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WELCOME TO MBABANE

NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART: Two ladies walk side by side as they pass the old Mbabane Police Station towards the city centre clad in their latest fashion trends yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

PUPILS HIGH ON COUGH SYRUP

STORY ON
PAGE 3

...Boarding master makes a shocking discovery of entire group of learners hallucinating inside a dormitory at a Manzini school

Good Riddance Gciniwe - Kirk



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'Prophet' Gcina Dubai school trip flop



Page 4

Cop Busta jailed for bashing colleague

Page 3

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FOCUS ON MATSAPHA TOWN COUNCIL COMMISSION

I am still mayor - Sandlane

STORIES BY SAMKELISIWE KHOZA
Matsapha

"I am still the Mayor of Matsapha Town Council until elections are conducted in 2022," says Sandlane Zwane.

Zwane made the pronouncement before the commission of enquiry probing the affairs of the town yesterday.

Having been thrown with corruption allegations, abuse of the power of unopposed motions and of solely making decisions, Zwane said he acted upon his authority as the mayor.

He said he was guarded by the country's constitution together with the town council standing orders, which gave him the powers to act and make decisions single-handedly, if needs be.

He clarified that he did not abuse any power of motions but acted upon the given powers contained in the standing orders that the chairperson is obligated to intervene whenever he notices unlawful acts.

Furthermore, Zwane claimed that the councillors under his leadership did not familiarise themselves with the constitution and the standing orders, hence they made a fuss

over every decision he took.

He said he had tried boundlessly to edify them on the standing orders and the constitution as well but all those efforts proved futile as they continued with their inexperienced conduct, which later resulted in the chaos in Matsapha.

Zwane said he was impressed by Kholwaphi Dlamini or Mdziniso's presentation during the interview for the Corporate Manager's position, hence she obtained the job. Allegations were forwarded by other councillors last week that Kholwaphi might have secured the job because Zwane knew her.

It was reported that the corporate manager's position requirements were that a Masters degree as the minimum credential which turned out that Kholwaphi had only an affidavit to attest to that.

Kholwaphi claimed to have obtained the Masters Degree in 1999 and the produced affidavit was dated back to the same year where she said the certificate had to be turned back due to a misspell.

What raised eyebrows was that Kholwaphi still had not attained the certificate in 2018 when she went for the interview, raising concerns that the Masters Degree might not be existent.

... 'Commission unnecessary'

THE commission of enquiry to probe affairs in the Matsapha Town Council appointed by the minister is not necessary, says Chairperson Sandlane Zwane.

"There were no issues that necessitated the involvement of other parties other than the councillors themselves," Zwane said.

The commission was appointed by the minister of housing to query matters within the Matsapha Town Council, more especially events that transpired between the period of November 2017 to 2018.

He said problems that ensued within the council, the town was capable of solving those tribulations internally without involving outsiders. Zwane said Matsapha Town Council required knowledge on the town's standing orders together with the constitution, to which he said the inexperience of council-

lors caused the havoc in Matsapha.

He said it was unnecessary for the commission to be involved as they (councillors) would have resolved all the issues within the town.

However, questions flared up regarding the fact that Zwane saw it suitable to approach the court when he was being stripped of his duties by the councillors.

He submitted an urgent application to the court when the councillors moved to remove him from office as mayor. Unfortunately, the court threw that matter by the window and councillors were allowed to conduct the scheduled meeting regarding Zwane.

He said going to court was actually a constitutional right which he was obligated to invoke for the reason that there were things that happened within the council that required clarity by a court of law.

Good riddance Gciniwe - Tommy Kirk

MATSAPHA Town Council ratepayer and businessman Thomas Kirk says he was actually happy when former Chief Executive Officer Gciniwe Fakudze left.

Kirk said the former CEO victimised him; she granted investors land which belonged to him without his consent. He said Fakudze was literally out to get him the way she conducted herself while in office.

"I was actually happy when Gciniwe left as she victimised me," the businessman said, adding there were plans of rezoning of his complex by the ex-CEO into a residential category.

Deputy Mayor Siphesihle Sibandze alluded during his submission that he was in possession of evidence of a recording between Councillor Bongani Mkhathshwa and Kirk where Fakudze's name was mentioned numerous times.

Recording

However, Councillor Mfanufikile Dlamini played the said recording before the commission where Kirk and Mkhathshwa were in an 18-minute conversation discussing Matsapha affairs.

Kirk, when asked about having knowledge of a recording of some sort, said he had no knowledge of such, save that he read about it in the newspapers.



GOOD RIDDANCE:
Businessman Tommy Kirk.

Councillor Mkhathshwa's 3-hour dilly dallying

HAVING concurred with Councillor Mavela Shongwe when strongly refuting allegations against Mayor Sandlane Zwane, Councillor Mkhathshwa dragged his submission beyond any imagination on Monday, spending nearly three hours moving backwards and forwards.

Councillor Bongani Mkhathshwa is implicated in an audio recording produced before the commission as evidence which was firstly cited by Deputy Mayor Siphesihle Sibandze. It was played for the commission by Councillor Mfanufikile Dlamini.

Mkhathshwa, for two hours and 45 minutes specifically tried to dodge questions directed at him by the commissioners investigating the Matsapha Town Council affairs.

He negated allegations that Zwane was corrupt and abused the power of unopposed motions.

Commissioner Mzwandile Dlamini had to bring to the councillor's attention that he was under oath, hence he was obligated to answer truthfully.

Furthermore, the councillor threw corruption allegations in the direction of the other councillors who are said to be

on Chief Executive Officer Lucky Sukati's side.

He said turmoil erupted in the town when the CEO threatened them with Section 27 of the Urban Government Act. The Act authorises the CEO to submit to the minister issues that surface within the town, which he feels are somehow unlawful.

When asked what the councillors were doing unlawfully, which spurred the CEO to exercise Section 27, the councillor said everything was orderly within the council and there were no feuds at all.

CEO accused of fiddling with minutes

COUNCILLOR Mkhathshwa, after denying having knowledge on a number of issues including corruption allegations levelled against Zwane, he alleged that the record of minutes in the possession of the commission were tampered with by the CEO.

He said what was actually contained in the minutes did not take place. He further denied having knowledge of Zwane prohibiting the CEO access to the council's premises. He said he could not recall hearing Zwane issuing that order. However, Commissioner Benito Jones brought to the councillor's attention that in their possession was a letter served to the CEO with its author being Zwane telling him that he was prohibited to set foot within the council's premises.

Meanwhile, Mkhathshwa said the minister responsible should deal with the corrupt councillors and not dissolve all the councillors.

Jones brought to the councillor's attention that in their possession was a letter served to the CEO with its author being Zwane telling him that he was prohibited to set foot within the town's premises



AS I SEE IT: Commissioner Zibuse Simelane and Chairperson of the Commission of enquiry Lungile Magagula during the submissions. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

'Sandlane abused me because I refused to follow his faction'

COUNCILLOR Mfanufikile Dlamini has alluded that the Matsapha Town Council chairperson bullied him, only because he refused to join his faction.

Dlamini said he was approached by Zwane during the orientation of councillors upon their election and lobbied that he vote for him for the mayoral position.

He said when he (Dlamini) questioned Zwane's move; he called security forces' authorities and stained his name red with lies.

He said it came to his attention that Zwane might be the reason behind the phone calls he received from his authorities, questioning him about allegations of being involved with *emavukela mbuso*.

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PUPILS GET HIGH ON COUGH SYRUP

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Manzini

A chemical found in cough syrup, Dextromethorphan, nearly killed several pupils in one of the schools around Manzini.

This follows the latest habit of teenagers finding a way of getting high by ingesting the chemical forming the cough syrup.

A boarding master in one of the hostels in Manzini got the shock of his life when he found his pupils behaving strangely at the hostel. It was revealed that the pupils mixed the cough syrup with energy drinks and other soft drinks just to get the fix. Over the years, parents had to watch out if their children are not exposed to alcohol and drugs. The boarding master said he saw pupils at the beginning of each school term coming with quite a number of cough syrups. He said that never raised any suspicion because this was simply nothing but syrup, as far as the administration was concerned.

"Every term we inspect the children's luggage before entering the hostels. We often find different types of medicinal drugs such as pain killers, flu vaccine, and of course, the cough syrups. We never suspected anything; we even encouraged our pupils to ask their parents to buy them these kinds of medicine," he said.

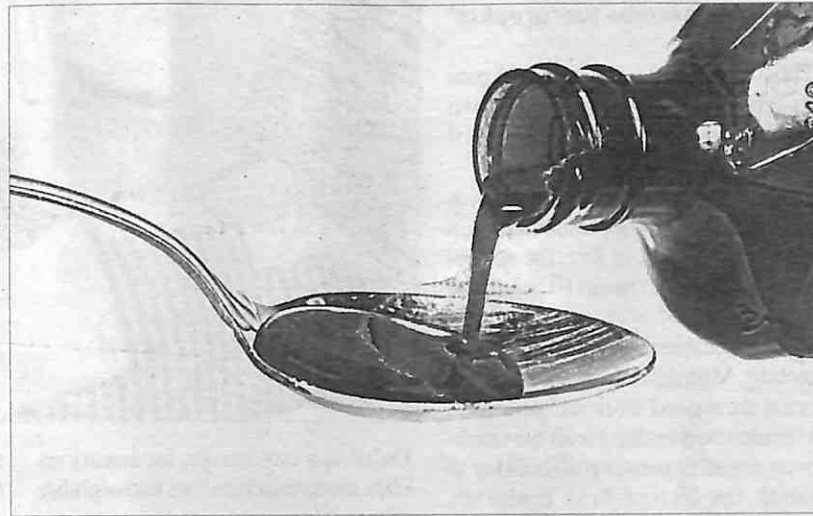
The boarding master, however, confessed that he was caught unawares following what he witnessed last week Saturday in one of the dormitories. He found pupils noticeably high. Surprisingly, when they searched for alcohol or drugs they could not find anything like that. Upon a thorough investigation, they found juice bottles with remains of Coca-Cola.

He said they did not suspect anything dodgy with the Coca-Cola up until one of the pupils spilled the beans about the magic formulae that turned all of them high.

"One of the pupils who was not part of the 'high' squad alerted us about the Coca-Cola," he said.

The pupil revealed to authorities how the Coca-Cola was spiked with the cough syrup and some other concoction. At first, the boarding master, said he did not believe the 'snitching' pupil because he did not want to make premature

...A boarding master in one of the hostels in Manzini got the shock of his life when he found his pupils behaving strangely at the hostel. It was revealed that the pupils mixed the cough syrup with energy drinks and other soft drinks just to get the fix



WHAT IS DEXTROMETHORPHAN?

DEXTROMETHORPHAN: This is the active ingredient in more than 100 OTC cough and cold medicines such as Robitussin and Nyquil. One teen in every 10 has reported abuse of cough medicine to get high. Large doses can cause euphoria, distortions of colour and sound, and "out of body" hallucinations that last up to 6 hours. Other dangerous side effects include impaired judgment, vomiting, loss of muscle movement, seizures, blurred vision, drowsiness, shallow breathing, and a fast heart rate. When combined with alcohol or other drugs, a large dose can lead to death. For example,

Coricidin HBP Cough and Cold includes both dextromethorphan to treat a cough and chlorpheniramine to treat a runny nose. But chlorpheniramine alone abuse by itself has led to numerous deaths and hospitalizations. Dextromethorphan is also addictive and can cause withdrawal symptoms, including depression and difficulty processing thoughts, when the abuse stops. Not much is known about long-term abuse, but cases of bone marrow and nerve cell damage, high blood pressure, heart damage, and permanent brain damage have been reported.

Sourced from the internet

judgements, then he tried it himself. "I took the remaining concoction from the juice bottles and tasted it," he said.

Purchasing

One of the parents who were called by the school to her daughter's disciplinary hearing told reporters that she did not even remember purchasing any cough syrup.

"Even if my child asked for money to purchase the medicine, I would have given her without suspecting anything," she said.

Our own investigations uncovered that cough syrup was one of the easiest over the counter medicines to obtain. There is no doctor's prescription needed and it is relatively more affordable as 50 millilitres of the syrup only costs E30,

going up, depending on the pharmacy where it is purchased.

The publication asked one pharmacist if he questioned teenagers when purchasing the syrup in unusually large quantities. He said his job was to sell medicine not to ask questions, unless the buyer wanted clarity on a particular medicine. He added that he could never suspect anything dodgy if people purchased these syrups. The youths appeared somewhat well informed about the syrup potent mixture.

A startling revelation by one teenage boy was to the effect that he saw it from one of his favourite rapper's music video. In fact, he was even surprised that there were people who did not know the magic drug.

When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused pleaded guilty to the charge. However, the complainant failed to present evidence before the court when he was called in to do so. He told the court that he was still in severe pain and was unable to speak as the incident happened about four days ago. The matter had to be postponed to February 26 for commencement of trial.

Man loses two teeth to buganu fight

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

A marula drinking spree at Sikhuphe Village ended badly when a resident was left with two teeth less after engaging in a fight with his neighbour.

Marula (*buganu*) is a seasonal home-made beer which is brewed from fruits of the marula tree (*umganu*), and sold at affordable prices. The tree is mostly found in the lowveld. A group of men are said to have gathered at one of the homesteads at Sikhuphe Village to enjoy the said tra-

ditional beer. In the midst of fun, two men, namely Jerry Tsabedze (31) and Mbutfo Ndlovu (30) are said to have engaged in an argument over a petty issue. The two men allegedly exchanged a few blows before the former hit the latter with a beer bottle he picked from close by. Ndlovu was hit on the mouth, resulting in him losing two of his incisors. The fight is said to have been so fierce that police were called to the scene.

Yesterday, the two men were at the Swazi National Court where Tsabedze faced a charge of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. According



THAT SEASON: A man sits on top of 25litres containers while waiting for help after the sedan he was travelling in developed mechanical faults near Elangeni yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Cop Busta jailed for bashing female colleague

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

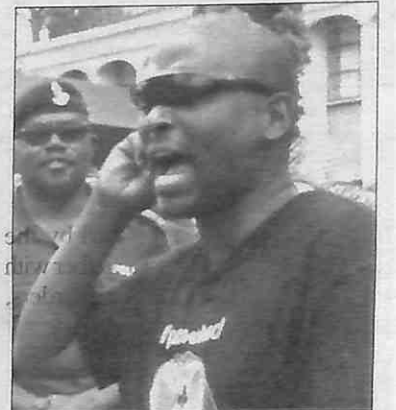
CONTROVERSIAL Pigg's Peak police officer Busta Vilakati has been sentenced to two years in a correctional facility for assaulting a fellow female police officer, Phobhi Motsa, in 2017.

The assault happened outside the Pigg's Peak Police Camp in mid-2017. At the time of the assault, Vilakati allegedly slapped Motsa, who was trying to stop him from taking a young female into his room at the police camp.

After the assault, Motsa went to report Vilakati at the Pigg's Peak Police Station. A medical practitioner who examined Motsa at the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital said she had lost all hearing in the left ear after her unfortunate incident.

Vilakati was then arrested in 2017 for the assault but was allowed to leave the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court on his own recognisance until yesterday when he faced returning Magistrate Simangele Mbatha for continuation of his assault trial.

During the trial, Mbatha listened to various renditions of the incident from Vilakati. After hearing all the submissions, Mbatha sentenced



JAILED: Police officer Busta Vilakati.

Vilakati to two years in a correctional facility if he failed to pay the E4 000 fine.

ON A SIDE NOTE

In 2013, Pigg's Peak police officer Busta Vilakati was suspended with another police officer Mthokozisi Mkhathshwa in connection with dagga deals in Pigg's Peak town.

Then in 2018, Vilakati was involved in a fight with his colleague Prince Dlamini during a march to the Pigg's Peak Town Council building.

During the march, Vilakati was leading the Pigg's Peak Ratepayers Association who were delivering a petition of no confidence on Pigg's Peak Town Council CEO/Clerk Mzwandile Ndzinisa.

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'Prophet' Gcina's Dubai trip that **never** was

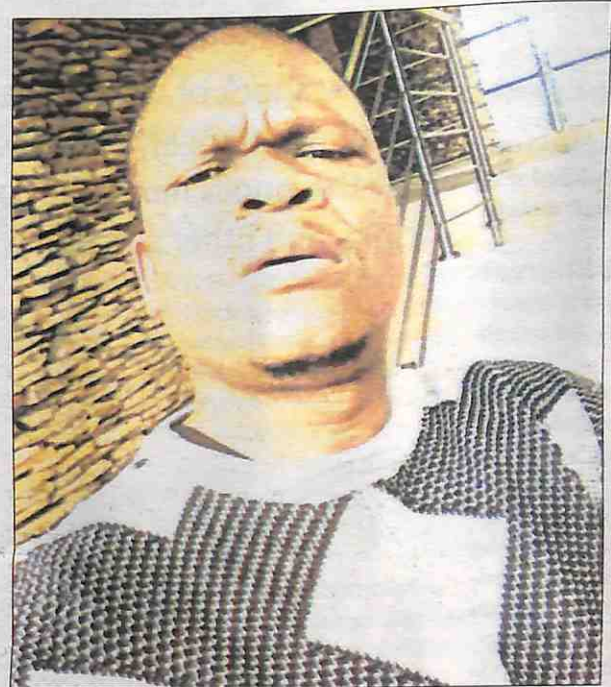
STORIES BY MELUSI MLOTSI
Manzini

CONTROVERSIAL 'Prophet' Gcina Mthethwa has kept Manzini Practising Primary School waiting in vain for a much-talked about trip to Dubai, a promise the 'prophet' made in 2017.

This was during a teachers and parents school meeting, where Mthethwa is said to be also a parent of some of the pupils there.

Reliable sources said the meeting was held after the school performed well in the SPC results. In fact, the school has managed to be in top 10 for all the past years.

An impeccable source said during the meeting, Mthethwa thanked the teachers for their good work and promised to secure sponsorship for all the teachers on an all expenses paid holiday to Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. Teachers and parents were so happy for the promise, they sang, ululated and imagined cruising the skies in this holiday of a lifetime. Some of them literally shook and kissed his hand. The school is located near Mavuso Sports Centre and teachers are said to be 23.



CONTROVERSIAL:
'Prophet'
Gcina
Mthethwa.

Dubai is a city known for luxurious ultra-modern architecture and nightlife scene.

Mthethwa assured that the Dubai trip was still on. He said he was still finalising on a few logistics with an unidentified sponsor in Dubai. He said he would ensure that he fulfilled his promise and motivate the hard-working teachers. "I'm seeing the hard work of the

teachers at the school, which needs to be applauded. You can also take into consideration that the school is being managed by a female principal. No doubt, under the current principal, the school will go far," said Mthethwa.

Principal Jabulile Nkambule said she was aware of the promise made by the prophet, but would not like to go further.

'Prophet' Gcina's cocktail of controversies

JANUARY 2018: He shocked many to the core when he announced publicly that he in fact knew the person who killed football legend and business mogul of Mbabane Swallows and Swazi Mobile fame Victor Gamedze.

He claimed that police were aware he had information about the murder and the killers, and had expressed bewilderment on why they were not ques-

tioning him about it. He claimed that was not a prophecy, but a statement of fact, saying he had all the evidence, including recordings of meetings he had with the police. It could be that the prophet was hallucinating, but he claimed that between February and March 2017 he met about 10 senior police officers, where he allegedly gave them a lot of information about Gamedze. The

meeting was held at the Manzini Police Station. But then Senior Deputy Commissioner William Dlamini, reacting to the home-made prophet, was quoted saying "Yena aketi ngani kisi? Anyway, since he says he has information, sesitokaya ke kaye masinyane," he said. "This is a very delicate matter which we all need to be mature about and act responsibly," he was quoted having said.

Churning millions through gambling, TV game

MAY 2017: He made a premature announcement of a jackpot hit with the introduction of a TV game show dubbed 'Treasure Hunters'.

Gcina Mthethwa promised to sell the concept of the television game show to some Asian country that had promised him ever flowing millions.

He announced that he had

spent over a year designing the game show, which he anticipated it would be the biggest in the world, whatever that meant. But by his own terms, he said his programme would double up as a lottery, making the heavens side with gamblers to stand a chance to the millions. "I am about to make history by becoming the first

Swazi to come up with such a concept, and also make millions from this project. If it all goes well, I will be one of the richest people in the country because the consultations I have made so far reveal that this will be the biggest in the world and it goes without saying that its pay will be the same."

Strays into occupied territory

AUGUST 2014: At Siphofaneni, the 'prophet' hit the headlines once more, this time for marrying a married woman, one Precious Magagula, who was reported to have been married to one Bheki Dlamini, a Mbabane based fireman. But that was only water under

E5m upmarket lidlokolo

JUNE 2014: He announced the purchase of a E5 million hovel at Madonsa.

This raised eyebrows because the bridge, because already Precious and Gcina were an item even long before she disengaged from the fireman. The

four years earlier in 2011, he caught the imagination of many when he was constructing a E11 million home at Ludzeldz.

peace prevailed when the matter was finally settled with a seal before Marriage Officer Elliot Mkhathshwa.



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MARKETING AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Syndicate grabs orphan's home, **sells it**

STORIES BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

A Msunduzi orphan residing along Motsa Street, whose name is withheld for her safety, fears for her life as her neighbour threatens her for allegedly refusing to vacate the only home her parents left for her because he has paid for it to strangers.

According to a source, a concerned member of the Msunduzi location, who brought the matter to this publication's attention, said prior to the passing of her father in 2014, the child was only 12 years old and had moved to Mhobodleni in Manzini to live with her extended family. However

on seeing vultures hovering over the property, local authorities of Msunduzi tracked down the girl and brought her back from Mhobodleni to her parents' property back at Msunduzi, where she is the only surviving beneficiary.

A source said after the death of the girl's father, the only person who had inherited the property from her parents, another elder in the community began making enquiries of the whereabouts of the deceased's personal belongings that included the particular of the ownership papers for the property, including the title deed. A neighbour who was to later sell the property is said to have denied knowledge of the important papers.

The source added that in 2015, word did the rounds that the property was up for sale.

The buyer and the seller of the property are next door neighbours to the property in question. Their names are known to this publication, but cannot be revealed since the matter is still under investigation.

A source alleged that the new owner of the property is an esteemed engineer in one of the major parastatals. The alleged seller, who is also the neighbour, had earlier implied that they had no recollection of the documents when enquiries were made.

The neighbour, who allegedly sold the property, together with an executor, went on an expedition to locate

distant relatives of the deceased and they found these at Mfabantfu, where they convinced them about the coy to falsify transfer documents of the property.

A committee headed by a chairman of the Central Committee at Msunduzi, requested the Master of the High Court, through an affidavit, to intervene as they feared that the rightful beneficiary of the property would be left homeless and with no claim to ownership of the property, which rightfully belongs to her, added the source. Elders in the community are now concerned about the safety of the child, who now resides in the one room flat situated within the plot. She says her life is under extreme threat

now that they want her out of the property.

When contacted, a Msunduzi community police member said he was aware of the malpractice in the aforementioned property. He said they advised the new owner that he should reclaim his money from the person who allegedly sold him the plot. He further said the new owner was aware when he bought the property that those who facilitated the sale were actually fake owners, but he went ahead with the transaction.

When contacted for a comment, the new owner declined to comment and said the publication should contact his lawyers, who are handling the matter.

POOR ORPHAN ISOLATED, WANTED OUT OF FAMILY HOME

THE alleged buyer of the property, who claims strong backing from lawyers, has constructed a wall fence around the young girl's property and is now allegedly harassing the orphan with the intention to force her to vacate what is rightfully her home.

A Msunduzi resident said the new owner allegedly threatened to hit her with a spade during a heated argument, where she was being forced to leave her home as this so-called buyer wanted to demolish the one room structure within the property. "I now fear for my safety as I have been threatened by my neighbour, who has also served me with a court order demanding that I vacate the only home that I know. I was served with court papers ordering me to leave because he wants to develop the property," she added. According to a source, the concerns did not solely lay with her, as prominent community members are also worried that should the child be evicted or end up missing or dead, such corrupt practices would have to come to an end.

In an affidavit dated December 3, 2015, the chairman of the central committee of Msunduzi Mbabane West reported a malpractice in the aforementioned plot to the Master's Office. They, therefore, requested to forward the matter to the Deputy Prime Minister's office, where it is being reviewed. The source added that people who claimed that they were the surviving descendants and their owner were not known in the community, an entry that stands out in the affidavit. The complainant together with the chairman of the central committee reported the matter to the Child Welfare Department under the DPM's office. Communications Officer in the DPM's Office Mhla Khumalo said as an office, they were dedicated to dealing with such matters. He further said anyone who lodged a complaint with the office should feel free to contact the office and make a follow up on their matter.

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Warder demands E720 000 from HMCS

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

IN one of the cases that will shake the Correctional Services, a warder is demanding E720 000 from His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS).

The warder Sabelo Dlamini based at Bhalekane Correctional facility is demanding the payment of the money and has cited Senior Assistant Commissioner Alexious Nkonyane as the first defendant in the letter of demand served by his lawyers from S.A Nkosi Attorneys.

The commissioner general has been cited as the second defendant, while the accountant general and the attorney general have been cited as the third and fourth respondents.

According to Dlamini in his papers, as a result of an alleged forced illegal and corrupt administrative action, he suffered damages amounting to the E720 000. According to the papers served by S.A Nkosi Attorneys, they act on behalf of their client Dlamini and the defendant is Nkonyane.

It has been stated that the second to fourth respondents are vicariously liable for the illegal and unlawful arbitrary demand of payment to the first defendant of monies for his personal use as

the subject matter touches on the plaintiff as a civil servant.

It is alleged that the first respondent committed the misconduct against the plaintiff during the cause and scope of his employment and as such employed and representing the employer.

According to the allegations contained in the papers, it is stated that on August 8, 2014 the first respondent (Nkonyane) found the plaintiff (Dlamini) at work not wearing a lanyard on that particular day and was ordered to pay E250 but no receipt was issued to prove that he had paid same to date.

It has been mentioned that this money was paid to defendant through Bandla Dlamini who was acting under the direct command of the first defendant.

"Again on a date well known to the first defendant, our client was ordered to pay to pay E1 000 for three days yet applicant was not present at work. Despite presenting a sick note, no official general receipt was served following the corrupt abuse of power and this money was received by the first defendant through Lucky Malinga, who was acting under the command of the first defendant," states the papers.

As a result the alleged forced illegal, corrupt and arbitrary administration action is *ultra vires* the powers of the first defendant as a warder and gov-

erned by the Prison's Act of 1964 as amended by the Correctional Services Act of 2017. "We are under strict instructions to demand as we hereby do, the payment of E720 000 at our offices within seven days after receipt of this letter of demand failing which summons will be issued against you without any further notice," states the papers.

The plaintiff is claiming for the alleged forced illegal, corrupt administrative action for damages he suffered as follows:

- Damages for corruption – E60 000
- Unfair labour practice – E400 000
- Damages for restitution of illegal arbitrary demand of money for personal gain – E50 000
- Abuse of administrative power without due process of the law – E200 000
- Constitutional damages – E720 000
- Total – E720 000**

The commissioner general has been cited as the second defendant, while the accountant general and the attorney general have been cited as the third and fourth respondents

Faceless



MONSTER: An Isuzu van being driven through the city's streets with most of its front exposed yesterday. This is against the traffic laws. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Pupil arrested for robbery missing school

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

A school going juvenile who has been arrested for robbery, housebreaking theft and further assaulting the victim during the incident, wants to go back to class.

The juvenile, who was arrested by the Malkerns police on February 7, says he is now missing crucial classes. He said during this time of the year, their teachers strategise their approach to the end of year exams.

The pupil yesterday filed an urgent application for bail at the High Court.

He submitted that his incarceration is prejudicial to his studies and as a matter of fact, it infringes not only upon his right to liberation but also to education as per the Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Represented by lawyer Sanele Mabila in the application, the pupil submitted that on January 7, he was arrested by the Malkerns police and charged with robbery and further, house breaking with intent to steal.

He stated that he appeared before the Manzini Magistrate's Court for his remand and has been advised to approach the High Court for bail application.

He submitted that he is desirous to be admitted to bail since he is a sickly person suffering from stomach ulcers and therefore

lives by constantly seeing doctors, adding that he has been advised the correctional services facilities are not adequately equipped to cater for such illness. "I am further a pupil at a high school in Matsapha where I am doing my senior school leaving certificate and have been missing crucial classes ever since my arrest as during this period of the year our teachers strategise our approach to the end of the year exams," he submitted. He informed the court in his papers that his continued incarceration is prejudicial to his studies and infringes on his right to education.

IMPLICATED

He submitted that the reason he has been implicated in the offences is that he was amongst the mob consisting of his co-accused during the assault of the victim as he only followed around in the chase and further watched whilst the victim was assaulted.

"I happened to get out of my room that Saturday night when I heard people screaming saying my elder brother was stabbed by the victim; Elijah Dlamini.

However, I did not take part in the process of assaulting the complainant, but instead I was supportive and it is evidentiary from the fact that I was the only person who assisted the complainant by taking him to the traffic police who manned a

roadblock nearby requesting the police to take him to the hospital," he submitted.

He averred that he never even noticed that some members of the mob were unlawfully helping themselves with assets belonging to the complainant, arguing that his only interest was to see the complainant taken to the police for stabbing his brother. He further argued in his submissions that he had no control over the actions of the mob since all of them were individuals much older than him hence during the assault and commission of the offences, he tried in vain to drum some sense to the mob but they turned a deaf ear. He strongly believed his innocence will be proven in a court of law and says he is not a flight risk. Further, he will not breach conditions in any manner as he is firmly rooted in this kingdom and has no connections outside the country.

The pupil submitted that it was even easy for the police to apprehend him since he was found at home while preparing to go to school. "I believe my education is important, therefore, I cannot skip the country and leave my family behind," he concluded. He is currently a guest at His Majesty's Correctional Services juvenile facility and is not out on bail in relation to any offence other than the offence he has been charged with.



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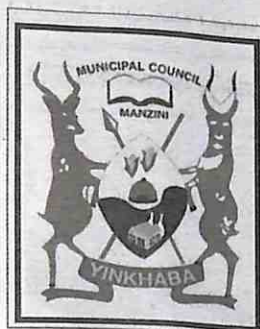
INVITATION TO A SCOPING MEETING FOR MIXED USE COMMERCIAL FACILITY AT LOT 76 AT FAIRVIEW, MANZINI

The Municipal Council of Manzini in collaboration with Inyatsi Concessions through a Public, Private Partnership (PPP) are intending to establish a mixed-use commercial facility on Lot 76 Fairview, Manzini

The General Public, interested and affected parties i.e. residents and stakeholders are hereby invited to a public scoping meeting for the above-mentioned project as per Environmental Audit, Assessment and Review Guidelines of 2000. The meeting will be held at the project site at the corner of Pleasing Prospect and Northern Distributor Road Fairview, Manzini on the 16th of February 2019 at 1000hrs. The purpose of the meeting is to collect and respond to all comments and concerns that stakeholders might have regarding the proposed establishment.

For further information, please contact the following:

Interlink Professionals
Cell: (00268) 76186006
Email: interlinkprofessional@gmail.com
Or
civils@inyatsi.co.sz



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LET'S TALK ABOUT THE MUNICIPAL DUMPSITE

“...please read and get to know the kind of waste that is and not acceptable at the facility”

Today's article will focus on the Manzini municipal dumpsite which is located near the Golf Course cemetery.

Did you know dear reader, that there is waste that is acceptable and one that is not acceptable at the dumpsite? Manzini News has gathered that only three classes of waste are acceptable at the dumpsite. These are general waste, garden waste and some industrial waste material. General waste includes domestic waste such as food waste, plastics, bottles, cartons, cleaning material containers and office waste

paper. Garden waste includes such things as flowers, tree trimmings, grass and tree leaves. Industrial waste that is acceptable for disposal at the dumpsite includes wood chips and cartons. When general waste gets to the dumpsite it is screened, weighed, compacted and covered with soil. Covering is meant to protect the site from becoming a breeding ground for mosquitoes and flies. It is also meant to suppress bad odour. On the same note, there are three categories of waste that is not acceptable at the dumpsite. These are medical waste such as swabs, bandages, syringes, expired



ZERO WASTE IN MANZINI A tractor is used to cover waste at the Manzini municipal dumpsite

pharmaceutical drugs, radioactive material as well as anatomic organs such as human body parts. This is primarily waste that is generated by hospitals, clinics and pharmacies. Smaller quantities (e.g. bandages and syringe) are generated at domestic level. Another

category of waste that is not acceptable at the dumpsite is agricultural supplies such as pesticides and other farming chemicals. Industrial waste such as used oil, oil filters, oil rags, paint and solvents, used batteries and fluorescent tubes are another big no for the dumpsite. If you need to

dispose any of these hazardous waste, please contact Council (62508 5030) and the Community Services Department will assist with their disposal. This kind of waste is not for disposal at the dumpsite but Council has a special way of disposing them.

...DID YOU KNOW? YOU ARE ALLOWED TO BRING WASTE TO THE DUMPSITE

Dear resident. Did you know that you are allowed to bring waste for disposal at the dumpsite? Therefore, if you do not afford to hire a Council skip (the big waste container), as opposed to resorting to illegal dumping on vacant plots, ravines and other open spaces, please feel free to load it in your vehicle and dispose of it at the dumpsite. It is true that the refuse truck does not collect waste such as rubble, dead animals and garden waste hence some residents get tempted to opt for illegal dumping. That is not necessary. Just load the waste onto your vehicle and transport it to the

dumpsite. No one will give you trouble. The dumpsite is open daily, between 7:30am and 4:30pm including weekends and public holidays. At the moment there is no cost attached to dumping waste at the dumpsite. However, it must be noted that only people who reside within the Manzini urban area are allowed to do so. When you arrive at the facility there are certain questions that you will be asked as a form of confirmation that indeed you are a Manzini resident. At the entry point the waste will not only be weighed but also screened to ensure it is not hazardous. Well, it must be emphasized, however, that shop

operators are not allowed to dispose of expired goods at the dumpsite as there are laid down guidelines, as per the Public Health Act, on the disposal of such goods. Shop operators already know that whenever they need to dispose of expired material they need to contact Council's Community Services Department (2508 5030) so that the applicable processes can be duly followed.

“At the moment there is no cost attached to dumping waste at the dumpsite.”

YOU HAVE MEDICAL WASTE AT HOME?

It is true that some medical waste is generated at domestic level. These include bandages, syringes, razor blades, empty containers of medication and many more. Manzini News pleads with you never to dare put it in the same plastic bag (black in colour) that you use for disposal of general waste. There are special plastic bags (red in colour) that are utilized for disposal of

medical waste. Please get yourself the red garbage bags from the shops, load your waste, dial 800 2004 or 2505 7000 (Council 24/7 Call Centre) and leave your details. The Municipal Council of Manzini collects medical waste every Tuesday and Friday. However, please make it a point that you notify Council a day before the scheduled collection days mentioned above.

...MOGALE CITY EXECUTIVE MAYOR PAYS COURTESY VISIT TO MANZINI MAYOR

The Executive Mayor of Mogale City, South Africa, His Worship Councillor Patrick Naga Lipuli, last week paid a courtesy visit to Manzini Mayor His Lordship Councillor Mxolisi Mabuza. The Executive Mayor was accompanied by the Municipal Manager, Pringle Raedani, and other officials and the meeting was also attended by Manzini Councillors, Chief Executive Officer Lungile Dlamini and management. The following photos were taken during the visit...



MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP The visiting Mogale City Local Municipality delegation took time to pose for a group photo with their Manzini counterparts after the brief meeting.



YOU ARE WELCOME MR EXECUTIVE Mayor Mxolisi Mabuza warmly welcomed the visiting Executive Mayor Patrick Naga Lipuli and Mogale City Municipal Manager Pringle Raedani.



ON ARRIVAL Manzini Mayor Mxolisi Mabuza, Councillor Siboniso Nkabinde and acting Director Corporate Services Sizwe Dlamini welcoming Mogale City Municipal Manager Pringle Raedani and colleague.



ONE OF THE BEST CEOs IN ES... Executive Officer Lungile Dlamini, Assistant Rachel Hlatshwayo and Mogale City Executive Mayor Patrick Naga Lipuli.



ATTENTIVELY LISTENING TO SPEECHES Manzini Councillors Sandile Bhembe and Sandile Nyaweni also attended the meeting.

Commonwealth capacitates councillors, municipal officers

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Manzini

THE ministry of housing and urban development has hosted a local economic development training workshop for councillors and municipality officers from all the country's towns.

The four-day seminar is being held at The George Hotel in Manzini, from Monday to tomorrow.

This is a follow-up to a five-day workshop that the ministry held last year in July which was hosted for councillors in order to capacitate them on the implementation of Local Economic Assessment (LEA), which is part of the Local Economic Development (LED).

The second phase focuses on reducing poverty, especially in urban areas.

Present at the opening of the workshop were Phumla Ndaba from Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), Pondani Daka from the ministry of local government in Zambia, local town clerks, CEOs

from municipalities, municipality officers, and others.

Eswatini Local Government Association Vice President Mayor Billee Fitz-Patrick applauded the Commonwealth Local Government Forum for supporting Eswatini.

"I have no doubt that your presence in this week's workshop will be beneficial to both Eswatini and Zambia. We also hope to learn from your experiences on such projects, and no doubt you will also learn from ours too. I will therefore appeal to all of you gathered here today to ensure that at the end of the training, you should have acquired the necessary LED skills, to ensure that LED capacity and knowledge is entrenched and sustained," she said.

On that note, Commonwealth's Phumla Ndaba said she was looking forward to the fruits that local municipalities would bear after the LED training workshop. Ndaba said after the workshop, municipal authorities should be able to conduct local economic assessments since they would have been exposed to all the tools and methods.

...Promises E3m to fight poverty in towns

COMMONWEALTH Local Government Forum has promised Eswatini Local Government Association E3 million to alleviate poverty through a programme called Local Economic Development.

Gordon Mbuli, Director of Eswatini Local Government Association, said over the years, they have seen a lot of poverty reduction aids channelled to rural areas leaving behind urban residents in extreme poverty. He said they saw it fit to have such work-

shops so that they are equipped on alleviating poverty in urban areas.

He said research revealed that urban areas have a lot of people living in poverty and these need monetary assistance.

"We have seen over the years that government focused on improving the lives of people living in rural areas, yet the urban areas also have poor citizens. We have seen children struggling to pay rates to municipalities after their parents died," he said.



THIS WAY: A doctor from Taiwan assisting an elderly person. (R) A local nurse and a Taiwanese medical expert attending to an elderly person.



Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps gives medical attention to Swazis

BY SAMUKELISWE KHOZA
Mbabane

IN just two days, the Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps attended to over 500 Emaswati providing medical attention in two areas in the Lowveld.

According to Taiwan Embassy Third Secretary Violet Mu-hsuan Chen, on Sunday, the medical service was stationed at Medlenya Primary School.

King's Office COO, who is also Chief of the area, Mgwagwa Gamedze and Ambassador of Taiwan to Eswatini Jeremy Liang visited the station.

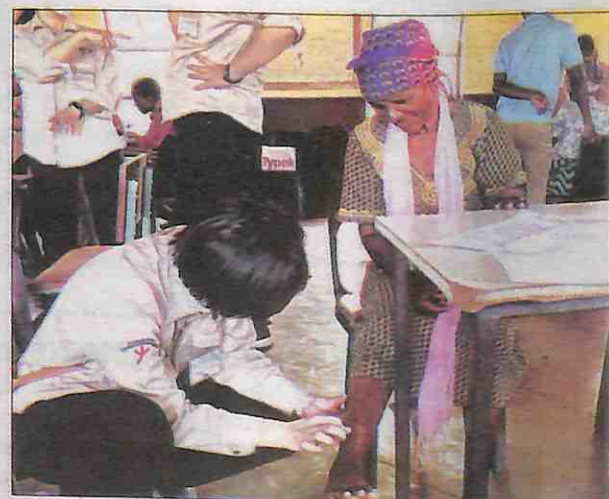
She said the Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps (TRMPC) treated 225 patients on that day. Chen added that the next day which was Monday about 326 Emaswati were attended to at the Lubulini Primary School in Nsoko for the second day of the free medical service. Both the ambassador and Gamedze visited the station at Lubulini.



LET'S SEE: Taiwan Ambassador Jeremy Liang, King's Office COO Chief Mgwagwa Gamedze with a medical expert who is part of the Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps mission that is in the country. (Courtesy pics)



HELLO: Lubulini MP Dr Tambo Gina chats with an elderly woman from his constituency. (R) **INSPECTION:** A Taiwanese medical expert attending to an elderly woman at Siphofaneni.



WAITING: Swazis waiting to be assisted by doctors from Taiwan.



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SODV Act not deterring partners from assaulting their lovers

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

IT seems many are turning a deaf ear towards the SODV Act as more are making appearances before court for assaulting their partners and reaping the fruits of their seeds.

Three men appeared before Senior Magistrate Nonhlanhla Dlamini yesterday.

Sincumo Dlamini (29) of Baha'i was the first to take the stand and he was arrested on February 5 for assaulting his baby mama at the Mbabane bus rank.

He is said to have assaulted Gabsile Hlatjwako with fists several times all over the body and further bit her once on her left arm.

He was charged with contravening Section 77 (1) (a) of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act 15/2018.

He told the court that Hlatjwako slapped him across the face in public and he felt humiliated, which fuelled his anger and he found himself retaliating.

"Wasuka wangishaya ngemphama phambi kwesive Nkhosi yenkanto-lo ngabese ngiyahlutifuka nami," he said.

He further pleaded for leniency and told the court that he is the breadwinner in the family and also promised that such will not repeat itself in the future.

He was sentenced to two years in prison with an option of a fine of E2 000.

Another was Davis Dlamini who

was also charged with assaulting his wife Khabonina Simelane with a fist once on her left eye, inflicting severe pain and injuries to her.

The crimes occurred on January 10 at Mangwaneni.

He told the court that he had a misunderstanding with his wife which led to him losing his temper and resulted to him assaulting her.

He further pleaded for leniency and told the court that he was sorry.

He was also sentenced to two years in prison with an option of a fine of E2 000.

Lastly, was Bongani Masuku (32) of Kufikeni area who had allegedly hacked his wife, Fisile Msane with a bushknife on the hands and knees.

He further threatened to stab her with a knife and a beer bottle.

The assault happened at Ekufikeni on December 30, 2018.

Reasons for such behaviour were not disclosed and the prosecution applied that he be remanded in custody pending recovery of his wife. However, bail was not opposed.

Masuku made a bail application and his jaw dropped when he was granted at E3 000.

Another was Davis Dlamini who was also charged with assaulting his wife Khabonina Simelane with a fist once on her left eye

King's speech debate tomorrow

BY MBONO MDLULI
Mbabane

PARLIAMENT will be debating the speech from the Throne tomorrow when it sits for the first time since His Majesty King Mswati III opened it.

Deputy Speaker Phila Buthelezi announced that both the House of Assembly and the Senate would be sitting tomorrow. He made this announcement soon after His Majesty the King delivered his speech from the Throne.

Buthelezi made this announcement because House of Assembly Speaker Petros Mavimbela had already left the chamber with the King. Senate President Lindiwe Dlamini had left earlier with Her Majesty the Indlovukazi.

The legislators are expected to debate the speech from the Throne, attending Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini moves a motion to the effect that the speech from the Throne be debated.

Dlamini is expected to be back by tomorrow as he is currently away attending a 32nd Ordinary Assembly Session of the African Union (AU). It took place from Monday in the AU capital, which is Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The speaker, when called yester-

day to give details on tomorrow's sitting, said it was procedural for them as legislators to convene a sitting to start debating. He said they would debate the speech from the Throne.

"When the King delivers his speech from the Throne, just like he did, we then convene as parliamentarians to debate the speech from the Throne. We do this before we proceed with any business of Parliament for the current term," Mavimbela said.

He further stated that the motion to that effect was supposed to be moved by Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini. That business was supposed to take place on Monday, not tomorrow. What made it to happen tomorrow was that the prime minister is currently out of the country.

Usually, the House of Assembly elects a Parliament Select Committee consisting of about five MPs that goes to the King to thank him for delivering the speech from the Throne, giving direction to be taken by the country in recovering the economy. The committee is usually led by the prime minister and the House of Assembly Speaker.

It remains to be seen if this will happen this time, mainly because the two chambers are expected to sit on the very same day.

'REFER UNESWA FEES MATTER BACK TO SENATE'

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

THE impasse in the University of Eswatini's (UNESWA) 400 per cent fees hike between adult education students and the university should be referred back to the Senate.

This is a point of law to be raised by the university through its lawyers from Magagula, Hlophe Attorneys at the High Court.

According to a notice to raise points of law filed by the university, the matter ought to be referred back to the Senate to duly exercise its discretion and arrive at a decision on issues raised, including the issue of the students' registration.

Represented by lawyer Zweli Shabangu from Magagula, Hlophe Attorneys, the institution stated that the university has not had the opportunity to deliberate on the matter and make its findings and decision on it prior to the matter brought

before court.

"The very same matter is on the agenda for the university Senate sitting scheduled for February 12, 2019 at Kwaluseni Campus," according to the notice filed by Shabangu.

Another point of law to be raised is that the matter is prematurely before court as the applicant Jubilee Maziya has not exhausted internal remedies as stipulated in the UNESWA calendar for 2018/19.

Absence

The point of law on *locas standi* (legal standing) raised by the university is that the applicant does not have *locas standi in judicio* to act for other students in the absence of confirmatory affidavits from the concerned students to confirm his authority to act on their behalf.

The applicants (students) have filed an urgent application at the High Court seeking an order that a rule nisi be issued returnable on a date to be determined by the court calling upon the respon-

dent (UNESWA) to show cause why an order should not be made final compelling and directing the university to issue the Diploma in Adult Education year one 2018 results to all students who have paid E4 191 in terms of regulation 2.13 of the UNESWA calendar forthwith.

They are also seeking an order of court compelling and directing the university to register all applicants doing first year for the second semester 2019 who have paid the official E4 191 forthwith and further, they are seeking an order reviewing and setting aside the decision of the respondent (UNESWA) to withhold the first semester Diploma in Adult Education applicants' results who have paid the same amount.

The last order they are seeking is for the reviewing and setting aside the decision of the university to charge them a sum of up to E8 548.5 for the first semester (2018) and E7 714.5 for the second semester (2019) plus an order for costs of the application.



BOYS WILL ALWAYS BE BOYS: Pupils from John Wesley Primary School in Msunduzi play dangerously at a basketball court yesterday. This should be discouraged. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Ex-tindvuna, bucophos still waiting for gratuity

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

FRUSTRATION is mounting as former constituency headmen and bucophos are still waiting for their gratuity.

Lobamba Constituency Headman Bhokisisa Bhembe said only former bucophos from the Shiselweni region have received their gratuity.

He said bucophos from the other three regions are still waiting as they have not yet received their gratuity.

Bhembe said none of the ex-constituency headmen received their gratuity as per the promise of their ministry.

Some of the politicians began receiving their gratuity last week.

He said about 20 politicians had received their gratuity and the rest are still waiting in frustration for their slice of the cake.

The politicians have been at loggerheads with their ministry as they have on a number of occasions engaged government in the matter regarding payment of the gratuity of tindvuna and bucophos who lost the recent elections to no avail.

The politicians are frustrated because they feel government does not consider them. The ex-politicians said they have been counting on the gratuity to settle their loans but are now frustrated as they are continuously overlooked.

In a meeting held two weeks ago at Msunduzi in Mbabane, the politicians cited Circular No. 2 of 2013, which states that they are all politicians thus they view this treatment as unfair as now it seems as if other politicians are treated better than others and they view this as segregation.

In the meeting, the ex-politicians decided to engage the services of a lawyer as they feel undermined by government.

Most of the ex-politicians who lost in the elections had still not received their gratuity by the time the meeting was held. Whereas former Members of Parliament have received theirs.

Outlined in the meeting was that they feel undermined by government as they are treated differently from MPs yet they were all serving the same government.

Contacted, Principal Secretary of Tinkhundla Administration and Development Nonhlanhla Dlamini said the ex-politicians would receive their gratuity.

She added that the payments were being processed and confirmed that some of the ex-politicians have received their gratuity.

Dlamini pleaded with the former politicians to be patient as they are working on their payment. "It is a process and they should be patient as they cannot all receive their gratuity at the same time," added Dlamini.

Mozambican man fined E2 000 for 3 counts of DD

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A Mozambican man who resides at Mahwalala was arrested and charged with three counts, including drink-driving.

He subsequently appeared before Senior Magistrate Nonhlanhla Dlamini.

Alberto Jose was arrested on Sunday evening for driving under the influence of alcohol.

He refused to take a breathalyser test, thus he was slapped with a second charge of contravening the Road Traffic Act.

His vehicle was also certified unroadworthy

as a door handle was not working and he pleaded guilty to only two charges.

He confessed that he had driven the vehicle while intoxicated and his vehicle had a door handle problem, but did not refuse to take a breathalyser test.

His alcohol content was not disclosed and he was acquitted of the offence of refusing to take a breathalyser test.

Offence

He was sentenced to a year in prison with a fine option of E2 000 on the offence of drink-driving and 30 days in prison or E100 for not having a working door handle.

Also in the same court, Thabo Edwin Fakudze

appeared to answer on a charge of drink-driving, after he was arrested on Sunday at Stonehedge.

A breathalyser test conducted on him read 1.40mg/l.

He told the court that his mother was ill and the vehicle was usually driven by her but on the day, she was not in a proper state to drive and he did not consider his state of sobriety at the time.

"I apologise for drinking and driving Your Worship; I had to rush my ill mother to hospital when I drove the vehicle in my state. I plead for leniency," he said.

He was sentenced to a year in prison with an option of a fine of E2 000.

Hot rice lands on man's face, Moza couple fined E1 600

BY MELUSI TSABEDZE
Swazi National Court

A couple from Mozambique was arrested by the Eswatini Royal Police Service in connection with a case of assault they committed while at Mncitsini in the Hhohho region.

Jose Chizum (38) and his wife Caroline Mashabavu (32) physically and verbally assaulted one Petros Methula (22), also a Mozambican residing at Mncitsini.

The incident is said to have happened on February 6.

Petros met a young boy from the Chizum homestead while on his way to the market and the boy asked Petros for time.

Petros told the boy that his watch was faulty.

House

"I then told the boy to look for time in their house since they have a DSTv decoder," Petros said in court.

The Chizum boy verbally assaulted Petros and he retaliated by pushing the boy and he fell to the ground.

The boy went to his parental home to report the matter to his parents.

"I was in the house cooking when my son came in and told me Petros had attacked him. I was upset by the whole incident for I know Petros and he knows me. I then went to ask Petros why he did not approach me and to report the matter other than attacking my child, however, Petros told me to shut up Your Honour," said Mashabavu.

Petros violently sought to gain entry into the Mashabavu house without their consent.

Mashabavu was cooking in the house and about to sieve hot rice when Petros tried to gain entry.

It was at this moment that Petros got burnt by the hot pot of rice on his head and survived with small burns.

Scratched

Caroline reportedly used a 25 litre container that knocked out Petros and had his right cheek scratched.

According to Jose Chizum, who was a defendant on this case, on the day of the incident, he heard noise from outside.

"Your Worship I was in my shorts relaxing at home on a Tuesday when Petros stormed my house. He had a small quarrel with my wife. I then asked him to leave my home and I will come to speak to his mother the next morning," Chizum told the court.

Chizum, who has lived in the country since 1998, told the Swazi National Court that on February 6, his child came home crying and when he asked why, he said Petros had attacked him.

When Chizum approached Petros about the matter, he was unwilling to reason with Chizum.

Chizum refuted that he confronted Petros while he was at his house.

He denied ever strangling him.

The court found the couple guilty of assault and sentenced each accused to four months in jail or pay a fine of E800 each.

PARAMEDIC IN COURT FOR RECKLESS DRIVING

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A paramedic appeared in court for reckless driving, resulting to a collision after driving through a red light.

He appeared before Senior Magistrate Nonhlanhla Dlamini on Monday morning.

The incident occurred on January 21, whereby Zweli Simelane ran a red light and in the event collided head-on with one vehicle which swerved and further knocked another and resulted in three vehicles damaged. Luckily, there were no casualties.

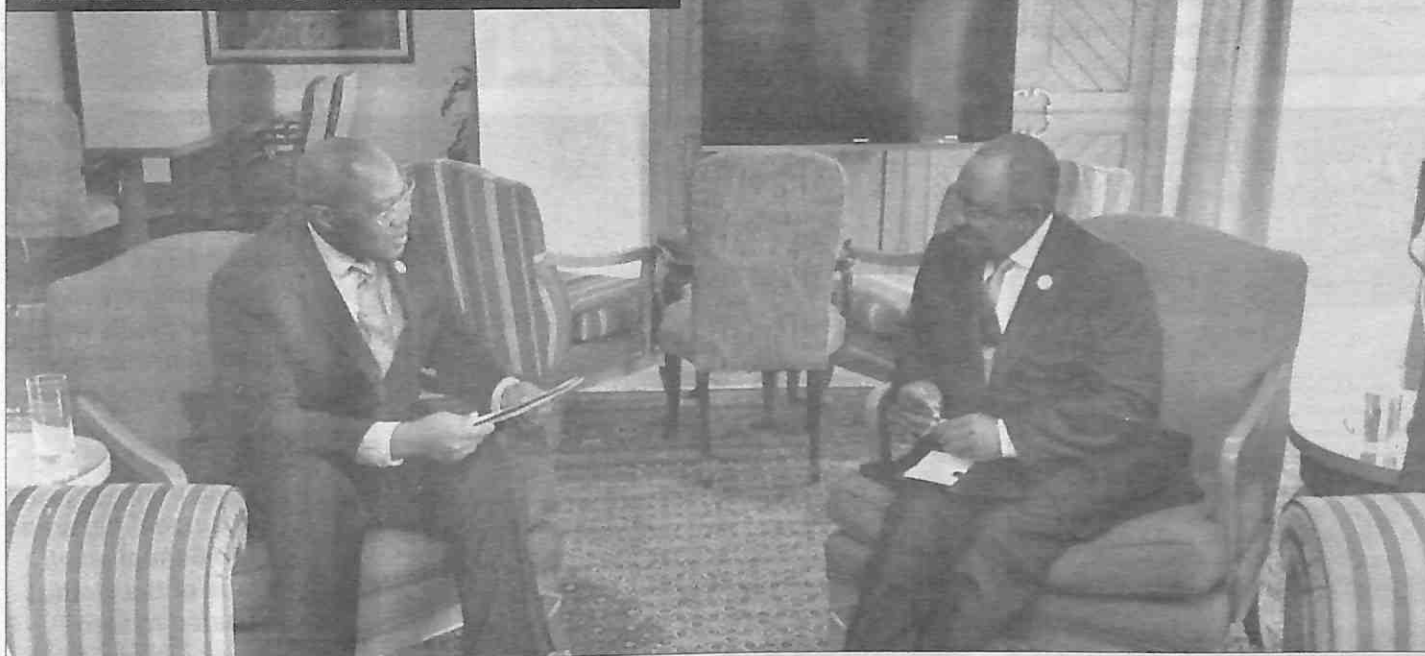
He told the court that he was at work when the accident occurred and he was not driving an ambulance as per protocol but the reason for not

doing so was not stated by the accused.

The vehicle did not have the proper tools like sirens to help indicate that it was an emergency, hence the accident.

He pleaded for leniency and told the court that he was still in the process of fixing both the cars of the people who were involved in the accident. He was sentenced to four months in prison with a fine option of E700.

MANDVULO MEETS CYRIL



BIG GUNS: Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini meeting South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 32nd African Union Summit in Ethiopia where he represented His Majesty King Mswati III. The prime minister is expected home today. (Courtesy pic)

Traffic offender wants to be a police officer

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A suspect left the courtroom in stitches when he applied that his fingerprints not be taken as he wanted to be a police officer one day.

The young man had appeared before Senior Magistrate Nonhlanhla Dlamini on Monday morning, for driving without a licence and he pleaded guilty to the crime.

He further apologised and promised that he will not repeat such and further made the plea.

"Ngingumntfwana lofisa kuchubeka ngindlondlobale emphilweni, bengicela Nkhosi yenkantolo kutsi ema-fingerprints ami angatsatfwa ngoba ngifise kuba liphoyisa," he said.

His plea was granted and he was sentenced to

three months in prison with a fine option of E400.

Another to add humour in the courtroom was one Daniel Dlamini, who after being read his charge and asked how he would plead, he simply replied with 'Lisebaleni babe,' cracking everybody up.

Dlamini was arrested and charged on Christmas Day after he reversed and bumped into another car at a parking lot and were damaged the complainant's bumper in the process.

He told the court that he and the complainant were neighbours and in the process of getting the car bumper fixed but were delayed by the arrival of ordered parts.

"Siyasebentisana nalomake, ngako bengicela inkantolo kutsi imane isinikete litfuba kutsi

“

Ngingumntfwana lofisa kuchubeka ngindlondlobale emphilweni, bengicela Nkhosi yenkantolo kutsi ema-fingerprints ami angatsatfwa ngoba ngifise kuba liphoyisa

”

silungise lemoto," he said.

He was sentenced to two months in prison with an option of a fine of E300.

Likusasa Ngeletfu organisation donates over **E80 000** items

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BLESSED IS THE HAND: Pastor SS Vilakati from Endzingeni Alliance Church receives some clothes from members of Likusasa Ngeletfu organisation over the past weekend. The organisation made a donation of items amounting to over E80 000 to Endzingeni Nazarene School, the Alliance Church, Nazarene Health Centre and paramedics. The donation comprised clothes, surgical gloves, mosquito coils and many more. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



MAY GOD BLESS: Pastor Vilakati thanking Likusasa Ngeletfu organisation for the donation made to the church.



PRO PRO-LEARNING
THE SEPARATION FOR BETTER EDUCATION

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.

Sonolweni Nkomo First Language: Siswati: C Mathematics: A Geography: A Physical Science: B	Mandisa Matsenjwa English Language: B Mathematics: A* Business Studies: B Physical Science: B	Ngwenyama Mphahlele First Language: Siswati: B English Language: B Biology: A Mathematics: A Business Studies: C Physical Science: A* Geography: C
Nomfundo Mkhwanazi First Language: Siswati: B English Language: A* Biology: C Mathematics: D Physical Science: C Religious Education: C	Linda Dlamini First Language: Siswati: A English Language: A* Biology: A* Mathematics: B Physical Science: A Geography: C Religious Education: C	Brian DuPont English Language: B Physical Science: A Business Studies: A*
Mgiyo Khaya Simelane	Nombulelo Nhleko	Swelile Ndlovu
Lungiswa Nkambule	Hlobile Mkhonta	
Samkeliso Dlamini	Njabulo Bhembe	Nhlonipho Ndlovu
Bandzile Sukati	Nosipho Ntimane	

Call (+268) 76118139 for more information



ABOVE - BENEFICIARIES: A section of Endzingeni High School pupils who also benefited from the presentation.



PROTECTED: Likusasa members pose with Endzingeni Nazarene Health Centre nurses after donating 20 000 surgical gloves and 10 000 mosquito coils.



International Condom Day - 13th February 2019

"Safer is Fun!"



Globally studies have shown that females have the highest HIV infection rate including in Eswatini where incidence of HIV among adults aged 15 years and older is 1.36 percent and 1.70 percent among females and 1.02 percent among males.

This corresponds to approximately 7,000 new cases of HIV annually among adults ages 15 years and older in Eswatini (SHIMS, 2017). The country has also made great strides in reaching the 95-95-95 targets by 2020 where 95 percent of all PLHIV will know their HIV status; 95 percent of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART); and 95 percent of all people receiving ART will have viral suppression.

The male and female condoms are the only prevention products available that are cost effective and have positive return on investment. Hence emphasis should be made that condoms are indeed still the cheapest and best option. They are the **only method** that provides **triple protection** against STIs including HIV and against unplanned pregnancy. Destigmatizing condoms and encouraging access to quality condoms, when people need them and in places where they feel the most comfortable gaining that access is critical.

Promoting safe sex practices is also incredibly important in a time when funding for global health has remained flat for the last several years. Lack of funds should not affect money for condoms and promotion for use, so it is critical that we get the message out about how important they are for staying healthy and disease-free, particularly in countries that experience higher prevalence rates for HIV like Eswatini.

Dual protection is hence key as it is the simultaneous prevention of STI and unwanted pregnancy. This can only be accomplished with the consistent and correct use of a condom alone or by the simultaneous use with another FP method.

Hence the country's way of commemorating the International Condom Day events are a fun way to

bring people together and get them information about how to keep themselves and their loved ones safe and healthy. International Condom Day also helps remind people that there is still an HIV crisis—and keeping people engaged through the "Always in Fashion", Got it, Get It and CONDOMIZE! campaigns is a great way to raise awareness and fight the epidemic.

As stated by His Majesty King Mswati III during the opening of the 11th Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini *"The Kingdom's drive to end AIDS by 2022 remains in motion. We all need to take full responsibility in creating favourable condition for the nation to achieve its target in the last mile leading to 2022; where no Liswati should get HIV, die from AIDS related illnesses and no HIV stigma or discrimination should exist within our communities."*

The Social Case for Female Condoms
Empowering women through the use of female condoms decrease maternal mortality, fewer unwanted pregnancies and protection from HIV-infection, and other STIs. Worldwide 215 million women who like to plan or limit number of children have no access to contraception.

Worldwide 21.6 million unsafe abortions cause 5 million women hospitalized each year, and account for 13 % of maternal deaths. Worldwide women and girls account for slightly more than half of all HIV infections. In sub-Saharan Africa 23 million people live with HIV/AIDS: over 12 million are women and nearly 2.5 million are children.

Why the Female Condom (FC2)?

1) Only FDA and WHO approved Female Condom and as a result approved for bulk procurement by UNFPA and USAID

2) Non allergenic material as opposed to the latex male condom, is made out of Nitrile which holds many benefits:

- Stronger than latex,
- Can be used by people who are latex sensitive, or allergic
- Can hold both water and oil based lubricants (latex tears with oil)
- Can be inserted hours in advance
- Transfers body heat ensuring a more natural sensation

3) FC2 has been distributed to 149 countries including Kingdom of Eswatini
4) The Female condom is **hormone free**, which means that it does not have the side effects of some hormone based contraceptives.

5) **Preferable alternative** to a male condom, according to males

- Men don't have to wear it
- Not tight/restricting
- Can be inserted in advance of sexual activity

Certain Myths and Misconceptions among decision makers and users exist which hinder the use of female condom programs in the country and this include that it is too expensive, there is no demand, we already have male condoms and LARCs so the FC is not necessary and men do not like the product, and without them it will never succeed.

1) IT IS TOO EXPENSIVE: FALSE

Return on investment of female condom procurement for governments through 2 ways:

- a. 1) Cost savings to the health system,

by focussing on prevention instead of treatment

b. Economic productivity losses averted, as more women are able to join the workforce.

2) THERE IS NO DEMAND: FALSE

Various studies have cited greater comfort and practicality and greater protection and safety as the two main advantages of the FC2 including in South Africa, 80% of women felt the FC put them in charge.

3) WE ALREADY HAVE OTHER COMMODITIES: FALSE

If anything, current use of male condoms and other modern contraceptives increases the use of female condoms. Female condoms thus seemed to complement the existing choice set of regular contraceptives

4) MEN DO NOT LIKE FEMALE CONDOMS: FALSE

Women feel more in control and the more the use the more the support from their male partners.



THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

LOVE 13th of February is

INTERNATIONAL CONDOM DAY

SAFER IS FUN

Protecting Safer sex practices and promoting condom use.
Condoms the only method that provides triple protection against HIV, STIs, and against unintended pregnancies!

Join us as we celebrate International Condom Day
on the 16th of February 2019

@ The George Hotel From 12 noon til 8 pm & @ Sibebe Resort From 12 noon til late.






NORTHERN HHOOHOO NEWS

...With

Sizwe Dlamini

Pigg's Peak Office

Kai Kai Building opposite Shoprite,
Office No:3Tel: 2437 1083 Cell: 7670 0678
Email: observersipiki@realnet.co.sz

Water makes man confess to cheating

A man from Malanda got the shock of his life after his wife who was carrying a pot of water poured it all over his chest, accusing him of cheating.

Ndumiso Dlamini (34) said the water that was poured onto his chest by his wife Xolile Malaza* was not boiling, but was in fact refrigerated water.

When the water was poured on Dlamini, he screamed assuming that the water was hot.

The incident took place at Malanda on Monday.

Dlamini has since confessed to having another sexual partner from the same area.

Speaking to this publication yesterday Dlamini said

even though the water did not harm his body, the fake scalding scarred his soul.

"The incident might seem funny to other men, but it made me feel helpless in my own house."

The incident happened on Friday when I was resting in my home.

Mood

Earlier in the day, I had noted that my wife was in a bad mood. I then tried to speak to her, but she just ignored me. I proceeded to lay down on my bed waiting for my supper.

When I was asleep, I took off my shirt due to the heat. I then fell asleep," he said.

While he was sleeping, his wife entered the bedroom carrying a pot that

was filled with water.

"I thought the water was hot so I screamed and jumped out of the bed, only to find that it was cold. My angry wife had taken ice cold water from the fridge and poured it into a pot. When the water reacted to the temperature of the pot it steamed and caused the pot to be wet from the outside."

Dlamini said during the incident, one of his children who had overheard his screams, ran to the bedroom to find Dlamini confessing all his illicit affairs to his angry wife.

When reached for comment about the incident, Malaza said she will not speak to the media about this. She said her husband was lucky that she did not use boiling water on him.

Jabulisa Foundation to assist OVC, destitute people

MINISTER of Agriculture and Pigg's Peak Member of Parliament (MP) Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza has launched a foundation which started with a two kilometre walk.

Jabulani Foundation is the latest programme by the minister.

Mabuza, who is known for his charity work in the Northern Hhohho, said he established the Foundation to operate independently from him as an individual.

"I am passionate about helping people in whatever capacity, so this Foundation will allow my charity work to continue years after I have retired or passed on. I feel that the charity organisation will also allow me to separate myself as an individual from the various community projects that I am involved in."

This means that even if Buy Cash Hardware or any other organisation wants to make a donation to any community project under this Foundation, that donation can be made directly," he said.

Mabuza added that the Foundation would assist less privileged children, the elderly and destitute people.

"Its main objective is to help the orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) by paying school fees, buying uniforms and shoes for them. The Foundation will continue to help the elderly by donating clothes and providing shelter like the construction of houses. It will also provide food by introducing community gardens."

The Foundation will manage other income generating events like a mini-marathon slated for June. In that way, the Foundation will have enough start-up capital to continue with the multitude of projects that we are currently undertaking," he said.

LAUNCHED: Pigg's Peak Member of Parliament Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza.

Civil servant proposes to crush, rejected

A civil servant had his marriage proposal turned down by his crush.

This unfortunate event happened in front of the girlfriend's family at Ndzingeni.

The civil servant, who originates from Manzini, had been working at Ndzingeni for three years and during this time he met a young woman whom he fell in love with.

He then organised a cordial meeting with the girl's family where he proposed the marriage to, however, the girl was less interested.

Sources said the civil servant regretted organising his relatives to travel with him to Ndzingeni to meet the parents of his love interest.

"The incident embarrassed him as he was charmed by a certain young lady at Ndzingeni for about four months, then during this time the civil servant thought that his love interest would submit to his advances and agree to a traditional wedding. So without consulting the object of his affection first, the civil servant

told his family in Manzini to travel to Ndzingeni to meet his future family-in-law," said the source.

The meeting started off well as the civil servant's family that consisted of his aunt, sister and two brothers were allowed into the homestead at Ndzingeni.

"The civil servant's family was welcomed with open arms and began negotiations, but before that could continue, the girl's family asked her if she knew the civil servant."

It was during this time that the young lady said she did not know the civil servant as he was just an individual who was proposing love to her, but had not agreed to be in a relationship with him."

The girl's family then asked the visitors from Manzini to leave their homestead.

It is said the civil servant labelled the girl a gold digger who took his money, but later turned down his advances.

This publication then called the girl who said she was not ready for marriage as she was still attending school.

Bosukasambe...



FIELD TRAINING: Royal escort bikers getting instructions from their instructor Malandzela Mdluli during field training at Lobamba yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

MAN REPORTS GUN-TOTTING CHIEF TO COPS

STORIES BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlango

A second man from the five who were allegedly threatened with a gun by a chief has also recorded a statement at the Nhlango Police Station.

First to record a statement was Vusi Thikazi last week Tuesday. The second man who has also recorded a statement is Gigg's Mbhamali. He went to the police station last Friday. Recorded in the police form known as RCCI is a three page long statement where Mbhamali highlights what transpired on February 2. He said it was while together with four other men and a woman at the Nhlango Correctional Services staff canteen that they came across the chief who, without even bothering to greet them, rushed over to their female companion and kissed her. The recorded statement outlines that the woman who was kissed by the chief while in their company is actually a police officer, employed by the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS).

"He approached the female, greeted her and then kissed her in front of us," Mbhamali's statement reads in part.

Mbhamali could not stomach what the chief was doing and he rebuked him, saying he was undermining them by kissing a woman who was in their



company.

"I said: 'Yemnaketfu kusikhobosa yini lolokwentako kucabaza umuntfu lesihamba naye.'"

Ordered

He said as he was questioning what the chief was doing, his 'chauffeur' was ordered to block their vehicle as he (chief) wanted to deal with the occupants of the Isuzu twin cab they were travelling in.

"I waited to see what the chief was going to do next. He opened his car, took out a gun and he bridged it while we all watched in dismay and frightened. He said, 'utangati kutsi ngingubani namuhla' which loosely means 'I will show you my true colours today.' He approached me and pointed the gun at me. I froze for a moment

but later told him to go ahead and shoot at me. He was then restrained by his companion who mentioned that they should leave. That was when I called 999 and reported the incident," reads the statement.

He said at the Nhlango Police Station, police informed them that there were no cars as they had to attend to other incidents. He said he was advised to come to the police station to report the incident but they were uncomfortable in doing so. He said they decided to drive to the T-Junction to buy drinks and the chief advised his chauffeur to follow them.

"I, therefore, lay a charge against him (identifying the chief) for pointing a gun at me and threatening to shoot me," reads the statement.

in the first place we did not even know that he was a chief or police officer. Looking at the way he acted, we just assumed it was someone trying to act like a 'cowboy' and probably showing off to the woman he had kissed," said Thikazi, who was the first one to record a statement at the Nhlango Police Station.

On the other hand, RS Zwakele Dlamini at first ignored calls made on his official number but when called on another one, he claimed to be driving.

"I am driving," was all Dlamini could say before he hung up.



Thikazi said now that the chief has denying ever threatening anyone with a gun, it would be better to have the matter deliberated in court and further taken to the country's authorities

met with the chief who denied ever threatening anyone with a gun.

"I received a call last Friday and I was advised to report to the RA's offices to meet the RS on this issue. Today (Monday), I was in that office and to my surprise, Dlamini informed me that the chief has denied everything. I told him my side of the story and it was then that he sounded interested to hear even the other four men I was with on the day in question," said Thikazi.

Thikazi said now that the chief has denying ever threatening anyone with a gun, it would be better to have the matter deliberated in court and further taken to the country's authorities.

"Since the chief is now denying everything as per information I received from the RS, I think we now all need to come forward and state our side so that the truth can be known. There is no way the five of us can make stories about him and

'Respect king's pronouncements'

BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlango

NHLANGANO businessman Justice Nxumalo has advised the nation on the importance of sticking to names of establishments and institutions that Their Majesties have given.

Nxumalo said it should be known that when Their Majesties rename a building or place, they do that for a reason. He said even schools, when Their Majesties rename them, people should use the names that have been recommended and forget about the old ones. He said all what Their Majesties recommend should be implemented promptly.

"Take for instance, His Majesty gave a name to the Eswatini Water Services Corporation building here in Nhlango which he said should be called Esiyalwini. We all should call that building with that name, Esiyalwini. The same applies to Tlokotani Primary which His Majesty renamed Lunyati. We should refer to the school as Lunyati and not Tlokotani," said Nxumalo.

The businessman, who served in various bodies including the Land

Management Board (LMB), said he has been following closely several institutions and establishments which have been officially opened by His Majesty to see if the names given by the Ingwenyama were used.

"It is important to stick to the names that the King gives to these places. We should not ignore this as when the King gives a name or renames a structure or an institution, it is for a purpose and not just for fun. Some of the names he gives have to do with the background or history of that particular institution or establishment. Our children can also find it useful as some of the names the King gives usually have something to do with the country's history," said Nxumalo.

Nxumalo said in the Shiselweni region, there were a number of places the King has given names or renamed.

"It's the duty of those in charge of these establishments that the names Ingwenyama recommends are enforced. So in the case of schools, if that school was known as Tlokotani but Ingwenyama renamed it Lunyati, all the boards should be removed and replaced with Lunyati Primary. Even the letterheads, they have to reflect the name given by Ingwenyama," said Nxumalo, who is also a staunch traditionalist.

SERIOUS PUPIL



WORKING AHEAD: A pupil from MDS Primary taking his time to do his homework while waiting for transport after school yesterday. This is a commendable thing do. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

BULL KNOCKED DOWN BY CAR, OWNER ARRESTED

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Manzini Magistrate's Court

A cattle owner was arrested after his bull was knocked by a motor vehicle.

German Ndlamandla (40) of Moti area was charged with contravening Section 77 (1) as read with Section 122 (4) of the Road Traffic Act 6 of 2007 in that last Saturday, at about 1930 hours near Mkhondvo area along MR9 public road in the Manzini region, being an owner of a black and white bullock, with a tag ear branded 562/01323 did wrongfully and unlawfully allowed cattle to be on a public road and as a result it was knocked down by a Toyota Corolla registered DSD 530 BM driven by Mfundo Matsebula. According to the arresting officer, Constable Sicelo Mkhwanazi, Matsebula's car was

extensively damaged by the bullock.

By the time the accident occurred, Ndlamandla was not at the scene. However, he was easily located by the tag ear branded on the bullock. That is when he was arrested and charged for the offence. The Royal Eswatini Police Service over the years has been urging members of the public to ensure that their cattle do not stray onto public roads to minimise accidents. One of the ways that was used to minimise the number of cattle on public roads was to detain them. The Swazi government ended up fencing areas along public roads as a way of preventing cattle from straying onto public roads. German Ndlamandla appeared before Magistrate Xolile Nxumalo at the Manzini Magistrate's Court. He was found guilty of the charge and was sentenced to 10 months in prison with an option to pay E1 200.

...Matter reported to RA

THE matter involving a chief who allegedly threatened five men with a gun in public, is now handled by the office of the Shiselweni Regional Administrator.

The chief, whose identity is known but deliberately withheld as it is a matter that is still being investigated by the police, has distanced himself from the matter. This is despite that the matter allegedly occurred in public and witnessed by several people. While the matter is still under police investigation, this publication has discovered that the office of the Shiselweni Regional Administrator (RA) through the Regional Secretary (RS) Zwakele Dlamini, has also been roped in.

Vusi Thikazi, who is one of the five men who were allegedly threatened by the chief, has since been summoned by the RS and asked to shed light on what transpired. According to close sources, the RS requested Thikazi to come see him after he had

GENEROUS: Pastor Gwazisitha Thwala from Mnyokane Assembly of God and UK-based Swazi Mancoba Sibanyoni from Mallys organisation handing over the foodstuff to the Magagula siblings at Nkomazi area during a donation over the past weekend. (Courtesy pics)



Mnyokane church blesses needy families

BY NJABULO DLAMINI
Mbabane

MNYOKANE Assembly of God Back to God Church has donated clothing and food to two needy families of Nkomazi and Mnyokane areas.

The event was overseen by Mnyokane Assembly of God's leader Pastor Gwazisitha Thwala, who described the gesture as timely in view of the dire situation at both homesteads.

The handing over of the donated parcels occurred over the past weekend and the church is eternally grateful to a UK-based Swazi Mancoba Sibanyoni who made everything possible through his charity organisation; Mallys. Sibanyoni hails from Malkerns in the Manzini region but is presently pursuing his studies in the United Kingdom.

"We are following the command of the Scriptures which urge us to emulate the example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, whom we preach to the people about. Not only did He cater for the spiritual needs of His followers, but He went further and provided for their social desires as well," he said.

When He saw the multitudes that were hungry, noted Pastor Thwala, Jesus Christ fed them with five loaves and two fish that He multiplied to feed over 5 000 men.

"We are so happy as a church to have con-

tributed to the needy families, albeit meagre it could be. It's just that resources on our side do not allow us, otherwise we would have donated to more than the two impoverished families. But this gesture launches our outreach mission of looking after the needs of communities which we preach in.

Needs

"Not only should we be about preaching or bombarding the people with the Word, but we also must cater for their physical needs. The situation is dire here, as both families live in dilapidated structures and challenge us every day to do something to alleviate their suffering," Pastor Thwala added. The needy Magagula and Masuku families were identified by the pastor and his team as they carried out ministerial outreach to the communities of Mnyokane and surrounding areas. On the other hand, Sibanyoni said this was a gesture they had been doing for several years now as an organisation.

Although studying in the UK, his spare time is dedicated to meditating on what he could do for fellow needy Swazis.

"We are involved in various fundraising activities in the UK to meet our objective of extending a helping hand to the needy. Our deed is meant at sparking a revolution amongst the citizens so that whatever little one has, he/she would share with the next person.

"No gift or contribution is petite to the needy soul out there," Sibanyoni closed.



BOUNTI-FUL: The Masuku family of Mnyokane receiving their portion from Mancoba Sibanyoni of Mallys charity organisation. Far left is the head of the family and his wife (far right).

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TENDER NUMBER - ESCCOM/007/2018

For THE SUPPLY OF CLEANING SERVICES

The Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) invites suitably qualified companies to tender for the supply of cleaning services of its offices. The Tender documents detailing the full scope of works and deliverables of the contract are available for procurement at the ESCCOM Offices for a non-refundable fee of E200.00. This involves supply of cleaning equipment and materials as well as supply of staff.

Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope marked as follows:

TENDER NUMBER - ESCCOM/CLEANING SERVICES/007/2018

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
ESWATINI COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
SIBEKELO BUILDING, 4th Floor, North Wing
MBABANE
SWAZILAND

Failure to mark the envelope clearly and accurately may result in rejection of the application.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The Commission practices the two envelope principle, Financial and Technical proposals. The tender documents should be delivered at the Physical address specified above, in six (6) hard copies each (One original plus five copies), clearly marked (Technical and Financial).

The Proposal should be deposited in the Tender Box situated at the Eswatini Communications Commission, Sibekelo Building, 4th Floor, North Wing, MBABANE at the latest by 12:00Hours (Swaziland time) on the 5th March 2019.

Enquiries

Enquiries should be submitted in writing to the procurement Division at: Email; procurement@esccom.org.sz

Late, telegraphic, electronic and faxed tenders will not be considered.

The Chief Executive

DOC:18411



info@observer.org.sz

What's in Your Mind

Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

ONE BILLION RISING CAMPAIGN 2019

...This year the campaign's theme is 'rising from a campaign, to a way of life'

INTRODUCTION

THE One Billion Rising (OBR) is the biggest global campaign to end violence against women and girls, it was launched on Valentine's Day in 2012, and began as a call to action based on the alarming statistics of violence against women across the globe.

It is a platform where people come together to express their solitude in advocating against the injustices women suffer, while calling an end to violence against women.

Each year, the OBR campaign focuses on a particular theme to highlight during the week of Valentine's Day and coordinate their activities using global coordinators.

Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) is coordinating the One Billion Rising campaign in Eswatini, and has been for the past six years.

This year the campaign's theme is 'rising from a campaign, to a way of life.'

It is, therefore, the desire of the organisation to tie in current affairs that are happening in the kingdom, "Along with sexual and physical violence, we must also look at violence systemically in economic, political, sociocultural, environmental and ideological spheres."

BACKGROUND

Though officially launched by Justice Mabuza on November 16, 2018 in an event attended by more than 200 women from all sectors, from

the four regions of the country, the main event of the campaign is being taken to the grassroots to ensure that awareness of recent legal changes with the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act 2018 gets to the ordinary women at community-level.

A pre-main event will be hosted on Valentine's Day dubbed 'The Street Campaign', further WLSA will be commemorating International Social Justice Day in Malkerns on February 20, 2019 alongside CCJP.

These events around the One Billion Rising Campaign seek to educate everyone on the duty to report violence against women; reporting whether by the victim or anyone with close proximity to the victim that is aware that an offence has taken place.

It is the duty of every citizen to ensure that the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence is a lived reality, to conform to the theme of the campaign, and should become 'a way of life.'

Tomorrow February 14, WLSA alongside partners will be taking to the streets of Manzini to sensitise the public of those sections of the SODV that implore people to report cases of violence and abuse.

These are Section 70(1) and Section 71 of the Act.

CSOs will also distribute numbers of where people may get assistance when they need to report or when they need help. This will be our roses to the public.

INYANDZALEYO!!!

“It is the duty of every citizen to ensure that the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence...”



Women and Law

in Southern Africa Research and Educational Trust - Swaziland

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Mandlenkosi building
Manzini, Swaziland

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wlsaswaziland@gmail.com
Tel: 2505 6343

Regional Office:
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Katimahlile Road, Olympia
Extension, Lusaka, Zambia

NEWS EXTRA

MORE TROUBLES FOR BUSHIRI!

IT seems Prophet Shepherd Bushiri's troubles are far from over.

Just recently, the self-proclaimed prophet spent five days in jail over fraud and money laundering charges.

Now the Home Affairs Department told Daily Sun that they have started investigations into Prophet Bushiri's residency in Mzansi.

Department of Home Affairs spokesperson

Siya Qoza told Daily Sun that the investigation into his residency is a routine exercise to assist in the ongoing investigations.

"Yes, we are investigating. We want to ascertain compliance with the Immigration Act and our actions support the work of law enforcement agencies," said Qoza.

Bushiri and his wife Mary are both out on R100 000 bail each. *DailySun*



ON THIS DAY

...FEBRUARY 13

1947 - 'Family Theatre' was heard for the first time on Mutual radio.

1955 - Israel acquired 4 of the 7 Dead Sea scrolls.

1960 - France detonated its first atomic bomb.

1965 - Sixteen-year-old Peggy Fleming won the ladies senior figure skating title at Lake Placid, NY.

1971 - South Vietnamese troops invaded Laos. They were backed by US air and artillery support.

1984 - Konstantin Chernenko was chosen to be general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, succeeding the late Yuri Andropov.

1985 - The Dow Jones industrial average closed at a record high of 1297.92 after it topped the 1300 mark earlier in the trading session.

1990 - In Ottawa, the United States and its European allies forged an agreement with the Soviet Union and East Germany on a two-stage formula to reunite Germany.

1991 - Hundreds of Iraqis were killed by two laser-guided bombs that destroyed an underground facility in Baghdad. US officials identified the facility as a military installation, but Iraqi officials said it was a bomb shelter.

1997 - Astronauts on the space shuttle Discovery brought the Hubble Space Telescope aboard for a tune up. The tune up allowed the telescope to see further into the universe.

1997 - The Dow Jones industrial average passed the 7,000 mark for the first time. The day ended at 7 022.44.

1999 - A bomb exploded just outside a government-owned bank in southern Kosovo. Nine people were killed.

2000 - Charles M Schulz's last original Sunday 'Peanuts' comic strip appeared in newspapers. Schulz had died the day before.

2001 - El Salvador was hit with an earthquake that measured 6.6 on the Richter Scale. At least 400 people were killed.

2002 - In Alexandria, VA, John Walker Lindh pled innocent to a 10-count federal indictment. He was charged with conspiring to kill Americans and aiding Osama bin Laden's terrorist network.

2002 - Former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani received an honorary knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II.

2008 - Roger Clemens denied having taken performance-enhancing drugs in testimony before Congress.

2008 - Hollywood writers ended a 100-day strike.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Robbie Williams (POP Singer) - February 13, 1974 (45 years old)



Kelly Hu (Movie Actress) - February 13, 1968 (51 years old)



TO DISASTER: The Ogie Power Station in KwaZulu-Natal, a subsidiary of ESKOM.

Stage 4 load shedding

ESKOM has plunged South Africa into darkness, in a more dramatic fashion than usual on Monday.

The energy firm 'lost functionality' in six of their generating units, escalating the load shedding schedule from Stage 2 up to Stage 4. Stage 3 didn't even get a look-in, such is the severity of the situation.

Stage 4 load shedding – what does it mean?

Stage 4 allows for up to 4000 MW of the national load to be shed. It is double the frequency of Stage 2, which means you will be scheduled for load shedding 12 times over a four day period for two hours at a time, or 12 times over an eight-day period for four hours at a time.

Stage 4 is as good as unprecedented ground for South Africa, who only had a brush with it back in 2015. Eskom has already admitted that this electricity nightmare could stretch into April, as the crippled utility giants slump from one disaster to the next.

Unfortunately, their failure also heaps misery on the rest of South Africa. We are certainly not using the term 'disaster' lightly, either. We are taking it from the experts. Ted Blom – a senior energy and mining and commodities strategist – told us that the situation is now 'very serious': "With Stage 4, they've effectively lost a power station. This is a very serious situation, and 20 per cent of the country is currently in darkness.

I would say this is absolutely disastrous. The technical operation problems run deep – old stations are not receiving maintenance, whereas new stations have not yet been commissioned.

"Their application to implement tariff hikes won't help them. My gut feeling is that NERSA will not give Eskom anything. Their case is defective and 15 per cent wouldn't be enough to save them, either."

● Here's how close South Africa is to disaster

Matshela Koko sticks the boot in

Meanwhile, the latest omnishambles has seen a few former executives emerge from the shadows. Matshela Koko – you'll remember him for being implemented in several scandals at the power firm – has weighed in with his opinion on the matter.

The former Eskom interim GCEO believes that we are now officially 'in a crisis'. He estimates that 40 per cent of the electricity supply is unavailable, doubling the prediction made by Blom: "We've jumped Stage 3 and this is a crisis. Stage 4 load shedding means the electricity system is short 4000MW to keep the grid stable – which is about the full size of Kendal Power Station. This is the very first time in the history of Eskom." Stage 4 also means that Eskom is failing to meet a peak demand of 27 000MW when it has the installed capacity of 45 000MW. This means around 40 per cent of generating capacity is not available... This is gross incompetence at the very top."

Stage 4 load shedding and beyond: Is there more to come?

But could we see even more drastic measures during these forecast blackouts? Don't be shocked if things intensify further. Eskom Spokesperson Khulu Phasiwe is yet to rule out whether a Stage 5 schedule of load shedding could soon be rolled out. Last November, the utility confirmed that plans for 'Stage 8' were being drafted.

In what would literally be our darkest days, Stage 8 would see consumers go an average of 12 hours a day without power. This has been broken down into two approaches. Either 48 hours of electricity would be shut-off over a four-day period, or alternatively, it could be doubled

to 96 hours over eight days. It all depends on what Eskom have left in reserve. Disaster may loom, but this particular scenario is miles away. Municipalities still have to approve the idea, and there's no guarantee that everyone will be onside with the proposals.

For now, it's another game of 'wait and see' for the citizens of South Africa. Eskom's latest stage of load shedding could keep power off for 12 hours a day

Eskom unveil new load shedding stage

So of course, now is the most opportune time to learn that a new stage of load shedding is ready to roll: Eskom spokesperson Dikato Mothae told Fin24 yesterday that 'Stage 8' has been added to the schedule.

Granted, Mothae stated that power outages aren't likely to get past stage 4 in 2019. But then, what is a promise from Eskom really worth? We're taking a look at the practical implications of Stage 8, and consider what it would mean for South Africans once the most drastic of all power outages gets the go-ahead.

What Stage 8 load shedding means for South Africa:

For a start, we are talking about enormous amounts of power being taken off the grid. A total of 8000MW would be preserved. To give you some context, that would be twice the size of SA's biggest ever power conservation, which reached 4000MW during Stage 4 load shedding in 2015. It would also account for the longest amount of time the electric has had to be forcibly switched off in Mzansi. Stage 8 is likely to see consumers go an average of 12 hours a day without power.

This has been broken down into two approaches. Either 48 hours of

electricity would be shut-off over a four-day period, or alternatively, it could be doubled to 96 hours over eight days.

It all depends on what Eskom have left in reserve. The final plans are currently awaiting municipal approval.

How to find out if load shedding will affect you

First, you have to see if you're electricity is provided by Eskom or by a municipality. Chances are, if you live in rural areas, you're reliant on the national grid. If you're a city dweller, you get the municipal supply.

If Eskom is your supplier...
Still unsure? Visit www.loadshedding.eskom.co.za and enter your address into their search bar. If it doesn't come up, that means you are on a municipality grid. If you are powered by the utility giant, the aforementioned website will tell you if your property will be affected by load shedding.

If the city is your supplier...
For those of us who rely on our cities to provide the electricity, you can keep up to date with everything that's happening here: This website doesn't just provide the schedule, but also lists some of the essential contact details for each metro-pole.

Make no mistake, Stage 4 is a huge worry for both Eskom and the whole country. But is our load shedding nightmare only going to get worse?

Letter from wailing medical student: Not in the public interest

SIR

Thank you for allowing me space in your highly-esteemed newspaper in the country.

My letter is in response to the article that appeared in another publication of February 10, 2019; a comment by the director of health services, one Dr Nyawo and the registrar of the Swaziland Dental and Medical Council (SDMC). Firstly, I want to bemoan the level of corruption in our country. It is my sincere hope that the new government will deal decisively with corrupt government officials for the benefit of our poor citizens.

Mr editor, the ministry of health (MOH) is one of the ministries that have been infested by the plague of corruption. It is a serious mess. Apart from the looting of public money from Phalala Fund through evil collusions as reported previously, now comes the issue of doctors. Some officials in the ministry are out to scandalise Swazi doctors that have been trained outside of Africa, in particular Taiwan-trained doctors.

Through the good relation that our country has with Taiwan, a number of Swazis have been offered scholarships to further their studies in Taiwan.

Scholarships

Included amongst these is a number of doctors. Other than Taiwan, there is no other country that has offered so many scholarships to study medicine. It is worth mentioning that the training of doctors is the most expensive than any other field of study. That is why less scholarships are offered in this field. Our country must indeed be grateful to Taiwan for such assistance.

Furthermore, Taiwan has one of the best health care systems in the world; surpassing most of the countries in Europe and America. This is evidenced by their higher life expectancy.

Taiwan has the best medical technology that you could think of. All major surgeries and treatment modalities are available in Taiwan. No one patient has been referred to be treated outside of Taiwan because their health care system is efficient.

Coming back to our country, the healthcare system is in a mess.

The ratio of doctor-patient is absurdly high. Our country needs more doctors than ever before; not just doctors, but Swazi doctors who will provide cultural relevant care. Our country has a lot of foreign doctors, more than 80 per cent.

It is really sad when the ministry of health prefers foreign doctors over Swazis. One just wonders what the officials are benefitting by bringing those foreign doctors into our country. Why are foreign doctors preferred over Swazis?

Due to poor controls and screening, we have seen fake doctors hired by the ministry to treat Swazis. But now because it is Swazis, it is a struggle to hire them. This is really sad and painful.

This is a fight against Taiwan-trained doctors more than anything as evidenced by our engagement with the ministry of health. It is really unclear why they are doing this to the Swazi doctors. To insinuate that graduates trained outside of Africa do not practice on real patients is part of the smear campaign, which is based on unfounded truth. I may not be sure about those trained in other countries, but in Taiwan we do practice on real patients and we have all the evidence to prove it.

Because the MoH bases its argument on the premise that the disease prevalence is different from those of Africa, Mr editor, the curriculum of medical schools must meet certain minimum standards. That is why there are bodies such as world medical directory that screen all medical schools to see if they meet such requirements. Even though we may meet few cases of diseases prevalent in our country, we have extensively learnt a lot about all diseases. It does not make sense to say we are lacking in terms of knowledge. Furthermore, all students in Taiwan are post-graduates.

Incompetency

We all have first degrees in a medically related field. Most of us have been nurses before with vast clinical experience. Therefore, the issue of incompetency is neither here nor there. There is more than meets the eye in as far as this issue is concerned.

The premise that graduates trained in Africa are better than those trained beyond is invalid. It is not backed by credible and/or substantive evidence. It is assumption based.

There is no credible tool that has been used to quantify graduates to support the claim mentioned there-of. Even if it turns out to be true, the Swaziland Dental and Medical Council (SDMC) ought to develop a programme that will fill such gaps. It is worth noting that diabetes and hypertension in Asia and Africa are the same. The disease prevalence is not that much different, so as to suggest that people must only train in Africa to work in Africa.

There has been a lot of doctors from countries such as Cuba given licences to practice medicine in our country, and the council didn't have qualms with that. Just because now it is Swazis coming back to serve their people, they see a problem.

On another note, the other point of argument about our programme is that it is a four-year programme,

whereas they are used to a five year programme. The programme we are doing is an adopted American style MD (Medical Degree), which is highly-respected the world over. The information about the programme structure is easily accessible via google for people to comment on an informed point of view.

The programme is designed for post-grad entrants. Only people with a relevant first degree can apply for the MD programme. That should say a lot about why we do four years before we do the internship. This is the standard for an MD. Furthermore, doing five years is not different from doing four years when the content covered is the same.

The MD programme is accredited and accepted by world medical bodies. It meets all the set requirements of medical education. In our practice, we cover all the required hours of clinical rotation during clerkship.

Finally, the less I say anything about the Swaziland Dental and Medical Council the better. There is so much confusion that has been caused by this body.

It is not understandably why the council seems to be enforcing standards that are not there in the first place. They just come up with standards that are not aligned with the health care act just because Taiwan trained graduates are coming back. There has been an influx of foreign-trained doctors from Russia and Ukraine and there has been no problem with them.

Independently

More importantly, after two years of clinical internship, the students become good doctors. It is not understandably why the focus is on Taiwan-trained doctors. Is it because those from Russia and other universities are children of the elite?

It is worth mentioning that interns are not yet clinically competent to practice unsupervised. It is a pity when the director of services admits that they have been allowing interns to practice independently. Medicine is a vast field and it takes years to sharpen clinical skills. The SDMC does not have a clear policy in place concerning the mentoring and skilfully equipping of interns,

but they are quick to shout 'incompetency'.

Our country must be grateful that other countries are training doctors for us.

We, as a country, must play our part towards the training and sharpening the clinical skills of these young doctors than to expect end-products like the world is owing us something. The greatest problem with the SDMC is the conflict of interest amongst some of its members. The director of health services and his deputy are also part of the council.

This is not good because, 'the referee also becomes the player at the same time'.

The SDMC is a highly compromised entity.

It is more like a club of friends with common personal interests than a professional body. There is nothing of public interest in what they are doing.

It is not acting professionally as one would expect. If they have seen that graduates' skills are lacking, what have they done to improve same?

On the other hand, the Swaziland Nursing Council is doing exceptionally well in improving nurses' clinical skills. That is why they have amassed several international awards. Preceptors are available in every ward to assist in mentoring nursing students. The SMDC must follow suit.

In closing Mr editor, the greatest challenge we have; not only in Swaziland but Africa as a whole, is that older people are perpetually competing with younger people. Instead of mentoring young people and leaving a legacy behind, they would rather die with 'the relay baton' than to hand over it to the next generation.

This is the pain of being young doctor in Swaziland.

Older doctors find comfort in proving how much you don't know than holding your hand and mentoring you to become a great doctor. Our society is sick and dysfunctional. Mr editor, there is no good book that can teach clinical skills, nor there is a store where we can buy experience. Otherwise we could be saving all the money to buy that book or the experience that we so much need. The best experience comes from all the mistakes and bad outcomes we meet every day.

Since it is obvious that our country does not want us to help our people, the doors of opportunities are wide open outside of our borders. We will gladly welcome them and ply our trade where we will be accepted and improve other people's lives. In health, there are no boundaries, every person we meet and treat becomes our relative.

Tears of a medical student.



● "He who wants to do good, knocks at the gate; he who loves finds the gates open." - R. Tagore Thakur

● "Kindness is more persuasive than force." - Aesop (c.620-560 BC)

● "Ambition is a good servant but a bad master." - unknown

● "Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. All depends on the principles which direct them." - Napoleon Bonaparte

● "I guess that's just part of loving people: You have to give things up. Sometimes you even have to give them up." - Lauren Oliver, *Delirium*

● "Sometimes when you sacrifice something precious, you're not really losing it. You're just passing it on to someone else." - Mitch Albom, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*

● "A brother may not be a friend, but a friend will always be a brother." - Ben Franklin (1706-1790)

● "A crab walks, so walks his children." - African proverb Kpelle Tribe

● "You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face . . . You must do the thing you think you cannot do" - Eleanor Roosevelt

● "If they hadn't told me I was ugly, I never would have searched for my beauty. And if they hadn't tried to break me down, I wouldn't know that I'm unbreakable." - Gabourey Sidibe

● "Life has many ways of testing a person's will, either by having nothing happen at all or by having everything happen all at once." - Paulo Coelho

● "The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority." - Ralph W. Sockman

● "If you have the courage to begin, you have the courage to succeed." - David Viscott

● "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgement that something else is more important than fear." - Ambrose Redmoon

● "It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that they are difficult." - Seneca

● "You've got to follow your passion. You've got to figure out what it is you love-who you really are. And have the courage to do that. I believe that the only courage anybody ever needs is the courage to follow your own dream." - Oprah Winfrey

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 12 FEBRUARY 19

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	13.7551	13.8051
British Pound/SZL	17.6952	17.7596
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.0086	8.0370
Swiss France/SZL	13.6962	13.7446
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3012	1.3184
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.7331	9.7754
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.3515	10.3852
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	15.5144	15.5708
Gold	1,310.0100	
Oil	61.57	

For more information contact
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Standard Bank

February is Eswatini's 'zwi' marula tasting month

STORIES BY HLENGIWE NDLOVU

FEBRUARY has been dubbed Eswatini's very own marula tasting month, a concept borrowed from wine tasting.

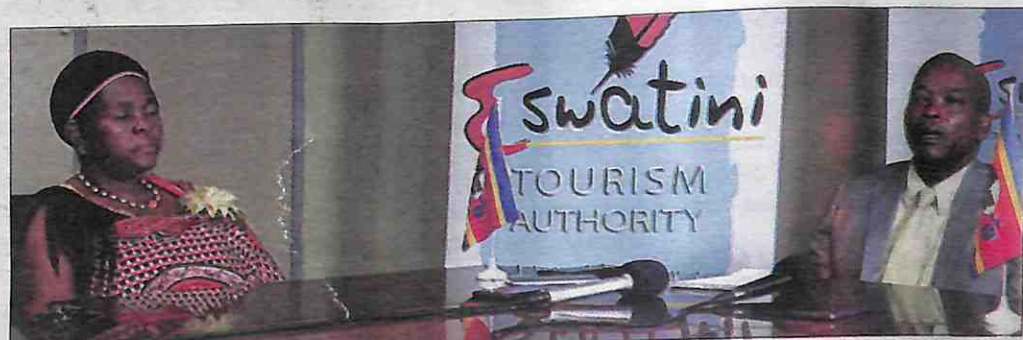
This was pronounced by the Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati in a press briefing held at the ministry's boardroom yesterday.

The minister said from this coming Saturday's marula festival at Buhleni, going forward, February would become Eswatini's own marula tasting month, a first of its kind festivity reminiscent of wine tasting festivals in other countries.

Also present in the press briefing was Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA) CEO Linda Nxumalo and her team, ministry officials as well as Lutsango regiment representatives. On Saturday, His Majesty King Mswati III is expected to grace the marula (buganu) festival at Buhleni Royal Residence where the Lutsango (women) regiment from different constituencies will showcase their brewing skills by presenting the marula to the King.

The marula tasting will not just happen at Buhleni as a similar arrangement is also scheduled for the second edition of festivities which will take place at Hlane Royal Residence.

The marula festival attracts throngs of locals and tourists who descend at Buhleni to marvel at the manner in which Swati culture unfolds in the day-long cultural spectacle. The minister said the 'zwi' marula tasting sessions are aimed at creating a memorable experience for all participating in the



PHEZU KOMKHONO: Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati speaks as Lutsango representative Dumsile Sigwane looks on in yesterday's press conference at the ministry's boardroom. (Pics Hlengiwe Ndlovu)

festival.

Zwi is a vernacular expression for sip. For the tasting sessions, the ministry of tourism has partnered with the Sincemphetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF), Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA) and the Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC).

The ministry is also in the process of actively seeking for other private sector partners to take this culture spectacular to another level.

Undesirable

Quite ironically, the minister was quick to warn that the marula tasting sessions are no free ticket to over-indulgence and drunkenness.

"We all know that over-indulgence can lead to undesirable behaviour, so the zwi sessions should not be mistaken for drinking sprees," the minister cautioned, also urging everyone who will be driving to the marula festival to maintain their

sobriety to avoid drink-driving and road accidents. The minister also made repeated assurances that this year's marula had been brewed according to desirable standards as the Lutsango regiment was taken through the drills of cleanliness and food safety by a team of expert civil servants.

Explaining the logistics of the zwi sessions, the minister said two tents will be pitched at Buhleni. One tent will be for VIPs including diplomats while the second will be used for guests.

"Both tents will be fully equipped with special packages which I am sure people will like," said the minister. In another matter, the minister recounted how in the past, dignitaries and tourists attending the marula festival went back home without tasting the brew.

Now that the tasting sessions have been officialised, nobody will go back home without having an idea of what the marula drink tastes like.



ATTENTIVE: Ministry of Tourism Forestry Officer Mbhekeni Nxumalo with ENTC's Nonhlanhla in yesterday's press briefing.

...Marula jam, traditional food to be sold at Buhleni

APART from the traditional brew, the marula fruit has many other versatile uses, as it is also processed into jams, lotions and other products.

Marula can also be enjoyed as a fruit, while its dried core can also be enjoyed as a nut.

Now marula season is here, and the fruit which grows organically in many parts of the country is available in abundance, many other marula products, apart from the traditional brew will be on sale this Saturday at the festival in Buhleni.

This was announced by the Minister

of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati in a press briefing held yesterday. Vilakati said apart from the marula products, there would also be an abundance of traditional food at Buhleni.

Assured

"I have been assured that the brewers of the marula drink outdid themselves this year. However, people should know that this fruit can be used to do many other things and not just the traditional brew," the minister said. The official programme is expected to start at about 10am at the venue on Saturday.

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DOC18246

Economic turn-around imminent for Eswatini - Minister

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati believes, with the right strategies in place, an economic turn-around is imminent for Eswatini.

The minister said yesterday that tourism was not only important in the SADC region and Europe but that it has become a competitive industry also capable of economic growth in some countries.

"Firstly, I would like to say Bayethe for His Majesty's pronouncement on tourism during the opening of Parliament

last Friday. Tourism is important and can be used to turn around our economy," he said.

Vilakati highlighted that countries where tourism is a pillar for growth, were improving drastically.

Boosting

"Countries like South Africa, Mauritius and Rwanda are doing well and getting billions of Emalangeni through Tourism. We need to emulate these countries as this can go a long way in boosting our economy. But for this to happen, we need to come up with good strategies that will help us retain tourists that visit the country. Yes, we have about a mil-

lion tourists visiting the kingdom on a yearly basis but the major downfall is that they stay for a day or two and that is unsustainable when talking economic growth. We need to have packages where they will stay in the country for five days or more," he said.

Theme

The minister, however, noted that they were in a process of formulating those strategies in conjunction with the Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC) and the Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA).

"We are looking at having a theme for each month just like we are doing with

the month of February being the official marula tasting month. But all this will be revealed once finalised," he said.

His Majesty King Mswati III highlighted in his speech during the opening of the First Session of the 11th Parliament that tourism as a catalyst for growth, tourism has a great potential to reinforce economic and sustainable growth across all sectors, despite the economic uncertainty faced by most economies of the world, of which the kingdom of Eswatini is no exception.

He said this sector had the potential to generate foreign currency through trade, exports and job creation.

"Therefore, we need to adopt a robust investment, strategy in our tourism marketing campaigns, regionally and beyond, to attract more tourists."

Maximise

"We need to maximise on the historical sites, cultural events and utilise the increased hospitality facilities throughout the kingdom, grounded on our peace and stability."

"Our tourism vibrancy should appeal to a wide audience, including the young and old, so as to motivate tourists from all corners of the globe to stay for longer periods in the kingdom, thus spending more, contributing to our revenues."

SAMKHO partners with Thomas Foundation

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

LOCAL people, leadership and development consultants SAMKHO has partnered with international emotional intelligence company, the Thomas Foundation.

The official partnership between the two organisations was marked with a signing ceremony and conference at the Royal Villas yesterday.

The Thomas Foundation is a company that provides, amongst other products, tools for assessment on the behavior for persons during recruitment exercises by companies, one of the leading products being the Personal Profile Analysis (PPA) which gives an accu-

rate insight into how people behave at work.

Making his remarks during the event attended by company CEOs, MDs, human resources officials and other high profile guests, SAMKHO Managing Director Sabelo Mkhonta said as a people development organisation, they found it proper to deal with the Thomas Foundation in marketing the people assessment tools.

"One of the things that we have discussed in the workplace is that company leaders do a lot of guess work and create perceptions about staff members or those seeking employment. At

times, this leads to unnecessary confrontations because those perceptions are wrong or misinformed.

"But these are issues that can easily be addressed by the various tools from the Thomas Foundation, which help in accurately assessing a person's behavior, attitude and motivators," he said.

He added that the foundation, which is found in 60 countries in the world, has in the last decades engaged specialists to develop these tools.

"We have used these tools and can assure you that we are happy with the results. All one needs is to be honest throughout the assessment process and



SIGNATURE: Andries Keun from Thomas International signs the reseller agreement, while SAMKHO MD Sabelo Mkhonta, as Carol Ngcobo look on. This was during the launch of Thomas Product held at the Royal Villas yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

they will get accurate results. That is why I would encourage the business leaders to embrace the outcomes of these tools," he said.

Mkhonta, who is also an accredited member of the foundation, said they

were available to assist local companies in using the tools.

"We want to help companies gain interest in the wide variety of the products and not just the one for recruitment," he said.

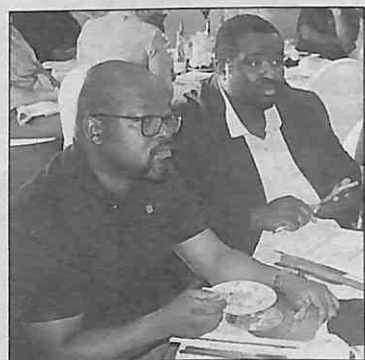
...Understand different personalities in the workplace - Keun



MOVING FORWARD: SAMKHO MD Sabelo Mkhonta making his remarks during the launch.

THOMAS Foundation Managing Director Andries Keun says it is important for company leaders to understand different personalities in the workplace.

Making his presentation during the launch of the Thomas Foundation, Eswatini at the Royal Villas yesterday, the South Africa-based MD said the tools were essential in creating awareness on other people.



FOLLOWING: Manzini City Mayor Mxolisi Mabuza and Director of Health Services Dr Vusi Magagula (r) also attended.

"We all have different personalities not just in the workplace but even at home."

Aspect

"It is important to understand that aspect and further be willing to change and adapt to the relationship, be it with your co-boss, subordinate or even family at home."

He highlighted that the foundation had three focus areas and these being business, sports

and education.

"As team Thomas Foundation, we love assessments and believe that these should only be used to build people and not break them. It should just be a positive process," he said.

Some of the high profile clients using the Thomas Foundation products include Nedbank South Africa, Transnet, Airlink, Outsurance, Aspen, Siemens and the South African Reserve Bank, amongst other organisations.

SOME OF THE PRODUCTS OFFERED BY THE THOMAS FOUNDATION

- The Personal Profile Analysis (PPA)
- The Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire Assessment Tool (TEIQUE)
- The General Intelligence Assessment Tool
- The High Potential Trait Indicator for Leadership Potential (HPTI)
- The Hard skills Assessment
- The 360 Bespoke Assessment



Renewable energy for Eswatini's energy mix

BY HLENGIWE NDLOVU

THE Kingdom of Eswatini is exploring ways of producing renewable energy to reduce the country's over-reliance on imported electricity.

This, according to ESERA Consumer and Stakeholder Manager Sikhumbuzo Nkambule, will be done through the Short term Generation Expansion Plan which prioritises solar and biomass technologies for generation of power and

the Energy Master Plan 2034, which is a long term plan that includes a mixture of wind, solar, hydro and thermal generation.

ESERA is the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority.

Nkambule said: "Both plans have renewable energy technologies in them, hence the country is well on track to include renewable energy technologies in its energy mix".

In contrast, the country is not exploring the nuclear power route. In Africa,

South Africa is the only country on the continent operating a nuclear power plant.

Nonetheless, in recent years, at least seven other sub-Saharan African states have signed agreements to deploy nuclear power with backing from Russia. Ugandan publication PML Daily reported that Uganda is in the final stages of efforts to start generating some 2000 megawatts of electricity from five nuclear plants it plans to build in five districts scattered in the country's four geographical regions.

In Eswatini, Nkambule said the current planning horizon, which runs up to 2034 do not include nuclear power as an option.

As if offering some kind of comfort, Nkambule added: "However, because the Energy Master Plan is a dynamic document that will be reviewed periodically, as technologies and the costs of implementing these generation technologies change, technologies included in the master plan are also likely to change to ensure that the most appropriate and most cost effective of these technologies for the Eswatini are implemented at the right time".



RENEWABLE: ESERA's Sikhumbuzo Nkambule.



ENTREPRENEURS ECHO KING ON DOMESTIC INVESTMENT

BY SABELO MAJOLA

"It is important that small and medium enterprises are supported because they have a huge potential to contribute to our revenue col-

lection".

These are the exact words by His Majesty King Mswati III on domestic resource mobilisation when delivering his speech from the Throne during the opening of the first session of the 11th Parliament on Friday.

Simukelwe Investments, a fast grow-

ing business dealing with furniture supply from office furniture to school desks, based in Luyengo, echoed the King on his speech, particularly on domestic investment and they are looking to grow their entity even bigger from the inspiring words from the Throne. They have supplied multiple

schools in the Usuthu Branch around Bhunya with desks and tables.

Muzi Nhleko, one of the founders of the company, said they were looking at expanding their business as they also install cameras and their aspiration is to be a well-established entity that employs locals to curb the unem-

ployment rate.

"A lot of young people are idle owing to the high unemployment rate and we want to help government in that aspect by creating jobs and employing Emaswati," he said.

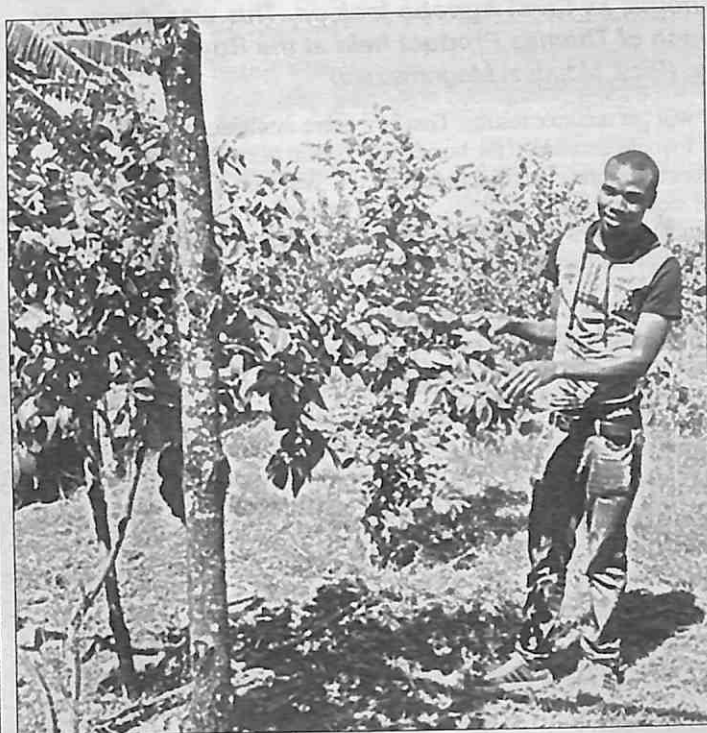
Nhleko said like in every business, they have a fair share of challenges like lack of tenders but they are not giving up on their aspirations.

Preferring

Facing challenges in business doesn't mean one has to give up. Robert Kiyoski in his book 'Rich dad Poor Dad' says a business is like a tree; first you water it then stop and later it gives you a shadow to enjoy," he said.

Nhleko said if Emaswati want to succeed in the business world, they ought to support each other and refrain from looking down on one another whilst preferring foreign investors over their own.

"As His Majesty the King said in his speech, it is important that small and medium enterprises are supported because they have a huge potential to contribute to our revenue collection and we need to encourage business development at the grassroots level. Such programmes cultivate the spirit of entrepreneurship and would significantly contribute to our domestic resource mobilisation."



Gamedze's budding tree nursery, courtesy of JA, RSSC

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

AS the world fights ozone layer depletion, a tree nursery business by Theminkosi Gamedze is thriving and the Junior Achievement (JA) Eswatini is proud to be associated with this project.

The JA out of schools projects are funded by the Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC).

After having undergone the extensive entrepreneur training provided by JA with the assistance of RSSC, Gamedze's tree nursery in Vuvulane now has over 300 trees.

Gamedze was amongst those who applied and was accepted for the JA RSSC 2017 programme, where he was trained in finance management and market research, which are the core essence of running a business.

Interviewed on the business, the youngster said he was happy to see his business grow. He said the programme has also helped him in separating the business and personal funds.

"My nursery is 10 by six metres and is able to nurture 300 different types of trees which I sell to the many customers that JA helped me identify," he said. The young farmer works on his own and is occasionally assisted by his sister in selling the trees when she is available. "We are open five days a week, Monday to Friday and I am also employed by Tambankulu Sugar Cane Nursery as farming is my passion," he says. Besides the tree nursery, Gamedze also grows vegetables for home consumption.

Gamedze's trees price list

1. Orange trees – E50
 2. Mango trees – E70
 3. Pomegranate trees – E 70
- Contact details: 7626 1146.



Focus on World News

Global News

No word from Haiti's president as fear paralyses capital

PORT-AU-PRINCE - Sporadic gunfire echoed through the streets of Port-au-Prince on Monday as the government remained silent in the face of protests that have paralysed the Haitian capital and triggered rising violence.

The normally traffic-clogged streets were largely empty as schools, shops and municipal offices were shuttered for fear of more violence that has already left several people dead and an air of uncertainty hanging over the government of President Jovenel Moise.

Barricades have sprung up in some areas of the capital and other cities, as protesters have taken to the streets demanding the president step down over reports of mismanagement and possible embezzlement of development funds in the impoverished Caribbean nation.

After a quiet but tense start to the day, hundreds of youths from the capital's poorer quarters marched toward Petionville, the wealthiest neighbourhood in Port-au-Prince, throwing stones at houses until police opened fire with tear gas rounds to break up the march.

Police also thwarted an attempt to attack a bank during the demonstration, dragging away several blood-stained suspects and making five arrests.

Since the opposition organised widespread demonstrations last week to mark two years of Moise's presidency, smaller and more spontaneous protests have broken out in key urban centres.

AFP

US lawmakers announce deal on wall, shutdown

WASHINGTON - US lawmakers announced late on Monday an agreement in principle to avoid another government shutdown, with nearly US\$1.4 billion in money for construction of a wall on the border with Mexico, as President Donald Trump pushed his politically explosive crusade at a rally in the frontier city of El Paso.

That amount is far less than Trump has demanded. But if accepted, the deal would avert another chaotic stand-off in which Trump has threatened to cut budgets from swaths of government this Friday.

Senator Richard Shelby, a key Republican negotiator, told reporters an agreement in principle had been reached between Republican and Democratic lawmakers.

Senior congressional aides told AFP the agreement included US\$1.375 billion in funding for a wall on the US-Mexico border, a key campaign promise of Trump, who had demanded US\$5.7 billion for his pet project.

The agreed figure would fund approximately 55 miles (89 kilometres), all to be located in the Rio Grande Valley area of south Texas, the aides said.

The deal still faces White House approval.

The news dropped just as Trump was about to climb the stage in the El Paso arena and the president, addressing a raucous crowd, said he did not have enough details to respond.

"We probably have some good news but who knows," he said.

Addressing thousands of people, many wearing his red 'Make America Great Again' campaign



FINISH THE WALL: Lawmakers have agreed in principle to provide US\$1.375 billion for a border wall, US President Donald Trump's pet project. (AP)

hats, Trump said: "We need the wall and it has to be built and we want to build it fast."

According to Trump, illegal immigrants pose a national security risk to the United States and can only be stopped by dramatic extensions of current barriers.

It's an argument he backs up with lurid warnings about rapists and people traffickers extending far into the American heartland -- a message that critics

describe as xenophobic and based on heavily manipulated data.

The border controversy is the opening battle of Trump's 2020 reelection bid and his El Paso rally gave a taste of things to come.

Trump chose the setting as a historic crossing point where he says walls have successfully halted an out-of-control influx of Mexican criminals.

AFP

Pompeo seeks to woo Orban away from Russia, China

BUDAPEST - US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo voiced hope on Monday that renewed American engagement with Hungary's Viktor Orban would help steer the increasingly authoritarian leader away from Russian and Chinese influence.

But Hungary's foreign minister retorted that Budapest was tired of the West's "enormous hypocrisy".

Hungary, Russia's closest friend within the European Union, agreed with Pompeo to seek closer defence ties and cast itself as a natural ally for President Donald Trump's brand of nationalist politics.

Pompeo had dinner with Orban on the first visit in seven years by a US secretary of state to Budapest, the first leg of his Central European tour.



SEEKS: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo poses next to a picture of former president Ronald Reagan in Budapest.

tary of state to Budapest, the first leg of his Central European tour.

The US top diplomat opened his trip by meeting representatives of Hungarian civil society groups, who praised Pompeo for the show of support as their ability to promote human rights and transparency is steadily curtailed.

Worries

Pompeo later told Orban's government that he would be upfront about concerns with Hungary and voiced worries about inroads of influence by both Russian President Vladimir Putin and China.

"We must not let Putin drive wedges between friends in NATO," Pompeo said. "An authoritarian Russia will never be a friend to the freedom and sovereignty of smaller nations."

AFP

N. Korea may have made more nuclear bombs

WASHINGTON - North Korea has continued to produce bomb fuel while in denuclearisation talks with the United States and may have produced enough in the past year to add as many as seven nuclear weapons to its arsenal, according to a study released just weeks before a planned second summit between the North Korean leader and U.S. President Donald Trump.

However, the country's freeze in nuclear and missile testing since 2017 mean that North Korea's weapons programme probably

poses less of a threat than it did at the end of that year, the report by Stanford University's Centre for International Security and Cooperation found.

Weapons

Siegfried Hecker, a former director of the US Los Alamos weapons laboratory in New Mexico who is now at Stanford and was one of the report's authors, told Reuters analysis of satellite imagery showed North Korea's production of bomb fuel continued in 2018.

Reuters

BRIEFS

US support for Saudis

WASHINGTON - The Trump administration threatened on Monday to veto an effort in the US Congress to end US military support for the Saudi Arabia-led coalition in the war in Yemen, continuing a stand-off with lawmakers over policy toward the kingdom. Democrats and Republicans re-introduced the war powers resolution two weeks ago as a way to send a strong message to Riyadh both about the humanitarian disaster in Yemen and condemn the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Reuters

Syrian forces in battle

WASHINGTON - Syrian fighters backed by artillery fire from a US-led coalition battled a fierce jihadist counteroffensive as they pushed to retake a last morsel of territory from the Islamic State group in an assault lasting days.

A war monitor said a coalition air strike killed 16 civilians including seven children trying to flee the holdout on Monday, but the US-led alliance was not immediately available for comment.

AFP

Spain's divisions laid bare

MADRID - Twelve Catalan secessionist leaders went on trial in Spain's Supreme Court yesterday, charged for their role in a failed independence bid 16 months ago that deeply divided the country and triggered the biggest political crisis in decades. At around 0625 GMT, a convoy of two vans and police cars left the Soto del Real prison outside Madrid, where the leaders have been detained, heading toward the capital. Hundreds of police, including from anti-terrorism units, have been deployed around the court building.

Reuters

Opposition prepares protest

CARACAS - Venezuela's opposition announced on Monday a new collection centre for desperately-needed supplies as it prepares to "send a message" to the military that's blocking humanitarian aid from entering the crisis-wracked country with a mass street protest. Opposition chief Juan Guaido, now recognized by 50 countries as Venezuela's interim president, led a rally yesterday as he steps up pressure on beleaguered President Nicolas Maduro and tries to force the military to back down and allow in the aid.

AFP

Israel wants case dropped

JERUSALEM - The Israeli justice ministry on Monday said the government has asked a Dutch court to dismiss war crimes allegations against Benny Gantz, an ex-military chief who is challenging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in April elections. A Dutch-Palestinian man originally from the Gaza Strip is suing Gantz and Israel's former air force chief, Amir Eshel, for their roles in an airstrike on his family's home that killed six relatives. The dead included a 72-year-old woman and a 12-year-old child.

AP



Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

Economy, unemployment, corruption, Eskom dominated SONA debate

CAPE TOWN - President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address (SONA) was debated in Parliament yesterday.

In a joint sitting of the two Houses, parties from across the political divide gave input on the president's second SONA over the next two days.

The rolling blackouts experienced since Sunday as a result of capacity problems at Eskom are

likely to feature prominently.

Ramaphosa announced last week that the power utility will be unbundled into three separate units.

Dire

Five hours had been set down yesterday to discuss the state of the country.

The economy, unemployment, corruption and the dire state of Eskom dominated yesterday

debate.

In his State of the Nation Address last Thursday, President Ramaphosa said that 2019 will be dedicated to reflecting on how far the country's come 25 years since the dawn of democracy.

He highlighted five urgent tasks that should underpin all government's work this year.

These include accelerating growth, creating

jobs, improving the education system and stepping up the fight against corruption and state capture.

Government's plans to take on Eskom's debt and the ongoing generation problems at the power utility, are set to evoke fierce criticism from opposition parties.

Eyewitness News

DA MAINTAINS RACE IS PROXY FOR DISADVANTAGE

...DESPITE IRR CRITICISM

CAPE TOWN - The DA is holding firm on its view that race is a proxy for disadvantage in South Africa amid sharp criticism from the Institute for Race Relations (IRR).

This, after the DA's Federal Council adopted the party's manifesto at its meeting over the weekend. The manifesto, which was announced by DA leader Mmusi Maimane last Sunday, has redress as a pillar and states that race is a proxy for disadvantage in South Africa.

On Monday the IRR, a libertarian think-tank which counts Anglo-American and the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust among its donors, released a statement in which it was highly critical of the DA and Maimane.

Maimane told the media last Sunday: "We believe race is a proxy for disadvantage and an accurate reflection of who is still excluded from opportunity."

"The party has not decided to move away from race-based redress policies. However, we unequivocally reject the ANC's version

of redress which operates to enrich and re-enrich the connected elite.

"Our offer is truly broad-based in that it seeks to break down the wall that exists between the haves and the have-nots."

He was at pains to point out that the DA's policy on BBBEE differed from the ANC in that it would seek to broaden economic participation, rather than benefit those connected to the ruling party.

"Give equity to employees, educate people, develop enterprise and ultimately broaden inclusion," he said, summarising the DA's position on empowerment.

IRR CEO Frans Cronjé said in his statement: "This past weekend, the DA's Federal Council determined to shut down any debate on empowerment, choosing instead to adopt the ANC's model of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE), and the mantra that 'race is a proxy for disadvantage' as a justification for its position. It was the decision of a party that has surrendered itself intellectually and morally to the ANC's grand hege-



monic hold over South African policy."

He disputed that race was a proxy for disadvantage.

"There are many, particularly the rich ANC elite, who have abused B-BBEE in all its iterations for their own purposes, who are not disadvantaged, and who do not require state assistance to accrue capital. The same is increas-

ingly true of a burgeoning black middle class," he said.

"This is well-evidenced and statistically uncontroversial. Even if race was a proxy for disadvantage, the only reason not to use disadvantage itself is a public desire to pander to race. This is likely the hard truth of the DA's current position." *News24*

COSATU laments 'resurfacing of 1996 class project'

JOHANNESBURG - COSATU in Gauteng has lamented what it terms the resurfacing of the 1996 class project in the ANC government - a project the trade union federation thought it had defeated at the ANC Polokwane conference in 2007.

The federation was addressing media at a briefing relating to the Cosatu national strike, scheduled for today, to protest against job losses. The term '1996 class project' was coined by the SA Communist Party to describe former president Thabo Mbeki's administration, which the communists and COSATU viewed as pushing for neo-liberal policies, such as the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) macro-economic policy.

Project

Gauteng COSATU Provincial Secretary Dumisani Dakile said the '1996 class project' was led by Finance Minister Tito Mboweni and former finance minister Trevor Manuel, who was last week appointed to chair a selection panel that will recruit a new head of the SA Revenue Service (SARS). Dakile said this was now accom-



PREPARING: COSATU is preparing for a nationwide strike today to protest against job losses. (AP)

panied by the re-emergence of a 'hegemonic right-wing' faction within the ANC.

Defeated

"As COSATU Gauteng we can tell you from where we are that what we thought we had defeated in Polokwane, which was affectionately known as the 1996 class project, has resurfaced and is turning its ugly head," said Dakile.

"You can see for example the role that

is being played by Trevor Manuel of late ... Trevor Manuel was a serious soldier of the 1996 class project.

"Trevor Manuel has been one of the Chief Architects of the National Development Plan that we rejected, so you can see that emerging trend. The appointment of Tito Mboweni as minister of finance is part of that."

Times Live

Eskom's audit to take three months

JOHANNESBURG - Eskom CEO Phakamani Hadebe has told Eyewitness News that an in-depth audit should take about three months to establish what needs to be done to solve the country's power crisis.

The utility on Monday said it was concerned that the Medupi and Kusile power stations showed a lack of reliability to generating capacity.

Eskom has implemented stage three load shedding on Tuesday morning until 11pm tonight.

The parastatal says that its board will launch the audit to ensure all technical problems are understood to prevent a crisis as seen on

Monday.

Hadebe says that they already had an audit at an official level.

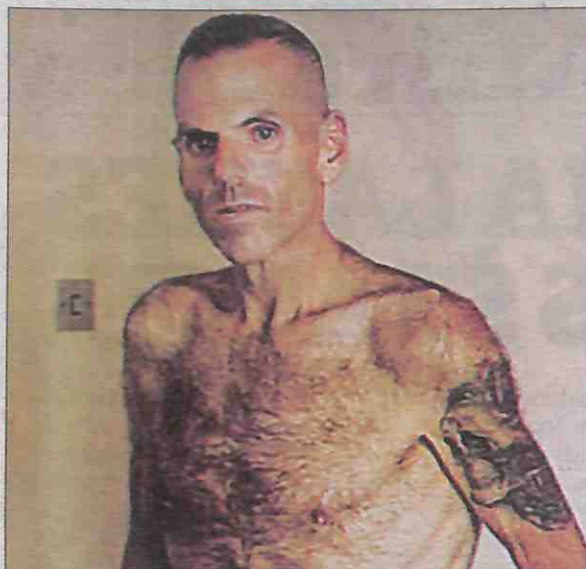
"We did an audit to identify things that need to be done and that's why we're able to come up with 63 outages that have to be done."

He says this audit is to give clarity on the magnitude of the problem.

"We now felt that we need to get experts to go out and identify all of them so that we're clear on what exactly needs to be done."

The utility's board will institute an urgent review of the system to establish realistically when its projects will be completed.

Eyewitness News



EATING ITSELF: Lee Baker claims his body is 'eating itself' due to a condition that makes him vomit every time he consumes food.

Man looks like a skeleton with skin

MARGATE - A man claims his body is 'eating itself' due to a condition which makes him vomit every time he consumes food.

Lee Baker, of Margate, Kent, suffers from gastroparesis, which affects the normal movements of the muscles in the stomach, preventing it from emptying properly.

This has left the 45-year-old - who used to work as a chocolate salesman - unable to eat solid food for the past six years and looking like a 'skeleton with skin'.

Surviving on just four milkshakes a day, he is now severely malnourished, going from 17st 9lbs (114kg) two years ago to just 7st 8lbs (50kg) today.

After doctors warned he may be forced to have a feeding tube fitted, Baker is finally making 'good progress' after having a gastric pacemaker fitted to regulate the movement of his stomach.

Speaking of his condition, Mr Baker said: "My body doesn't stop me from physically eating anything solid.

"At the moment, if I put anything in my stomach or down my mouth, within a minute or two, five minutes at the latest, it's back as it went down, doesn't break up, doesn't do anything.

"My muscles now are being eaten away. My fat's already been eaten away by the disease, so they'll be nothing left of me.

"I can't walk very much anymore, so I find it hard to get upstairs. It's changed everything about every aspect of my life."

Baker - who is father to 11-year-old Grace and 10-year-old Kian - is so weak he is barely able to walk and regularly collapses from exhaustion.

His wife Alison said: "He's just a skeleton with skin on at the moment. It's heartbreaking.

"He's not so energetic, he can't do as much as he used to like to do.

'So it has been harder but he always tries to keep a smile on his face.'

Baker believes his gastroparesis was triggered by prescribed treatment for his sarcoidosis a rare condition that



FROM HERO TO ZERO: Three passport photos show the dramatic weight loss Baker has been forced to endure.

causes small patches of red and swollen tissue in the internal organs.

After being diagnosed with sarcoidosis in 2009, Baker then developed type 2 diabetes around the time he started vomiting.

The father-of-two went without a gastroparesis diagnosis for four years and hit rock bottom.

"The darkest moments I've had with this - well the whole illness from the sarcoidosis down to diabetes and gastroparesis - I was told it was in my head and I was making it up," Mr Baker said.

"I lost a lot of my dignity. My life was just falling apart."

It was not until his wife read an article about someone with similar symptoms to her husband that Mr Baker finally started to get answers.

The person was being treated by Dr Sri Kadirkamanathan, of Broomfield hospital in Chelmsford, Essex.

The couple contacted the medic who immediately diagnosed Lee with gastroparesis and advised he was fitted with a 'pacemaker', known as a gastric electrical stimulator (GES).

A GES sends mild electrical pulses to the nerves and smooth muscle of the lower stomach, easing nausea and vomiting in gastroparesis sufferers.

Two months after having the GES fitted, Mr Baker is still recovering but has been able to eat something for the first time in six years.

"The first thing I actually ate after the surgery was two slices of toast from the hospital and a peach yoghurt," he said.

"Although the toast was probably the worst toast you've ever seen - it was the best tasting toast I've ever had.

"And since then it's just been going from strength-to-strength, I've been eating normally, no sickness, my diabetes is now gone as well, which is a bonus we [were] never told about.

"I've put on about 10 kilos (22lbs) in weight in the last two to three weeks. So we're making good leaps and good progress."

And after years of abstaining from food altogether, Baker is even starting to experiment with different cuisines.

"He's been trying foods that he's not eaten before, he's taken a liking to sushi - well it's something he can do on his own because I don't like that!," Mrs Baker said.

"It's small steps, but big strides and it's looking really good and I just can't believe it's finally, finally happened."

The surgery has had an impact on every aspect of Baker's life and given him hope for the future.

"It's given me a goal and a purpose to do something meaningful with my life," he said.

Baker features on *Body Bizarre*, which is on Saturdays at 10pm on TLC UK.

Daily Mail



SHADOW: Baker (pictured with his wife Alison) suffers from gastroparesis, which affects the normal movements of the muscles in the stomach, preventing it from emptying.



HAPPIER: Pictured before the ordeal with his wife, Baker believes his gastroparesis was triggered by treatment he was taking for sarcoidosis, a rare condition that causes small patches of red and swollen tissue in the internal organs.



BIG LEE: Just two years ago, Baker weighed 17st 9lbs.

Focus on Africa News

Continental News

MNANGAGWA LASHES OUT AT UK'S STANCE

HARARE - Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa has for the first time reacted angrily to the UK government's position that Zimbabwe be barred from rejoining the Commonwealth.

The 76-year-old Mnangagwa said the view of a single member state, the UK, was not the view of the entire bloc of former British colonies.

The former colonial master also wants the European Union's foreign ministers at their meeting next week in Brussels, Belgium, to extend the sanctions against Zimbabwe and include more top officials from Mnangagwa's government.

Harriet Baldwin, the UK's Africa minister, last week told the House of Commons international development committee that the UK would not support Zimbabwe's bid to be readmitted to the Commonwealth.



LASHES OUT: Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

"As of today, the UK would not be able to support this application because we don't believe that the kinds of human rights violations that we are seeing from security forces in Zimbabwe are the kind of behaviour that you would expect to see from a Commonwealth country," said Baldwin.

The frosty relations with the UK mark a significant low point for Mnangagwa, who took over power in a military coup in November 2017 from former ruler Robert Mugabe.

Crucial

For his first 15 months at the helm, Mnangagwa enjoyed a rare thaw in relations between Harare and London — widely seen as crucial in convincing a largely sceptical international community to accept Zimbabwe back on to the global stage.

Zimbabwe was last a member of the 53-member Commonwealth in 2003, before Mugabe pulled the country out over a row with the West over farm seizures.

Speaking in an interview with French T V

news channel France 24 on the sidelines of the AU summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Mnangagwa said Zimbabwe's application was submitted to the Commonwealth secretariat and not to the UK, which he said, was also 'just a member' of the bloc.

"The Commonwealth has never told us that they are not considering our application."

The view of one member is not the view of the Commonwealth," he said.

Asked whether he feared that there would be more EU sanctions imposed later this month, Mnangagwa said EU sanctions were already in place.

"They have not been removed. So what other new sanctions are you talking about? We are already suffering under these sanctions, ZIDERA (US sanctions) and the EU sanctions," he said.

Three of his top officials are on the 'inactive' list of the EU sanctions. They are his deputy, Constantino Chiwenga, the agriculture minister Perrance Shiri, and army commander Valerio Sibanda.

Zimbabwe remains deeply mired in an economic crisis which shows no sign of an end. At US\$3.31 (R44.95) a litre, fuel in Zimbabwe is the world's most expensive, with queues which had disappeared after the price hike was announced last month by Mnangagwa now making a return in the capital, Harare.

Times Live

East Libyan forces say they have full control of El Sharara oilfield

BENGHAZI - Eastern Libyan military forces have full control of Libya's biggest oilfield, El Sharara, a spokesman said, in a challenge to the internationally recognised government in Tripoli.

There was no immediate confirmation or comment from state oil firm NOC which operates with foreign partners the 315 000 barrels-per-day (bpd) field deep in Libya's southern desert.

LNA (the Libyan National Army) based in eastern Libya began an offensive in the south last month to fight militants and secure oilfields.

Last Wednesday, the LNA reached a remote pumping station of El Sharara, but had until now not moved on the main field, which a force of state guards and

tribesmen seized in December demanding funds. Production stopped then.

"Peacefully with no resistance LNA has full control over Sharara oilfield with all its facilities," the LNA spokesman said on Twitter, adding the facility was being secured.

Unable

Pictures posted online showed jubilant soldiers standing in front of an El Sharara signpost. Reuters was unable to reach workers at the field for further information.

Hours earlier, the LNA's chief of staff, Abdel-Razeq Nathouri, told Reuters the soldiers were negotiating access to the field. The internationally recognized government in Tripoli had tried sending its

own commander, Ali Kennah, to secure the field. El Sharara had formally belonged to the Tripoli administration which in reality had been unable to exercise control.

Kennah had flown on the weekend to the nearby El Feel oilfield and later made it to El Sharara, but failed to take control of it, oil workers have said.

Oil production in Libya, a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, has been disrupted since conflict broke out in 2011, with protesters and armed groups often targeting oilfields and energy infrastructure.

National production stands at under 1 million bpd, well below pre-2011 capacity of 1.6 million bpd.

Reuters

Zim V. President Chiwenga on emergency medical trip

HARARE - Zimbabwean Vice President Constantino Chiwenga is reportedly being treated for a minor ailment in India, according to a government minister.

It is reported that Chiwenga had recently gone to India to attend to his health issues, Reuters reported.

He was last seen by the public when he attended a cabinet meeting together with Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa on February 5. Chiwenga's health issue has been confirmed as minor abdominal pain.

Zimbabwe's Deputy Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Energy Mutodi disclosed this information on Twitter last Sunday.

He wrote: "The Hon. Vice President CDN Chiwenga is recovering well from some minor abdominal ailment in Delhi, India."

He declined to make further comment.

The medical trip to India was first reported on ZimLive.com, where it stated that Chiwenga also travelled to South Africa for treatment last week.

This medical trip was cut short and he was flown back to Zimbabwe following political protests.

ZimLive.com previously reported that Chiwenga in 2017 claimed that he has been poisoned, during a military coup ousting then-president Robert Mugabe.

A presidential spokesperson, however, verified that Chiwenga was 'exhausted' after his many years of continuous work, and that he 'had a bullet lodged in his lungs from the war period' 40 years prior.

News24

Someone must account - Ivorian president on Gbagbo's ICC acquittal

IVORY COAST - 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 Ble Goude on charges stemming from a wave of violence after disputed elections in the west African nation in 2010.

More than 300 people died on both sides of the Ivory Coast conflict after Gbagbo refused to concede defeat to Ouattara, his inter-



QUESTIONS: Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara.

nationally 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. *AFP*

BRIEFS

Belgium needs to apologise

KINSHASA - UN experts say that racial discrimination 'is endemic' in Belgium's institutions and that the nation needs to apologise for crimes committed during its colonisation of Congo. The UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent said on Monday in an interim report on Belgium that 'the root causes of present day human rights violations lie in the lack of recognition of the true scope of violence and injustice of colonisation.' King Leopold's reign over Congo from 1885 to 1908 was notorious for its brutality. Congo gained independence from Belgium in 1960.

AP

Egypt parliament to vote

CAIRO - Egypt's parliament has rescheduled for this week its vote on proposed changes to the constitution that would allow President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to stay in office well beyond his current term, which ends in 2022. Parliament spokesman Ahmed Saad el-Din said last Sunday that the legislature would hold the crucial vote today, instead of a scheduled meeting on February 17. The 596-seat assembly had given its preliminary approval to the changes last week. The motion is near-certain to be overwhelmingly approved by the legislature, which is packed with el-Sissi's supporters, but the amendments would also need to be put to a national referendum to become law. *AP*

Zambia slams killings report

LONDON - The Zambian embassy in London has strongly denied an allegation in a report by the UK Sunday Times that President Edgar Lungu tried to kill his political opponent, opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema. Hichilema said he was holding a rally last Friday in Sesheke, south-west Zambia, when police and activists from the ruling Patriotic Front opened fire, the Lusaka Times reported yesterday. The Sunday Times said it had obtained video showing terrified men and women cowering behind vehicles and fleeing through the bush amid the crack of automatic gunfire.

ANA

SADC backs Mnangagwa

HARARE - The Southern African Development Community (SADC) on Monday weighed in with support for Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa. The support by SADC for Mnangagwa, political observers said, was likely to anger the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), which had been hopeful of the censure of Mnangagwa by the regional bloc. The 76-year-old president has been under pressure, especially from human rights groups and from sections of the international community, ever since the army was deployed last month, to quell protests.

Times Live

Observer Entertainment

New Reviews ... Star Signs ... Celebville ... Cartoons



SPEECH: Manqoba Mtsetfwa speaking on behalf of Young Ink company at the press briefing yesterday morning. This was during the Sibebe Resort Valentine's Extravaganza sponsorship presentations.

Sponsorship galore for Valentine's Extravaganza

... Young Ink injects E15 000 into the show

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

SPONSORSHIPS are pouring in for the Valentine's Extravaganza show slated for Saturday at Sibebe Resort.

The event has partnered with PSI Swaziland, Young Ink, Destiny Music and Sound, Sibebe Premium Beer, Mollys Restaurant and Coca cola.

The sponsors were unveiled yesterday at Molly's Restaurant in Manzini during a press conference.

Tall Tree Director Larry Mahlanga, who spoke on behalf of Sibebe Resort, said that they were ready for the show and he acknowledged the sponsors who

were going all out of their way to make sure the event becomes a success.

PSI Eswatini Marketing Manager Mncedisi Dlamini said they as PSI Eswatini took the opportunity to partner with Sibebe Resort using their brand Got it Get it.

Got it Get it is a condom usage campaign to spread the word to young people to practice prevention.

"So we used this opportunity to spread the word as young people love fun. So, it will be easier for them to get the word. Mainly because tomorrow (today) it's the International Condom Day," Dlamini said.

Paul Hlophe from Destiny Music and

Sound group, said the company would be sponsoring with the stage, roof, led screens and lighting to make a successful event. He said they were happy with helping the organisers because they believed in empowering local talent.

Manqona Mtsetfwa, who spoke behalf of Young Ink, said they were very interested in partnering with Sibebe Resort because they had a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme that seeks to empower locals and the Sibebe Resort is a 100 per cent local show. They showered the show with a sponsorship of E15 000 and all the material that will be there will be branded by Young Ink.

Rooftop Valentine's Movie Night postponed

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

DUE to the tropical storm off the coast of Madagascar, the Eswatini Meteorological Service predicts rainfall for tomorrow; Valentine's Day.

On this advice, Jabula Events and Swazi Plaza Properties would like to inform the public that the Rooftop Outdoor Movie experience scheduled for tomorrow has been postponed to March 1.

"Our brands are committed to providing excellent service and unique experiences and in that spirit, we will be bringing you a movie-packed weekend; with romantic comedy, thrilling action and heart-warming drama; all this at a nominal fee of E50 per person," Swazi Plaza Properties Promotions Marketing Officer Ngobile Ndlangamandla said.

"We wish to extend our utmost gratitude to everyone who has shown us support and purchased tickets, we have contacted a majority with regards to their refunds and will ensure that all refunds are processed before the end of tomorrow. We apologise for the inconvenience caused," she concluded.

Mandisa Mamba for Ocean Cuisine tomorrow

BY DELISA THWALA

'HELLO America' hitmaker Mandisa Mamba will be performing at the Ocean Cuisine tomorrow.

This is going to be a one woman show, commencing at 6pm at the venue located in Manzini's Riveratone Mall.

People are expected to come through and enjoy the soulful music that will be delivered by the singer on the night so to add that special touch to the evening. Mandisa is a diverse singer/songwriter who has been active since 2016 and has achieved major success in her home country, Swaziland. In only a year of entering the music industry, Mandisa was nominated for best RnB artist at the 2017 MTN SWAMA Awards where she was once listed as one of the artists to watch in 2018 by Glam Africa Magazine and named a legendary performer by MTN Eswatini.

Highlighting her performances, Mandisa has performed at one of the biggest festivals in the world 'Bushfire Festival' twice in a row (2017/18). She has opened for one of South Africa's biggest rappers 'Reason' during his album tour, and headlined her first independent show 'The Super Power Experience' which was a major success.

Mandisa released her first song 'Power' in March 2016, and has since released five more singles, as well as collaborated with various artists and DJs, including world renowned DJ Dino Bravo.

She believes in serving, empowering and encouraging with her gifts/talents, thus she wrote and dedicated her single 'Fly' to the International Girl Child Foundation in Swaziland. She has also partnered with foundations and initiatives such as; Young Lives Swaziland, Live and Direct, and the PSI's 'Got it Get it' HIV/AIDS initiative.

Scarlet Sage97 looking for brand ambassadors

BY SIMANGALISO ZWANE

SCARLET Sage 97 is calling all fashionistas.

They are looking for brand ambassadors to join the Scarlet Sage97 team.

This was revealed by the beauty entity's Director, Winile Mavuso, yesterday through a press statement.

"Not only will you receive perks that come with a job such as clothes and earn money, but this will be a great venture that will look great for your resume. The entry fee is reasonable, it only cost E150. Registration can be done online by sending information via Instagram, calling or send a WhatsApp to the following 7817 7132.

"The deadline is month end to submit all your information," reads the statement.

The requirements for the job say you must be based in Eswatini; you must be between the age group of 18-45, have knowledge of social media market-

ing.

This requirement also says you must have 2 000 followers or more on Facebook or Instagram, know how to create fashion content and be able to share your passion with some of your favourite clothes.

"The competition has three stages. The first one is a photoshoot whereby you will be dressed by 'Scarlet Sage97' in order to share what you are wearing and why people should buy whatever you are wearing.

"The second stage involves being judged on social media content; followers and likes.

"The third and final stage will be a fashion show in your favourite outfit and the three winners will be announced during the fashion show, which will take place in April at Mbabane Corporate Place.

"The winner will walk away with E5 000 worth hamper of clothing plus a three-month contract with us," said Mavuso through a press statement.

REVEALED: Scarlet Sage97 Director Winile Mavuso.



TO PERFORM: Mandisa Mamba.



LET'S DANCE: DJ Aya City kept the crowd entertained and dished out good music. (Pics: Delisa Thwala)



SHOW-STOPPER: DJ Yung Yas stole the show on Friday at Solani's and had the crowd dancing to his hip hop sounds.



DANCE: POPO kept them on their feet until the wee hours of the morning.

Solani's Friday Hangout a hit

BY DELISA THWALA

SOLANI'S Shisanyama is the place to be.

Last week Friday proved true to the affirmative as the hangout spot was totally packed with fun lovers, who were jamming to the good music dished out by the spot's resident deejays.

The first deejay on the decks was none

other than DJ Mequie, who warmed up the dance floor with his deep house set.

Taking over from Mequie was DJ Bloss. He also didn't disappoint and dished his best sounds.

The whole party mood was taken to another level when DJ Yung Yas took over the decks and he literally turned the tables and dished old school hip hop fused with urban beats.

He literally had the crowd eating from

the palm of his hands, especially when he played 'Doc shebeleza' by Cassper Nyovest. DJ Ayacity was also a beast on the decks with a beautiful set fused with hip-hop, gqom and deep house music. His selection catered for all, from a matured crowd to the youthful ones, as they could also relate to the spinner's set. It would have not been a night at Solani's without a teaser of 'Sister Bettina'



BUDDIES: These friends were together the whole night and had fun.

Master P's fan-base grows bigger in Mozambique

BY DELISA THWALA

ONLY the sky is the limit for award-winning DJ Master P.

The hip hop spinner has grown his fan-base outside the country for the past four years.

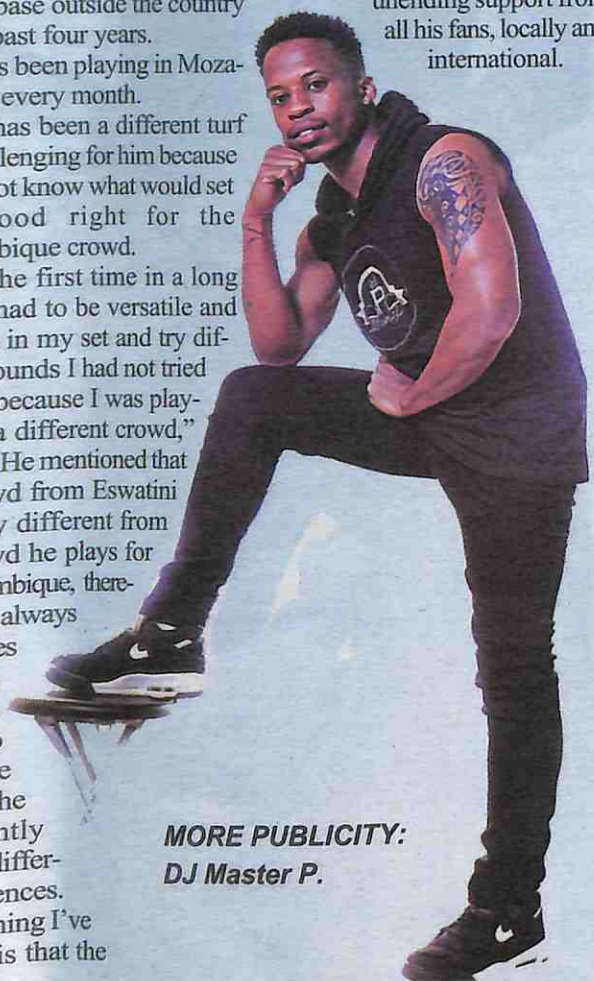
He has been playing in Mozambique every month.

This has been a different turf and challenging for him because he did not know what would set the mood right for the Mozambique crowd.

"For the first time in a long time, I had to be versatile and creative in my set and try different sounds I had not tried before, because I was playing for a different crowd," he said. He mentioned that the crowd from Eswatini is totally different from the crowd he plays for in Mozambique, therefore, this always challenges him to grow his art and do more because he is currently serving different audiences.

"One thing I've noticed is that the

people from Mozambique dance to any jam. Should it be a trending song or old class song, they just dance compared to Eswatini," he added. Furthermore, the spinner said he was humbled by the unending support from all his fans, locally and international.



MORE PUBLICITY: DJ Master P.

Over 25 acts for Sizenekhambi CD launch

BY NJABULO DLAMINI

OVER 25 artists are lined up to perform at the #Sizenekhambi CD launch hosted by Prophet Nkosingiphile Dlamini and Abundance of Praise at the Manzini Divine Healing Ministries auditorium on March 1.

The gospel music artists to perform include the country's heavyweights in Mduduzi Nezinceku Zamagawug-awu, Frans Dlamini, Shiba and the Travellers, Come to Jesus, Bishop Gcina Masuku, Police Gospel Messengers, PD Manana, Phetsile Masilela, Thabile Myeni and Apostle Vusumuzi Maculuvu.

There will also be others such as Insali KaJehova, Make Maculuvu, Loveness Mavimbela, Lonhlanhla and Mafucula, Amadodana AkuMa-tsapha, Ntokozo Dlamini, Mduduzi Magagula, Nonhle Mthethwa, Scara Maziya, Pillars of Faith, Can't get dancers, Nhlanhla Magagula and Zaga Dlamini.

Founder of Divine Healing Ministries, Bishop Nash Shongwe will be sharing the Word at the six to six event.

Confirming the show, Prophet Nkosingiphile Dlamini said they were more than ready as a group to deliver their best on the day.

"Tickets to the event are already available at several outlets around the country and one can only urge Emaswati to support us. I would like to assure gospel music fanatics and our fans that they will not regret attending this gospel show.

"This is because ours is not just an ordinary gospel show to launch the lat-

est CD, but an event where God would be uplifted, praised and exalted. Those who would attend are guaranteed that their lives would be transformed through the healing and deliverance message of the Cross," Dlamini said.

As the prophet of God, he stated, he would unashamedly state that attendees would be motivated as many things would manifest at the launch.

The founder of Bread of Life International Ministries Prophet Nkosingiphile and Abundance of Praise will be launching their latest album released towards the end of last year titled Sizenekhambi, which has 12 tracks, including the powerful Angazi.

Joint MCs for the event are Eswatini Broadcasting and Information Services' (EBIS) popular continuity announcers Nelisiwe 'Awu mine' Motsa and Siphesihle 'Sihlabani' Nxumalo.

Tickets are available at Galito's outlets in Manzini, Ezulwini and Mbabane, all Bread of Life International Ministries branches, Christian Books and Bible shops in Manzini, Ezulwini and Mbabane, all OK Foods stores, Mgavuzi Manzini and Mbabane, all Ocean Basket outlets and from Saverite Supermarket in Pigg's Peak.

The tickets cost E100 for general, E200 for VIP and E300 for VVIP, which comes with a free CD and DVD, as well as a surprise token to be given out on the day of the show.

HOST: Prophet Nkosingiphile Dlamini.



FUNTOWN LIVES UP TO ITS NAME

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

AS per the usual, Funtown Flea Market was epic with deejays doing the most on the turntables, 'FINE' food being served and market stalls presenting up market products.

Held at Fonteyn last Saturday, the event saw hundreds of fun devotees dancing and singing alongside to every music that was dished out by the spinners such as DJ Cybos who is the host of Funtown Sessions, Deenox, award winning hip hop DJ Master P, Mavava and Czar, to mention a few.

They all brought their a-game. Funtown patrons were treated to hip hop beats, deep house music, old skool r'n'b and commercial house.

The weather this time around favoured the



THE HOST: DJ Cybos doing the most on the turntables during the Funtown Flea Market on Saturday. (Pics: Phetsile Mamba)

vibe as it was sunny during the day as some of the attendees would walk around the stalls, purchasing the up market products on display which were mostly accessories and different merchandise.

The Liquid Lounge kept them coming for more with their tasty cocktails and shooters. During the day, Master P kept the fun lovers in a

joyful mood with his hop hop set.

As the night progressed, deep house DJs took over and had the crowd dancing till the wee hours of Sunday.

They had the crowd dancing within close proximity to the DJ's Desk. The night was graced by Show Stopper Dancers, who also had the crowd screaming and enjoying their dance moves.

Funlovers indicated that they always attend Funtown Flea Market to chill and enjoy the good music rendered. They said Funtown is the place to be every once a month just for relaxation.

MONTH OF LOVE: Sbucy and Nwala selling romantic Valentine's gifts that you could get for your special person at the Funtown Market.



AYEYE: Fun lovers dancing at the Funtown Flea Market last Saturday.



SHOW STOPPER: Show Stopper Dancers dancing to the beats.



HOUSE MUSIC: House music lovers enjoying DJ Cybos' quality music.



BEAUTY: The Beat by Siphelele made sure ladies looked all gorgeous like the ladies next to her at the Funtown.



HAPPINESS: DJ Deenox with DJ Mavava having a good time.



FRIENDSHIP: DJ Zulu D and Pile captured at the event.



PANSULA: Kwaito lovers dancing pansula dance during the kwaito set.



ESWATINI'S BEST: Eswatini's best DJs and their friends were also spotted at the show.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

Diana Ross, Aretha Franklin honoured at Grammys

LOS ANGELES - Legendary vocalists Diana Ross and Aretha Franklin were honoured during the 61st Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, with performances by Ross herself and other artists who paid tribute to the long-reigning 'Queen of Soul' who died last year.

Ross, 74, rose to fame in the 1960s as the lead singer of Motown Record's vocal group the Supremes, one of the world's best-selling girl groups in history and the most commercially successful Motown artist. Ross's decorated career includes 91 singles, 59 albums and 41 number one songs. She appeared on stage wearing a



HONOURED: Diana Ross.

bright red gown with matching red lipstick and earrings as she performed her own energetic tribute and wished herself a happy birthday weeks ahead of turning 75.

People Magazine

'Blackface' Gucci sweater linked to racism

NEW YORK - US designer Daniel 'Dapper Dan' Day claims the CEO of Gucci is set to fly from Italy to Harlem, New York this week to meet with him and other black designers over the company's release of a sweater that has been labelled racist and likened to blackface.

The iconic brand was forced to issue an apology last week after it released a black wool balaclava, which has a slit near the mouth framed in red. The design shocked fans who flooded social media timelines with messages accusing the label of mimicking the racist practice of light-skinned people painting their face to appear black.

While celebrities around the world have called for a boycott of the brand,



GUCCI: The design shocked fans who flooded social media.

Dan said he wanted to meet with its leadership to discuss the situation.

Times Live

Noah has the perfect solution for the Gucci 'blackface' debacle

CAPE TOWN - The Daily Show's Trevor Noah has weighed in on the widespread outrage that was sparked by the Gucci sweater, which was labelled 'racist' and was likened to 'blackface'.

The comedian shared his disgust over the sweater with fans on Twitter and lashed out over brands' total disregard for black people's feelings.

"Okay, what the f*** Gucci? Why would you make that? Like even as a clothing item, why would make that? Where would you even wear that? Skiing?"

"I'm sick of companies saying, 'this was a powerful learning moment for us,' because they never actual-



HAS SOLUTION: Trevor Noah.

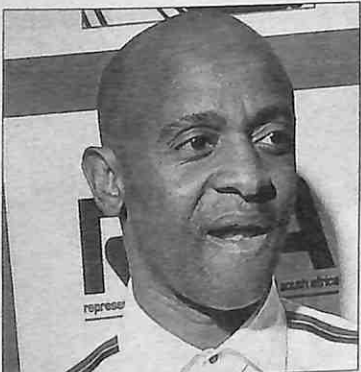
ly seem to learn," Trevor said. Gucci recently ended up on the wrong side of fans across the globe after their new black wool balaclava jumper seemingly resembled blackface. People voiced their outrage on social media. *Times Live*

Arthur Mafokate, Eugene Mthethwa elbowed from task team

SOWETO - Kwaito veterans Arthur Mafokate and Eugene Mthethwa have been removed from an industry conference task team committee.

The two were part of Creative Industry Task Team (CITT) formed to work with the Creative Cultural and Creative Industries Federation of South Africa (CCIFSA), and led by Tony Kgoroge, to organise a conference.

Mafokate is not happy with how he was removed and have since lodged a complaint via e-mails with the department of arts and culture



ELBOWED: Arthur Mafokate.

(DAC), the funders of CCIFSA. Mafokate has threatened legal action. *Sowetan Live*

Kylie Jenner threw a massive party for her daughter Stormi

NEW YORK - Next time we have a birthday party, please can we be blessed with Kylie Jenner and Travis Scott's budget? They threw a bash for their one-year-old daughter over the weekend that was pure #LifeGoals.

At one, little Stormi is probably still trying to figure out how to count her toes, and what shouldn't be eaten but she had a party that was so extra it had many adults green with envy.

With rides, a butterfly garden, inflatable jumping castles and dancing pixies - it was literally like partying in another world. And the inter-



ONE-YEAR OLD: Kylie Jenner and daughter Stormi.

net was totally here for it. *Showbizz*

Fans trash Offset for sharing clip of Cardi B giving birth

NEW YORK - Subscriptions to the Offset fan club have been cancelled after the star used a video clip of his ex giving birth to help promote his new solo album.

The 'Migos' star is planning to drop the album alongside a documentary about his life later this month and shared a teaser for it recently.

But fans were most shocked at dude including a video of Cardi in labour.

In the clip Cardi is seen pushing out baby Kulture and letting out deafening screams as concerned friends and family stand by her.

The camera then pans to Offset



SEPARATED: Cardi B and Offset.

who stands in the back looking concerned. ---The rapper, who is separated from Cardi at the moment, soon trended on social media for his PR moemish.

He was accused of trying to "use Cardi for his personal reasons" and being an attention seeker.

Showbiz

Rapper AKA has shown off his humanitarian side

CAPE TOWN - AKA made good on his promise to gift Wits students with food on Monday, in addition to the R100 000 he donated to SRC humanitarian fund of Wits university to help the students in need.

Taking to social media, Mega explained where he was coming from with his aid to students.

"I've been following the saga unfolding at Wits and I feel like something needs to be done for these students. These are the very same people we ask for support from when we as public figures need

something, yet our indifference and silence in times like these is deafening."

On Monday, the rapper posted snaps of himself and his team handing out food at the university and a message thereafter about his motive.

"The goal in life is to be a person of substance. Take away the cars, the face beat, the hair, the outfits, the constant Insta-gram posting, minus all that, what and who are these people really?"

Times Live

GENEROUS: AKA.

Moshidi Motshegwa on leaving 'The River'

PRETORIA - Despite being one of the most popular actresses in Mzansi and playing a character that has kept fans glued to their seats for weeks, Moshidi Motshegwa has confirmed that she has left drama series 'The River'.

Moshidi plays the role of Malefu on the show, a devout but firm woman who would kill for her family. It is a character that many can relate too and has made her a firm fan favourite.

While the show has entered its second season, Moshidi told 702's Azania Mosaka that she was no



QUITS: Moshidi Motshegwa.

longer on the cast list. *Times Live*

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST



TODAY



LAYS A TRAP: Qaphela.

While Judas acts from a position of strength, Qaphela lays a deadly trap. Mandla is shocked that everyone believes Ntwenhle and Dabula are sleeping together.



TODAY



RELEGATES: Obakeng.

Cebisa's furious when Obakeng relegates her to running the shebeen. Lalage's ongoing mental issues lead her to changing her mind about the vow renewal ceremony. Makgorometsa and Sibiyi fall out over Morongwa.



TODAY

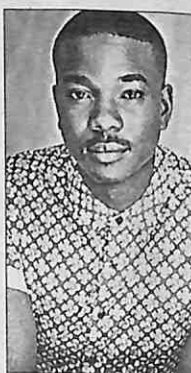


PLEADS: James.

Vho-Mukondeleli hides Vho-Wilson from Vho-Masindi. James tells Moliehi: "Let's work on our marriage". Marang slams KK for interfering in her job.



TODAY



Sabelo prepares himself for prison. Lungile is charged with murder. Mampho tries to tell Joe her status.

PREPARES: Sabelo.

nochimzansi

There is no greater insult than a person assuming that your Vaslap (Towel) is a Skorobho.



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Aquarius January 20 – February 18

Your internal computer just got upgraded today and your head is buzzing with all kinds of new information, Aquarius. The good news is that you should be able to process all these bytes at lightning speed. Act swiftly and with great confidence. You can do anything. You could even talk your way into the White House for dinner.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

You may feel a bit lonely today, Pisces, even if there are people all around you. It may seem like everyone's on a different plane. Maybe you think you have nothing in common with others - even those you generally feel closest to. You may be apprehensive about what they think of you after you tell them what you're really thinking or feeling. Don't let this stop you from making your thoughts known.



Aries March 21 – April 19

You're an appealing person, Aries, but today you could project more magnetism than ever. Don't be surprised if you draw admiring glances from strangers you pass in the street. Romance should be going very well for you. A hot date with a current or potential love partner could take place tonight. You might also be feeling especially artistic and inspired. Consider this a gift and use it.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

Today you may contemplate changes in your home. They could be physical, like redecorating, refurbishing, or remodeling. Or someone could move in or out. Whatever the change, it's likely to be fortunate. If you're thinking of such a change, you can proceed confidently. You should be feeling especially inspired now, so be creative and manifest whatever has been on your mind for some time.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

If you aren't currently romantically involved, Gemini, today you might suddenly see an old friend or neighbour in a new light. This can be thrilling, but it might not be a good idea to do anything about it just yet. You're feeling especially sensual today, and therefore any attraction you feel could pass by tomorrow. If you're presently involved, schedule a romantic evening with your partner.



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.

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.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

Today you may be asked to choose between the old and the new, Virgo. It's as if people are protesting in some manner and you're being asked to join in the ranks of those wishing to see change. Make sure you honestly assess all the available information before you automatically dismiss the situation as foolish. You should seriously consider lending a hand to the fight.



Libra September 23 – October 23

Your inner strength and courage are tremendous today. You will find that people naturally gravitate toward you, Libra. Accept this flood of energy and put it to good use however you see fit. A spark of genius may hit you sometime during the day. It will have you up all night working on a new invention.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

Wear the striped shirt and polka-dot pants today, Scorpio. The more you clash with the outside world the better. You may feel wildly out of place at first, but you will begin to see the beauty, importance, and respect you hold by standing out from the crowd. This attitude change will do you good. You may see a whole new way of living.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

If you don't understand something, ask, Sagittarius. If it looks different to you, ask why that is. Your curiosity is high, especially when it comes to the unconventional, and even more if it's revolutionary. The rebel in you will feel new purpose, and you may be tempted to throw a stick in the spokes of an old carriage that continues to head down the same old boring path.



Capricorn December 22 – January 19

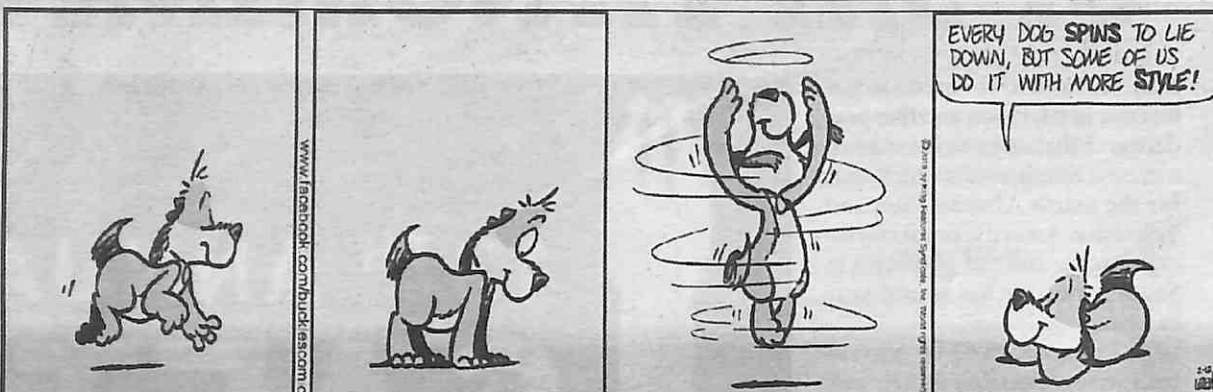
You may be shaken to the core today by someone of great personal magnetism, Capricorn. Maybe you feel as if you're being overshadowed because of the grandiose ideas and mountains of information coming from this person. Perhaps you feel you're too slow. Did you ever think that someone is going too quickly? Don't automatically think that you're the one who needs to change gears.



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HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



HOME WORD SEARCH

PUZZLE CHOICE

WADERS

Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

E P O R A L A H P S S S T S S D T P W
W V Y O T G I C N A A L H T T N V J I
R O U M V P M N N R U N O O A I G T L
A E O H B W G D N V E R D T E S L J L
V G C D E L P P V D K T U E L B A T E
V G R L C I E X Q K G J T N R T I C T
G C R R P O N V X B D K X I T L R L G
O U C E O Q C A B A E G V G B O I V L
C T R V B H K K G A G N I W P A L N W
V O Y S T E R C A T C H E R N M P G G
C V S C P R R E N O T S N R U T L E L
B V N J M O H L A E M V R P Q M O O H
N D I D D N R Y D T A C U A L R V U A
R V P H I H V H T J I G I I D L E R N
T M E R N V O R N E H W P S W M R I A
J E S G B I I O N E R R D T I V E B C
N V O Y E L L O W L E G S O D B D A A
P T E C O V A C O U R S E R G T I J J
R E E D L L I K U O B A R A M A C C D

ADJUTANT, AVOCET,
BITTERN, COURSER,
CURLEW, EGRET, GOD-
WIT, HERON, IBIS,
JABIRU, JACANA,
KILLDEER, LAPWING,
MARABOU, OYSTER

CATCHER, PHALAROPE,
PLOVER, SANDERLING,
SANDPIPER, SHOEBILL,
SNIPE, STILT, STORK,
TURNSTONE, WILLET,
WOODCOCK, YEL-
LOWLEGS.

LOL
Laughing out Loud

SPEEDING

A boy speeding on road. Guard stops him and asks: "Did you see the speed

limit sign?" The boy says: "Yea, I just didn't see you."

USELESS FACTS

1. The world record for spitting a watermelon seed is 65 feet four inches.
2. In the Philippine jungle, the yo-yo was first used as a weapon.
3. Dueling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood

- donors.
4. Texas is also the only state that is allowed to fly its state flag at the same height as the US flag.
5. The three most recognised Western names in China are Jesus Christ, Richard Nixon, and Elvis Presley.

BRAinteasers
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERSYESTERDAY
BRAinteasers

1. Before the discovery of Mt. Everest, what was the highest mountain on Earth?
Answer: Mt Everest
2. What holds more water when it has more holes in it?
Answer: A sponge

TODAY'S
BRAinteasers

1. What can you take and hold but not touch with your hands?
2. What are the next two letters in this sequence? W, A, T, N, T, L, I, ...



MULTICHOICE GROUP BOASTS **RECORD NUMBER** OF SAFTA NOMINATIONS

MULTICHOICE Group, the largest investor in television and film production on the continent, has received a record number of nominations for the South African Film and Television Awards, outperforming all other content platforms in South Africa for the second year in a row.

The 13th annual SAFTA nominations were announced on February 8 in Rosebank, Johannesburg. The awards ceremony is set to take place on March 2, at Sun City.

Nomination highlights include iMagic's new highly popular telenovela 'The River' with 17 nominations and Mzansi Magic's 'Isibaya' with nine, while Afrikaans channel kykNET's programmes collectively received no fewer than 60 nominations.

Reality

M-Net's local reality shows 'Survivor SA', 'My Kitchen Rules SA' and 'Dancing with the Stars' also outperforms in the reality categories and



MultiChoice Group's Video on Demand service, Showmax, can be proud of its seven nominations for Thali's 'Wedding Diary'. All these productions can be enjoyed on the DStv platforms.

Mzansi Magic and iMagic dominate every category

In the telenovela category Mzansi and iMagic shows dominate every category in particular 'The River', an extraordinary feat for a production in its first year.

"Congratulations to all our producers and the talent that received nominations for this year's awards,"

said Yolisa Phahle, CEO General Entertainment for MultiChoice Group.

"MultiChoice plays an important role in the African film and television production industry by investing heavily in local talent and production development. It is paying off. We are changing the dynamic from

international content consumption to consistently bringing our audiences the best stories on all the DStv platforms," said Phahle.

"We are also happy to see our people being recognised for their behind-the-scenes work in the technical categories, as well as in every single genre from reality, variety and drama to speciality shows and current affairs. "Not to mention the sought-after best actor and actress categories in the different genres in which our shows will also compete," she continued.

Global

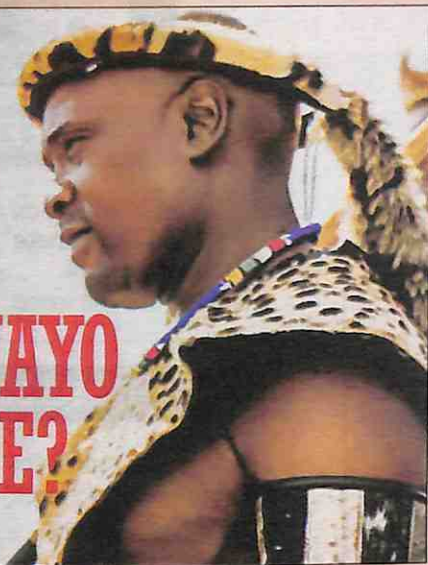
MultiChoice Group is the leading producer of content in South Africa and Africa. The group is poised to become a significant competitor on the global stage with its content creation strategy aimed at adding value to Africa's growing GDP and jobs environment. MultiChoice Group is also the single biggest supporter of media entrepreneurs through the awarding of production contracts to small and medium production companies and freelancers. It indirectly supports many industry jobs. (in line with President Ramaphosa five critical points at SONA)

MultiChoice Group is a newly formed company due to list on the JSE this month and includes MultiChoice South Africa, MultiChoice Africa, Showmax Africa and Irdeto.

The South African Television and Film Awards ceremony will be broadcast live from the Sun City Superbowl at 19:00 on March 2.

ISIBAYA...

WHO HAS SENGWAYO BECOME?



WE love Manzini, but we don't like who he is becoming in a quest to find his wife.

No one was ready for Sengwayo's reaction to Qaphela escaping, just as he was about to use him to get the truth out of Judas Ngwenya. We would have expected Sengwayo to be level-headed as always, but this time he showed us a whole other side to him; and Mzansi was not impressed.

As founder of 'Khukulula', Sengwayo has projected himself as a peacemaker and leader, but now he has turned into the very killer he sought to stop - Judas Ngwenya.

Or is he being judged too harshly? Sengwayo finds himself in a difficult position: Just a week ago he was marrying his third wife and now she has disappeared on the day they were supposed to jet off for their honeymoon.

He has no way of knowing where she is, or whether she is okay or even alive. That could make even the best man lose himself.

Will Sengwayo continue on this path until he finds his love? Or will he turn back to his moral ways and try a different approach?

Stay tuned #Isibaya every Monday to Friday at 20:30 to find out!

Jack Friedman – Official 'The Bachelor SA' Ringman

JACK FRIEDMAN'S COMMITMENT TO LEE AND HIS SOULMATE

ON Valentine's Day, tomorrow, viewers will have their first date with South Africa's very first bachelor, Lee Thompson.

The dashing entrepreneur, international model, philanthropist and former Sharks rugby player, will be laying his heart on the line in the hope of finding true love on M-Net's new reality dating show, 'The Bachelor SA'.

During his search for 'the one' with whom he wants to spend the rest of his life, Lee will be charming 24 beautiful local lasses from diverse backgrounds. To help him in his quest, Lee will need a symbol of true love for his future wife, and when one thinks of love, South Africa's most exquisite fine jewellery company comes to mind - Jack Friedman.

A Jack Friedman custom-designed engagement ring represents a promise and a future, a seal of the affection and commitment South Africa's most eligible bachelor wants to share with his future bride.

Predict

Says Jack Friedman company CEO, Howard Friedman: "Over many years in the business, I've developed a sixth sense that enables me to predict quite accurately whether a relationship will last. I recognise soulmates when I see



them and, without fail, those couples stay together through thick and thin. The opposite, alas, is also true. If the magic isn't there, I know it from the start. Soon enough one of them will be back to bring me some sad news and to hear if I'd buy back the ring."

Howard, the proud father of two daughters, says of Lee: "He is any father-in-law's dream; somebody who will to love, cherish and respect his wife, and treat her like a queen."

Lee also impressed Howard with the effort and passion he put into the design of the ring. "He knew exactly what he wanted, and it was all about the emotion he wishes to express, or, as I pre-

fer to call it, soul."

The 24 ladies with a burning desire to find love on 'The Bachelor SA' have yet to be announced. 'The Bachelor SA' will be screened on M-Net 101 from Valentine's Day, tomorrow.

'The Bachelor SA' is produced by Rapid Blue and proudly sponsored by dotsure.co.za, a product of Oakhurst Insurance Company Limited (FSP 39925) and Oakhurst Life (FSP 44793), authorised financial services providers.

Jack Friedman is the official ring sponsor of 'The Bachelor SA'.

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DOC:1845 Dx 15 FEB 2019

1. CHANGE OF SURNAMES

SOTJA ROBERT NTJANGASE of Hhohho Region wish to assume surname **MAVUSO**. Reason being that **MAVUSO** is my natural surname. Any objections should be sent to P.O. Box 25 Mhlangano or Hhohho Regional Secretary.

R/N 201013 30 Jan, 06 Feb, 13 Feb, 20 Feb

SIFISO MAYIBONGWE ZWANE of Manzini Region wish to assume surname **DLAMINI**. Reason being that **DLAMINI** is my natural surname. Any objections should be sent to P.O. Box 1406 Nhlanguano or Manzini Regional Secretary.

R/N 201050 06 Feb, 13 Feb, 20 Feb, 27 Feb

TAMMY MAMBA of Manzini Region wish to assume surname **DLAMINI**. Reason being that **DLAMINI** is my natural surname. Any objections should be sent to P.O. Box 468 Manzini or Manzini Regional Secretary.

R/N 201056 06 Feb, 13 Feb, 20 Feb, 27 Feb

TERRENCE M BUTHO VILAKATI of Shiselweni Region wish to assume surname **THWALA**. Reason being that **THWALA** is my natural surname. Any objections should be sent to P.O. Box 5423 Manzini or Shiselweni Regional Secretary.

R/N 201056 06 Feb, 13 Feb, 20 Feb, 27 Feb

LUKHELE SENZO PROFESSOR of Hhohho Region wish to assume surname **DLAMINI**. Reason being that **DLAMINI** is my natural surname. Any objections should be sent to P.O. Box A13 Buhleni or Hhohho Regional Secretary.

R/N 201119 13 Feb, 20 Feb, 27 Feb, 06 Mar

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Mamphay Dx 06 Mar

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Lloris urges Spurs fans to get behind their team

LONDON - Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris has called on supporters to rally behind the team ahead of tonight's Champions League knockout tie against Borussia Dortmund.

The captain's call to arms comes amid slumping attendances at Wembley. The recent home game against Watford saw less than 30 000 turn up as supporters become disgruntled with the delayed move to the new White Hart Lane.

The attendance in the 3-1 victory over Leicester was back up beyond 44 000 but over 82 000 attended when Tottenham hosted Barcelona in the Champions League earlier in the season.

Lloris said: "We need the stadium to push, to help us. In some days it's difficult to deal with Wembley but hopefully in this big game we'll receive this help from the crowd."

In the Premier League, Tottenham remain within five points of Liverpool and Manchester City after beating Leicester. Lloris made a string of excellent stops including a penalty save when Jamie Vardy took the kick with his first touch as a substitute.

Lloris said: "I know him a little more than other players. He usually shoots strong and he can go everywhere (in



SUPPORT US: Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

the goal). But on his first touch? You need intuition and a bit of luck (to save it)."

Lloris also warned Spurs must produce a better performance against Dortmund after Leicester had 20 shots on goal.

The Frenchman added: "Leicester played in a fantastic way and I think we won the game thanks to our spirit

and character. Without that, we could not win this game.

"I think we need to improve the team performance. We won but against a bigger side we couldn't have won that type of game. It's up to us.

"The mentality is great in the changing room and we showed that again on a difficult day."

Daily Mail

Reus out of Dortmund's Champions League clash

DORTMUND - Borussia Dortmund captain Marco Reus will miss the side's Champions League round-of-16, first-leg tie at Tottenham today due to a thigh injury.

Club official Sebastian Kehl, who liaises with the players, says, "We would of course have liked to have him in London, alone because his presence is a bit intimidating for the opponent. "But we'll compensate for his absence."

Reus has been Dortmund's best player this season, scoring 13 goals and setting up nine more in 19 Bundesliga games, but he injured a thigh muscle last Tuesday in a German Cup loss.

He missed the side's 3-3 draw with Hoffenheim last Saturday and it's unclear if he will return in time for the next league game at Nuremberg in a week.

The 18-year-old Jadon Sancho, who starred in Reus' absence against Hoffenheim, will be expected to fill in again on his return to London.

Daily Mail

TO MISS: Marco Reus.



How Real Madrid could line up against Ajax

MADRID - Real Madrid will travel to Amsterdam tonight for the first leg of their last-16 Champions League tie against Ajax.

Los Blancos have had their problems this season, but Santiago Solari's side will enter this week's match off the back of a fine run of form and will be confident of taking an advantage into the second leg

at the Bernabeu.

Madrid's 3-1 victory over Atletico Madrid last Saturday moved the European champions into second position in La Liga and they are now just six points off leaders Barcelona.

The Spanish giants have won the last three editions of the Champions League, meanwhile, and have been victorious in

their last nine two-legged knockout ties in the competition. Madrid lost home and away to CSKA Moscow in the group stages but still managed to top the section with 12 points. Here, Sports Mole takes a look at how Solari's side could line up tonight. Out: Jesus Vallejo (hamstring), Luca Zidane (hamstring), Marcos Llorente (groin), Isco (back) Jesus Vallejo and Luca

Zidane remain on the sidelines with hamstring problems. They are joined by Marcos Llorente, who will miss the next three weeks or so with a groin injury.

Isco has also been ruled out with a back and neck injury, but Solari has no fresh injury concerns from the team that overcame Atletico at the weekend. Madrid's XI could indeed be unchanged from the one that started at the Wanda Metropolitano, meaning that Vinicius Junior and Lucas Vazquez would again flank Karim Benzema, leaving Gareth Bale and Marco Asensio on the bench.

Goal

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ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



It won't be easy - Owen

LONDON - Michael Owen believes the calibre of Liverpool's front three will make it difficult for the Reds to recruit a world-class forward this summer.

The former Kop favourite is backing his old club to hold their nerve in the Premier League title race, and says the form of Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane will be key if they are to hold off the challenge of Manchester City.

That trio have managed 44 goals in all competitions this season, adding to the remarkable total of 91 from last term.

But, with Dominic Solanke having joined Bournemouth last month, with Daniel Sturridge out of contract at the end of the season and with Divock Origi likely to be sold too, there is a clear need for Jurgen Klopp to strengthen his forward options in the summer.

Teenager Rhian Brewster is highly rated, but has missed more than a year due to a serious knee injury while Harry Wilson, impressive on loan at Derby this season, has had only one first-team appearance for the Reds.

Owen, though, says it will be tough for Klopp to sign a genuine top-level striker, despite the obvious attraction of playing in a team such as Liverpool.

"It is so much easier if you're a scout or you're in the recruitment



TERRIFIC BOYS: Liverpool's Roberto Firmino, Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane. Michael Owen believes the calibre of the team's front three will make it difficult for the Reds to recruit a world-class forward this summer.

department of any other club bar the top six," he said.

"I mean, where do you go? How do you go and target someone, and they say 'am I going to start?' and you have to say 'no, Salah will start or Mane will start'?"

"You can't go and get an absolute top player, unless they only have a couple of years left in their career. Or you go and buy the next young thing and maybe bleed him in for

a year or so. To go and get someone in the guts of their career, at 24 or 25, that's so hard, and that's the only player that can really improve teams like this one.

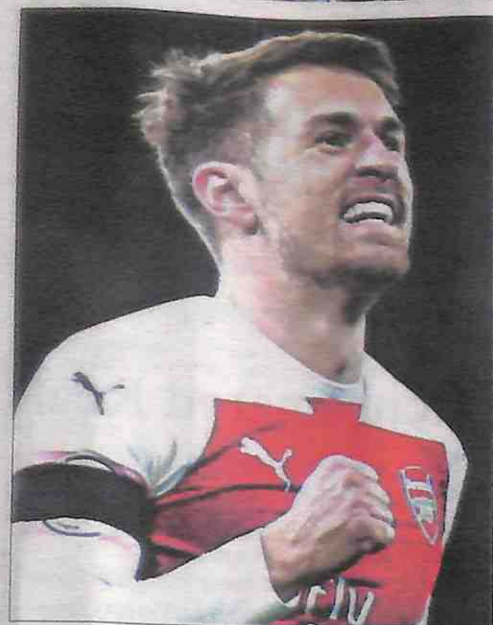
Dream

"I know it's a dream for everyone [to sign world-class players] but it's so hard to improve your team if you are in the top six, unless you're not happy with one of your players and you look to replace them. But

Liverpool have a great front three, and so if they're going to buy, it would more likely be one of the options I mentioned."

For now, though, Liverpool are thinking only about the present. They looked back to something like their best as they swept aside Bournemouth at Anfield on Saturday, with both Mane and Salah on target.

Goal



Arsenal's Ramsey joins Juventus

LONDON - Aaron Ramsey will join Juventus this summer on a free transfer from Arsenal, after signing a four-year deal with the Italian champions.

The Wales international has agreed a pre-contract deal to join on July 1 when his Arsenal deal expires at the end of the season. He will earn £325,000 a week, according to Sky sources.

The 28-year-old had been in talks with the Gunners over a new deal for several months, but the club withdrew their offer in October, leaving the midfielder free to discuss a move away from north London.

In a post on social media, Ramsey said his decision to end his 11-year stay at Arsenal was made with a 'heavy heart'.

Last month, Arsenal head coach Unai Emery suggested funds were tight at the Emirates Stadium when he admitted they were only able to sign players on loan in the transfer window.

In the last 13 months, Arsenal have signed Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Bernd Leno, Sokratis Papastathopoulos and Lucas Torreira for a combined total of over £100m, but only signed Denis Suarez on loan from Barcelona in January. **Sky Sports**

Benitez blames Dubravka for Wolves' last-gasp equaliser

LONDON - Rafael Benitez felt Martin Dubravka was partly to blame for Wolves' dramatic late equaliser against Newcastle United on Monday.

Benitez's side looked to be heading for victory at Molineux thanks to an Isaac Hayden strike, but Nuno Espirito Santo's side levelled in the fifth minute of injury time through Willy Boly.

The centre-back jumped with Dubravka to meet Adama Traore's looping cross and headed home after the Newcastle goalkeeper failed to catch the ball, with referee Graham Scott deciding no foul had been committed. Benitez looked furious on the touchline and confronted the officials after the final whistle but, speaking afterwards, he felt Newcastle's defending and Dubravka's failure to punch the cross clear were the more significant problems. "Everybody knew we had the three points and it was really disappointing to concede the way we conceded," he told Sky Sports.

"They were pushing, and we could do better. With this kind of ball, you can do a little bit better - just punch the ball and finish. **Goal**

Antonio demands harsher punishments for racism in football

LONDON - West Ham forward Michail Antonio has demanded points deductions and stadium closures for any team whose fans are involved in racist incidents.

Antonio's calls come after Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah received alleged racist abuse from West Ham fans in the 1-1 draw at the London Stadium this month.

The incident followed Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling allegedly being racially abused by fans at Chelsea in December 2018.

In the same month, Arsenal striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang had a banana skin thrown at him during the north London derby which resulted in a Tottenham fan being banned from football for four years and fined.

Antonio told Sky Sports News: "Finding an individual does nothing. That one person, okay, he gets banned for life but to be honest no one has a picture of his face. He can get back into the stadium. If you affect their team - these fans love their team - the fans, his friends, are going to turn on him. If you start playing games behind closed doors and deducting points, then the problem is inside themselves. They are going to deal with it themselves."

A Sky Data Poll for Sky Sports News revealed on Monday that 86 per cent of football fans who regularly attend matches in the UK have witnessed a racist incident, with that figure rising to 93 per cent for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic supporters. **Sky Sports**



LET IT STOP: Michail Antonio believes racism can be stopped in football stadiums.

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Tiger Woods grouped with McIlroy, Thomas

CALIFORNIA - Tiger Woods will go head to head with Rory McIlroy once again this week at the Genesis Open after the pair was grouped together for the first two rounds.

The PGA Tour announced that the duo would play alongside each other for the second year running at Riviera Country Club, with world No 4 Justin Thomas completing the star-studded threeball.

Woods has outscored McIlroy in 11 of the 23 worldwide rounds played

together, most recently at the final round of the Tour Championship when the 14-time major champion claimed an 80th PGA Tour title.

Posted

Four meetings have ended all-square while McIlroy posted a lower score on eight occasions, including the first two rounds of last year's Genesis Open when the Northern Irishman posted scores of 71 and 69 en route to a tied-20th finish. Woods missed the cut in last year's

event, his first start at Riviera since 2006, with the 43-year-old still yet to win at the venue where he made his PGA Tour debut as an amateur in 1992. McIlroy has made a strong start to his PGA Tour season with top-five finishes at both the Sentry Tournament of Champions and the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines, where Woods ended tied-20th in his only appearance of 2019 so far.

Sky Sports



TOGETHER: Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy and Justin Thomas.

PIRATES DROP TO SECOND AFTER LOSS TO CAF CHAMPS

EL MENZAH - Orlando Pirates relinquished the top spot in Group B after suffering defeat to CAF Champions League holders Esperance yesterday afternoon.

Milutin Sredojevic re-shuffled his pack from the weekend's draw with Kaizer Chiefs as Justin Shonga, Paseko Mako, Linda Mntambo and Mbekile were drafted in.

The home side took control from the onset and were rewarded with the opening goal after 15 minutes, with Anice Badri firing home from a well-worked free-kick.

The Buccaneers were unable to stamp their authority on the encounter, having given away possession needlessly on numerous occasions.

The defending champions continued to push for a second goal and were nearly rewarded just before the break, but Pirates goalkeeper Wayne Sandilands came out on top with a good save to deny Ghaylène Chaalali.

At the other end, Esperance shot-stopper Rami Jridi enjoyed a quiet opening 45 minutes as the Buccaneers failed to



HARD LUCK: Orlando Pirates goalkeeper Wayne Sandilands.

register a single effort on target in the half.

Sredojevic wasted no time in changing things up at the start of the second as the in-effective Mako made way for Thamsanqa Gabuza, who only has one goal to his name this season.

After a shaky start, Sandilands was proving to be the difference in the second half as the Pirates shot-stopper produced a few crucial saves in the open-

ing 10 minutes of the second half.

Justin Shonga was introduced after an hour and he nearly made the perfect impact with a left-footed volley that sailed just wide of the mark as Pirates upped the tempo.

With the last throw of the dice, Kudakwashe Mahachi was introduced for the final 12 minutes of the game, taking the place of Mbekile, who struggled defensively. *Laduma*

Ramos leads rejuvenated Real

MADRID - When Real Madrid slumped to a 3-0 defeat against CSKA Moscow in their last Champions League group game in December they looked far removed from the defending champions, let alone like the side that had just won the competition for the third straight time.

It compounded a woeful few months for the club as coach Julen Lopetegui came and went before former player Santiago Solari replaced him in November 2018. They sat sixth in La Liga and appeared a team in decline, sorely missing forward Cristiano Ronaldo, who left for Juventus last summer.

But fast-forward to February and all of a sudden Real look like they could once again be the team to beat in Europe this year. Rejuvenated and unbeaten in the league since early January, they head into tonight's game with Ajax full of confidence having climbed to second in La Liga, five points off top spot. While many will point to the impact teenager Vinicius Junior has had on the team going for-

wards, it is invariably the leadership of captain and centre back Sergio Ramos that has helped get Real back on track.

Few would have imagined how much of an impact a skinny long-haired teenager from Andalusia would go on to have in Madrid after joining for 27 million euros (\$30 million) in 2005. The fee remains a record for a Spanish teenager to this day, and few would dispute that he has been worth the investment.

Should he, as expected, lead his side out against Ajax in what will be his 600th appearance, he will move just one game behind club legends Fernando Hierro and Paco Gento in the all-time appearance list at Madrid, and fourth behind Manolo Sanchis (710), Iker Casillas (725) and Raul Gonzalez (741).

A relentless winning machine, Ramos has lifted 20 trophies since making his debut for the club in September 2005. Initially a marauding full-back, he moved into central defence under Jose Mourinho in 2010, making the position his own despite a revolving door of partners at the back.

SuperSport



World number one Osaka in shock split with coach

TOKYO - World tennis number one Naomi Osaka has split from her coach, Sascha Bajin, just 17 days after completing back-to-back Grand Slam victories at the Australian Open.

"Hey everyone, I will no longer be working together with Sascha. I thank him for his work and wish him all the best in the future," the 21-year-old Japanese tweeted in a shock announcement.

Bajin, a former hitting partner to Serena Williams, responded: "Thank you Naomi. I wish you nothing but the best as well. What a ride that was."

"Thank you for letting me be part of this."

Osaka, who became the first Asian to hold the top ranking after beating Czech Petra Kvitová in the Melbourne final on January 26, had worked with the German for just over a year.

No reason was given for the surprise decision to part ways, but Japanese media cited Osaka's management company IMG in reporting that there had been a breakdown in the player's relationship with the coach since the start of the year.

According to Japan's Nikkan Sports, some practice sessions with Bajin at the Australian Open lasted just 10 minutes and she sometimes hit without him being present.

Osaka, who is scheduled to compete in Dubai next week, began sounding out potential replacements late last year, local media reported.

The Japanese player captured her first Grand Slam crown by stunning Williams at last year's US Open in a final remembered as much for the American's astonishing rant at the chair umpire following a coaching violation.

Based in the United States, Osaka linked up with Bajin in late 2017 and enjoyed a breakthrough year, shooting from 72 in the world to the top of the women's rankings. *AFP*

The Japanese player captured her first Grand Slam crown by stunning Williams at last year's US Open in a final remembered as much for the American's astonishing rant at the chair umpire following a coaching violation



SPLITS: Naomi Osaka.

REGIONAL 100s

STANDINGS

MTHUNZI MAZIYA

MTN Premier League	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Green Mamba	15	10	1	4	28	8	20	31
Buffaloes	15	9	4	2	22	9	13	31
Leopard	14	9	3	2	25	8	17	30
Swallows	15	9	2	4	20	12	8	29
Highlanders	15	8	5	2	19	13	6	29
Sea Birds	15	6	3	6	18	19	-1	21
Sundowns	15	5	4	6	16	19	-3	19
Malenti	15	4	5	6	12	20	-8	17
Vovovo	15	4	4	7	10	17	-7	16
Pirates	15	4	4	7	15	22	-7	16
Wanderers	15	4	3	8	15	23	-8	15
Tambuti	15	3	5	7	12	18	-6	14
Citizens	15	1	8	6	11	19	-8	11
Matsapha	14	2	1	11	8	22	-14	7

MTN National First Division	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Black Swallows	14	9	4	1	23	10	13	30
Tinyosi	14	9	1	4	20	11	9	27
Milling	14	7	4	3	19	14	5	24
Madlenya	14	6	5	3	17	12	5	23
Rangers	14	6	5	3	20	16	4	23
Tycoons	14	6	4	4	17	11	6	22
Seven Dreams	14	5	5	4	17	13	4	20
Red Lions	14	4	4	6	17	18	-1	16
Mbabane City	14	4	3	7	12	15	-3	15
Hub Sundowns	14	4	2	8	7	18	-11	14
T. Callies	14	3	2	9	11	21	-10	11
City Warriors	14	1	2	11	5	19	-14	5

WFA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pts
Buffaloes Ladies	9	9	0	0	86	0	86	27
Wanderers Ladies	10	9	0	1	64	2	62	27
R. Leopards Ladies	9	7	0	2	25	9	16	21
Kappa Ladies	8	6	0	2	13	4	9	18
M. Swallows	9	5	2	2	17	7	10	17
Langeni FC	10	4	3	3	14	13	1	15
Olympia Ladies	10	4	3	3	19	26	-17	5
Sikhuphe Ladies	9	4	1	4	20	15	5	13
Madelezini Happy	10	4	1	5	11	42	-31	13
Southern Divas	9	4	0	5	16	11	5	12
Sitiki Ladies	8	3	2	4	13	12	1	11
Shiselweni Roses	8	2	2	4	5	26	-21	8
Illovo Ladies	10	2	1	7	8	40	-32	7
Green Mamba	9	1	1	7	4	39	-35	4
Mbekweni	10	0	2	8	2	32	-30	2
Mhlume	9	0	0	9	2	41	-39	0

Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League E77 000	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Umbebebe	13	8	2	3	18	13	5	26
Imbume	13	7	4	2	20	10	10	25
Burning Spear	13	6	6	1	16	8	8	24
H. shooting Stars	13	5	6	2	17	10	7	21
Swazi Sun	13	5	4	4	22	13	9	19
Billy Ocean	13	4	5	4	10	11	-1	17
Community	13	5	1	7	13	14	-1	16
PMT	13	4	3	6	16	18	-2	15
eMajukujuku	12	3	5	4	15	15	0	14
Wizards	13	2	6	5	11	23	-12	12
Sibovini	13	1	6	6	13	27	-14	9
Kupheleni	12	1	4	7	11	20	-9	7

Northern Zone	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Vultures	12	9	2	1	23	6	17	29
Manchester	12	8	4	0	25	10	15	28
Horo Spinners	12	8	3	1	22	12	10	27
Mvuma Hotspurs	12	6	3	3	23	16	7	21
Khanjama Rovers	13	5	3	5	16	23	-7	18
Kappa Kappa	13	3	6	4	16	13	3	15
Mshaweni	13	4	1	8	20	18	2	13
Machibini Rovers	13	3	4	6	12	19	-7	13
Sigodlo	13	2	6	5	13	22	-9	12
Pachanga	13	3	2	8	20	28	-8	11
N. Swallows	12	2	4	6	12	18	-6	10
Mshinande Arsenal	12	1	4	7	5	22	-17	7

Mandia Mahewu Mbabane League E70 000	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Corporation	18	14	1	3	43	18	25	43
Amawele	18	11	3	4	39	22	17	36
Sandia	17	10	4	3	32	19	13	34
Inter Stars	17	10	4	3	32	21	11	34
Real Tec	18	9	5	4	36	21	15	32
Mbabane Celtics	18	8	6	4	26	18	8	30
Mvakwelitje	17	7	6	4	28	19	9	27
Sidwashini United	17	7	5	5	29	30	-1	26
Classic	18	7	4	7	26	26	0	25
White City	18	5	6	7	37	33	4	21
Pine Valley	17	4	7	6	22	24	-2	19
Pot' O Gold	18	4	5	9	31	48	-17	17
Super Sport	18	4	3	11	27	37	-10	15
Veni Cosmos	18	4	3	11	17	33	-16	15
Double Action	17	2	6	9	20	35	-15	12
Mbabane Arsenal	18	1	0	17	18	59	-41	3

B. Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Mpolonjeni	17	13	2	2	56	22	34	41
Free Style	17	11	5	1	54	20	34	38
FC Vaal	17	12	1	4	51	19	32	37
Royal Dynamos	17	10	3	4	49	26	23	33
Mphalati	16	9	2	5	33	28	5	29
Dangerous Darkies	17	8	3	6	47	33	14	27
Lusoti	17	7	2	7	36	32	4	26
Hurricane	17	7	2	8	31	31	0	23
Mangwaneni FC	17	6	5	6	29	30	-1	23
The Wallers	17	6	3	8	28	29	-1	21
Mantsholo Utd	17	5	5	7	25	43	-18	20
Junction Stars	17	6	1	10	28	39	-11	19
Mantsholo F.C.	17	3	4	10	19	47	-28	13
Mbabane United	16	2	6	8	23	35	-12	12
National Rangers	15	2	2	11	13	41	-28	8
Mbabane Movers	17	2	2	13	19	66	-47	8

Futis Nkhaba Regional League E30 000	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Ngwenya Utd	17	12	4	1	49	16	33	40
Majotini	17	11	5	1	46	19	27	38
Atletico	17	10	5	2	50	19	31	35
Barcelona F.C.	17	10	4	3	30	19	11	34
Nkhamba Fast M	16	8	4	4	25	17	8	28
Super Stars	17	8	2	7	36	31	5	26
Dribbling Stars	17	8	2	7	25	23	2	26
Crocodiles	17	7	2	8	30	26	4	23
Nkoyoyo	16	6	4	6	27	25	2	22
Manyisa United	17	6	1	10	24	37	-13	19
Nkoyoyo Jnr	16	4	6	6	25	25	0	18
Bafana	17	5	3	9	20	29	-9	18
Lubhedze	17	3	3	11	18	37	-19	12
Kasie XI	17	2	3	12	23	60	-37	9
Molshane R Rovers	16	2	1	13	18	50	-32	7

Pots Construction Sigangeni League E30 000	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Real United	12	11	0	1	25	6	19	33
Nsetse	12	8	3	1	28	6	22	27
Real Touch	12	8	2	2	28	12	16	26
M. Celtics	12	7	2	3	14	9	5	23
Sigangeni	12	6	3	3	18	15	3	21
Kangaroo	12	5	1	6	25	22	3	16
L. Nationals	12	5	1	6	18	20	-2	16
Total XI	12	4	1	7	19	24	-5	13
Y. Fighters	12	2	3	7	16	21	-5	9
1M. Chiefs	12	1	4	7	7	23	-16	7
U. Eagles	12	1	3	8	10	27	-17	6
Villa Sport	12	1	3	8	8	31	-23	6

Bakhanyisele & Gongz Maphalaleni League E50 000	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Young Lovers	18	15	2	1	62	15	47	46
Junior Stars	16	13	3	0	40	12	28	42
Blue Birds	18	10	6	2	41	19	22	36
Rangers	18	11	3	4	38	22	16	36
Professionals	18	11	2	5	38	20	18	35
Manchester	17	10	2	5	41	11	30	32
XI Experience	17	9	3	5	46	22	24	30
Young Stars	18	7	7	4	24	15	9	28
Umkhokha	18	8	1	9	40	46	-6	25
Thuluzobona	17	7	3	7	22	27	-5	24
Hotspurs	17	6	2	9	23	35	-12	20
Killers	18	3	4	11	23	59	-36	13
Barcelona F.C.	17	3	1	13	13	60	-47	10
Luvunjelo	17	2	1	14	25	56	-31	7
Khulawane	16	1	3	12	17	47	-30	6

Western Stream	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Hill Stars	12	10	1	1	18	5	13	31
Love & Peace	12	8	2	2	19	6	13	26
Jubukweni United	11	7	3	1	22	7	15	24
Lunkanka	12	7	3	2	28	17	11	24
Happy Tigers	12	6	3	3	16	13	3	21
Siphambanweni	12	5	3	4	15	17	-2	18
Mighty Birds	11	4	2	5	18	17	1	14
Happy Fighters	9	2	4	3	14	11	3	10
Top Classic	11	2	2	7	13	19	-6	8
Academy	11	1	3	7	8	18	-10	6
Rollers	11	1	2	8	8	21	-13	5
Sunrise	12	1	1	10	11	33	-22	4

South Star Mzimba Regional League E65 000	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Green Sea	17	11	4	2	32	16	16	37
Sibuyeni	17	10	5	2	33	15	18	35
Nhlokweni Cosmos	17	10	3	4	37	22	15	33
Monaco	17	8	8	1	36	20	16	32
Timbongulu	17	9	3	5	26	21	5	30
Rangers	17	7	6	4	34	26	8	27
Amacabane	17	8	3	6	29	26	3	27
Mzimba Arsenal	17	7	4	6	28	26	2	25
Vusweni Killers	17	5	6	6	22	26	-4	21
Kasiko	17	5	4	8	28	29	-1	19
Swallows	17	4	6	7	17	21	-4	18
Black Mashuba	17	4	3	10	20	28	-8	15
Chiefs	17	3	5	9	19	38	-19	14
Bush Bucks	17	4	2	11	18	37	-19	14



WINNER: Overall winner of the 2018 MTN Monthly Mug Kenneth Nkambule being presented with a Huawei P20 smart phone worth E18 000 by MTN's Meshack Maseko while Sifiso Dhlamini looks on.



MASTER: February MTN Master Nicholas Vilakati receiving his prize from Mbabane Golf Club Vice Captain Sifiso Dhlamini and MTN's Meshack Maseko.



BEST: Best female on the day Ngeti Mkhonta. The golfer finished on third position after amassing 38 points on a count-back. (Pics: Qondile Ntiwane)

THE MTN MONTHLY MASTERS COMPETITION



EARLY VALENTINE'S: Golfer Valentine Maziya all smiles after receiving his longest drive prize.



ACTION: The golfers in action during the tournament played at the Mbabane Golf Club over the weekend.



SCOOPED: Fifth place winner Sive Dlamini accepting his prize.



PRIZES: Sifiso Dhlamini making his remarks.



BEND IT LIKE TIGER WOODS: Golfers Kenneth Nkambule, Sam 'Styles' Richards, Thulani Dlamini and Sive Dlamini.



GOOD PLAY: Phayo Dhlamini was awarded the novelty prize after being nearest to the pin 2/11.



FOLLOWING: Some of the golfers who were at the event following proceedings.



BOTH PICS - PACES: Golfers going through their paces.



GOLDEN FOOT'S 'TUFF ONE' RACE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

STORIES BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

ATHLETICS – THE 2019 edition of Golden Foot's 'Tuff One' race was officially launched in Matsapha yesterday.

Present were some of the country's top distance runners, officials from the Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council (SNSRC), the Eswatini Athletics Association (EAA), Cheshire Homes, Golden Foot, and the sponsors. The event has once again been sponsored by Total and Sportz House.

Sportz House's Jeff Hou said as a company, they were proud to be associated with the race yet again. He noted that the race was getting bigger and better every year as the number of runners, both local and South African, were increasing.

"We also take this opportunity to thank Total for its continued partnership in promoting healthy living through exercise to all Swazis. As Sportz House, we realise that health is a very important aspect of life given the high incidence of diseases nowadays," he said.

The race is scheduled for Zakhele Sports Ground on March 2, starting at 6am. This is set to be the 14th edition of the 'Tuff One' race.

Hou said he was encouraged by the rise in the number of various sporting events taking place in the country as it meant more people were being afforded the chance to exercise and improve their well-being. He urged more people to join the race as it was not only about the professionals, but the general public at large.

Total's Sales and Marketing Manager Sindisile Horton said most productive people were those that practiced healthy living. She encouraged



SPONSOR: Sportz House's Jeff Hou speaking at the launch.

more Emaswati to take part in such events as it was for their own good.

"Total is committed to supporting this ini-

tiative well into the future because it relates to what we believe in as a company," she said.

E2 600 for champ

ATHLETICS – THE winner of the Golden Foot 'Tuff One' 21 kilometre race is set to pocket a sum of E2 600, both for the senior males and females.

This transpired during the launch of this year's race. Golden Foot's coach, Bheki Tsabedze extended a vote of thanks to the sponsors of the race, Sportz House and Total, saying both companies' contribution had made a significant impact in the lives of many Emaswati.

He revealed that there would be two routes for the race, which is the 21 kilometres and the 10 kilometres. "It would cost E100 to enter for the 10 kilometre race, and E120 for the 21 kilometres," he said.

Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council (SNSRC)'s Business Development Manager Zama Tsabedze said the relationship between the sponsors and the race had lasted a very long time. He encouraged athletes to register in their numbers to partake in the race.



OFFICIAL LAUNCH: Golden Foot Club members, athletes, and sponsors posing during the official launch of 'Tuff One' 2019 in Matsapha yesterday. The annual race will be held at Zakhele in Manzini on March 2. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



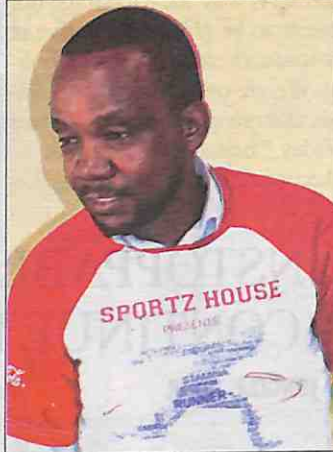
APPRECIATION: Cheshire Homes' Chief Executive Officer Muzi Dlamini among the speakers.



PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: Golden Foot Club President Tokky Hou directing the proceedings.



CO-SPONSOR: Total Swaziland Sales and Marketing Manager Sindisile Horton also encouraged runners to participate.



SUPPORT: Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council Business Development Manager Zama Tsabedze also had something to say.

...Cheshire Homes appreciative of support

ATHLETICS – CHESHIRE Homes' Chief Executive Officer Muzi Dlamini extended his thanks to Golden Foot for its continued support through the

'Tuff One' race. Dlamini spoke during the launch of this year's race in Matsapha yesterday. He said his association constantly looked forward to the

dates of the 'Tuff One' race as they knew they would receive good news from Golden Foot.

"The work we do touches on the lives of many Swazis, and when

we look closely at the source of their predicaments, we realise that all is linked to unhealthy living. We would, therefore, like to thank Golden Foot and the sponsors for this initiative, and encourage more Swazis to take part," he said.

RACE INFO

ROUTES	ENTRY FEE
10 km	E100
21 km	E120

PRIZE MONEY

21 KM (SENIORS - BOTH MEN AND WOMEN)

1st	- E2 600
2nd	- E1 600
3rd	- E1 000
4th	- E600
5th - 10th	- E200

VETERANS

1st	- E400
2nd	- E300
3rd	- E200

MASTER

1st	- E250
2nd	- E200

GRAND MASTER

1st	- E250
2nd	- E200

JUNIORS

1st	- E150
2nd	- E130
3rd	- E100

10 KM

SENIORS

1st	- E650
2nd	- E450
3rd	- E300

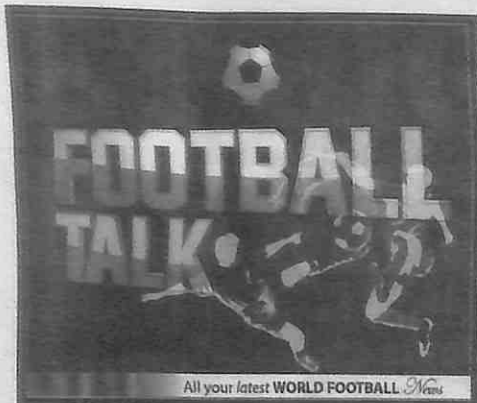
JUNIORS

1st	- E200
2nd	- E150
3rd	- E100

REGISTRATION CENTRES

Manzini	- Fitness Zone
Matsapha	- Sportz House
Mbabane	- Sneakers

(No online registration this year)



Juventus are eyeing a £175m move for Liverpool's Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah, 26. (Sky Arabia - via 90min)

Manchester United have entered the race to sign Paris St-Germain midfielder Adrien Rabiot, 23, this summer. (AS - via Mirror)



Chelsea players held a clear-the-air meeting at the club's Cobham training ground on Monday following their 6-0 defeat by Manchester City. (Mail)

Derby Manager Frank Lampard has dismissed rumours suggesting he is a contender to replace Sarri if Chelsea sack their head coach. (Evening Standard)

Barcelona have agreed on terms with Eintracht Frankfurt to sign Serbia striker Luka Jovic, 21, this summer. (Diario Sport)

Juventus' Argentina forward Paulo Dybala, 25, is getting closer to a move to Real Madrid next summer. (AS)

West Ham bid £35m for Atalanta's Colombia striker Dušan Zapata, 27, during the January transfer window. (Di Marzio)

Watford's Adrian Mariappa says it is a 'good thing' midfielder Abdoulaye Doucoure is a target for Paris St-Germain, but hopes the club can keep the 26-year-old Frenchman. (Evening Standard)



Arsenal midfielder Mesut Özil could be decisive in dictating the future of Manager Unai Emery, according to the club's former player Ray Parlour. (Metro)

Former Tottenham striker Darren Bent believes the club's South Korean forward Son Heung-Min, 26, could be a target for other clubs during the next transfer window. (Goal)

Tottenham centre-back Juan Foyth, 21, has revealed he turned down Paris St-Germain to join Spurs in 2017. (Goal)

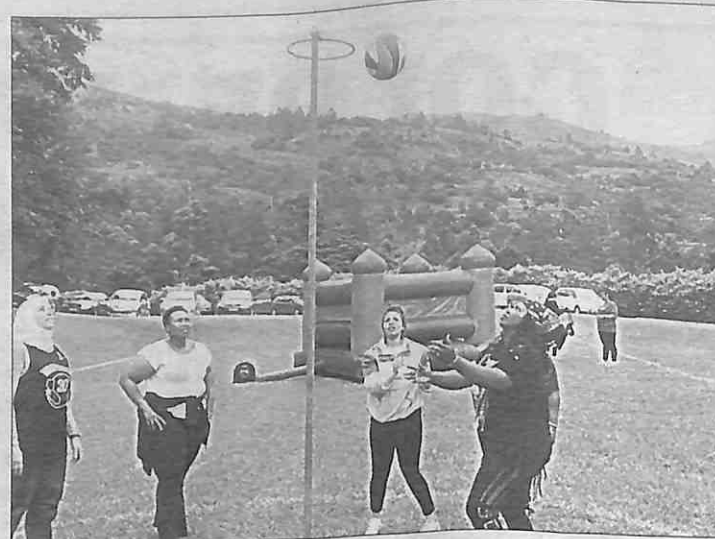
Barcelona wanted to sign Fenerbahçe centre-back Martin Škrteľ, 34, during the January transfer window, but the former Liverpool player turned down the move. (AS)



New Oldham Manager Paul Scholes claims Jose Mourinho will watch his results after being a fierce critic of the former Manchester United boss. (Mirror)



KEEPING FIT: Participants and the Qatar Embassy in Eswatini Counsellor His Excellency Ahmed Tajer Mohammed Al-Sada take a walk as part of the Qatar National Sports Day held yesterday at the Royal Swazi Spa in Ezulwini. (Pics: Jongile Xuba)



TAKING PART: Some of the ladies who were present playing a netball game as part of the activities.

QATAR EMBASSY CELEBRATES 7TH NATIONAL SPORTS DAY

BY JONGILE XUBA

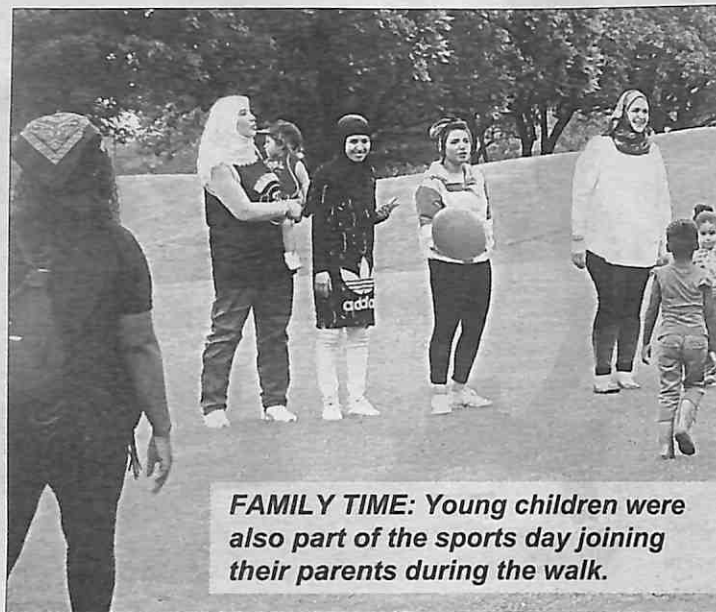
SPORTS – QATAR Embassy in Eswatini celebrated its seventh National Sports Day yesterday afternoon at the Royal Swazi Spa in Ezulwini.

The celebration is an annual holiday observed in the State of Qatar and yesterday the embassy invited members of the public and its employees to join them in the fun and games. Sports like volleyball and soccer were played on the day with both men and women taking part.

Qatar Embassy Interpreter Moda Al-Zifri, who also works under the public relations office, said their country was one of the few that celebrate sports as a national public holiday.

"Health is a major priority for us and that is why we encourage our citizens to be physically active at least once a year through this holiday. We are one of the few countries that recognise sports day as a holiday," he said.

According to Zifri, the sports day



FAMILY TIME: Young children were also part of the sports day joining their parents during the walk.

was also meant to encourage children to be more active so they grow up to play sports recreationally or professionally.

Qatar Embassy in Eswatini Counsellor His Excellency Ahmed Tajer Mohammed Al-Sada said the celebrations went well and encouraged more Emaswati to join them in their next celebrations.

"We celebrate this holiday every year through different sporting activities like soccer and volleyball, because in Qatar we believe in keeping a healthy body and mind. People back home are not at work today (yesterday) and the whole State of Qatar is playing sports," he said.

The counsellor said another reason they celebrated sports day was

BALL PLAYER: Qatar Embassy in Eswatini Counsellor His Excellency Ahmed Tajer Mohammed Al-Sada playing some 5-a-side football.

to improve bilateral relations with Eswatini because sports united people from different backgrounds. He added the sports day was to celebrate Qatar's sporting achievements, where the national team had recently won the Asian Football Cup and they will be hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2022.

The first National Sports Day was held in 2012 following a decree issued in December 2011 by His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Deputy Emir and heir apparent.

The decree stated that the second Tuesday in February would be Qatar's National Sports Day. On the day, all government ministries and private sector organisations must organise a series of public events and encourage their employees to engage enthusiastically in sports activities.

UNSTOPPABLE YOUNG BUFFALOES CONTINUE DOMINANCE IN WFL

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER – WOMEN'S Football League log leaders Young Buffaloes Ladies continued their dominance with another rampant display over the past weekend, extending their unbeaten run and clean sheet record to nine games.

Young Buffaloes beat Illovo 22-0 in what was a one-sided encounter.

Buffaloes are still on top of the log with 27 points and are yet to concede a goal.

Second-placed Manzini

Wanderers also got a good result, beating Green Mamba 8-0. That put the 'Weslians' Ladies on 27 points, equal with the leaders but behind on goal difference, as well as playing a game more.

Royal Leopards lost 1-2 to Kappa Ladies but still retained their third place spot with 24 points. Mbabane Swallows and Shiselweni Roses did not play their match, while other results saw Langeni and OlympAfrica play to a two-all draw with Sikhuphe Ladies beating Southern Divas 3-0.

Mhlume and Mbekelweni continue their dry spells this

season, with no victories so far after playing nine and 10 games, respectively without a win. The Women's Football League returns this weekend.

That put the 'Weslians' Ladies on 27 points, equal with the leaders but behind on goal difference as well as playing a game more

Women's Football League log

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1. Y Buffaloes Ladies	9	9	0	0	86	0	86	27
2. M Wanderers Ladies	10	9	0	1	64	2	62	27
3. R Leopards Ladies	9	7	0	2	25	9	16	21
4. Kappa Ladies	8	6	0	2	13	4	9	18
5. M Swallows	9	5	2	2	17	7	10	17
6. Langeni FC	10	4	3	3	14	13	1	15
7. OlympAfrica Ladies	10	4	3	3	19	26	-17	5
8. Sikhuphe Ladies	9	4	1	4	20	15	5	13
9. Madelezini Happy Girls	10	4	1	5	11	42	-31	13
10. Southern Divas	9	4	0	5	16	11	5	12
11. Siteki Ladies	8	3	2	4	13	12	1	11
12. Shiselweni Roses	8	2	2	4	5	26	-21	8
13. Illovo Ladies	10	2	1	7	8	40	-32	7
14. Green Mamba	9	1	1	7	4	39	-35	4
15. Mbekelweni	10	0	2	8	2	32	-30	2
16. Mhlume	9	0	0	9	2	41	-39	0

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE RESULTS:

M Wanderers	8	Green Mamba	0
M Swallows	vs	Shiselweni Roses (Cancelled)	
Y Buffaloes	22	Illovo	0
Mhlume	0	Happy Girls	3
R Leopards	1	Kappa Ladies	2
Langeni	2	OlympAfrica	2
Mbekelweni	0	Siteki	3
Sikhuphe Ladies	3	Southern Divas	0

Swazi internationals need to work on fitness - Siza

STORIES BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

(In Johannesburg, South Africa courtesy of Castle Lager)

SOCCER - SWAZI legend and Jomo Cosmos assistant coach Siza 'King Pele' Dlamini says he is impressed with the progress of international players, but has noted that their fitness needs to improve.

Dlamini said this when interviewed during the media launch of the second edition of the Castle Lager's Africa 5s social football league held at Chaf Pozi, Soweto.

"I think they are fairly good players and are performing well for their respective teams, just that they need to work on their fitness. Back home, it's something we don't really focus on, but in professional leagues, it's very important because whilst the games come thick and fast they obviously take a toll on the body. You are not supposed to struggle as a professional footballer in terms of fitness. Even Felix, despite being a very integral mem-



IMPRESSED: Siza 'King Pele' Dlamini.

ber at Mbombela, he gets substituted after the hour mark because of fatigue.

The same thing applies with Banele (Pupu) at Polokwane. But other than that, there's no denying the talent they possess.

"It's enormous and they can also

play a very important role at the national team the new coach (Papic) aims to assemble," he said.

Coming to the Castle initiative, Siza, who represents Eswatini in the legends, encouraged locals to join in their numbers and enjoy themselves.

"In this initiative, they spend quality time whilst also keeping fit with a very lucrative prize as an incentive.

"So, I'm looking forward to this and hope we will have as much fun with team Eswatini team once again," he said.

FOOTBALL CAN TAKE YOU PLACES - ETO'O

SOCCER - AFRICAN legend Samuel Eto'o has urged talented youngsters in the continent to dedicate themselves because football can take one anywhere in the world.

The Cameroonian-born legend said this when interviewed during the official launch of the second edition of the Castle Lager's Africa 5s social football league at Chaf

Pozi in Soweto on Monday.

"Look, football opened doors for me that would never have been opened if I hadn't dedicated myself and have it my all. I have travelled the world and have met amazing people, all because of football, so it's something the youth should have in mind when playing soccer. It is not just a hobby anymore, but a business and we see this

through the initiative Castle is doing. "All it takes is for a group of friends to come together and enjoy themselves," he said.

Eto'o further spoke on the introduction of the women's category in the tournament. "The introduction of the women's category is great. I wonder why Castle didn't even think of it the first time (laughs), but all in all, I'm very

excited for it. I think it's going to encourage more ladies to join the sport, because they can meet up after work and have fun in the field of play. I'm looking forward to seeing our sisters sweating it out and enjoying themselves at the same time," he said. The ladies league will be led by former Banyanya Banyana striker Amanda Dlamini - now a football analyst.

How to win an all-expenses paid trip with Samuel Eto'o

SOCCER - ARE you a group of friends who would like to win an all-expense paid trip to watch a Ligue 1 match with Samuel Eto'o?

Well then, lucky you because Castle is here for you.

All you have to do is simply purchase a Castle Lager six-pack and follow the instructions on how to enter your team, or alternatively go to www.Africa5s.com to further engage on the campaign. After that, teams will then compete in the regional competitions and the country to be crowned champions will battle it out for the coveted trophy at the Africa 5s title in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

After winning that, the ultimate winners walk away with an all-expenses paid trip to a Ligue 1 match in Milan, hosted by the renowned legend and three-dimensional African player of the year Samuel Eto'o. Interviewed on the tournament, South African legend Matthew Booth expressed his gratitude to CASTLE and further urged more patrons to grab the opportunity with both hands. "This is great. To have 5-a-side football getting so lucrative is wonderful and we thank Castle for this. Castle Lager has sponsored football in the continent for over 60 years and they are getting into untapped territory with this initiative. In this day and age, where people are busy, all it takes is to meet up after work and play soccer, not only to just win this, but for the health benefits too. Our bodies always need to be active, so I'm happy about it and looking forward to a great tournament," he said.



URGED: Soccer legend Samuel Eto'o.

Chakupewa displeased with 'Downs inefficiency

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

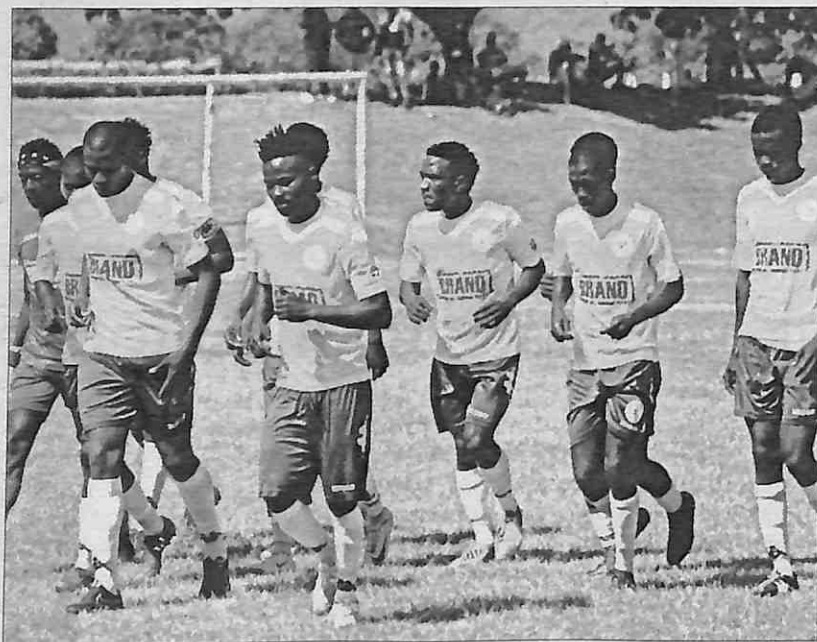
SOCCER - MANZINI Sundowns' coach Julius Chakupewa has expressed his dissatisfaction with his team's failure to finish off games early.

Interviewed, the coach said this was an area of concern to him as it opened doors for other teams to give them hardship in the second half of matches, which forced them to play under pressure for no reason.

"We create many chances in games, but we are unable to take them, which causes us a lot of difficulty later on. We need to avoid this by taking our chances, and I hope my boys will realise this and avoid it in upcoming matches," he said.

Sundowns have not won in open play in five matches, and only escaped on penalties in the first round of the EswatiniBank Cup over the past weekend against Milling Hotspurs. Chakupewa says he has been teaching this gospel to his players for some time, and hopefully they shall change their approach soon.

"We have the ability to score goals.



POOR PERFORMANCE: Manzini Sundowns players in one of their previous games.

As soon as we begin to do that consistently, we will not have any problems," he said.

Sundowns lost their previous league game 0-3 to Matsapha United, a result

that was totally unexpected.

They have a date against Royal Leopard at Somhlolo Stadium on Saturday, and Chakupewa will be hoping for an improvement.

Tinyosi vs Rangers as NFD action returns

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - TINYOSI and Rangers headline this weekend's MTN National First Division (NFD) League fixtures as the league returns.

Second-placed Tinyosi, who have 27 points, will be up against Rangers, who are fifth with 23 points in one of the entertaining games.

Both teams need a win to catch up with log leaders Pigg's Peak Black Swallows, who have 30 points after 14 games.

Black Swallows will want to stretch their lead at the top when they face Tambankulu Callies.

Another exciting match will see Milling Hotspurs take on face Seven Dreams at Somhlolo National Stadium. The match will start at

MTN First Division League fixtures:

Friday			
At Mavuso Sports Ground			
Hub Sundowns	vs	Hlatikhulu Tycoons	6:30pm
Saturday			
At Tambankulu Stadium			
Tambankulu Callies	vs	P/P Black swallows	3pm
At Mayaluka Stadium			
Madlenya FC	vs	Red Lions	3pm
Sunday			
At Prince of Wales Ground			
Mbabane City	vs	City Warriors	2:30pm
Somhlolo National Stadium			
Seven dreams	vs	Milling Hotspurs	1:30pm
Tinyosi FC	vs	Rangers	3:30pm

1:30pm. Other fixtures include bottom of the table City Warriors face-off with placed Mbabane City at Prince of Wales Ground on Sunday. Hub Sundowns have a date with Hlatikhulu Tycoons on Friday evening at Mavuso Sports Centre.

Fixtures

NEDBANK CUP

19:30 Black Leopards vs Bidvest Wits

CAF CONFED CUP

15:00 Nkana vs Al-Hilal
15:00 Asante Kotoko vs ZESCO United
18:00 Petro de Luanda vs Gor Mahia
18:00 Salitas FC vs Etoile du Sahel
19:00 Raja Casablanca vs AS Otoho
21:00 Zamalek SC vs NA Hussein Dey
21:00 CS Sfaxien vs Enugu Rangers
22:00 RSB Berkane vs Hassania Agadir

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

22:00 Ajax vs Real Madrid
22:00 Tottenham Hotspur vs Borussia Dortmund

MTN League resumes this weekend

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – THE MTN Premier League is set to resume this weekend following a fortnight's break due to the Ingwenyama Cup and EswatiniBank Cup.

Green Mamba FC start week 16 on top of the standings with 34 points, one ahead of second-placed Royal Leopard FC. Both teams will find it hard to maintain their positions at the top of the standings, as they have been paired against tough opposition.

Leopard are set to welcome Manzini Sundowns at the Somhlolo National Stadium on Saturday, while Green Mamba have a date with on-form Young Buffaloes at Mavuso Sports Centre.

Buffaloes are not far from the top themselves, as they are currently placed third on the standings, two points behind the leaders.

On the other end of the table, Matsapha United will be confident of surviving relegation after being awarded three points from their botched game against Royal Leopard at Mayaluka Stadium. Rhodwell Dhlakama's charges meet Tambuti FC at Nsukuwansuku Stadium.

THE MTN LEAGUE FIXTURES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ON FRIDAY

AT SOMHLOLO NATIONAL STADIUM

Mb. Citizens vs Vovovo FC 6:30pm

ON SATURDAY

AT MHLUME STADIUM

Matsapha Utd vs Tambuti FC 3pm

AT KING SOBUHA II STADIUM

Mzn. Sea Birds vs Mb. Swallows 3pm

AT MAVUSO SPORTS CENTRE

Green Mamba vs Y. Buffaloes 2pm

Mon. Pirates vs Mzn. Wanderers 4:10pm

AT SOMHLOLO NATIONAL STADIUM

R. Leopard vs Mzn. Sundowns 2pm

Mb. Highlanders vs Malanti Chiefs 4:10pm

ON FEBRUARY 19, 2019 (TUESDAY)

AT SOMHLOLO NATIONAL STADIUM

R. Leopard vs Mb. Citizens 6:30pm

Mzn. Sundowns vs Green Mamba 8:35pm

AT NSUKUWANSUKU STADIUM

Matsapha Utd vs Malanti Chiefs 7pm

ON FEBRUARY 20, 2019 (WEDNESDAY)

AT SOMHLOLO NATIONAL STADIUM

Vovovo FC vs Mb. Swallows 6:30pm

Y. Buffaloes vs Mb. Highlanders 8:35pm

AT MAVUSO SPORTS CENTRE

Mon. Pirates vs Tambuti FC 6:30pm

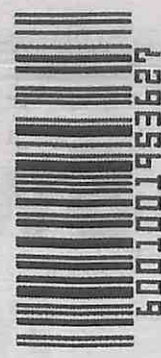
Mzn. Wanderers vs Sea Birds 8:35pm

SPORTS

BSERVER

IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE ARE YOUR CHURCH

Wednesday February 13, 2019



In the Birds nest...

Take us to Africa, Birds urge Nyanga

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – MBABANE Swallows' management has urged new coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe to qualify the team for CAF competitions

Hlophe was officially unveiled as the new Swallows head coach at the Prince of Wales Sports Ground yesterday. He was introduced to the team's players by Swallows' General Manager Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane.

Zwane said the team was now established as an African team, and needed to qualify for CAF competitions at all costs, even if it meant winning all their remaining matches.

"We hope the coach is back with us for a lifetime now. The most important thing is that we return to CAF, and we hope the coach will help us achieve that," he said.

Responsible

CAF is the Confederation of African Football, and this is the body responsible for running inter-club competitions on the African continent. These include the Confederations Cup and the Champions League.

Swallows played in the CAF Champions League group stages for the first time last season, but could not make it out of their group, which included Tunisian club Etoile du Sahel, Primeiro de Agosto from Angola, and Zambia's Zesco United.

Zwane maintained that Hlophe was part of the Swallows family as he had been with the team on many occasions before. He said they wanted someone who was accustomed to the culture of the team at the helm, and the decision to hire Nyanga had been unanimous.

Zwane further announced that Hlophe will be assisted in his duties by Musa Manyatsi and Etienne Massoye. "People will also recall that the former coach (Koki Vilakati) held the position

...Coach officially unveiled and handed mandate to qualify team for CAF competition



WELCOME BACK HOME: Mbabane Swallows new head coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe presented with the team's scarf by General Manager Sandile Zwane, while goalkeeper coach Etienne Massoye and PRO Jackson Dlamini assist after being unveiled as the team new coach at the Prince of Wales Sports Ground yesterday. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

of manager as well. This time we have decided that our new manager will be Banele Cindzi," he said.

Respected

Addressing the players for the first time on his return, 'Crooks' urged them to fight for the good of Mbabane Swallows FC at all times. He said personally, he did not mind if he was not afforded adequate respect, but would be happy if the players respected the team.

"Respect and discipline are two of the most critical aspects of the game. We need to take responsibility and be aggressive enough to take

the team back to African competitions. This can only be done by the players through commitment," he said.

Asked if he was to prioritise the EswatiniBank Cup in case the route to CAF competition was tough through the league, as Swallows were already a couple of points behind, Hlophe said they would take one game at a time.

"If we win all our games, we will have a chance," he said.

Nyanga's first game in charge of Swallows will be against Manzini Sea Birds at King Sobhuza II Stadium on Saturday.

Mokenkoane good enough for PSL - Ngubane

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – FORMER Mbabane Highlanders' coach Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane says the team's striker Thabiso Mokenkoane can play for any team in the Premier Soccer League (PSL) or anywhere in Africa.

Responding to questions about the player's current form at Highlanders, where he scored six goals in one match over the past weekend, Ngubane said he never doubted Mokenkoane's ability, and given a chance, he could become a very important

player.

"He can play for any team in Africa, not just South Africa. That boy is a natural goal-scoring machine," said Ngubane.

Asked how proud he was to have been the one who recruited the player for Highlanders, Ngubane said he was happy for the Highlanders supporters.

"The fans like the team a lot. I am very happy for them because if one player does so well, it translates to the success of the whole team," he said.

Both Mokenkoane and Mthobisi Mngomezulu were direct recruits of Ngubane's, aimed at

sharpening Highlanders' attack in the 2017-18 season, where they ended up finishing fourth in the league.

Ngubane quit the team under unexplained circumstances in September last year when they lost the derby match against Mbabane Swallows 3-1. The 'Bull', as Highlanders are affectionately referred to, are currently under the tutelage of Zimbabwean born coach, Saul Chamunika, who has taken time to warm to Mokenkoane's talent. However, the player explained that it was because of his injuries that he had not played regularly for the team until now.