90 minutes."

*Sky Sports*



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## 'Solskjaer to be named full-time United boss'

**MANCHESTER** - Manchester United's board have reportedly made the decision to name Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as the club's full-time manager.

According to The Sun, the decision has been made at board level but may not announce it until the end of the season.

Co-chairman Avram Glazer spoke with Solskjaer after United's 3-0 win over Fulham, and is said to be convinced alongside fellow co-chairman Joel Glazer.

Tottenham Manager Mauricio Pochettino had been United's main

...as the club's board makes a decision after a run of 10 wins in 11 games

target for the job, with Ed Woodward attempting to lure him away from Spurs for next season.

And it appears United will still maintain that the search for a new manager is ongoing, despite new reports to the contrary.

Since taking over in December from the departing Jose Mourinho, Solskjaer has won 10 of his 11 games in charge, drawing the other one against Burnley.

Off the back of their impressive form,

he has lifted them to fourth place in the Premier League, where they currently occupy one of the Champions League spots and are one point ahead of Arsenal and Chelsea.

They face a tough couple of weeks though, when they host French champions Paris Saint-Germain at Old Trafford in the Champions League, followed by a trip to Chelsea in the FA Cup and a home game against Liverpool. *Daily Mail*

## ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



## Sergio Aguero matches Alan Shearer's PL hat-tricks record

**LONDON** - Sergio Aguero equalled a Premier League record with his hat-trick in Manchester City's 6-0 thrashing of Chelsea on Super Sunday.

Aguero's treble at the Etihad Stadium was his second in a week following his heroics against Arsenal and his 11th in the Premier League - matching Alan Shearer's record in the competition.

The Argentine struck his first in stunning fashion, curling a long-range shot past Kepa Arrizabalaga after Raheem Sterling had opened the scoring.

He then showed his predatory instincts for his second, firing home a first-time shot on the turn following Ross Barkley's misplaced header.

City went four goals up

after just 25 minutes when Ilkay Gundogan struck soon after that, but Aguero was not finished, stepping up to convert his hat-trick goal from the penalty spot after Sterling was brought down by Cesar Azpilicueta.

Aguero was substituted to a standing ovation before Sterling added City's sixth, his place in the history books already assured.

As well as being level with Shearer for hat-tricks, Aguero is ahead of Premier League greats Robbie Fowler (nine), Thierry Henry, Harry Kane, Michael Owen (all eight and Wayne Rooney (seven).

The win took Manchester City back to the top of the Premier League table while putting Aguero joint-top of the scoring charts with Liverpool's Mohamed Salah on 17.

*Sky Sports*



Manchester City forward Sergio Aguero.

## Guardiola insists pressure does not exist after 6-0 win

**LONDON** - Pep Guardiola insists pressure does not exist as Manchester City bounced back with three vital wins in eight games, rounding off with a 6-0 thrashing of Chelsea.

After a 2-1 defeat at Newcastle, City beat Arsenal, Everton and Chelsea to put the heat on Liverpool in the Premier League title race, and Guardiola says his team have done incredibly.

But the Spaniard says as long as City

play as a team, there is no pressure, and thanked his players for their spectacular performance on Super Sunday.

He told Sky Sports: "Pressure does not exist, my friend, pressure does not exist. What pressure can the players feel? You have to play like a team, if you win: perfect. If you don't win you try next season.

"We are privileged to be players or managers, involved in one team. They

have to try to do their best. That is what I demand from them. But pressure is society stuff, there are many, many troubles around the world to think you have pressure." He added: "It was an incredible performance against a top team. The players were outstanding.

"After Newcastle, everybody was put in front of the mirror and we talked to each other and we accepted the reality and moved forward." *Sky Sports*

## Lampard favourite to become next Chelsea boss

**LONDON** - Former Chelsea captain Frank Lampard is the bookmakers' favourite to become the next permanent Blues boss as pressure mounts on Maurizio Sarri.

Following Sunday's 6-0 humiliation to title chasers Manchester City, Sarri's position has been placed under further scrutiny. Lampard has impressed so far this season with Derby County in the Championship in what is his first job as a manager since ending his illustrious playing career. According to BetVictor, Lampard has been installed as 2/1 favourite, edging out three-time Champions League winner Zinedine Zidane, who is yet to return to management since leaving Real Madrid. *Daily Mail*

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## 'Sandilands did well for Pirates'

**JOHANNESBURG** - Former Orlando Pirates goalkeeper John Tlale says the Soweto Derby was an exciting affair, but it was boring in the opening half until Kaizer Chiefs scored.

The two Soweto giants drew 1-1 at the FNB Stadium in the Premier Soccer League (PSL) match and Tlale was impressed by both goalkeepers, Wayne Sandilands and Daniel Akpeyi.

"It was a good game especially in the second half, at least we saw goals in the second half. It was a dull affair in the opening half, but they played well," Tlale told Goal.

"There were no attempts at goal in the first half and it was a cautious affair by both teams. The goalkeepers had nothing to do, to be honest," he added.

"Sandilands looked nervous in the first half and he was under pressure, but it was understandable. But he managed to pick himself up, we cannot fault him because he could not save a penalty. Any keeper can be beaten," continued the legend.

"He showed good signs after a rough year in 2018 where he was under heavy criticism, but Akpeyi also did well. He showed maturity, especially playing in his first derby," he explained.

"I expected a draw because Chiefs had to bounce back and were looking for their first win against Pirates this season," he continued.

"I think it was also clear that Chiefs wanted to win because they had an experienced forward like (Bernard) Parker leading their attack," said the retired keeper.

"Immediately after their goal, the game opened up and Pirates wanted to score and we watched an interesting game," he reacted. Tlale said Pirates' failure to walk away with the full three points has dented their hopes of winning the PSL title.

"I know Pirates were supposed to secure a win and they were looking to close the gap on the log table, but it wasn't meant to be," he reflected. *Goal*



## McCarthy admits football can kill you

**CAPE TOWN** - Benni McCarthy admitted it was not his team's night on Saturday as a dominant Cape Town City lost 1-0 to AmaZulu at King Zwelithini Stadium.

After a game the Citizens dominated for almost the entire 90 minutes, McCarthy's side left empty-handed as they failed to find a way past Usuthu.

"If you don't score they punish you, we created chances and dominated the game but we failed to win, the loss feels like a sucker punch," McCarthy

said after the match.

"I always hear people saying football can kill you. For the first time I felt like that, we didn't deserve a loss but that's football for you."

The former Orlando Pirates striker gave credit to Cavin Johnson's side for snatching a win with a cracking free-kick by Tapelo Nyongo.

"We must give them credit for the win, they managed to walk away with a win in a tough situation as they were under pressure almost the whole

game," he added.

McCarthy also felt his side lacked aggression in terms of punishing their opponents in front of goal.

"We need to be aggressive. I'm not talking about playing rough and kicking our opponents, I'm talking about goals, punish them, we should win such games," he explained.

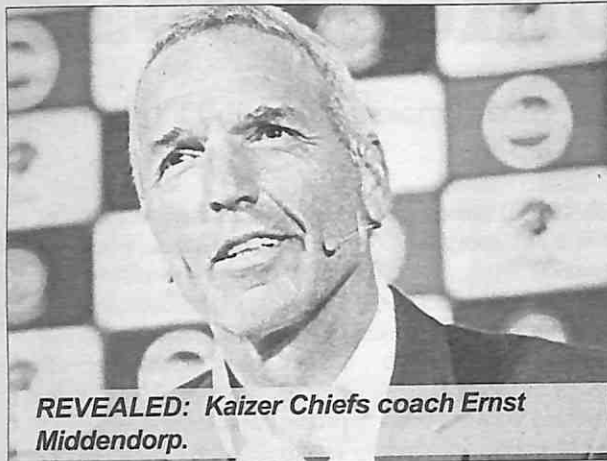
On whether the loss had an impact on their league target for the season, McCarthy said their only focus is on improving as a team.

## Middendorp rules roost at Chiefs

**JOHANNESBURG** - Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp has revealed his stance in omitting certain players from the line-up and has said that no one at the club has a contract that guarantees a starting berth.

One notable omission from Chiefs' starting line-up in Saturday's Soweto Derby stalemate with Orlando Pirates was Zimbabwean midfielder enforcer Willard Katsande.

The 32-year-old was later brought on as a substitute, which has since drawn criticism of the German tactician, though he has explained why he left the veteran out in the first place. "I don't understand this issue. We left Khama Billiat on the bench against AmaZulu. We left Katsande on the bench [against Pirates]. I don't know, maybe next is Leonardo [Castro]," explained Middendorp.



**REVEALED: Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp.**

"I want to make sure this is regular and it's normal. Where is it written? I don't think there's a contract written that says a player has a guarantee to start - I don't think so."

"I think you saw in the first half, there were three tactical moments where it looked like we had done something right without Katsande. We got something right against AmaZulu, without Billiat."

"Let's really understand this, there's no guarantee for anybody [to start]. It's about performance and really going into [each match]."

"I've said it before, all players are equal, but some are more equal."

And in the moment, who is more equal is a decision of the technical team during the week in preparation for the match."

## 'Chiefs were unconventional'

**JOHANNESBURG** - Orlando Pirates head coach Milutin Sredojevic says they tried their best to beat rivals Kaizer Chiefs in a PSL clash on Saturday afternoon.

Despite their failure to secure a win and close the gap on log leaders, Bidvest Wits, the Bucs gaffer believes that they still have so many games to fight for the PSL title.

"We tried our best, just as Chiefs did. We pulled off this draw. There may be regrets, but it's not about what you deserve, but what you get," said Sredojevic to the media.

Pirates are four points behind Wits, but the former have one game in hand as the race for the PSL title intensifies.

"There are a lot of matches to go. It wasn't an ordinary match. It was end to end. We wanted an extraordinary performance against a top class team," he added.

"This is a mother of all matches in this country. Football is played for supporters. The important thing is to allow players to express themselves and not be intimidated by the crowd. It's a match that can help a player develop," reacted the manager.

Chiefs managed to avoid their third defeat to Pirates in all competitions this term.

"Chiefs were a bit unconventional, full of energy. Different. They stretched us wide with (Happy) Mashiane and (Bernard) Parker - we answered that," continued the coach.

"We put ourselves in a better offensive shape in the second half," concluded the coach. *Goal*

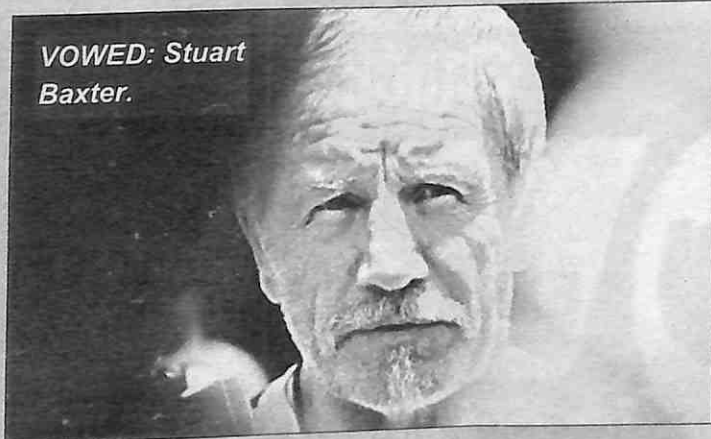
## Baxter's 'hot vein of form' selection criteria

**JOHANNESBURG** - Stuart Baxter has vowed to consider players enjoying a "hot vein of form" ahead of announcing his Bafana Bafana squad to face Libya in a crucial Africa Cup of Nations qualifier next month.

The national team selection criteria is naturally a hot topic in the run up to, as well as after the announcement of Baxter's selection, and won't be any different when the coach reveals his inclusions as well as omissions in the coming weeks.

He is expected to pick the core of players he's worked with for the most part during the Afcon qualifiers against Nigeria, Seychelles

**VOWED: Stuart Baxter.**



and Libya - in the shock goalless first leg played in Durban last year. "If there is a player that has a hot vein of form going into it, I think

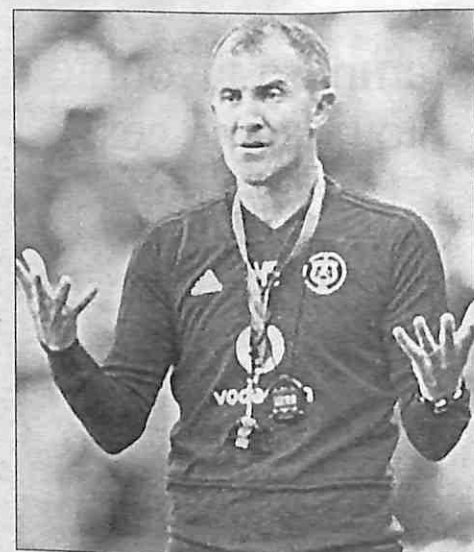
there's got to be a little bit of space for that as well. So the majority of the squad will be ones that I know, ones that know what we

want and going in there with our game plan. That will be the majority," Baxter told journalists.

Given that it has been three months since Bafana, who need just a point away to Libya to qualify for this year's Afcon, were in action there could be players that the coach is contemplating calling up.

"The door should be left ajar in case there is someone that is performing outstandingly because confidence will be important going into this game. If you are bottom of the log with your team and playing miserably, I don't think that's going to help you just because you've got 50 caps," said Baxter.

*Soccer Laduma*



**STRESS A POINT: Orlando Pirates head coach Milutin Sredojevic.**



# Weekend Sports Results

Compiled by Jongile Xuba

**ESWATINIBANK CUP RESULTS**

Black Swallows	2	Red Lions	0
Malanti Chiefs	3	Seven Dreams	2
<b>(after penalties)</b>			
Royal Leopard	4	Madlenya	3
<b>(after penalties)</b>			
Tambuti	4	Illovo	3
<b>(after penalties)</b>			
L. Killers	2	Sea Birds	1
Callies	3	Tinyosi	0
Matsapha	3	Rail United	0
Rangers	1	Pirates	3
Tycoons	0	Citizens	2
Vovovo	6	Burning Spear	0
City Warriors	0	Highlanders	9
Shooting Stars	0	Young Buffaloes	6
M. Royal Swallows	1	Mbabane Swallows	4
Mbabane City	0	Manzini Wanderers	5
Zibonele Vultures	1	Green Mamba	3

**SWAZI TRAC HHOHHO SUPER LEAGUE E77 000****NORTHERN ZONE**

Khanjana	0	Ms. Arsenal	1
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**MANDLA MAHEWU MBABANE LEAGUE E70 000**

Interstars	1	White City	1
Amawele	3	Veni Cosmos	0
Pot O Gold	1	Classic	2
Double Action	1	Mvakwelitje	3
Mbabane Arsenal	0	Mb. Celtics	2
Corporation	2	Supersport	1
Real Tec	1	Sandra	1

**B. DIVISION**

Free Style	5	Hurricane	1
FC Vaal	2	R. Dynamos	3
D. Darkies	2	Mpolonjeni	4
The Wailers	3	Junction Stars	1
Mangwaneni	1	Mantsholo FC	1
Mphalati	4	Movers	1
Lusoti	0	Mantsholo Utd	5

**MP MABULALA & GONGZ MAPHALALENI LEAGUE E60 000****EASTERN STREAM**

Hotspurs	1	Xi Experience	5
Barcelona	0	Manchester	4
Luvinjelo	3	Blue Birds	4
Young Stars	0	Rangers	0
Killers	0	Young Lovers	1
Khulungwane	1	Professionals	5
Umkhokha	2	Junior Stars	4
Liselesele	1	Thuluzobona	2
Hill Stars	1	Sunrise	0
Love & Peace	3	Top Classic	1
Rollers	0	Tigers	0
Sphambanweni	2	Academy	1
Lunkanka	3	Mighty Birds	0

**POTS CONSTRUCTION SIGANGENI E30 000**

U. Eagles	2	Ntsetse Flyers	2
M. Celtics	2	Kangaroo	1
Villa Sport	0	Real United	2
Sigangeni	2	Y. Fighters	0
L. Nationals	2	Total Xi	1
Real Touch	4	Mighty Chiefs	1

**SOUTH STARS MDZIMBA LEAGUE E65 000**

Green sea	3	Chiefs	0
Swallows	4	Monaco	4
Killers	1	Sibuyeni	1
Black Mashuba	2	Arsenal	0
Cosmos	3	Kasiko	2
Timbungulu	2	Rebels	1
Amacabane	2	Sundowns	1
Rangers	2	B. Bucks	1

**B. DIVISION**

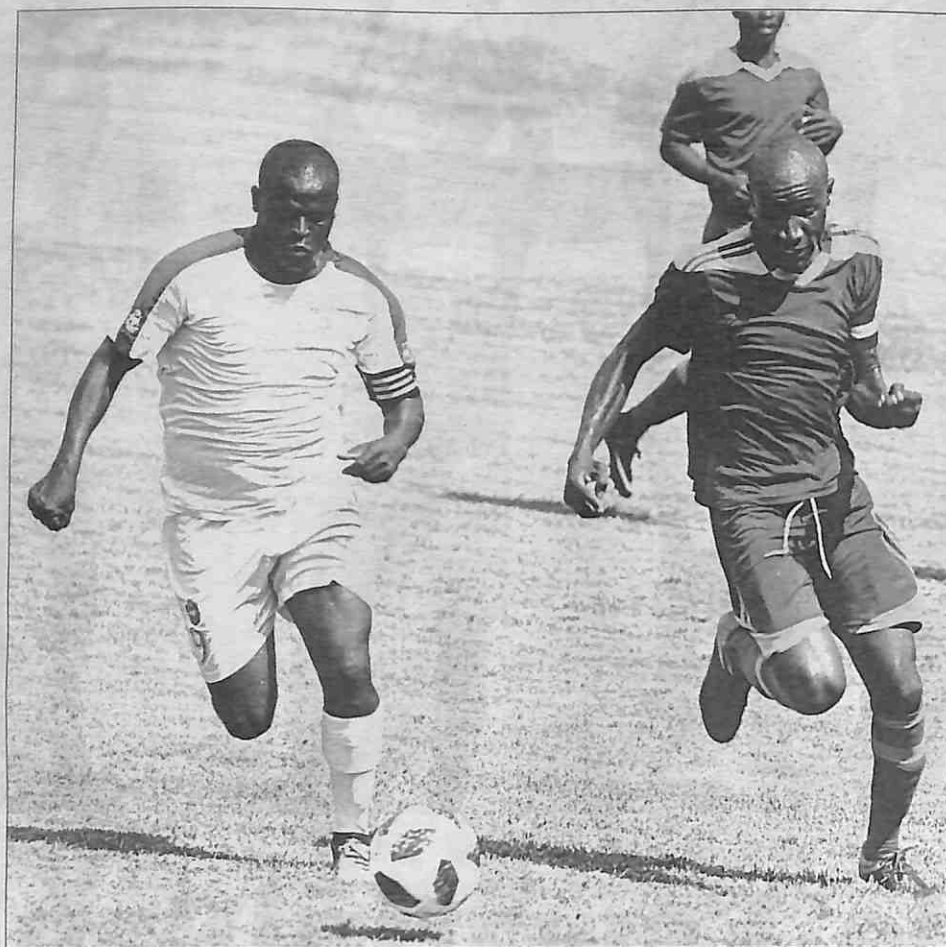
Rhumbas	2	Top Centre	1
Rhinos	7	Barcelona	0
Afrika Stars	3	Drikkopies	3
All Stars	4	Bombers	1

**TEE & JAY LOBAMBA LEAGUE E90 000**

L. Wanderers	0	Fast Reaction	2
Liwakawaka	1	E. Aces	0
L. Cosmos	0	Vutha	0
Luvele Killers	1	Lusito Lions	2
Ezulwini Rangers	1	M. Invaders	0
Emaselesele	4	L. Sunrise	1
Real masters	1	L. Dynamos	1
E. United	0	City Stars	0

**B. DIVISION**

Mighty Bombers	0	Kasi Warriors	1
Power Stars	5	Stoke City	1
E. Vultures	1	Ezulwini FC	2
Servest	3	Silomo	1
X-Eleven	1	Masters Utd	1

**BUY CASH PIGG'S PEAK LEAGUE E45 000**

Bush Bucks	6	Citizens	1
Phophonyane	3	White Killers	2
19 Celtics	2	Rockville	1
Darkies Utd	5	Peak City	1
Mhlatane	2	Maguga	1
Rise & Shine	1	Hotspurs	1
Supersport	3	Mangwaneni	1
Mpolonjeni	0	Thuluzobona	3

**FUTIS NKHABA LEAGUE E30 000**

Barcelona	3	Lubhedze	1
Nkoyoyo Jnr	0	Atletico	2
Majotini	4	Kasi Xi	1
Celtics	0	Fast Movers	2
Bafana	0	Dribbling Stars	3
Ngwenya United	10	Real Rovers	0
Nkoyoyo	2	Crocodiles	0
Superstars	3	Manyisa	1

**MP NELSON MAMBATIMPISINI FOOTBALL LEAGUE****PROMOTION**

Mb. Swallows	2	Golden Arrows	2
Kudvwaleni	0	Mv. Sundowns	2
Soccer Rose	3	Stone Breakers	2
Njakeni City	0	Vusweni	0
H. Pirates	2	Ellegence	2
Blue Birds	0	Ngonini	3
Star Wanderers	2	M. Swallows	0
Gunners	0	Ndialambi	2

**B. DIVISION**

JB Arsenal	0	Ak 47	2
Juventus	1	Y. Savilla	2
Y. Swallows	2	Njakeni Utd	1
Red Lion	1	Zamalek	0
Besutfwini Utd	5	All United	1
Sikhaleni	0	Tigers	2
Y. Bombers	4	All Stars	0

**SHARKS MHLANGATANE LEAGUE E50 000****WESTERN STREAM**

Fast Movers	1	Professionals	0
Arsenal	0	Celtics	1
Thuluzobona	1	Manchester	1
Mpofu Aces	1	Lonhialane	0
Werma Cosmos	1	Hotspurs	1
Zinyane	1	Chelsea	1

**EASTERN STREAM**

Xi Men	2	Liverpool	1
Makhweya	0	Swallows	0
Home Defenders	2	Mangweni	3
Tigers	3	Tingonini	2
Mighty Bombers	3	Newcastle	2

**BHULANE RESORT NDZINGENI LEAGUE E50 000****MVUMA STREAM**

Dangerous Darkies	3	Gebhulas	1
Mphondla Madrid	1	FC Academy	1

KK Ajax	2	Happiness	2
Red Sea	3	M. Celtics	0
Lozaza	6	Volcano	0
Tsunami	3	Blue Ocean	1
Super Aces	1	Blue Birds	4
Zizweni Utd	1	Tihlabani	2

**BULANDZENI STREAM**

M. Professionals	4	Winners Park	1
M. Aces	2	K. Celtics	4
Sweet Banana	1	White City	1
Supersport	2	Arsenal	1
Liverpool	3	Y. Chiefs	0
Bulandzeni Rebels	1	Real United	1

**MP SHEBELEZA NTABINEZIMPISI LEAGUE E50 000**

Skom Boyz	2	Seven Stars	3
M. Arsenal	3	R. Bombers	2
Y. Professionals	1	Buhleni Aces	0
City Cosmos	0	Manchester	3
City Stars	2	Killers	3
Golden Arrows	0	Maz. Sundowns	3
Super Stars	3	Hungry Lions	3

**MP SOMPISI NTFONJENI LEAGUE E40 000**

Chelsea	3	Seven Up	5
Young Tigers	0	Nkonjaneni	2
Sidwashini	0	Suncity	0
Mbabatane	0	Zibonele	0
Teenagers	2	Foster Utd	3
Barcelona	1	R. Madrid	7
Hellenic	1	Express	1
Casino	0	Pirates	3
Royal Madrid	2	Teenagers	1
Pirates	3	Chelsea	0
Ntintinyane	0	Express	2
Young Tigers	1	Sidwashini	1
Liverpool	1	Trounge	5
Hellenic	1	Suncity	2
Gunwane	0	Nkonjaneni	1

**MALINDZA FOOTBALL ZONAL LEAGUE**

Malindza UTD	4	Home Sweepers	1
Young Aces	3	Calabash	0
Black Mamba	2	Juventus	0
Umseshi	2	Siweni UTD	1
Zamalek	1	Dvokodweni	0
Liverpool	1	Promising stars	1
Mshana	1	Highway	1

**SWAZI TRAC LUBOMBO SUPER LEAGUE**

Crookes United	3	Malaheni United	3
Samampela	1	Magwanyane	2
CK Survivors	2	Ubombo Flyers	2
Peacemakers	0	Shewula Arsenal	2
Mkhweli All Stars	2	Sikhalo Se Africa	2
Juventus	2	Mauritius	1

**MANZINI REGIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION****DABULAMAZI CIVIL WORKS & IRRIGATION MANZINI SUPER LEAGUE**

Timbutini	1	Boyane Young Aces	0
Current Toasters	0	Moyeni United	2
Bad Boys	0	Ludzeludze Brothers	2
Nsuka United	2	Young Warriors	1
Luve Cosmos	0	Sisonkhe	0

**MANZINI PROMOTION LEAGUE**

Combine Stars	1	Siboniso Selwandle	1
Kholwane Flying Birds	4	Maliyaduma United	0
Home Sparrows	0	The Bones	0
Two sticks Comrades	1	Green Way	1
FC North	2	Manzini United	1
Superstars	2	Wonderful Touch	4
Fairview Chiefs	4	Young Tigers	0
African Chiefs	3	Lwandle Classic	0

**KPMG MANZINI FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE**

Ngwane Park	3	New Generations	2
City Eagles	1	God's Property	0
Big XI	0	Chaos LTD	2
Healing Boys	1	Brema United	0
Bradford University	2	Nhlambeni United	2

**OK FOODS KWALUSENI PROMOTION LEAGUE**

Kealuseni Rebels	3	Gocweni Trompies	1
Fashion International	1	Supersport	1
Zombodze United	3	FC Logoba	1
Real Professionals	6	Mhlane United	1

**OK FOODS KWALUSENI FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE**

FC Matsapha	0	Ngonini United	0
SwaziWire	1	Zero boys	1
Ludzeludze Celtics	1	AFC Heroes	3
Ludzeludze Kicks	3	Bafana Bafana	1
Manila Stars	3	Ludzidzi	0
Boyane United	3	Umtfunti	3

**S & S MALKERNS PROMOTION LEAGUE**

Phondo	3	Vuka Aces	1
Ndinda Volcano	2	Makhungutsha	1
Troublemakers	0	Don Don	0
Power Sparks	0	Malkerns	0
Vickery Nomads	0	Cutter Cosmos	1
Gebeni	3	Swazi Can United	3
Star Point	1	Golden Arrows	1

**MALKERNS FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE**

Ndlinilembi	0	Ntandozi	1
Skom Boys	2	Usuthu Rangers	3
FC Navara	1	Survivor	1
Mdonjane Arsenal	4	Usuthu Rangers	1

**PREMIER BAKERIES MKHIWENI PROMOTION LEAGUE**

Luve Classic	2	White Killers	6
Mbashedeni Brothers	0	Luve Stars	0
Bantu City	3	Manchester	1
Step Ahead	1	Luve Suncity	1
Moyeni	3	Executive	0
All Stars	0	Ngonini Young Aces	5
Luve Home Defenders	1	Zama United	8
Sangcofto	3	Mantshonga	2
Miba Rangers	3	Executive	0
Mantshonga	1	Bantu City	1
Manchester United	1	Liverpool	3
Toronto	1	Step Ahead	1
Colani United	0	All Nations	0
Mbashedeni Brothers	1	White Killers	3
Luve Stars	7	Luve Home Defenders	0
Ngonini Young Aces	2	Moyeni	1
Sangcofto	5	Luve Classic	3

**CORBAN MAFUTSENI PROMOTION LEAGUE**

Diamond Hunters	0	Mamuleni United	7
Young Cannibals	5	Timbutini Combine Stars	0
Emataliyane	1	Nkongga Pirates	2
Bhudla Celtics	3	Vultures	0
Sicamelo Sa-Chief	1	Madubula Rovers	5

**KUKHANYENI PROMOTION LEAGUE**

Louis XIV	2	Lion Heart	3
1995 Mbuluzana	1	Bhekinkhosi	6
Young Killers	3	Submarine	1
Brave Lion	0	Ushina We-Dortmund	0
Estate Classic	2	Kukhanyeni	4

**NSINGWENI PROMOTION LEAGUE**

Mfeni Pirates	0	All Stars	4
Highland Blues	1	Mcengeni Sundowns	1
Bhudlweni	1	Nsuka Fighters	3
Taliban	1	Young Lovers	1
AC Milan	2	Black Aces	1
Young Madrid	1	Red Lions	5

**KAPHUNGA PROMOTION LEAGUE**

Volcano	3	Shepherd	3
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## ESWATINIBANK MATCH REVIEWS



# 'Solo Inje' EswatiniBank Cup rings the adrenaline!

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

**SOCCER** – THE uniqueness of the EswatiniBank Cup once again prevailed over the past weekend to recapture the special feel associated with the competition.

Even though the smaller teams failed to cause enough upsets, the atmosphere at the stadiums was something to remember. This competition somehow possesses a different element compared to others, as it brings its own distinctive level of excitement.

The EswatiniBank Cup is back, and all around town talk is about the high number of goals scored, which has now become synonymous with the EswatiniBank Cup. There are a lot more other things that make the EswatiniBank Cup exceptional, over and above what has been mentioned.

### BRANDING

Hats off to the EswatiniBank marketing department for sparing no penny in making sure that the name of the sponsor is visible at all the venues where the matches were being played.

This did not only start on match day, but the launch of the tournament itself was superbly branded, so much so that one would have sworn those responsible had reserved their entire budget until the EswatiniBank Cup started.

Rightly so, because besides this being a football sponsorship, it is also possibly the biggest platform EswatiniBank can use to reach as many people as pos-



sible, including their own customers. They are doing a very good job in this regard, and one may wish that they reap as much as they can from football as they have been loyal for a good 16 years to date.

### REGIONAL TEAMS

For some, they heard of teams like Shooting Stars FC, Zibonele Vultures,

Masundvini Royal Swallows, Burning Spear FC, for the very first time in their lives. These are just some of the teams that came from the regions to share the stage with the big guns, especially during the Grand Opening on Sunday.

Some of them are doing well in the regional Super Leagues, which is officially the third tier of local football. They would soon arrive in the National

First Division League, and the EswatiniBank Cup serves as a good introduction for them to local football fans.

It also alerts them of what they will come up against as they prepare for their time in the top leagues.

Young players with potential are also exposed to scouts who may want to immediately recruit them into their

teams.

It all serves the development of local football very well, and these teams would have learnt a lot from the big guns as they go back to compete in their respective leagues.

### GOALS

Were there 51 or 56 scored on the first weekend? The latter is accurate. Someone must have forgotten that Green Mamba were playing Zibonele Vultures on the same day as the Grand Opening that took place at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday to say there were 51 goals.

That aside, the EswatiniBank Cup proved yet again that it is the home for goals, and more of them. The fact that 56 goals were scored in only 16 matches is an incredible feat. This means on average, about four goals were scored in each game. Football is all about excitement, and goals bring excitement into the game.

Hats off to all the teams for a weekend of sheer entertainment! We hope there will be more goals scored in the upcoming rounds. One hundred goals are possible given the start to this year's competition.

### SHOCKS

Only Manzini Sea Birds became the casualty of the first round after being knocked out by Manzini Super League side Ludzeludze Killers on Saturday.

However, Milling Hotspurs were very close to causing a major upset by eliminating Manzini Sundowns as they only lost 8-9 on penalties.

There was a point in the shoot-out when they had to just score to win, but the nerves got the better of one of their players.

Madlenya FC also did well against Royal Leopard as they also failed on penalties. Overall, the small teams gave a good account of themselves, which brought credibility to the competition.





**THANK YOU:** Swazi Plaza Acting Centre Manager Nomsa Mhlanga, Liverpool Supporters Club Treasurer Esau du Pont and Swazi Plaza Brand Ambassador Nomathemba Magagula standing in front of the pairs of school shoes.

## LIVERPOOL SUPPORTERS CLUB DONATES SHOES

BY JONGILE XUBA

**SOCCER — AS the club's motto goes 'You'll Never Walk Alone,' Eswatini Liverpool Supporters Club has donated 100 pairs of school shoes towards the back to school shoes campaign, organised by the Swazi Plaza.**

The donation, which is to the value of E11 000, was made yesterday at Swazi Plaza conference room, where Swazi Plaza Acting Centre Manager

Nomsa Mhlanga said she was very pleased with the gracious donation made by the supporters of the English Premiership Club based in Eswatini. She said the donation was beyond their expectation, as it is the biggest donation they have received during their campaign.

Mhlanga added that without the help of the supporters club, they may not have been able to achieve their target.

"We had a target to get 3 000 pairs of shoes which we hope to distrib-

ute amongst different care-points in the Hhohho region. This donation will go a longway in making that vision a reality," she said.

### Under-privileged

She also acknowledged Brand Ambassador Nomathemba Magagula for coming up with the idea of collecting the school shoes for the under-privileged.

"I also have to give praise to Nomathemba for coming up with this brilliant initiative.

This will go a long way at improv-

ing the lives of the children who will get the shoes," she said.

The Supporters Club Treasurer Esau du-Pont said the donation was part of their mission to contribute to charity, in recognising the club's ethos of Liverpool Football Club.

Du-Pont said it was in keeping with this mission that the supporters club has identified charity work as their contribution, promising that this was the beginning of more good things to come from the Kop faithful.

"It is very saddening when you

hear stories of children who have to walk bare foot to school in this day and age.

"This is why we felt it was important to give back what we could as Liverpool fans," he said.

He thanked all their members who had made donations towards the initiative, as well as those from other English Premier League teams.

"Our members really came through for us and I would like to thank all of them for their efforts. Special mention must go to fans of other premier league teams, who heard what we were doing and decided to contribute as well," he said.

Du Pont added that they would now be looking at starting a new blanket campaign for the upcoming winter season.

## 3 more countries for Castle 5's league

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

(In Johannesburg, South Africa courtesy of Castle Lager)

**SOCCER — Following the success of Castle Lager's inaugural Africa 5s social football league, the vibrant continental showpiece makes an astounding return this year, as three more countries have been added to the initiative.**

This year's addition to the initial group of six countries will see the inclusion of the countries namely Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda.

This was announced by Castle Lager Brand Director Vaughan Croeser during the media launch held at ChafPozzi, Soweto yesterday.

Croeser expressed his delight with the return of the tournament and the fact that it was now getting bigger. "We are thrilled by the return of the Africa 5's league, which is set to be bigger and better than last year's edition. We are excited about the inclusion of Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda as that will expand our footprint across the African continent and cement Castle Lager's role of creating and sustaining friendships beyond borders," said Croeser. He further spoke about another

er addition to this year's tournament, the inclusion of women into the league, which will be spearheaded by former BanyanaBanyana striker Amanda Dlamini. "The inclusion of women is not only integral in sustaining societal interactions but an emphasis on Castle Lager's position of being at the forefront of fortifying bonds and friendships. The introduction of a women's league aligns with the brand's ethos of inclusivity and social belonging," he concluded.

The campaign will still be spearheaded by Africa's football icon, Samuel Eto'o joined by an array of other legends namely; Matthew Booth (South Africa), Ivo Mapunda (Tanzania), Tinashe Nengomasha (Zimbabwe), Christopher Katongo (Zambia), Amanda Dlamini (Women Football) as well as local Siza Dlamini.

**We are thrilled by the return of the Africa 5's league, which is set to be bigger and better than last year's edition**

## MILKY MAX JUNIORS PRESENTATION



**REAL DEAL:** Minister of Sports Harries 'Madze' Bulunga smiles as Lobamba Juniors knockout winners Real Masters coach Phumlani Motsa displays their prizes, whilst team captain Philani Dlamini holds the trophy.



## FOOTBALL TALK

All your latest WORLD FOOTBALL news

● Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will be named the full-time manager of Manchester United - but the club may not announce it until the end of the season. *(Sun)*

● Solskjaer has reassured Fred he will contribute to the Old Trafford side's run-in after the 25-year-old Brazil midfielder was omitted from the squad at Fulham. *(Manchester Evening News)*



● Manager Rafael Benitez has backed Paraguay midfielder Miguel Almiron, 25, to make an instant impact at Newcastle after his record move. *(Guardian)*

● Peter Schmeichel says his son Kasper, 32, could leave Leicester because the Denmark goalkeeper is not happy under boss Claude Puel. *(Sun)*

● Wolves are favourites to sign Portugal Under-21 player Joao Felix, with manager Nuno Espirito Santo keen on the 19-year-old Benfica midfielder. *(Mirror)*

● Chelsea will demand Ivory Coast midfielder Franck Kessie, 22, in return if AC Milan attempt to sign France midfielder Tiemoue Bakayoko, 24, permanently. *(Daily Star)*



● A hamstring injury prevented Aston Villa from signing Netherlands midfielder Leroy Fer, 29, on deadline day from Swansea. *(Birmingham Mail)*

● Crystal Palace Manager Roy Hodgson is ready to advise England boss Gareth Southgate about a potential international call-up for defender Aaron Wan-Bissaka, 21. *(Independent)*

● Manchester City's Portugal midfielder Bernardo Silva, 24, and French defender Aymeric Laporte, 24, have both seen their estimated transfer values increase dramatically following their respective starts to the new campaign. *(CIES Football via Manchester Evening News)*



● Manchester United and England defender Phil Jones, 26, says the club were a "laughing stock" at the beginning of the season. *(Goal)*



## THE SUCKER PUNCH POW!

...with Mphikeleli Msibi

[STRIKING, STRAIGHT AND STRENGTHENED]

## 'SOLO INJE'

A total of 56 goals coupled with exciting cup-tie football, set the scene as teams battled in the Eswatini Bank Cup last 32 games over the weekend.

Most games went according to previous credentials in this popular knockout tournament, with the big guns making it through to the next stage of the tournament as they continued their good work but two previous giant-killers, Madlenya and Milling Hot Spurs, hit the skids.

Again, fans were treated to a 'football feast' as they were spoiled for choice with the games taking place at different venues around the country.

There were no major upsets with only Sea Birds biting the dust while the other elite league teams are through to the next stage of the prestigious tournament.

While fellow lower division outfits found the going tough against fancied opponents in the Eswatini Bank Cup last 32, Ludzeldzwe Killers etched their name in football folklore as they beat Premier League side Sea Birds.

The vitalising songs from excited supporters sent fascinating stimulus to the players in the field, resulting to a grand atmosphere in the stadiums during the grand opening games played at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday. With the number of goal scored in the opening games of the competition, this goes to show the desire and hunger from teams to clinch the title and get the E1.1 million first prize money.

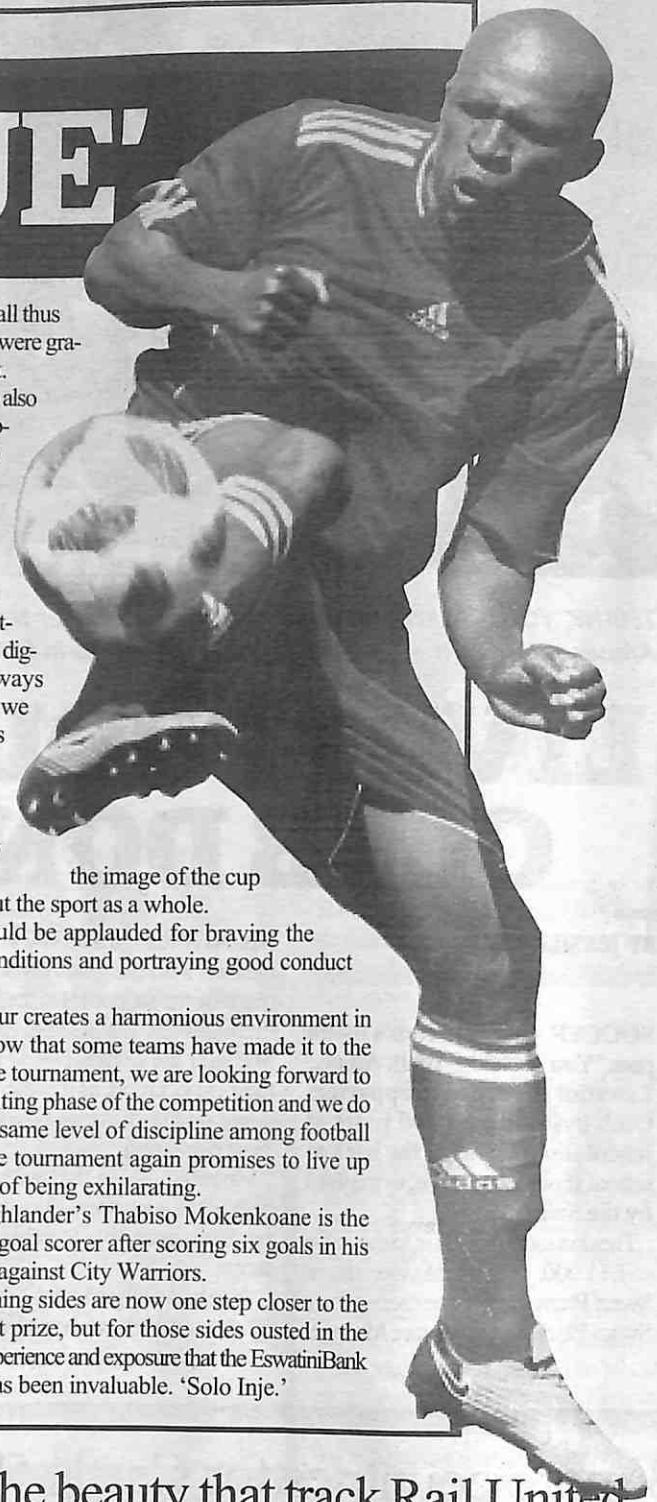
The grand opening games at Somhlolo on Sunday saw over 3 000 fans cramping the stadium to watch the action live and I must point it out that the teams did not disappoint as they also lived up to expectations.

Hub giants Manzini Wanderers were too strong for Midas City, whom they mercilessly thrashed 5-0 while Young Buffaloes, who made their wish to defend the title an open secret, thrashed Shooting Stars 6-0.

Masundvini Royal Swallows' giant-killing mission to cause another upset to Mbabane Swallows was not successful as the 'Beautiful Birds' came geared up for victory, winning 4-1. They, however, failed to play their

pressing football thus the opposition were gracious in defeat.

It was good to also note that the supporters seem to have conformed to the norm of a violence-free football gathering that senior football officials and dignitaries are always encouraging as we did not witness any ugly occurrences that could have dented not only



the image of the cup

competition, but the sport as a whole.

The fans should be applauded for braving the hot weather conditions and portraying good conduct in the stadium.

Such behaviour creates a harmonious environment in the stadium. Now that some teams have made it to the next stage of the tournament, we are looking forward to yet another exciting phase of the competition and we do hope to see the same level of discipline among football supporters. The tournament again promises to live up to expectations of being exhilarating.

Mbabane Highlander's Thabiso Mokenkoane is the current leading goal scorer after scoring six goals in his team's 9-0 win against City Warriors.

The 16 remaining sides are now one step closer to the E1.1 million first prize, but for those sides ousted in the first round, the experience and exposure that the Eswatini Bank Cup provides has been invaluable. 'Solo Inje.'

## MTN League returns

THE MTN Premier League title race is surely going down to the wire, if the current log standings are anything to consider.

With nine games to go, rampaging Correctional Services side Green Mamba leads the pack; enjoying a superior goal difference to second-placed Young Buffaloes.

Green Mamba, who were riding the crest of the wave during the early stages of the league, are at the pole position with 31 points separated by a goal difference with 'Buffs' as the two teams play against each other this weekend. They are followed by police side Royal Leopard with 30 points while red and white ensemble and capital city giants Mbabane Swallows are still in position four with 29 points and complete the top four bracket. Mbabane Highlanders are not far off as they are sitting on position five with

29 points. Now it is safe to deduce that it is a five-horse race. At this stage boys are separated from men, pretenders are separated from contenders and of course, grain is separated from chaff as the league title race reaches its climax. And the million dollar question is; who will finally take it home?

The race for the league title is very tight at the top, and mid-table teams are fighting to finish in the top eight.

At least five teams in the bottom half and are racing against time to avoid relegation. At least five teams in the bottom half are racing against time to avoid relegation. These are Matsapha United, Mbabane Citizens, Tambuti, Wanderers and Moneni Pirates.

All these teams need to start finding their rhythm if they intend to finish in the top eight.

Fasten your seatbelts as this rollercoaster ride continues.

## The beauty that track Rail United

IN the sugar belt north of the country, Matsapha United might have prevailed over stubborn Rail United but definitely not on the terraces, the dominance was definitely won by the Mpaka based Lubombo Super League outfit.

Amid the notorious and scorching heat which even warranted a water break in the opening half, this group of traveling fans numbering about 40 sang throughout despite their lads falling to a game chase as early as the sixth minute. So passionate and melodious they were that at one moment, I almost contacted Zakhele Lukhele to consider rewarding team fans.

I don't think the Most Passionate Team Fans awards won't be any overestimated request considering that these are the owners of the game.

Also, from the terraces there was a good football lesson that equally drew the match commissioner

when a Matsapha United forward came from an offside position in the offensive half to meet a pass back in the defensive half, sparking a debate on the legibility of the referee and assistant's offside call.

Without fear, favour or prejudice to anyone, that was a perfect offside call but most importantly, one fan requested that fans be taken through the laws of the game in an open forum to educate them thus probably dealing with the obscenities referees have to endure while on duty.

Then there was a revisit to the thorny "open stadium" debate, when a two-year old bolted away from the clutches of his parents to join the 22 battling it out on the green park reminding us all of an unbending responsibility to protect our kids and ourselves by not straying onto the field.

Ladies and gentlemen; let's equally protect our toddlers.



# 'I want to play in Europe'

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

**SOCCER - MBABANE Highlanders' striker Thabiso Mokenkoane has reiterated his wish to play professional football in Europe following a decimating double hat-trick in the Eswatini Bank Cup.**

Mokenkoane's goals saw his team emerge 9-0 winners over City Warriors at Mayaluka Stadium on Saturday. Interviewed yesterday, the striker said he has a burning desire to play in Europe, and hoped by God's plans he would realise his dreams.

"We can plan and dream big, but it is God who decides about our destination in life," he said. Mokenkoane attended trials in Malta before the start of the season but was unsuccessful as he later re-joined Highlanders for this year's campaign. He was recruited by then coach, Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane from South African side Pretoria University, also known as 'Tuks'. His rout of City Warriors means he has now scored eight goals in his last three matches. Asked what he attributed his form to, the striker said working hard at

training has resulted in a turn-around in his fortunes. "I missed a lot of matches through injury and I am grateful that the coach has put his faith in me to be part of the team's attack again. It is true that I have done well since I have been re-introduced into the team, but I still feel I can do much better," he said. The player also revealed that this was not the first time he scored six goals in one match. He said he once scored six times in a 15-1 win during the time he played in the ABC Motsepe League in his native South Africa in 2009. "It is always nice when you score goals as a striker, but the most important thing is to help the team win," he said. Mokenkoane currently leads the pack in terms of top scorers in the Eswatini Bank Cup with his heroic tally of six. He retained hope that his team, Highlanders, would qualify for either the CAF Champions League or the Confederation Cup, come the end of the season. "Yes, I think we can qualify for CAF as long as we keep on working hard but smart and focussing more on winning our remaining games," he said.

**Mbabane Highlanders' striker Thabiso Mokenkoane.**



## Mokenkoane leads race for E10 000 top scorer carrot

BY JONGILE XUBA

**SOCCER - MBABANE Highlanders player Thabiso Mokenkoane is currently leading the scorers' chart in the Eswatini Bank Cup and is favourite to win the lucrative prize of E10 000 at the end of the tournament.**

In a weekend that saw a total of 56 goals scored during the round of 32, the 'Black Bull' player has set the bar really high by scoring six goals against City Warriors, putting himself firmly at the top of the pile. He is followed by veteran Mbabe Swallows skipper Tony 'TT' Tsabedze, who scored a hat-trick against Masundwini Royal Swallows. Other scorers who are tied at two goals each include Highlanders captain Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze, Green

### Eswatini Bank Cup top goal scorers list

Thabiso Mokenkoane	(Mbabane Highlanders)	- six goals
Tony 'TT' Tsabedze	(Mbabane Swallows)	- three goals
Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze	(Mbabane Highlanders)	- two goals
Mxolisi Mkhontfo	(Green Mamba)	- two goals
Ndumiso Dlamini	(Young Buffaloes)	- two goals
Mcolisi Tsabedze	(Vovovo FC)	- two goals
Sibusiso Tfwala	(Vovovo FC)	- two goals
Celmusa Dlamini	(Vovovo FC)	- two goals
Panawe Talbosouma	(Black Swallows)	- two goals

Mamba's Mxolisi Mkhontfo, Young Buffaloes' Ndumiso Dlamini and Black Swallows striker Panawe Talbosouma, to name a few.

It may prove to be a tall order for 'TT' and the others to catch up with Mokenkoane as there are only four more matches left until the conclu-

sion of the tournament. Mokenkoane will hope to continue his fine form in front of goal as he leads the pack going into the last 16 phase.

According to the Eswatini Cup Bank rules and regulations, the top scorer will also receive a trophy along with the E10 000 cash prize.

## MTN's upward support for Mbabane golf

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

**GOLF - MTN Eswatini is excited about its growing partnership with Mbabane Golf Club and is looking forward to a greater year ahead.**

Senior Manager-Consumer Meshack Maseko extended his appreciation to the multitudes of Mbabane Golf Club members during the well-attended Masters of Masters competition held on Saturday. So popular is the tournament that the course was packed with a field of 64 golfers and about 17 had to be turned back.

"It gives us great satisfaction as the sponsor to see such a full house, and we are particularly pleased with the interest being shown by the golfers from all over the country in the MTN-sponsored tournaments being held here in Mbabane," Maseko said.

He further praised the club's executive committee led by Genius Sihlongonyane, as the captain, for being well organised and keeping MTN abreast of the necessary developments ahead of every tournament.

Speaking on behalf of the club, Vice-Captain Sifiso Dhlamini thanked MTN for its contribution to the development of golf in Mbabane and the country as a whole. Dhlamini

noted with interest that MTN had kept their promise to make their sponsored tournaments bigger and better in 2019.

"The MTN Masters of Masters was a perfect start into the new year considering the huge appetite shown by the golfers coupled with the determination and professionalism by the organising committee," he said.

Dhlamini extended personal thanks to the MTN team led by Maseko and Thandiwe Mashinini, who is the Sponsorship and Engagement Manager.

### Competition

Saturday's Masters of Masters tournament was won by Kenneth Nkambule with 43 points and he walked away with a state-of-the-art cellphone plus five gigs of data. Nkambule beat the 13 other winners of last year's Monthly Masters, who all entered for the competition with a five-point advantage. Meanwhile, the February Monthly Masters played parallel to the Masters of Masters was won by Nicholas Vilakati with 40 points, ahead of Zwelisha Dlamini who amassed 39 points. Fast improving lady golf player Ngeti Mkhonta finished third with 38 points, winning on a count-back ahead of Kenneth Nkambule.

This coming Saturday, the Mbabane Golf Club will host the Elliot International competition.

## 'Sea Birds' priority is league'

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

**SOCCER - MANZINI Sea Birds' coach Anthony Mdluli stated that they are more focussed on the league even though they were disappointed with their loss in the first round of the Eswatini Bank Cup.**

Mdluli apologised to the team's fans for a defeat which he termed as 'uncharacteristic' for his side against Ludzeldzwe Killers. He said they want to regroup quickly and focus on their next game in the league, which is a competition they were fully focussed on.

"We did not set out to lose against Killers. They just happened to have

prepared well for the game against our boys. Hopefully, we will get this result behind us quickly and focus on doing well in the league," he said.

Sea Birds are in mid-table on the MTN League log, but are not safe yet from relegation. They lost their previous game 0-1 to Mbabane Highlanders, and any more losses could put them in serious danger as the league draws to a close.

"We have not been clinical enough in front of goal lately, and must work on that. If we had scored from the chances we created against Killers, we would not have lost. Hopefully, we shall rectify our shortcomings soon and in time for our next match," he said.

## WE LOST TO A BETTER TEAM - MADLENYA FC

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

**SOCCER - NATIONAL First Division outfit Madlenya FC have admitted that they lost to a better team in the Eswatini Bank Cup.**

Madlenya lost 3-4 (after penalties) to Royal Leopard on Friday night at Mayaluka Stadium.

The team's head coach William Masondeza Gamedze said his team tried to match Leopard pound for pound for the entire 90 minutes but inexperience was the reason his team was booted out of the lucrative tournament

However, Gamedze said he was proud of his young team and spectators were treated to an exciting game on Friday.

"It was an interesting game as we matched them for the entire 90 minutes.

### Complain

Had we utilised our chances, we should have killed the game within the 90 minutes and we can't complain about losing on penalties. Actually, penalties can be won by any team as its like the lottery."

Gamedze further praised Leopard

for giving them a good game and said his team learnt a lot from the Premier League side. "They are a good side with lot of experience and their level of fitness is second to none. I have also observed that there is a gap between Premier League teams and First Division sides. The problem with the NFD sides is that we have less time for training while the Premier League teams have more time; as a result fitness in our division is glaring."

Gamedze also revealed that his game plan was to contain Leopard in the midfield and play counter attacks. He said the first goal was a result of a

counter attack.

Gamedze said his team would now go back to the drawing board and focus in the MTN League.

"Our supporters must continue supporting the Eswatini Bank Cup," said Gamedze. The team Director, Juluka Gamedze also said it was a tough game but they gave Leopard a run for their money.

He said they missed chances which could have made them progress to the next stage of the tournament. "Thank you everyone who supported us on Friday night, continue supporting the 0Eswatini Bank Cup and open bank

Had we utilised our chances, we could have killed the game within the 90 minutes and we can't complain about losing on penalties. Actually, penalties can be won by any team"



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