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**EX-PM DR A.T
CONGRATULATES
PRIME MINISTER**

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**GOVT MUST
REPAY E420M OIL
RESERVE FUND**

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**COP DROWNS
ON MOTHER'S
DAY**

Page 7

MANDVULO'S BLUE-PRINT TO 2022

- Wants to create 10 000 jobs per year
- End corruption
- Wants to legalise Cannabis



VISION 2022:
Prime Minister
Ambrose Dlamini
making his
remarks during
the Eswatini
Strategic
Roadmap launch
which was held at
the Royal Swazi
Spa Convention
Centre yesterday.
(Pic: Mduzuzi
Mngomezulu)
**STORIES ON
PAGES 2,3,17**

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GOVT TO SETTLE E5BN DEBT

STORIES BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Ezulwini

PRIME MINISTER Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini has finally laid out the Eswatini Strategic Roadmap to economic recovery 2019-2023.

The prime minister launched the much anticipated roadmap yesterday at Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre. Outlining how the country will work in turning around the economy for the better, Dlamini made it clear that this would be a private sector led economic turnaround strategy.

He pointed out five key focus areas that must be tackled in order for the strategy to work.

Dlamini said the first thing that government would do is to stop the bleeding.

He said currently, government is in serious debts which amount to about E5 billion.

The PM said government would try and be control of the situation by sta-

bilising the current budgetary issues, control deficit and current accumulation of arrears. He said government would clear sufficient amount of arrears per year to allow the private sector to breathe and participate in the recovery of the economy.

Dlamini said the second area of focus was growth stimulation which is focused on promoting the private sector, promoting conducive business environment to stimulate private sector and SME led growth.

He added that government would also reprioritise expenditure (including CAPEX) towards growth enhancing projects. He said government would need to inculcate the culture of excellence.

The PM said this would include; improved efficiency and effectiveness of public sectors (including parastatals). Dlamini said as government, they would also be looking at poverty and unemployment reduction interventions. Under service delivery, Dlamini said government would also



be exploring other technological innovations. On the fourth aspect of economic recovery focus, the prime minister highlighted that there is need to work on the country's image.

Under the country's image, Dlamini said there is need to focus on the independence of arms of government in doing their work and the respect for

rule of law.

The last area of focus, according to the prime minister, is credibility and sustained confidence in government, policy implementation. He said improving Eswatini's business environment would be crucial to facilitate the private sector led recovery envisaged in the Strategic Roadmap.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku assured the nation that he knows the prime minister to be a person driven by private sector principles, a man dedicated to his work.

PM gives government a new definition

AS the country works towards a new era, Prime Minister Mandvulo Dlamini has set up a new definition of government.

He said this is a government that would enable the kingdom to successfully implement the Strategic Roadmap. The PM said this emerging government is focused on private sector growth and rapid policy response to deliver the strategic road map. He said this is a government that is accountable to its citizens and outcome oriented a government that would collaborate and respond to deliver a social safety net and promote information, communication and technology.

Dlamini has pointed out that the core function of the Strategic Roadmap was to bring government expenditure and revenue to sustainable levels, manage public debt and arrears accumulation. He said as government is the largest player in the economy of Eswatini, streamlining its function is crucial for the success of the recovery.

Outlining the strategic goals, the prime minister said these goals included creating an enabling environment in which Emaswati, investors and strategic partners can thrive. He said the goals also include creating an adaptable and progressive legislative environment that promotes peace, stability and prosperity. He said the plan also included creating space and regulation required for the private sector to thrive. He said Eswatini government also intended to be an efficient, dependable and modern government service provider.

Legalise Cannabis

THE much debated cannabis legalisation issue is among the key areas of economic recovery in the new Strategic Roadmap launched by government yesterday.

Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini said among the things that are in the strategy, was the plan to legalise cannabis in order to improve investments in agro-processing. The prime minister pointed out that this strategy is not something new but his team improved on what has already been worked on. He said under cannabis there would be a review on legislation to legalise cannabis. With cannabis being legalised it is hoped that there will also be an increase in employment. The prime minister said there would be defined tax regime for legalised cannabis.

UNESWA Vice Chancellor hails new Strategic Roadmap

UNIVERSITY of Eswatini (UNESWA) Vice Chancellor Professor Mandla Thwala has hailed the Kingdom of Eswatini's Strategic Roadmap 2019-2023 launched by the Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini yesterday.

Speaking after the event during an interview, the professor said it is a good strategy which has all the key pillars which were listed as Mining and Energy, Tourism, Manufacturing and Agro-Processing, Agriculture Education and ICT. He said what is good with it is that it is focusing on how to deal with corruption.

The professor said what must be considered is that after all has been said and done, government must look at ways of securing funds which would help in implementing the strategy. He said it must be considered whether the funds will be sourced internally or externally. He said if it is externally, government must consider if the country has the capacity to get funding from the outside world. Professor Thwala said the strategic roadmap is on point because it is private sector led. "For any economy to be stable, we need the private and public sectors joining hands and working together," Thwala said.

'This is not a quick fix'

THE prime minister has pointed out that with the Strategic Roadmap having been launched, members of the public must know that this is not just a silver bullet (quick fix).

The PM said the strategy is a living plan that would take time to work and people must not expect results after three months. The PM said this is a call to action for all Emaswati.

Protect public purse from fraudsters -PM

PRIME Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini has urged government to protect the public purse from fraudsters as it gears towards implementing the Strategic Roadmap 2019 - 2023.

He said this is a journey whereby no one must be left behind. He said everyone must push for social stability instead of personal accounts. Dlamini urged for the public purse to be protected from fraudsters. He said the challenges might seem daunting, but they would be conquered if the nation could work together. Among some of the challenges the PM pointed was a very high skills gap

which stands at 47 per cent. He said this meant that people are productive up to 47 per cent. Dlamini said this issue should be a priority. The PM said as government, they are hoping to stabilise unemployment by 30 per cent. Another challenge pointed out by government is the lack of health care practitioners caused by government's decision to stop hiring.

The PM promised that going forward, government would hire if the economy recovers. The PM made an example of Rwanda which was far worse off than Eswatini but they managed to turn the situation around for good. Speaking

about the Strategic Roadmap, the prime minister said this strategy has been linked to the National Development Plan (NDP) so as government, they are improving something that is already there.

The PM said he believed that he is one of the luckiest prime ministers as his cabinet team is dedicated and goal driven.

He reaffirmed government's commitment to achieving the strategic roadmap.

He said the Strategic Roadmap was developed several years back and his team is building on it. "Ours is just to build and go forward," he said.

'PSAs must be brought on board'

AS part of forging a way forward, the Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini has identified key ministries who will be pivotal in resuscitating the country's economy.

Some of the identified key ministries include the ministry of tourism and environmental affairs, ministry of public service, ministry of natural resources and energy, ministry of

information communications and technology, ministry of finance, ministry of economic planning as well as the deputy prime minister's office.

The Minister of Public Service Christian Ntshangase promised the implementation of a changed management which was goal oriented and results driven.

The minister said there was need for trained and developed employees

within the public sector. He also mentioned the importance of performance management in order to improve service delivery within the government ministries.

He also outlined the importance of forging a healthy working relationship between government and the Public Sector Associations (PSAs). "There is need to bury the hatchet and bring PSAs on board as they are pivotal in resuscitating the economy," said the minister.

E420M OIL STRATEGIC FUND WANTED BACK

BY MBONO MDLULI
Lobamba

THE ministry of natural resources and energy wants the ministry of finance to pay back E420 million for the strategic oil reserve fund.

The natural resources ministry wants the money so that it could cushion the prices of fuel against the volatility of the prices of the commodity. The ministry said this yesterday in the House of Assembly before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). Ministry of Natural Resources and

Energy Under Secretary (US) Dumisani Mngomezulu said the problem was that the prices could fluctuate and find there was nothing to help in cushioning them.

The money, according to Mngomezulu, helped in protecting Emaswati so that they were not affected by the price fluctuations. Mngomezulu said this in his capacity as controlling officer, standing in for his Principal Secretary (PS) Winnie Stewart, who is the substantive controlling officer.

The E420 million was borrowed by the ministry of finance to pay salaries for civil servants.

This was said by Accountant General (AG) Dumsile Ngwenya, who was acting as controlling officer at the ministry of finance.

She was acting on behalf of her PS Bheki Bhembe, who is the substantive controlling officer at the ministry.

Ngwenya confirmed that the ministry of finance had taken the E420 million from the ministry of natural resources and energy.

The finance ministry took the money at two intervals. The ministry first took the money in September 2016 and it was taken for the second time

in March 2017. Ngwenya said the money was used to pay salaries for the civil servants.

Ngwenya said the ministry of finance went to the Cabinet to state that government was encountering problems in paying the civil servants. The Cabinet finally approved that the ministry of natural resources should lend the finance ministry money to pay salaries for civil servants. Ngwenya said the Cabinet further allowed the finance ministry to tap into the special accounts so that civil servants could be paid.

The ministry of finance had promised to pay back the money in April 2017.

However, Ngwenya told the PAC that the cash flow challenges could not allow them to pay back the money. She further stated that they would be holding meetings with the ministry of natural resources and energy to discuss possible ways in which the money could be paid back.

The PAC was not happy with the way in which the special accounts were tapped into by the ministry of finance. The MPs directed the finance ministry to find ways of making sure that they paid back the money to the ministry of natural resources and energy.

MANDVULO REVEALS HIS BLUE PRINT

BY ALEC LUSHABA
Editor

PRIME Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini yesterday set out not only the tone, but also the tempo on how government is going to deliver the First World Status His Majesty King Mswati III has mandated them to achieve.

This he did at the launch of the government turn-around strategy, otherwise known as the 2019-2023 Eswatini Strategic Roadmap held at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre yesterday.

He was clear though that what he was presenting was not a silver bullet that would get the country back on its economic feet in an instant, but was delivering a living strategy that is ready to be altered to accommodate new facts.

If there was one significant trait about this event, is that the Prime Minister demonstrated to all and sundry that he believed and was passionate about the work he was doing by taking the audience through the strategy bullet-by-bullet; on how he aimed to accelerate the country's pace towards achieving Vision 2022.

"We are all gathered here today to reaffirm our commitment to the rapid and sustained development of our country under the guidance and leadership of His Majesty King Mswati III. "This is the day when we commit to step intentionally into a firm path of economic renewal and inclusive growth, driven by the need to create a better life for all Emaswati. It is a day when we seek to restore confidence in the strength and resilience of our economy, a day when our unyielding resolve to the economic and social advancement of Emaswati is put into action," he said.

He said of immediate concern would be to stabilise the economy through fiscal consolidation, deal with the arrears and make quick steps to address the concerns around the Ease of Doing Business. Dlamini said also amongst the short term goals would be to strengthen the social safety net to protect the vulnerable citizens, ensure no liSwati is left behind.

He said his medium term target would be to mobilise revenue, do structural reforms, improve the Ease-of-doing business, focus on ICT and infrastructure and improve social indicators.

Dlamini said the aim was repositioning of the Kingdom of Eswatini for innovation and inclusive growth.

Beginning in July 2020, government wants to reduce corporate tax to 20 per cent, then to 17.5 per cent in 2021, 15 per cent by 2022 and ultimately 12.5 per cent by 2023. He said the idea was to ensure that the country remained competitive thus enhance private sector growth. The Prime Minister has demonstrated in this strategy that he is a man of his word.

At Sibaya in October he made it clear that he

would bring the corporate culture into the public service and this roadmap demonstrates how.

The strategy revealed amongst other things that government would sell government interests in private companies and sell government houses in urban areas for quick cash flow.

This policy position talks to the E400 million revenue through the sale of assets announced by Finance Minister Neil Rijkenberg in February during his budget speech. Also, the issue of charging Value Added Tax (VAT) on electricity now emerges as a policy position and was aimed at enhancing revenue through taxing the shadow economy which is estimated at E22 billion.

The roadmap has also made it clear that government wanted a good working relationship with the Public Sector Associations (PSAs).

Under the Culture and Excellence cluster it states the following: "A core goal of the Strategic Roadmap is to end corruption and introduce a culture of excellence across all government ministries, department and agencies where merit and delivery are rewarded."

The idea is to achieve the following:

- Promote culture of service excellence throughout public service

- Strengthen organisational development

- Reinforce human resource development policies

- Implement change management approaches to change attitudes, behaviours and laissez-faire

culture

- Improve Industrial Relations
- Build capacity in all courts
- Qualify for MCC & Multilateral conditions for budget support

Policy: Engage Public Sector Associations and other stakeholders to improve relations

Objective: Improved relations with public sector employees. Cabinet and PSs to engage employees across public service to identify areas of concern.

Policy: Launch a Performance Management System (PMS) across ministries

Objective: Efficient and fair system that will allow recognition of good performance in the public service while managing non performance.

Policy: Launch customer care training in key areas of government to improve government interaction with its citizens.

Objective: Service excellence culture which puts citizens first

Policy: Overhaul recruitment, promotion and disciplinary procedures. Appropriate delegation of disciplinary authority by CSC to PSs and others

Objective: Fair processes that recruit the best talent, reward performance & enable managers to take disciplinary measures for non-performance

Policy: • Instill harmonious Engagement with PSAs • Enforce health & safety measures in the workforce • Strengthen & upscale wellness interventions • Finalise guiding regulations of the Public Service Act (2018)

Objective: Continuously improve Industrial Relations • Reduced absenteeism • Motivated staff complement • Reduced industrial disputes

Policy: Strengthen role and function of anti-corruption commission

Objective: End corruption

Policy: Finalise regulations on sectional titles

Objective: Improve property rights

Under the Social safety net

Policy: Internet access roll-out in schools in peri-urban and rural areas

Objective: Improved access to ICT, better educational outcomes

Policy: Increase the minimum wage and relax labour laws

Objective: Improve earning poten-

tial for Emaswati, flexible labour market

Policy: Review PAYE rates to boost local consumption

Objective: Soften tax burden on low income earners, inclusive growth

Policy: Improve quality of life for underprivileged Emaswati: Streamline social grants through census, improve access through mobile/EFT payments & increase social grants

Objective: Wider safety net

Policy: Revisit education funding framework & effectiveness

Objective: Reduced fiscal burden - Explore other means of funding including a revolving education fund (Primary to Tertiary)

The prime minister said this Strategic Roadmap is a culmination of extensive research and consultations on feasible quick wins combined with long term goals as directed by the King's pronouncement.

"Today we are launching a Roadmap that introduces a new range of measures that have the most potential to kick-start the journey to economic revival and inclusive growth. This is a journey that should not leave anyone behind, and whose success depends on the collective commitment of all of us gathered here, and all Emaswati in Eswatini and in the diaspora.

He said their plan to action would amount to nothing if they did not ensure that all resources were channelled to national development, social cohesion and stability instead of personal accounts. "His Majesty and the nation spoke in one voice during Sibaya, instructing government to ensure that the public purse is protected from fraudsters, calling for a Government of integrity. And as famous Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe once stated; "One of the truest tests of integrity is its blunt refusal to be compromised."

"We remain resolute to rid the country of corruption and all its remnants, and we will not be compromised," the Prime Minister said.

With regards to what will now happen, the Prime Minister said, some actions would require Parliament to seek the amendment of some Sections of the law to implement the plan.

He said the work had already begun and they would not fail.

DIRECTION: Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini making his remarks during the Eswatini Strategic Roadmap Launch which was held at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

GOVT DENOUNCES MALICIOUS REPORTS ABOUT KING

BY OBSERVER REPORTER
Mbabane

GOVERNMENT has denounced malicious reports about His Majesty King Mswati III and country in the wake of several poisonous reports published in some foreign newspapers, social media platforms and other forums purported to be official statements by the King.

In a statement Government's Spokesperson Percy Simelane last night said Government wished to state the

... It would be unfortunate if journalism and social media are turned into character assassination platforms and springboards to ridicule individuals and leaders.

following: "The current dispatch titled 'Marry more wives or face jail' quoting the King, and all other related reports, are not only an insult to the Monarchy and the culture of Eswatini but a disgrace to journalism. His Majesty has not made any pronouncement to that effect as it has never been an issue raised by Emaswati.

We will continue to appeal for morality, responsible behaviour and professionalism among journalists and the

general public with access to social media. It would be unfortunate if journalism and social media are turned into character assassination platforms and springboards to ridicule individuals and leaders.

The latest dispatch is attributed to the Zambian Observer newspaper and we continue to demand that the newspaper produces the supposed statement allegedly issued by the King and retract this insult."

Bring your gifts tomorrow – Home Affairs

BY OBSERVER REPORTER

HOME Affairs minister Princess Lindiwe has announced that members of the public and the corporate sector who want to present His Majesty the King with gifts for his 51st Birthday

will have an opportunity to do so tomorrow.

The initial event was supposed to have been held before April 19th, which is normally the King's birthday, but had to be pushed forward due to Good Friday and other important national assignments that made it impossible for it to

happen earlier.

The event will be held at Lozitha Royal Palace and those wishing to make the presentations are expected to be at the venue by 2pm.

It is now a norm that Emaswati offer gifts to the King to wish him good health and a long life.



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Please check this website periodically.

'Challenges must be addressed to bring economic growth'

STORIES BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

ESWATINI faces a number of challenges that must be addressed to ensure economic growth and stability.

One of the challenges is the widening fiscal deficit. The fiscal deficit as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been on an unsustainable path.

Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini said reducing the deficit and the management of the public debt and arrears was crucial for sustainable development. He said government's goal was to bring the fiscal deficit, the debt to the GDP ratio and arrears stock to sustainable levels.

Another challenge faced by the country was that of the declining growth rate. Economic growth has been stagnating.



SHARING: Minister of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe shares some ideas with businessmen Rev Johannes Manikela and Hezekiel Mabuza during the launch of the Strategic Roadmap. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Projections indicated a negative real growth rate for 2018. The PM said the goal was to grow the economy and improve the living standard of all Emaswati. Another challenge faced was the nation's low ranking on the

We are open for business - Matsapha

LOCAL authorities are optimistic with the launch of the Strategic Roadmap.

Matsapha Town Council Chief Executive Officer Lucky Sukati said as the country's industrial hub, Matsapha was ready for business. As the Strategic Roadmap aimed at intensifying the manufacturing industry, the local hub was poised for an influx of investors.

Sukati said much of the country's economy was generated with-

in urban areas. He mentioned that Matsapha, for instance, was influential in economic growth as most of the manufacturing was based in the town.

"As local authorities, we embrace this initiative as it is one of the things needed for the country to turn around," said the CEO.

He said they were fully behind the PM and added that the town was ready for the anticipated investment boom.

FODSWA happy with launch

FEDERATION of the Disabled in Swaziland (FODSWA) President Sipho Dlamini says they are excited with the launch of the Strategic Roadmap because the new government is accommodating the disabled in their planning processes.

Dlamini mentioned that they were encouraged by the promulgation of the Disability Act which proved that people living with dis-

abilities were no longer marginalised. "As people living with disabilities, we promise to be ball players and partake in the resuscitation of the country's economy," said Dlamini.

He mentioned that they needed to be capacitated as there was a part they could play which was evident in the new government was willing to work hand-in-hand with them.

Ease of Doing Business, the rankings had deteriorated to 117 out of 190 countries. Eswatini remained outside the top 10 rankings in

Africa. The goal was to be ranked among the top 10 countries in Africa to attract meaningful investment to grow the economy.

Auditor General (AG) staff moves to Dlanubeka

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI
Lobamba

STAFF members of the office of the auditor general (AG) will breathe a sigh of relief from next month as they are expected to move to Dlanubeka Building in Mbabane.

The staffers now occupy the leaking Deeds Offices, which forces them to work under filthy conditions. The AG staffers will start working at Dlanubeka from next month and government will pay E175 000 per month as rent in Dlanubeka. The lease agreement, according to Madlopha, was also signed.

The auditor general staffers will be moving out with workers from the offices of the Registrar of Deeds and

34 fire fighters employed without posts

ABOUT 34 workers at Eswatini National Fire and Emergency Services (ENSES) were employed without posts.

The fire fighters were allegedly employed under questionable circumstances as it is also not known how they are paid without posts. Ministry of Public Service Principal Secretary (PS) Evar Madlopha said he knew nothing about this matter. He wondered how the fire fighters

were remunerated because a civil servant needed to have a post in order to draw a salary.

Madlopha said there was once a time when about 126 posts were vacant at the fire department. However, he did not know how these positions were filled and how the 34 ended up not having posts. He asked the PAC to give him an opportunity to investigate the matter and find out how it happened.

those from the accountant general (AG), among other workers, currently occupying the Deeds offices. Ministry of Public Service Principal Secretary

(PS) Evar Madlopha said this yesterday in the House of Assembly when his ministry appeared before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). Madlopha

was giving progress made by his ministry on the relocation of the staffers occupying the Deeds office, as directed by the PAC to do so last month. Madlopha told the PAC that they had other options other than this space, but found that Dlanubeka had a better deal that was working to government's advantage.

The other deal was done with the Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) at Mbabane Office Park. The PSPF wanted E265 000 per month.

Another advantage that came with Dlanubeka, according to Madlopha, was that government was offered a one-year contract, with an option to renew. Other establishments wanted lease agreements of at least three years, which placed government at a disadvantage. Dlanubeka's conditions would

allow government to move out easily after the renovations of the Deeds office.

Madlopha further highlighted that the Dlanubeka offices were still undergoing renovations.

The renovations would continue until June 1, which was the time at which the civil servants will move into the offices. The renovations, according to Madlopha, will allow the civil servants to work efficiently in the new offices.

Auditor General (AG) Timothy Matsebula said it was unfortunate that he was not involved in acquiring the new office space for auditor general's staff members. He said he went to see the new office space at Dlanubeka and found that it was not sufficient for them because his office had 105 staff members. He urged the ministry of public service to improve in cooperating with his office in future negotiations.

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DR AT DLAMINI CONGRATULATES PM ON ROADMAP

BY ALEC LUSHABA
Ezulwini

FORMER Prime Minister and Tibiyo TakaNgwane Managing Director Dr. Absalom Themba Dlamini, otherwise known as AT, has congratulated the Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini on launching the four-year Eswatini Strategic Roadmap.

"We are happy with this strategy and as nation we will support him as he needs our support.

The presentation of what the strategy entails and the processes that were involved showed that they gave themselves time to think of what the country needs to achieve the First World Status as commanded by His Majesty King Mswati III.

"What now needs to happen is the implementation and monitoring of the strategy. What I like most about it is that it addresses the good governance part, because without it nothing goes right," he said. Dr. Dlamini said good governance goes hand in hand with discipline, delivery of services, performance and reality on how things get done.

"I was also happy about him talking about the need to respect the rule of law. Rule of law and the law in general makes me to be happy about that. Good governance gives confidence in the country and makes a commitment to investors that they can trust us.

In the past we had experiences where our neighbours at some state were reluctant to do business with us and it took some effort from government to re-assure them that we can be trusted and we are capable of honouring our obligations.

Intentions

"So in short, you can have a good plan, but if you don't have good governance it becomes a challenge. Big business becomes sceptical in dealing with a government that does not respect good governance principles. They tend to have doubts about the entire institution, like the courts," the former PM said.

Dr. Dlamini applauded the Prime Minister and said this roadmap is a clear statement of intent by this government. "He enhanced confidence in the country. What remains is to market the image of the country and the roadmap itself. We also need to market our intentions, because the roadmap alone cannot be enough," he said.

Dr. Dlamini pleaded with the other arms of government to work with the Prime Minister, saying if there is something they want to add, they must do so.

"But to reject it, this is out of question. They must improve what the prime minister has said and he has opened up his heart to the nation. This is what he says he would like to do. He is not an Angel, he is human like all of us. If he has left to put a full stop there, it means he doesn't know what he is doing. Yours is to improve what he has presented and make it work," Dr. Dlamini said. The former Prime Minister said he was further impressed by the premier when he indicated government's commitment to pay service providers.

He said that was key for economic recovery. "You cannot talk about improving business if money is not circulating in the economy. Money must circulate.

For instance, there are many suppliers who are owed by government huge amounts of money, if you don't pay those people it means money

is not going to circulate. For the country to improve, pay these people or meet them somewhere, halfway. This will work with a balanced budget. Let's not spend money we don't have because if we do, it will be a problem for the country. Government has a very sophisticated, complex network which has controls.

There is no way, by any means that money can just disappear without trace. It is impossible. It



EMALANGENI: Tibiyo TakaNgwane MD Dr AT Dlamini, RAs Chief Gija, Princess Tsandzile and Prince Lonkhokhelo listening to the PM's presentation. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

means that someone in the processes or systems is not doing his or her work diligently and that person deserves to be seriously disciplined. We cannot say *titawufa ngamvuyinye*, it cannot be. In my

view all that government is doing, some people are so pessimistic and doubt, why do they do that? They must come in and play their role," Dr. Dlamini said.

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it's finger lickin' good

CHALLENGES MUST BE ADDRESSED TO BRING ECONOMIC GROWTH

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

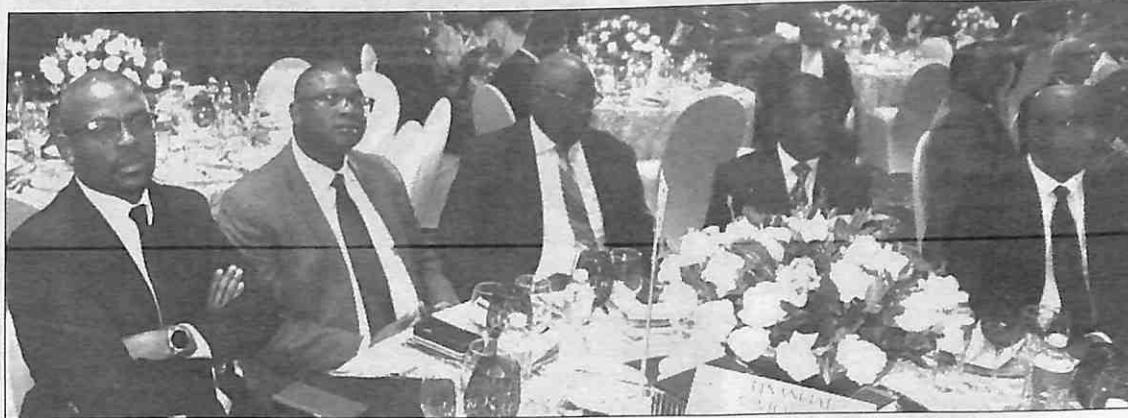
ESWATINI faces a number of challenges that must be addressed to ensure economic growth and stability.

One of the challenges is the widening fiscal deficit.

The fiscal deficit as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been on an unsustainable path.

Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini said reducing the deficit and the management of the public debt and arrears was crucial for sustainable development.

He said government's goal was to bring the fiscal deficit, the debt to the GDP ratio and arrears stock to sustainable levels.



BOSS: Some of the CEO's who were also in attendance watching the proceedings.

Another challenge faced by the country was that of the declining growth rate and stagnating economic growth.

Projections indicated a negative real growth rate for 2018. The PM

said the goal was to grow the economy and improve the living standard of all Eswatini.

Another was the nation's low ranking on the Ease of Doing Business, the rankings had deteriorated to 117

out of 190 countries. Eswatini remained outside the top 10 ranking in Africa. The goal was to be ranked among the Top 10 countries in Africa to attract meaningful investment to grow the economy.

FODSWA HAPPY

FEDERATION of the Disabled in Swaziland (FODSWA) President Sipho Dlamini says they are excited with the launch of the Strategic Road Map because the new government is accommodating the disabled in their planning processes.

Dlamini mentioned they were encouraged by the promulgation of the Disability Act which proved people living with disabilities were no longer marginalised.

"As people living with disabilities we promise to be ball players and partake in the resuscitation of the country's economy," said Dlamini.

He mentioned they needed to be capacitated and made to believe there was a part they could play which was evident the new government was willing to work hand in hand with them.

We are open for business-Matsapha

LOCAL authorities are optimistic with the launch of the Strategic Road Map.

Matsapha City Council Chief Executive Officer Lucky Sukati said as the country's industrial hub, Matsapha was ready for business.

As the Strategic Roadmap aimed at intensifying the man-

ufacturing industry, the local hub was poised for an influx of investors.

Sukati said much of the country's economy was generated within urban areas. He mentioned Matsapha for instance was influential in economic growth as most of the manu-

facturing was based in the town. "As local authorities, we embrace this initiative as it is one of the things needed for the country to develop," said the CEO.

He said they were fully behind the PM and mentioned the town was ready for the anticipated investment boom.



PRESENT: Some of the politicians who were also there to witness the launch listening to the speeches.

GENERAL NOTICE

**HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AUTHORITY ACT 1988
AS AMENDED IN 1992**

(Act No. 2 of 1988)

APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH A HUMAN SETTLEMENT

(Under Section 10)

It is hereby notified for general information that, in terms of the Human Settlements Authority (Amendment) Act of 1988, UrbPlan and Environmental Consultants (PTY) Ltd on behalf of Sontulo Investments (PTY) Ltd has lodged an application for permission to establish a human settlement with the Human Settlements Authority.

The proposed human settlement, to be known as **Sontulo Housing Estate**, is to be established on **Portion 88 of Farm Notcliffe 674** situated in **Siteki** in the **Lubombo** district of Swaziland.

Plans, documents and information regarding this application will be open to the public at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Fifth Floor, Old Income Tax Building, Mbabane; for a period of two (2) weeks from the date of the first publication of this notice in the newspaper.

Persons who object to the granting of this application or who wish to make representations regarding the proposed development should communicate with the Human Settlements Authority, c/o Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, P.O. Box 1832, Mbabane, within a period of two (2) weeks from the date of publication of this notice. The Human Settlements Authority shall give particulars of every objection to the Applicant.

[Signature]
C.S. MANDVULO
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT



EXPERIENCE: DPM Themba Masuku introduces the Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini at the occasion.



BROTHERS: FESWATU's Mashumi Shongwe sharing a light moment with MP Sibusiso 'Scorpion' Nxumalo during a tea break.

Pouring cold water on lover lands man in prison

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

THE different shades of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act have surely come to light, as a man found out when he poured a bucket of cold water on his girlfriend.

Vusi Tfwala is said to have acted out of anger and found himself lifting a 20L bucket and emptying cold water all over the woman he claimed was the love of his life, Nozibusiso Sibandze.

Covered

This was after Tfwala discovered that Sibandze had lied to him about spending a night with his love rival. Tfwala is said to have been washing his car by the river next to where

he resides with Sibandze, where he got word that Sibandze was seen prancing around his rival's yard during the early hours of the previous morning.

Driven

Tfwala is then said to have driven to where he resides with Sibandze, and a fight ensued.

After several heated words were exchanged, Tfwala's anger got the best of him and he grabbed the nearest 'weapon' he could find, thus contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act.

During his appearance before Mbabane Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati yesterday, Tfwala explained that it was not his intention to commit the offence, and that he was surprised that he was arrested for it.

Much to the amusement of

the court gallery, the magistrate jokingly questioned Tfwala on where he was able to gather the energy to lift a 20L bucket, as he had a slim and fragile body structure, to which Tfwala responded by saying that he was angry enough to lift it.

However, Magistrate Vilakati warned Tfwala to desist from any violent actions, as pouring cold water on his lover was a clear act of violence.

Sentenced

The magistrate found him guilty as per his own plea, and Tfwala was sentenced to serve two years in a correctional facility, with the option to pay a fine of E2 000.

His sentence was suspended for a period of one-year, so he was to pay a fine of E1 000 to gain his liberation.

'UNREGISTERED MARRIAGE OFFICERS TO BLAME FOR ILLEGAL MARRIAGES'

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

ALL marriage officers that are not listed in the government gazette issued by the ministry of home affairs are criminals, Christian bodies have said.

The Eswatini Conference of Churches has condemned the act of conducting wedding ceremonies by some church leaders without proper licence from government.

This follows a statement issued by Women in Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) Director Colani Hlatjwako during a widows' status report that was hosted by Umhluma Women and Youth Foundation.

During her report, Hlatjwako said they have since realised that a lot of weddings hosted by some churches were illegal. By illegal she meant that they are sometimes carried by unlicensed ministers and they then fail to produce a certificate at the end of the day. In the report, Hlatjwako said these pastors sometimes carry out these weddings without conducting a proper background check on the people they would marry. As a result, they marry people who are

already married which then turns to cause a lot of problems to the woman after the passing on of the husband.

Chairperson of Conference of Churches Bishop Stephen Masilela did not dispute the report by WLSA.

He condemned those pastors who carry out weddings yet they knew very well that they are not licenced to do so. He labelled them as *tigangi*. "*Leto tibebugu letibhace nge-lisontfo*," he said.

He said they are ruining the church's reputation because once it is discovered, every church would be included in their wrongful doing.

Masilela pleaded with government to help them as a Christian body and Emaswati to put an end to this criminal act. Masilela also highlighted how people could spot a licenced marriage officer. All licenced marriage officers are listed in the government gazette from the ministry of home affairs. "All marriage officers are listed at the home affairs," he said. Also, before a wedding takes place, couples should attend counselling sessions which are carried out by the marriage officer.

In addition, the bishop said before a wedding takes place, bans of mar-

riage should be read in churches for three Sundays before the wedding takes place.

The bans of marriage are the most important and crucial step before the wedding as this is an open period whereby everyone that opposes the wedding or marriage is given the chance to come forward.

This is meant to avoid the problems stated by WLSA of marrying a person who is already married.

Masilela said only a licenced minister would carry out such duties and signs them for the three Sundays these are read. He added that the Conference of Churches is a law abiding organisation that will not sit and watch comment take advantage of Christians in the name of Jesus. He emphasised that churches are only used as a venue for the wedding, but marriages are conducted according to the rules set by the ministry of home affairs and that is why these ministers are licenced by the ministry not churches.

Meanwhile, League of Churches Chairperson Bishop Samson Hlatjwako said some of these people who carry out the weddings are indeed licenced ministers, but would

be paid to turn a blind eye on the underlying issues.

"We blame this on money, it is the root of all evil."

Hlatjwako said it all begins when pastors married divorced people. He added that prominent people are to be partially blamed for this as they get married in front of everyone then divorce to marry another one. He said what is embarrassing is that even respected Christian leaders are seen taking the front seat in such weddings. "Money has made some pastors to forget what God has called them to do in this world, that is why you would find them marrying a divorced person yet their partner is still alive thus ignoring the Bible," he said. Hlatjwako further urged people who are aware that they are not satisfied with one wife to stay away from civil rights marriage and go for Swazi law and custom marriage.

Coming to the issue of unlicensed marriage officers, he said in his church they make sure that they double check with the ministry 30 days before the wedding to ensure that they do not find themselves in such shenanigans.

Cop drowns on Mother's Day

BY SABELO MAJOLA
Mbabane

A police officer based in Manzini died tragically after drowning in a pool at Dwaleni Farm Lodge on Sunday.

The police officer identified as Thabo Mkhathshwa (36) from Mpaka allegedly took his family out to the lodge to celebrate Mother's Day which is commemorated every second Sunday of May.

It is said he was with his wife who is also a police officer based in Mafutseni and their children when the tragic incidence occurred.

Dwaleni Farm Lodge is a 10-minutes' drive from Matsapha. Mkhathshwa reportedly left his wife and children in the restaurant and went to the pool to swim as it was hot on Sunday.

A source revealed that attempts to rescue him from the pool proved futile as he was already dead when retrieved out of the water. Mkhathshwa was based at the Manzini Regional Police Headquarters.

An official comment from Dwaleni Farm Lodge management could not be gathered as they referred everything concerning the incident to the police.

Police Information and Communication Officer (PICO) Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the matter.

"On 12/05/2019 at 1715hours, a 36-year-old man of Mpaka drowned while swimming in a pool at Dwaleni Farm Lodge," read a report from the police.



Choose your ride. Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.



Drunk warder knocks down two teens, one dead

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI
Mliba

A drunk officer of His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) has 'bull-dozed' two teenagers with his car, killing one.

Kheta Dlamini (33) stationed at Bhalekane Correctional left residents of Mliba reeling in shock after knocking down the two teenage boys (aged 16 and 17), whilst under the influence of alcohol on Saturday evening at around 1730 hours.

It is said the victims were walking on the pedestrian walkway, when out of nowhere the car knocked them down, leaving them in a critical state.

Both boys were taken to the Dvokolwako Health Centre,

however, after further assessment by medical officers, one aged 17 was later taken to Mbabane Government Hospital, where he later died.

The boys were related.

When reached for comment on the matter, His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) Public Relations Officer Gugulethu Dlamini confirmed the incident.

Reported

She added that it had been reported to the commissioner general's office.

Dlamini stated that after the accident, the officer surrendered himself over to the police.

"He appeared at the Manzini Magistrate's Court on Sunday, but he was denied bail due to the severity of the case. During his appearance, the accused

was remanded back to custody. He is expected back in court tomorrow.

Dlamini was arrested and charged with contravening the Road Traffic Act of 2007 on two counts; that of driving his motor vehicle negligently and for driving under the influence of alcohol.

He also faces a charge of culpable homicide. On that note, Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) Chief Police Information Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the matter.

She stated that the 16-year-old boy is still at the Dvokolwako Health Centre fighting for his life, while the 17-year-old one was confirmed dead upon arrival at the Mbabane Government Hospital.



ESWATINI HOSPICE AT HOME
"SIKHONELA WENA"
"HERE TO HELP"

P.O. Box 23
Matsapha
Tel: 7806 0221/ 25184485
Email: swdhospice@gmail.com



NOTICE

Members of Hospice Friends, Hospice Executive Board Members and all interested stakeholders are hereby notified that Eswatini Hospice At Home will be holding her Annual General Meeting (AGM).

All members are hereby cordially invited to this occasion which is scheduled as follows:

The Theme is: "INCREASING ACCESS TO PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOSPICE SERVICES AS WE MOVE ON TO 2022"

Date: 25th May 2019
Venue: Eswatini Hospice at Home - Matsapha
Time: 1:00 PM

Members are advised to keep time.

For more information, kindly contact 7605 2381.

Statement issued by the Chairperson of the Board

ESWATINI STRATEGIC



DIRECTION: Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini addressing the gathering during the Eswatini Strategic Roadmap launch which was held at the Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



MY TURN: Minister of Economic Planning Dr Thambo Gina making his remarks at the launch.



EMALANGENI: Tibiyo TakaNgwane MD Dr AT Dlamini, RAs Chief Gija, Princess Tsandzile and ENPF CEO Prince Lonkhokhela listening to the PM's presentation.

Eswatini Housing Board



Tel: (+268) 2405 5000

Fax: (268) 2404 5224

Email: postbox@snhb.co.sz

Website: www.snhb.co.sz

Head Office: 5th Floor Sibekelo Building No.2, Mbabane Office Park, Mhlambanyatsi Road

P.O Box 798, Mbabane, Eswatini H100

MBABANE REVENUE OFFICE RELOCATION

"UMTFWAL'USEBHOKWENI"

The Board wishes to inform its valued customers, stakeholders and the general public that the Mbabane Revenue Office will be relocating from the ground floor Dlanubeka Building, to the ground floor Sibekelo Building No.2, Mbabane Office Park, Mhlambanyatsi road, on **Wednesday 15th May 2019**.

Consequently, the Mbabane Revenue Office will be closed on Wednesday, 15th May 2019 to re-open on **Thursday, 16th May 2019 at 08:00am** at Sibekelo Building No.2.

Any inconvenience caused due to this relocation is greatly regretted.

**HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES
MS. KHULILE G. DLAMINI**



PUBLIC NOTICE

REOPENING OF GOVERNMENT BONDS TO THE SUM OF E220,000,000;
SG039 REOPENING, MATURING 31 JANUARY 2022 - COUPON 9.10%, E100,000,000
SG040 REOPENING, MATURING 31 JANUARY 2024 - COUPON 9.40%, E40,000,000
SG041 REOPENING, MATURING 31 JANUARY 2026 - COUPON 9.85%, E30,000,000
AND
SG042 REOPENING, MATURING 31 JANUARY 2029 - COUPON 10.25% E50,000,000

On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Central Bank of Eswatini is announcing the reopening of the above mentioned Government Bonds. The coupon rates for these bonds are fixed at 9.10%, 9.40%, 9.85% and 10.25% respectively. The Auction Date will be on 27 May 2019 for the sum SZL 220,000,000 (Two Hundred and Twenty Million Emalangeni).

The Bonds will be issued using the competitive multiple bid auction model and is open to the public including individuals, corporate and institutional investors. All investors should apply through the Primary Dealers who are the four local Commercial Banks.

The purpose of the issuance is to develop the secondary market, establish a fair market price which will compensate both the borrower and investors for interest rate risks and to facilitate financial intermediation, whilst also meeting Government budgetary requirements.

The applicable Pricing Supplements and other relevant documents pertaining to the issuances is available for viewing at the Financial Markets Department of the Central Bank of Eswatini situated on the 3rd Floor, Umntsholi Building in Mbabane, as well on the Central Bank website www.centralbank.org.sz

The Central Bank of Eswatini invites interested parties to contact their commercial banks or collect application forms and further details at the Financial Markets Department, Central Bank of Eswatini, Mahlokohla Street,

P.O. Box 546, Mbabane. Telephone: (+268) 2408 2144/2100/2294/2210

E-mail: sandilmd@centralbank.org.sz, gcinadl@centralbank.org.sz,
sabatham@centralbank.org.sz or philat@centralbank.org.sz
sandileng@centralbank.org.sz

Website: www.centralbank.org.sz

Specific details for these Government Bonds are contained in the following "Call to Tender" table:-

CALL TO TENDER

REOPENING OF FIXED COUPON GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI BONDS AUCTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 27, 2019

The Central Bank of Eswatini as agent for the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini invites bids for the above Government Bonds whose terms and conditions are summarised as follows:

1. Issuer	Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini
2. Amount	SZL 220,000,000 (Two Hundred and Twenty Million Emalangeni)
3. Greenshoe / Over-allotment option	The Issuer reserves the right to allocate an additional amount of up to 50% of the amount on offer on each bond.
4. Procedure for bidding	Investors to submit application forms for bids through their Primary Dealers. Investors should ensure that applications are submitted timely in order that all bids are captured on the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) before 10:00am on the auction date.
5. Auction date	May 27, 2019
6. Settlement date	May 31, 2019
7. Form of issuance	Paperless (Central Securities Depository)
8. Auction results	Auction results shall be made available on the Bank's Website immediately after the auction.
9. Yield	Yield to Maturity to be quoted in multiples of 0.005%
10. Minimum bid size	SZL 10,000 for individual (non-competitive) bidders SZL 1,000,000 for Institutional direct bidders
11. Interest payment date	31 July and 31 January in each year for all bonds (SG039, SG040, SG041 and SG042)
12. Coupon	SG039 Fixed at 9.10%, SG040 Fixed at 9.40%, SG041 Fixed at 9.85%, and SG042 Fixed at 10.25%
13. Day count convention	Actual/365
14. Tax	Interest income is not subject to any withholding tax
15. Currency	Eswatini Lilangeni (SZL)
16. Redemption date	31 January 2022 for SG039, 31 January 2024 for SG040, 31 January 2026 for SG041 and 31 January 2029 for SG042.
17. Listing	Issued under the E2,000,000,000 Note Programme, 2017, listed on the Eswatini Stock Exchange
18. Trading	Secondary market trading in multiples of SZL 10,000 to commence on Monday, 10 June, 2019
19. Defaulters	Successful bidders who fail to honor their obligations on time will be disqualified from participating in one subsequent bond auction.

Separate Pricing Supplements will be available for each of these bonds. The Central Bank of Eswatini reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications.

www.centralbank.org.sz



CENTRAL BANK
OF ESWATINI

ROADMAP LAUNCH



FOLLOWING: Some of the Ministers Jabulani Mabuza, Christian Ntshangase and Pholile Shakantu listening to the presentations.



PARTNERS: Some members of the diplomatic corps who were also present at the launch.



CHEERS: PSS Makhosini Mndawe and Clifford Mamba pose for the lens.



ATTENTIVE: Senator Khanyisile Malambe and SWADNU president Bheki Mamba following the proceedings.



INTRODUCTIONS: The programme director; Secretary to Cabinet Mbuso Dlamini introduces local artists who entertained the audience during the launch.



YOUTH ENTERPRISE REVOLVING FUND

YOUTH ENTERPRISE REVOLVING FUND LOAN APPLICATION PROCESS

The YERF is making a second call for loan applications from the Eswazi Youth (18-35 years) on the 01st April 2019 and shall be closed on the 31st May, 2019. The application process shall be as follows:

1. A call for applications will be made on a quarterly basis

The application process includes the following steps:

- Advertisement (call for applications) on various media houses
- The application period is opened for a period of one month (will be 2 months only for this time)
- Forms are available on YERF website as well as distributed to among other stakeholders, Tinkhundla Centres, and Eswatini National Youth Council, Junior Achievement, ENACTUS, IDCE, SEDCO, etc.

2. Filling of Application Forms

The applicant fills in the forms providing information which shall among others include:

- Information about the applicant(s)
- Form is taken to Umphakatsi or Zone Leader for vetting where they append their signature and stamp the form
- The form is taken for further vetting at Inkhundla through signature and stamp
- The form with all the attachments is submitted to The Fund offices or left at Inkhundla centre where it shall be collected.
- Applicants should ensure that before submission, attachments are included as guided in the requirements checklist found in the last page of the application form.

3. Attachments

The following attachments shall be necessary to accompany the submission of the application form:

- Certified copy of ID
- Certified copy of Certificate of Incorporation (for a registered company)
- Certified Copy of Form J
- Certified Copy of Memorandum & Articles of Association
- Premises / Land right (Chief's Letter, Title Deed, Lease Agreement, etc)
- Business Plan (include relevant CV)
- Market Contract/Letter of Intent as proof of market
- Trading Licenses (where applicable)
- The applications received shall not be interpreted as deserving for funding.

Only relevant requirements shall be attached by the applicants, i.e. not all the above requirements will be applicable to all applications.

4. Loan Appraisal Process

The appraisal process shall be as follows:

- Stage 1 - YERF pre-screening to ensure; compliance, eligibility and feasibility
- Stage 2 - Pitch up for qualifying applicants to present their business proposals.
- Stage 3 - Qualifying applications are referred to the Intermediary for viability analysis including site visits.
- Stage 4 - Viable applications are recommended to YERF by the Intermediary, where the Board of Directors shall approve projects deserving funding.
- Stage 5 - Feedback is sent to applicants. Those that are not successful shall be given reasons for non-approval and they will be assisted to improve them and re-submit in the next cycle.
- The process between receipts of loan applications to approval stage is expected to take about one (1) month.

5. Funding

The disbursement of funds shall follow the process below:

- The successful applicants shall undergo and intense business training
- Those that have previously undergone training from a reputable institution shall be exempted from the training.
- The successful applicants shall proceed to sign loan agreements
- All applicants will be expected to open bank accounts for their businesses.
- A mentor/advisor shall be assigned to the applicants before disbursement of funds. The mentor shall also be co-signatories to procurement or expenditure requisitions.
- Disbursements shall be made direct to suppliers as much as possible.

5.1 Lending maximum limits:

- Sole traders/Individuals - E50,000.00
- Companies - E100,000.00
- Cooperatives - E150,000.00

5.2 Loan terms to be provided:

- a) Seasonal term - 12 Months
- b) Short term - 24 Months
- c) Medium term - 36 Months

5.3 Interest rates

The fund will endeavour to price loans below market rate due to developmental mandate. Interest rates shall be categorized into the following three market segments subject to risk assessment.

- " Market 1 - Prime +2%
- " Market 2 - Prime +1%
- " Market 3 - Prime +0%

Currently the prime rate is 10.25%

6. Deferred Loans

- YERF shall engage applicants with deferred loans with a purpose to assist them improve and re-submit in the subsequent cycles.

7. Loan repayments

- All loans to be granted shall be repaid in full with interest.
- Loans shall be repaid with the intermediary through bank accounts.
- The onus is upon all fund beneficiaries to repay their loans within the agreed terms. The Fund will make all possible means to recover all granted loans to ensure sustainability of the Fund.

The above lending conditions are subject to review in due course in response to risk assessment, economic outlook, etc.

Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund, Rhus Office Park, Karl Grant Street, Mbabane. +268 2404 8369, +268 2404 1433, P.O. Box 6557 Mbabane, Info@yef.co.sz, www.yef.co.sz, Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund - YERF.

"Giving You a Head Start to Success"

4-year-old lashed with cable charger

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

OUT of curiosity to operate a cell-phone, a four-year-old received a lashing she will never forget.

Cynthia Mkhwanazi (33) of Nkiliji was arrested and charged with assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm to the minor. Mkhwanazi is alleged to have assaulted the minor last Monday while at Nkiliji.

She appeared before Manzini National Court President Majahodvwa Khumalo at the Eswatini National Court last Friday.

When narrating the story before the court, Mkhwanazi said she assaulted the child with a cable charger on the back after she found that the young one had been playing with cellphones

that were being charged.

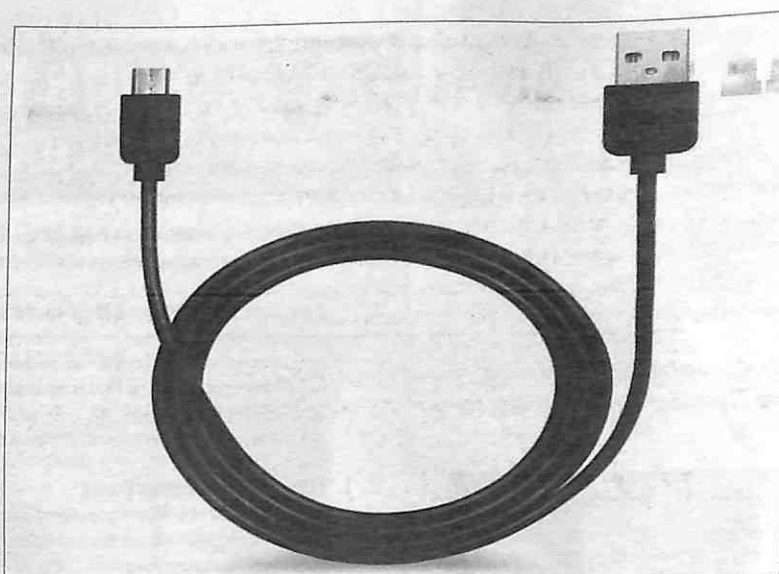
According to Mkhwanazi, some people had asked to leave their cell-phones charged at her home in the presence of the child.

When she left the room where the phones were being charged, Mkhwanazi claimed that the minor tempered with them to a point where one was blocked.

Upon realising that the phone was blocked, Mkhwanazi claimed that the four-year-old then dropped and broke it.

"I used the cable of the charger to assault her on the back because I was angry about the trouble that she has put me through," Mkhwanazi said.

"After beating her, I said I would not give her food," she continued. When Court President Khumalo asked why she threatened not to give the child food, Mkhwanazi said it was a



form of punishment.

When leading evidence before the court, the child's father told the court

that he took his daughter to the clinic the following day after failed attempts to take her the same day the

incident happened.

He said due to the injuries that were sustained by his daughter, the nurses requested a police report which he failed to produce since he had not reported the matter. It is said the police were called by the nurses.

The medical examination report stated that the child looked weak and she was injured on the back, hands and arms.

The report further stated that 24 loops of the cable were noted on the back of the child.

"An uncle reports that this is not the first time that this has happened but the child's grandfather withholds her medical documents," read the report.

Mkhwanazi was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment with an option of E1 000 fine.

Mozambican defrauds Liswati E8 200, flees

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A man desperate to purchase local traditional regalia found himself being duped by a Mozambican hawker claiming to sell loin skins at a discounted price.

Sithembiso Mabuza was adamant in obtaining loin skins (*emajobo* and *umda-da*) at a cheaper price than was sold nationally, so when he was approached by Charles Makama on April 15, he was elated to make a discounted deal.

Makama is said to have promised to order the *emajobo* and *umda-da* for Mabuza, informing him that he could sell the items to him for E8 200.

It should be noted that the price of *emajobo* ranges between E300-E500, whereas *umda-da* is sold at E5 000 by various traditional retailers country wide.

Mabuza could not believe his stroke of luck and did not hesitate to furnish Makama with the above mentioned amount.

Arrested

After days of Makama dodging his phone calls, Mabuza ran to the police station to report the suspect, after which Makama was arrested and charged with theft by false pretences.

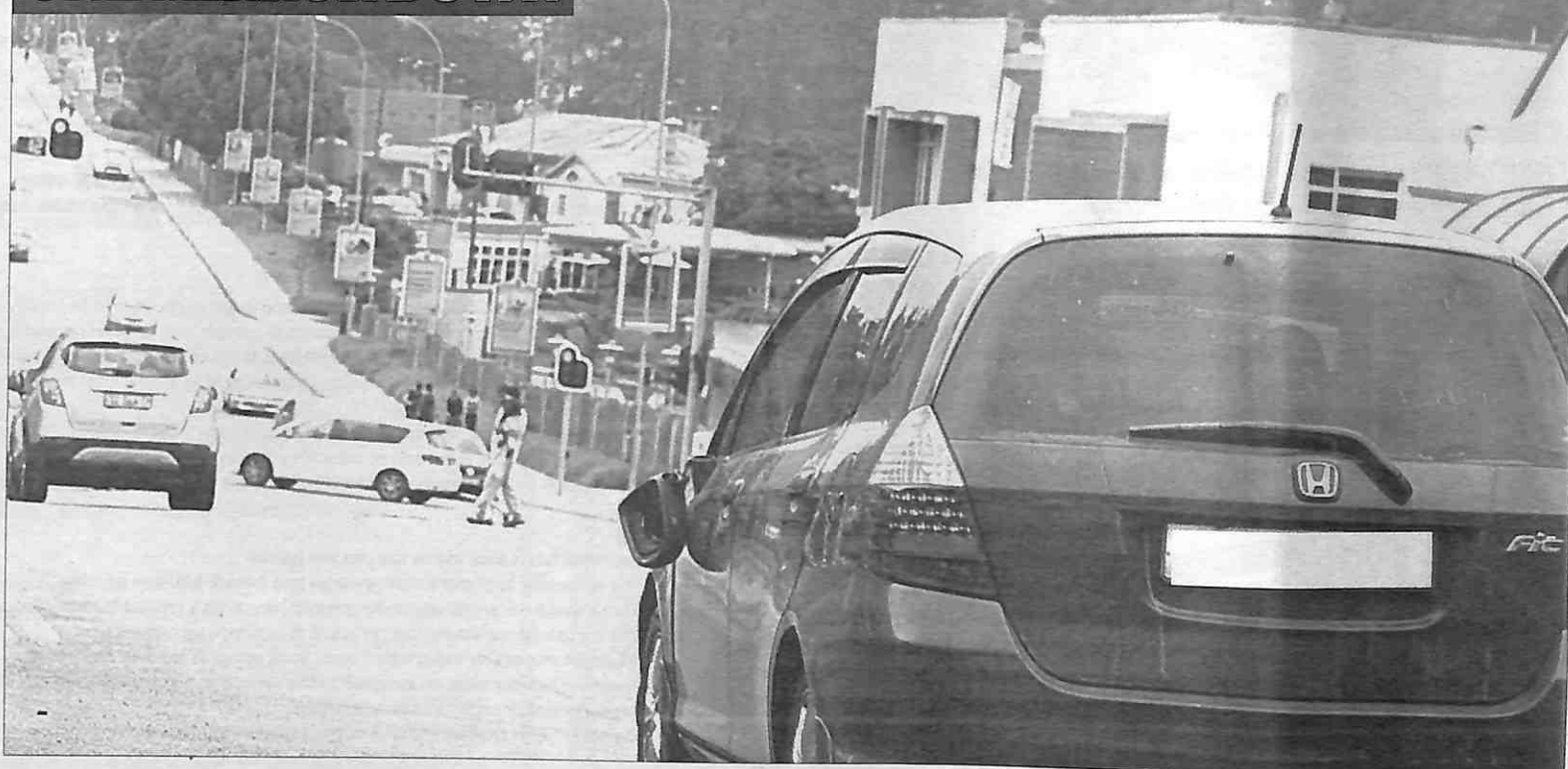
It was said that Makama had taken the money and attempted to cross the border into Mozambique.

During his appearance before Mbabane Magistrate Lenhle Zulu on Wednesday, the court learnt that in addition to Makama's charge of theft by false pretences, he was found to have contravened Section 14 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1987.

According to Makama's charge sheet, the second charge laid against him stated that last Sunday at Elangeni, he was not a holder of a valid entry and resident permit and was found to have entered and remained in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Magistrate Zulu ordered Makama to be remanded into custody pending his trial date.

ONE MIRROR DOWN



HONDA UNFIT: A Honda Fit being driven around the city with one of its side mirrors broken after a minor accident yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

EBIS director enlightens GBR Matsapha about 4th industrial revolution

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Matsapha

ESWATINI Broadcasting Information and Communications Service (EBIS) Director Martin Dlamini has enlightened members of the Global Business Roundtable (GBR) Matsapha about the influence of media and communications in the advent of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

This was during one of the May sessions for GBR Matsapha held at the Gallery Hotel.

Dlamini started the session by enlightening members of GBR about how the industrial revolution began from the first up to the fourth one.

Dlamini explained how the media has evolved over the years.

The director spoke about how technology has transformed people's lives profoundly.

The EBIS director said with inno-



CLEAR PICTURE: EBIS Director Martin Dlamini.

ventions like robotics and block chains, the world is on the verge of a technological revolution that would change the way people live and work on a fundamentally different scale.

Dlamini said the Internet of Things

(IoT) is drastically changing society.

He said such innovations came with advantages such as mass production.

There were, however, some challenges which were posed by this.

He made an example of the print

media.

Dlamini said the advantage is that now there are more cheaper cameras and other equipment that are relatively smaller in size compared to what the media used in the old days.

He said a lot of people lost their jobs because of the 4th revolution though.

Dlamini said in media houses there is a great need for upskilling of workers in order to move with the times. The director said with the internet of things, there is a dire need for media institutions to train their people.

Speaking about businesses and advertising, Dlamini said business people should learn to adapt with the times and explore other avenues on how they can reach their customers as more people get sucked up in the IoT.

The director said the media's job in all this is to enlighten the world on what is happening.

RSSC awarded for high quality

STORIES BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Simunye

THE Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC) has been awarded with validation certificates for high standards of quality management, environmental management and occupational health and safety management systems.

The certification process was carried out by a South African based valuation company known as DQS Pty (Ltd), a German Association of Management Systems Certification.

The sugar producing company was on Friday presented with three certificates under the said categories.

The certificates are registered as ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018. They were handed over to RSSC by DQS Managing Director Vusi Bongwe.

When making his remarks during the handover ceremony at Simunye Country Club, RSSC Managing Director Nick Jackson said the company made a strategic decision to adopt and implement ISO based management systems standards because they allowed an organisation to manage its processes sys-

tematically according to objectives or corporate scorecard measures in a most effective and efficient way.

Jackson said the implementation of the system was motivated by the desire to meet the ISO standards and, in as much as possible, exceed the requirements of the customers.

He added that the strategy was to promote and protect the physical and mental health of the workers, while also maintaining balance between the environment, society and the economy.

Categories

"As the company adopted this management system, we then went through a certification audit on the three aforementioned categories, and it is such an honour for me to report that the company achieved certification on all three," he said.

The MD attributed the achievement to the workforce who ensured that the company operates under high standards while at the same time minimising costs.

He said workers displayed that their hard work in implementing the processes and procedures was not only to support the management systems, but also to ensure improvement of business processes, taking into account internal and external developments.



KEYNOTE: Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo delivering his speech.



SHORT OF WORDS: RSSC Managing Director Nick Jackson making his remarks during the ceremony.



YOU DESERVE THIS: RSSC MD Nick Jackson accepts a certificate from DQS Managing Director Vusi Bongwe.

Upholding standards to minimise accidents - Minister of commerce

MINISTER of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo has expressed his delight with the fact that RSSC appears to be committed to adhere to certain working standards.

This is for the sole purpose of servicing customers in a satisfactory manner.

The minister was speaking during the certificate handover ceremony to RSSC by a South African based evaluating company.

Amongst the three certificates which were presented to the sugar producing company, RSSC was awarded for occupational health and safety management systems. This is the ISO 45001:2018 certificate.

When making his remarks, the minister highlighted the importance of maintaining a certain standard in the working environment.

Khumalo said such assessment and evaluation

helped the company to ensure that while carrying out its mandate, it maintains a certain standard which is also expected by the customer.

The minister said such an evaluation would, therefore, translate to the sugar company minimising accidents in the workplace.

The minister commended the company for its efforts aimed at satisfying their client and ensuring safety for its workforce while also minimising costs. He said government was happy to note that the private sector was doing its part to ensure that the country achieved the first world status goal by 2022.

"Also worth noting is that these certificates will bind the company into ensuring accountability, transparency and customer fulfilment," he said. Khumalo said with these certificates, clients would know what to expect from the company.



THREE AWARDS: Minister Manqoba Khumalo and Lubombo RA Themba Msibi pose for a group photo with RSSC senior staff after receiving the certificates. (Pics: Wonderboy Dlamini)

'Some women don't exercise kids' rights to registration, identification'

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

"WOMEN are the cause of their suffering after their spouses' death."

This was said by Nomphumelelo Sibeko; the National Civil Registrar for the department of civil registration and vital statistics under the ministry of home affairs.

Sibeko was speaking during the launch of the widow's report by Umhluma Women and Youth Foundation held last Friday in Manzini.

The objective of Umhluma Foundation is to address the plight that widows face after the demise of their spouses while also improving the lives of the youth and the girl child as a result of the death of the head of the family.

According to Sibeko, some of the contributing factors that result to widows' suffering include the non-registration of marriages and birth of their children.

Explaining this, Sibeko said there were instances where women did not exercise the rights of their children to registration and identification. She

said due to disagreements between partners, some women dumped their children with their fathers without the birth certificates.

Sibeko said her department had dealt with cases where the men's lovers then register the children as their own. After the death of either of

the biological parents, she said the children sometimes were unable to claim their share of inheritance because their birth certificates render them as belonging to another person other than their biological parent.

On another note, the registrar said women with old marriage certificates should encourage their husbands to change them to the latest ones.

She said this was to mitigate a situation where the men would marry more than one wife through Swati customary law and civil rites marriages.

She said when a man was married twice through the different types of marriages, it was easier to spot with the new marriage certificates.

Failure to do this, Sibeko said, women found themselves in a position where their marriages were deemed null and void after their spouse had died. This, she said, resulted to strife over inheritance that the women and their children would be entitled to if they had made things right while their husbands were still alive.

On the bright side, the registrar said if it was discovered that a man had more than one wife, the law detected that they all benefited from his estate after he had died.

WIDOWS END UP IN JAIL WHILE PROTECTING THEMSELVES FROM IN-LAWS

SOME widows who are behind bars are forced into the situation by their in-laws.

This was revealed by His Majesty's Correctional Services' Chief Assistant Commissioner Nomkhosi Maseko when making her remarks during the launch of the widows' report last Friday. She said after listening to several speakers sharing their sad stories of how they were ill-treated by their in-laws after their husbands died, it was appalling.

Maseko said some of the predicaments faced by widows landed them in jail, not because they were wrong but they find themselves breaking the law while trying to protect their children's inheritance.

Maseko shared a story of one young widow

who was arrested and sent to prison for accidentally killing her sister-in-law with whom she was fighting over her late husband's property.

Maseko said the widow's sister-in-law wanted to seize some items from her house claiming that her late brother had given them to her. Upon realising that she was overpowered by her sister-in-law, the widow allegedly grabbed a plank with a nail and hit her rival on the head, resulting to her death.

Maseko said although the widow was trying to protect what was rightfully hers, she ended up in jail because circumstances forced her to protect herself from the spite of her sister-in-law.

'I was going to check on my sickly friend'

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

AN act of kindness which manifested after receiving a report that his friend was sickly landed a man behind bars after he was nabbed driving while under the influence.

Satiso Malindzisa (28) appeared before the Magistrate's Court after he was charged with contravening the Road Traffic Act of 2007.

According to the charge sheet, he was alleged to have wrongfully and unlawfully driven a motor vehicle while under the influence.

Particulars of the offence included that the accused person was talkative and had a strong smell of alcohol coming from his mouth.

When subjected to a breathalyser test, an alcohol content reading of 0.71 mg/l was detected in his system. This is above the legal limit which stands at 0.37 mg/l.

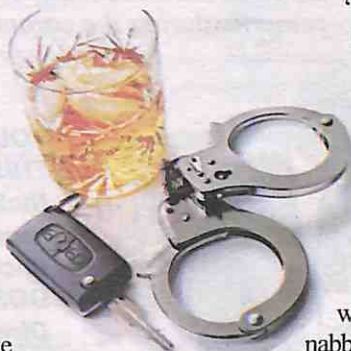
When the charge was read to him, Malindzisa pleaded guilty to the offence.

His plea was also accepted by the crown without leading evidence to prove commission of the offence. During mitigation, Malindzisa first asked the court to be lenient when

passing sentence. He told the court that he did not intend to commit the offence. The accused said he received a call from his friend who reported that he was sickly and needed to be taken to hospital. At the time of receiving the call, Malindzisa claimed that he had taken some alcoholic beverages at home.

"It was already late in the evening when my friend called, and I was the nearest person who could help him out," he said. The accused said he was eventually nabbed by traffic officers while on his way to take his friend to hospital. He was accordingly found guilty by the court and was sentenced to 60 days in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 000 fine.

"It was already late in the evening when my friend called, and I was the nearest person who could help him out," he said. The accused said he was eventually nabbed by traffic officers while on his way to take his friend to hospital



DRUNK COP ROLLS COLLEAGUE'S CAR, FINED E5 800

BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlangano

A police officer allegedly 'stole' a colleague's vehicle and proceeded to a watering hole where he quenched his thirst but on his way back, he rolled the car as he was too drunk.

It is said Constable Thulani Hlatshwayo, whose force number is 7045 based at Ka-Phunga Police Station, on Friday did the unthinkable when he drove a colleague's personal vehicle to imbibe liquor somewhere near Sidvokodvo.

It is alleged that Hlatshwayo found the car parked near a washing area close to the police station.

The owner of the vehicle was on duty when the accident occurred.

It is said the owner of the vehicle had left the car keys with one of the cleaners at the police station.

The owner of the vehicle is a detective, who is also a well known bishop with a church in Nhlabeni.

His car was taken by the colleague while he was away on an assignment in the company of a senior colleague.

"He (owner) requested one of the support staff members that after it was washed, she should ask any of the officers to drive it out of the washing area to pave way for other colleagues' vehicles. It's not clear what happened but it is suspected that Hlatshwayo noticed the car parked and was aware that the owner had left and decided to request for the keys from the

cleaner. He was given the keys but the car had still not been washed," said an insider. The owner of the vehicle, a white Honda Fit registered KSD 035 CM only came across his wrecked vehicle when he was from the assignment with a senior officer. It is also not clear how and why Hlatshwayo took the vehicle without its owner's permission.



NOT FIT ANYMORE: The Honda Fit belonging to a police detective which was rolled by a drunk colleague on Friday.

Traffic officers were called to attend to the accident near Mkhondvo where a car rolled and they found that it was a colleague who was driving a car belonging to the senior officer. "Traffic officers discovered that their colleague was under the influence. When subjected to a breathalyser test, the alcohol content found was too high," said a source.

Paramedics were also spotted at the scene.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that a police officer based at Ka-Phunga was arrested for drink-driving as well as negligent driving.

As a result, Hlatshwayo was then detained by his colleagues at Ka-Phunga Police Station where he spent a night in the cells and on Saturday, he was taken to court where he was charged with two counts, drink driving as well as negligent driving. He appeared before Shiselweni Principal Magistrate Florence Msibi on Saturday where he was convicted on both counts. For drink-driving, he was sentenced to five years or a fine of E5 000. For negligent driving, he was sentenced to six months in jail or a fine of E800.

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Mbabane

Nhlangano folks happy with town's development

BY NOMY NYANDZENI
Mbabane

NHLANGANO town residents are pleased with the development in the area.

Nhlangano Town council Chief Executive Officer Apollo Maphalala said even ratepayers have noticed the great improvement in the town's infrastructure. Maphalala said the developments in the town come with many positive spin-offs.

He said through the developments in Nhlangano, the quality of life for the residents would also improve as this comes with many job opportunities. He said the improvement also helped provide the residents of Nhlangano with access to resources and business.

"As we receive more shops and franchises within town, it makes it easier to get all what we need within the same locality and certainly at a cheaper



HAPPY: Nhlangano Town Council Chief Executive Officer Apollo Maphalala.

cost.

This development increases the town's economies of scale, which makes the cost of doing business cheaper," he said.

He added that the development of the town is an ongoing thing because some stores are now operating and currently they have commercial complexes that are under construction while others are almost com-

plete.

Maphalala said they were certain that shops that were previously not in the town, would soon be available. "We just urge all stakeholders to support those shops once they start operating."

However, he added that the development was drawing more people from the surrounding hinterlands into town, particularly during the day and this then increases human and motor vehicle traffic.

"There is now congestion in the town. Although this is good for business, it can bring problems if not properly managed."

He emphasised that as a council, they are working around the clock to provide more public lighting, introduce paid parking spaces, cooperate with the police to deliver safe roads, re-engineer traffic reticulation and continue with civic education to reduce unnecessary tensions in town.

ACAT EMPOWERS YOUTH ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE

BY NOMY NYANDZENI
Mbabane

THE African Cooperative Action Trust (ACAT) Lilima Eswatini has embarked on a campaign of educating the youth about community development and climate change.

ACAT Director Enock Dlamini said the main purpose of this campaign was to contribute to strengthening resilience and adaptability of the population, especially the poor rural citizens in view of the effects of climate change.

Dlamini mentioned that this campaign is targeting seven constituencies which are Hlane, Dvokodweni, Mpolonjeni, Hosea, Shiselweni I, Shiselweni II and Zombodze Emuva focusing at Lubombo and Shiselweni regions.

He highlighted that this campaign would span over three years. "This campaign emanates from the 2015/16 drought which marginalised a fraction of the Eswatini population and aims to uplift their socio-economic status," said Dlamini.

Dlamini said this project targeted the grassroots level of the communities with a focus on youth, children and women. "Its key deliverance is savings and credit group formation where the different community members will come together



EMPOWERING: ACAT Director Enock Dlamini.

er and save money. This will enable them to access loans and cover some of their family needs."

Campaign

He said with this campaign, the youth would be pioneers of environmental stewardship in their communities through disseminating of climate change information and leading in environmental stewardship activities like donga rehabilitation, protection of the available wetlands and tree planting.

Dlamini said the youth would be assisted

by the project to put what they learnt into practise so that they make necessary contributions. Through the savings and credit component, the youth is expected to fund income generating activities and other self-developing endeavours.

He added that after the campaign, the different communities must be able to engage in sustainable food production activities.

The beneficiaries of the project would be encouraged to have backyard gardens which are grown through the use of cheaper and ecologically sound practice.

Meanwhile, a member of ACAT Melusi Kunene said the campaign aimed at helping communities to venture into biogas as a source of energy for domestic use. Material like cow dung and other digestible materials would be used to feed digesters to produce biogas and reduce the pressure on wood as an energy source, thereby fighting effects of climate change.

One member of the youth at Zombodze Emuva Hlobisile Zwane mentioned that this kind of campaign was helpful to them. She was pleased by ACAT's idea and praised the staff for including them in the list of communities that they will educate.

Man accused of forging drivers licence gets E4 000 bail

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

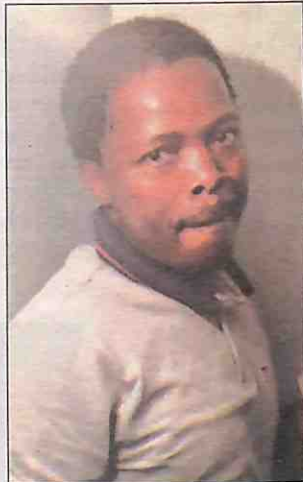
A Manzini-based forgery big-shot was slapped with two counts of being found in possession of fake public driving permits.

Wandile Dlamini (34) of Gucuka was arrested on Wednesday and appeared at the Manzini Magistrate's Court last Friday for the offences.

His charge sheet stated that in the first count, Dlamini was found in possession of counterfeit public driving permit purported to belong to Celumusa Thusi.

The accused possessed the permit yet he was not a driver of any public service vehicle.

On the second charge, Dlamini



CHARGED: Wandile Dlamini.

was again found in possession of another fake driving permit that supposedly belonged to Themba Ndzabandzaba.

The accused person alleged-

ly conducted his forgery business in offices situated along Esser Street in Manzini. He is also reportedly not new in the accused's dock as he had been arrested before for the same offences.

Skilled

When the police raided his offices on the day of arrest, not only was he skilled in producing public driving permits for customers who wanted to bypass the two-year waiting period before one obtained the permit, but he also specialised in producing counterfeit sick notes from government and private institutions, driver's permits, birth and identity documents, among other documents.

The suspect was admitted to E4 000 bail pending his re-appearance before the court.

'MEASURES IN PLACE TO FIGHT KILLING OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH ALBINISM'

BY NOMY NYANDZENI
Mbabane

THE Stukie Motsa Foundation has measures in place to fight against the killing of people living with albinism.

The foundation's founder Stukie Motsa said as an organisation that protects the rights of people living with albinism in the country, plans were in place on how they could curb the killing of people with albinism.

However, she said they could not divulge the measures as it borders around security and is a very sensitive matter.

Motsa added that they are working around the clock in ensuring that the killing of people living with albinism comes to an end.

She said the people living with albinism now live in fear because they are hunted every day and that is not right as all citizens must enjoy their freedom.

She said recently, one male

aged 50 was killed after his wife sold him out to the killers. Motsa said another victim was a child that died in South Africa where a local *inyanga* was implicated. Motsa said the nation must be alert and report any suspicious activity that might endanger their lives. She added that people living with albinism must avoid going to places that might put their lives at risk.

"The killing must stop as it is barbaric, archaic and inhuman," said Motsa.

PROPOSED MAGUGA HYDROPOWER STATION EXPANSION AND THE LOWER MAGUGA HYDROPOWER SCHEME

EIA SCOPING MEETING

The Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) has proposed to expand the existing Maguga Power Station and to establish a Hydropower facility, some 7km downstream of the existing Maguga Power Station on the Komati River. The proposed scheme will consist of two new hydropower plants, known as the Maguga Hydropower Station Expansion & the Lower Maguga Hydropower Scheme. The proposed scheme is envisaged to increase the HPP capacity of Eswatini between 20 and 40 MW.

In accordance with the Eswatini Environment Authority (EEA) Environmental Audit, Assessment and Review Regulations 2000, members of the public are invited to a series of scoping meetings, where information about the project can be obtained. The meeting is also intended to give Interested and Affected Parties (IaP's) an opportunity to voice out their concerns regarding the project for eventual input to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The meetings will be held at the following venues:

1. Luvunjelweni Umphakatsi – Accessed off the Mnyokane – Maguga Dam road at NCESI at 10 a.m on 23 May 2019.
2. Meleti Umphakatsi – Accessed off the Mnyokane – Maguga Dam road at NCESI past Luvunjelweni, at 2 pm on 23 May 2019.
3. Nsangwini Inkhundla – Accessed off the Mnyokane – Maguga Dam road past Maguga Dam at Nsangwini at 10 a.m on 24 May 2019.

For details, written submissions, etc., contact:

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Doc.19008



JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION

VACANCY: DEPUTY COMMISSIONER - ADMINISTRATION

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

Applications are invited from suitable candidates for appointment to fill the above vacant position tenable in the Judiciary on a five (5) year contract in terms of Section 4 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act No. 3 of 2006.

Qualifications

1. He/She should be a person of high moral character and proven integrity; and
2. Possess considerable experience and demonstrated competence in the conduct of public affairs; or
3. Have acceptable academic qualification and experience in Law, Economics, Accounting, Criminal Investigation, or any other related profession relevant to the functions of the Commission.

Responsibilities/Duties

1. He/she shall be responsible for the supervision of the Department and reporting directly to the Commissioner;
2. He/She shall carry out all administrative functions of the Commission including assisting any law enforcement agency of the Government and reporting directly to the Commissioner;
3. He/She shall do all such things as may be necessary for the prevention of corruption; and
4. To perform such other duties as may be specifically entrusted to him/her by the Commissioner; Salary The basic salary is on Grade F4 (E586, 736) per annum accompanied by other benefits.

Aretention allowance is also payable to an officer who is admitted to practice Law in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Superannuation

Applications must be accompanied by the candidate's Curriculum Vitae and Certified copies of the required qualification as well as at least two (2) recent reference letters. Candidates who do not possess the above qualifications should not apply as their applications will not be considered.

The Secretary,
Judicial Service Commission,
P. O. Box 19
Mbabane.

Closing date: 31st May, 2019

DOC:18095

LUBOMBO NEWS

Siteki Office

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Wonderboy Dlamini

'2018/2019 BEST YEAR FOR LIVESTOCK FARMING'

2018/2019 is the best livestock farming season ever experienced in many years, the ministry of agriculture has said.

The country has over the past few months received impressive rainfall, leaving grazing lands green and fertile. This statement was made by Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza during the official opening of Malindza veterinary offices.

The offices are government's plan to decentralise services to the communities, to the convenience of the general public. When making his keynote address, the minister first highlighted the importance of indigenous farming, where residents practice vegetation and livestock farming for both domestic and commercial purposes.

Mabuza noted that the 2018/2019 farming season was the best for livestock farming as the good rains translated to highly nutritious and palatable grazing land for cattle and goats.

The minister, therefore, urged farmers to take advantage of such and produce more so that they are



OFFICIAL OPENING: Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza making his remarks during the official opening of the Malindza veterinary offices.

able to sustain themselves.

He pointed out that, for instance, an ordinary farmer in the community could make huge profits at the end of the year after selling

some of his livestock, minus plant products.

On average, Mabuza said a farmer could make up to E60 000 profits per year.

Meanwhile, the minister commended Malindza farmers for their cooperation in the establishment of the veterinary offices.

The farmers contributed about E70 000 in the project. This was after it was realised that the old offices were too small to provide all the necessary services.

The offices will house veterinary assistants and health inspectors, officials who are mandated by government to provide livestock health services and extend animal health programmes to farmers. Such services will include national dipping services, immunisation and issuing of livestock permits.

The offices will service 25 dip tanks from the various communities under Malindza.

The minister also thanked government for funding the project through the Regional Development Fund (RDF).

"The ministry is pleased to note this level of partnership and enthusiasm shown by farmers of the area as they ensured that the project comes to realisation," said the minister.

Minister assures farmers of available beef market

DESPITE some challenges which are faced by the meat industry worldwide, Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza has assured farmers of available market for beef.

The minister said farmers must continue striving for a higher production of beef as there was a ready market in some countries.

Mabuza urged farmers not to undertake livestock farming only as something for prestige, but see it as an income generating project and for better living standards.

The minister said livestock farming had the potential to contribute immensely in the economic growth of the country.

He disclosed that government has signed a trade agreement with Taiwan to include beef exports from Eswatini. At present, the country sells beef to Europe.

The minister said it was encouraging to note that there was so much potential in the Lubombo region, especially around Malindza where farmers are said to own an average of 12 cattle each.

Furthermore, the minister encouraged the farmers to embrace the practice of selling livestock yearly to avoid instances where livestock ends up killed by natural disasters such as drought.

Dvokodvweni gravel roads to be rehabilitated

DVOKODVWENI Inkhundla is reportedly working on rehabilitating all gravel roads which lead to the main Simunye-Manzini and Mbadlane-Sikhuphe roads.

A number of gravel roads under this constituency are in bad condition following the recent rains which were experienced over the past few months. The roads left huge potholes, posing a danger to motorists. One of such roads is Mpaka-Lubhuku road.

The constituency's Member of Parliament Mduzuzi Magagula has reported that the inkhundla is attending to the roads as a matter of urgency.

Magagula was speaking during the official opening of the Malindza veterinary offices last Thursday.

The MP said his committee has received several complaints from residents over the condition of the roads. The residents pointed out that they now have difficulty accessing some areas, especially during rainy days.

It was said that in some instances, some schools suspended lessons during rainy days as the pupils and teachers would have difficulty getting to school.

"We are happy that finally, the inkhundla has embarked on rehabilitating all the affected roads starting with Mpaka-Lubhuku road which was already in a bad state," said the MP.



NEW STRUCTURES: The newly constructed Malindza veterinary offices.

Maxi's Restaurant to open at Lubombo Mall

A top-class eatery shop, Maxi's Restaurant will next Wednesday open doors for the first time at the Lubombo Mall in Siteki.

Maxi's Restaurant is a South African based eatery shop which has since provided a franchise to a local company which is known as Phinduvuke Pty (Ltd). The company is most popular under the transportation industry as it has a fleet of buses and trucks. The eatery shop is an extension of the main company.

Speaking during an interview at the new shop, Candy MacFadden, who is the Manager, said the company was delighted to contribute

to the development of the small town.

MacFadden disclosed that they were hoping to bring an improved standard of service delivery to their walk-in customers and those to be serviced on site.

Raise

Setting this eatery apart from the rest is that it will also be making door-step deliveries for special orders. MacFadden said the company was here to raise the standard of living, giving royal treatment to customers at low costs. "This will be our first franchise in the country, and like many other franchises, our service delivery

will be according to the standards of the main company which is based in South Africa," she said.

On the other hand, MacFadden disclosed that the eatery has already employed 17 staff members who are all residents of Siteki. She thanked the management for prioritising locals for employment as this will also translate to poverty reduction in the surrounding communities. In the same vein, MacFadden said the company also has a programme which would focus on contributing to the livelihood of needy people in the communities. "We have a charity programme whereby we will be mak-



UNITED: Minister Mabuza poses for a photo with legislators who are members of his portfolio committee.



AT YOUR SERVICE: Maxi's Restaurant Manager Candy MacFadden and Nokulunga Dlamini.

ing our first donation to a certain group of people when we open shop next week," she said.

REPORT CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT TO STUDY LOAN RECOVERY CONSORTIUM

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI
Mbabane

THE Study Loan Recovery Consortium wants all beneficiaries who have changed employment whilst doing repayments to come forward to clear their debts before being classified as defaulters.

Project Manager of the Consortium Khanya Magagula said they had noted that a number of beneficiaries, who recently changed their employment, had failed to inform them about the changes.

"It is through our reconciling exercise that we picked up that some beneficiaries had changed their employment without alerting the Consortium," he said.

Magagula said alerting the Consortium was especially crucial for beneficiaries who were paying through the employer as the deduction needs to be effected by the new employer.



REPORT: Project Manager of the Consortium Khanya Magagula.

He said not informing them Consortium about a move, led them to expect the beneficiaries' portion of study loan repayment from the old employer and when not received, the beneficiary unfortunately becomes classified as a defaulter and the matter referred for litigation.

"As stated previously, defaulters'

will be referred to the Consortium's attorneys for litigation.

The litigation route is not one that we want to take, but we are forced as we have realised that some beneficia-

ries are deliberately refusing to make the necessary repayment," Magagula said.

He highlighted that letting them off the hook would be unfair to beneficiaries who took their time to make the repayment arrangements and are religiously repaying monthly.

Magagula said beneficiaries should understand that paying back the money was an obligation they have to honour not a choice, so that the money would be able to assist others in future.

He advised beneficiaries who have changed jobs to contact the Consortium and request for a balance statement which they would take together with their signed consent form to the new employer so that the study loan deduction would continue.

He said beneficiaries should not use the employment changes as a way of shying away from their obligation of making repayments for

the study loan. He added that like any other debt, once a beneficiary misses a few payments, that debt must be recovered and the monthly instalment must also continue.

"Beneficiaries, who think that they are cheating the repayment system, are actually cheating themselves as they will be expected to fully repay the incurred balance. I strongly advise against missing payments because one would be shooting himself in the foot," he said.

He further advised beneficiaries paying through the bank to make sure that they reference their payments correctly. He said correct referencing would ensure that one's payments are correctly allocated.

Magagula said the Consortium had noted cases where beneficiaries were thought to have not made repayments only to find that they had not referenced correctly.

He added that all beneficiaries have a unique computer number and this was the only appropriate form of reference to be used.

"Now that the Consortium is taking the litigation route, it is imperative that beneficiaries use the correct reference for proper identification," he said.

Stop decampaigning current MPs-'Buy Cash'

STORIES BY SIMON SHABANGU
Mkhakhweni

MINISTER of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza has urged the community of Mkhakhweni to work with the current group of inkhundla officers if they want the area to develop.

He said people must desist from sabotaging current MPs as a means of paving their way to Parliament, when it was elections time.

Mabuza said people who have political ambitions tend to sabotage the good work done by MPs to score their own points hence frustrate development.

He was speaking on behalf of Members of Parliament (MPs) during the Christian Ntshangase thanksgiving ceremony.

Mabuza also urged the people of Mkhakhweni to give Ntshangase

a chance as he was hardworking and dedicated to bringing a lot of good to the community.

He commended other MPs for gracing the event in support of Ntshangase.

The minister said this was a sign of unity in the August House.

Attended

Three Cabinet ministers who attended the event included David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala, Moses Vilakati, Lady Howard-Mabuza and Peter Bhembe.

Speaker Petros Mavimbela and his Deputy Phila Buthelezi were also in attendance.

MPs included Marwick Khumalo, Mabulala Maseko, Lutfo Dlamini, Vulimpompi Nhleko, Bomber Mamba, Mlamuli Mabuza, Zakhele Magongo, Mabhanisi Dlamini, Sandla Fakudze, Michael Masuku, Vusi Swali, Musa Ngcobo and Bambitje Dlamini among others.

Baceth Hardware, Longrich splash out goodies

MKHWAHWENI community was treated to a number of goodies as MP Mduduzi Mabuza dished out cash, T-shirts and a number of other goodies.

The Hosea Inkhundla MP as way of spicing up the event, conducted competitions where participants were presented with cash and T-shirts.

In the dance competition, elders won themselves E300, E50 and a 10kg rice.

Happy

It was a happy day for the community as everyone present had a fun filled day, which was spiced up with meals served to all present.

The MP slaughtered cattle for

his electorate to feast in celebration for his victory.

Also, part of the goodies were promotional items from Longrich, a company which sells health products among others.

Representative

Mpendulo Dlamini who is a sales representative for the products splashed out 60 toothpastes and 96 bar soaps which he said had healing supplements.

Dlamini told the community that joining Longrich could be another way the people could make a living and eradicate poverty.

He said the products were purchased and sold at double the price money used to stock.

Religious leaders also involved in Save the Children's programmes

BY COLISILE SACOLO
Mbabane

RELIGIOUS leaders play a significant role in influencing people's behaviour and attitudes in providing health-care and support for people living with HIV.

Save the Children's Nondumiso Simelane said they involved religious leaders in their projects because many children and young people attended church.

She said pastors not only preach the Word of God, but spiritually counsel

children and all those that seek their help.

"The Adolescent Sexually and Reproductive Health and Right (ASRHR) project promotes discussions on sexual reproduction health issues even in a religious community to curb problems concerning pregnancies, HIV infection, risky behaviours among children and young people," she said.

Simelane said sexuality education aimed at equipping children and young people with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that would empower them to realise their health, well-being and

dignity; develop respectful social and sexual relationships; consider how their own well-being and that of others.

Simelane said ASRHR programmes worked with Adolescents, families, schools, communities and health systems to increase the availability, accessibility and quality of sexually and reproductive health information and services across the adolescent life span together with minister of education, health services, providers and community organisations.

She added young people had the potential to change social norms and have a brighter future for themselves and their families and that adolescence was one of life's most complex stages as young people took on new responsibilities and experimented.

'RAMAPHOSA HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET SA ECONOMY BACK ON TRACK'

BY SABELO MAJOLA
Mbabane

FOLLOWING the victory of the African National Congress (ANC) in the national elections in South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa now has the opportunity to do the needed tough things to get the SA economy back on track.

This was revealed by Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg through a telephonic interview on Sunday.

South Africa's ANC was voted back into office after winning the parliamentary elections.

The ANC secured 58 per cent of the vote, ahead of the Democratic Alliance (DA) on 21 per cent. The fast-growing Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) came third with 11 per cent.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, who replaced scandal-plagued Jacob Zuma last year, now faces the challenge of regaining public confidence in a party that remains beset with internal divisions, which oversaw a raft of economic crises in South Africa.

Saturday's result, which gave the ANC



REVEALED: Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg.

230 seats in the 400-member Parliament, down from 249 in 2014, will renew pressure on Ramaphosa to decisively deal with Cabinet ministers accused of corruption. "President Cyril Ramaphosa now has the opportunity to do the needed tough things to get the SA economy back on track," said Rijkenberg.

However, the minister said it was the

ministry of foreign affairs that was well positioned to give an official position of the country in the ANC victory.

An official stance of the country from the ministry had not been accumulated at the time of compiling this report.

On the country's road to economic recovery, Rijkenberg said he was pleased that things remained stable on that aspect.



TOGETHER WE CAN: Popeye poses with The World of Saints leadership and some of the organising team members.



APPRECIATED: The South African actor posing for a group photo with the organising committee members.

I attended school in the kingdom - Popeye

SOUTH African actor Kere Nyawo says the Kingdom of Eswatini has contributed immensely to his success in the film industry.

He lived in the kingdom when he was still at school, so he does not want to take away all the good things he learned while still in the kingdom as a scholar.

Nyawo is a product of Evelyn Baring High.

Nyawo lived at Makhosini, an area outside Nhlanguano under Maseyisini Constituency.

Promoting

He said he wanted to contribute in one way or the other in promoting arts or acting and focusing on the youth.

"I so wish we could be given a platform to assist the youth

of the kingdom to sharpen their skills or talent.

There is no doubt that we can unearth a lot of talent in this kingdom.

Student

It's my wish that one day we are afforded the chance to assist in this field and as someone who was a student at Evelyn Baring, I feel there is need for me to plough back to this country," he said.

The actor said it was important to encourage young and upcoming artists to take acting or stage performing not only to entertain, but also to earn a living out of it.

He said as actors, they were ready to educate or mould the youth interested in joining the industry.

POPEYE A HIT IN NHLANGANO

STORIES BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlanguano

SOUTH African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) I Zone 14's actor Kere Nyawo, popularly known as Popeye, was a hit in Nhlanguano town on Saturday.

Nyawo is part of the organisers of the planned Shiselweni Annual Fun Festival to be held on June 29 at the King Sobhuza II Stadium and was here to promote the upcoming event.

The event is organised by an events management company from SA known as The World of Saints (WOS). Popeye had a hectic time as everyone wanted to pose for a picture with him.

WOS brought the actor to the region with the purpose of assuring the public that the show would have many SA actors and other celebrities.

Organisers took advantage of MTN Eswatini's roadshow which was staged at the Nhlanguano Mall.

"I am here to assure the people of Nhlanguano and the whole of Shiselweni region that we are part of the Shiselweni



ORGANISER: Popeye with Mzwakhe Myeni during the launch of the Shiselweni Annual Fun Festival in Nhlanguano on Saturday. Nyawo, who is part of the organising committee, was here to promote the event. (Pics: Starky Mkhonta)

Annual Fun Festival scheduled for June 29. It's an event not to be missed. Spinach and myself will be here with a number of your TV stars and two soccer stars in Pule Ekstein and Thabo

Qalinge," he said.

Menzie Collen Mojele, who is WOS President, also assured the crowd that the upcoming show would be amazing.

BODY PARTS CENTRE & SPARES

MANZINI BRANCH: Former Indali Furnitures Building, Opp. Liphaga Flats
Contact: 031 2551 7811, 7812, 7813, 7814, 7815, 7816, 7817, 7818, 7819, 7820, 7821, 7822, 7823, 7824, 7825, 7826, 7827, 7828, 7829, 7830, 7831, 7832, 7833, 7834, 7835, 7836, 7837, 7838, 7839, 7840, 7841, 7842, 7843, 7844, 7845, 7846, 7847, 7848, 7849, 7850, 7851, 7852, 7853, 7854, 7855, 7856, 7857, 7858, 7859, 7860, 7861, 7862, 7863, 7864, 7865, 7866, 7867, 7868, 7869, 7870, 7871, 7872, 7873, 7874, 7875, 7876, 7877, 7878, 7879, 7880, 7881, 7882, 7883, 7884, 7885, 7886, 7887, 7888, 7889, 7890, 7891, 7892, 7893, 7894, 7895, 7896, 7897, 7898, 7899, 7900, 7901, 7902, 7903, 7904, 7905, 7906, 7907, 7908, 7909, 7910, 7911, 7912, 7913, 7914, 7915, 7916, 7917, 7918, 7919, 7920, 7921, 7922, 7923, 7924, 7925, 7926, 7927, 7928, 7929, 7930, 7931, 7932, 7933, 7934, 7935, 7936, 7937, 7938, 7939, 7940, 7941, 7942, 7943, 7944, 7945, 7946, 7947, 7948, 7949, 7950, 7951, 7952, 7953, 7954, 7955, 7956, 7957, 7958, 7959, 7960, 7961, 7962, 7963, 7964, 7965, 7966, 7967, 7968, 7969, 7970, 7971, 7972, 7973, 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BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

ESWATINI SETS E5BN TARGET FROM FDI

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

ESWATINI is looking to get at least E5 billion from Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) per annum.

A Foreign Direct Investment is an investment in the form of controlling ownership in a business in one country by an entity based in another country. It is thus distinguished from a Foreign Portfolio Investment by a notion of direct control. This was disclosed by Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo during the launch of the Kingdom of Eswatini Strategic Road Map 2019-2023 at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre yesterday.

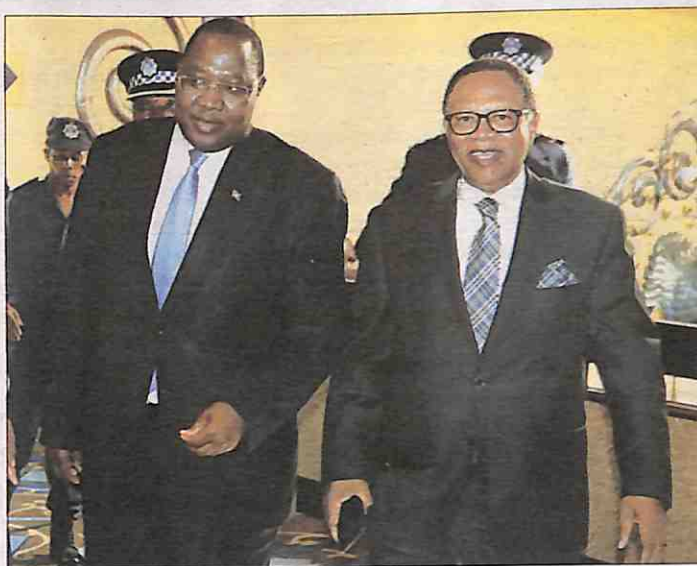
He stated this was part of the country's targets in the roadmap officially launched by the Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini.

He said it was essential that the Eswatini Investment Promotion Authority (EIPA) have a global mindset as this would make it easier for the country to meet this target.

Not only is the kingdom targeting the said amount from FDI but they are looking at creating at least 10 000 employment opportunities for EmaSwati per year.

The minister highlighted that employment

...country also looking to create 10 000 employment opportunities per annum



LEADING THE WAY: Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini and the DPM Themba Masuku upon arrival for the Eswatini Strategic Roadmap launch which was held at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

was one of the biggest challenges faced by the Kingdom and that the roadmap was meant to help government address some of these challenges.

"It will not be easy to achieve this but we are all determined to work extra hard in ensuring that we do, so we can curb this challenge," he said.



READY: Governor of the Central Bank of Eswatini Majozi Sithole upon arrival with Senate President Lindiwe Dlamini.



HANDSHAKE: Senator Prince Hlangabeza shakes hands with businessman Tum Du Pont at the end of the ceremony.

Gross Reserves should cover at least 4 months of export - PM

PRIME Minister Ambrose Dlamini says it is essential for the country to ensure the Gross Official Reserves cover at least four months of export.

Addressing the gathering during the launch of the Kingdom of Eswatini Strategic Roadmap 2019-2023 at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre yesterday, the PM said it was important for the country to be in line with international standards, where the reserves are concerned.

"I have seen that there has been a slight improvement in the reserves and that we are currently sitting at 2.3 months cover. As a country we have to strive to be at more than four months cover. We are a small country and our market is very small hence we need to focus on growing our export," he said.

The minister also highlighted on the country's dependence on SACU receipts, something he said should be reduced.

"We are currently sitting at 36 per cent in



FOCUSED: Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini, Ministers Thuli Dladdla and Prince Simelane watching the proceedings.

SACU receipts and we want to take this to less than 30 per cent. We are all aware that our economy is intertwined with that of South Africa and if things don't go well there we get affect-

ed.

"We need to work on our concentration risks where SACU receipts are concerned so that we are not too dependent on them.

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VITALS

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

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 13 MAY 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.1841	14.2341
British Pound/SZL	18.4549	18.5199
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.7090	7.7340
Swiss France/SZL	14.0283	14.0722
Botswana-Pula/SZL	1.3234	1.3394
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.8934	9.9325
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.5528	10.5869
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	15.9308	15.9870
Gold	1,283.9080	
Oil	72.07	

For more information contact:
Standard Bank Global Markets Department
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Standard Bank

MTN E100 000 funding to JA Vocational Education

BY BAHLE GAMA

THE MTN foundation has pumped in E100 000 towards the Junior Achievement (JA) Eswatini Vocational education programme in Mpaka.

Addressing the gathering during the handover which took place at The George Hotel in Manzini yesterday, MTN Foundation Board Chairperson Busisiwe Simelane said the funds would assist 50 students.

"Today, we are excited as MTN Foundation, to announce a partnership with JA Eswatini. This partnership is funded to the tune of E100 000 for the current financial year. As part of this initiative, a total of 50 students have been identified at Mpaka Vocational Education Skills Training Centre to participate in the programme," she said.

She stated that the primary objective of this project was to assist the vocational students acquire business management skills, in addition to their primary skills of trade.

In addition to the students who will

go through training, two teachers from the vocational school have been earmarked for training as facilitators and the participants will undergo a group session mentorship programme for a period of six months.

"MTN Foundation has also availed an opportunity for five students in this programme who will present successful business plans to be awarded seed capital of E10 000 each," she said.

Objectives

She also mentioned that MTN foundation understood that there were two primary objectives of vocational education training.

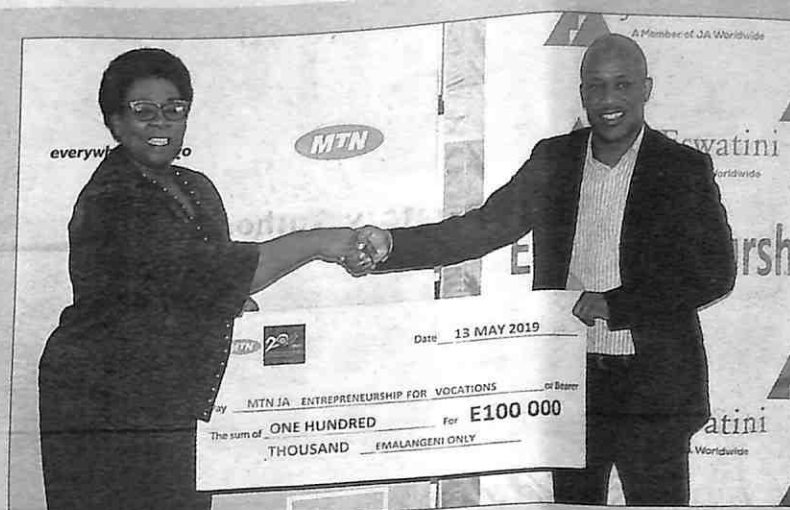
The first, to acquire vocational skills for one to be employable in a specific area of competence. Secondly, to equip students to set up their own enterprises and looking at the current economic challenges, one of them being the massive youth unemployment, it was imperative for the country to come up with creative ways of getting young people engaged in creating their own employment.

"We are aware that His Majesty's government has called for the expansion of micro and small enterprises hence, the view is that not only will this form a solid foundation for our economy but will create a good training ground from which some will graduate into huge and successful enterprises.

"In a way, we believe this initiative is a humble contribution to this aspiration. The MTN Foundation remains committed to playing a vital role in resolving some of the challenges faced by young people in the country and instead of wondering what the country will do for young people, we prefer to practically demonstrate what we could do for the youth in the Kingdom," she added.

Pursued

She further stated that one of the key pillars of MTN Foundation was to contribute to the development of young entrepreneurs in the Kingdom of Eswatini. This, they have pursued in collaboration with other partners in the past, with massive success.



THANK YOU: Junior Achievement Executive Director Siboniso Madlopha receiving the E100 000 cheque from MTN Foundation Board Chairperson Busisiwe Simelane. (Pic: Bahle Gama)

"Our intervention has helped rejuvenate businesses for young and upcoming entrepreneurs, some of whom needed either to diversify or expand," she concluded.

JA Executive Director Siboniso Madlopha extended gratitude to the foundation and encouraged the students who had attended the event to

make good use of the funds and to commit themselves.

"This is an opportunity to showcase to government and the world at large that this is doable. I would like to request for total commitment into this programme with intent to produce successful entrepreneurs who believe in what they are doing," he said.

Eswatini targeting top 50 position in World Index

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

ESWATINI is targeting a top 50 global position in the Ease of Doing Business World Index.

This was revealed by Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini during the launch of the Eswatini Strategic Road Map held at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre yesterday.

This is however not the only target for the kingdom as it is also targeting a top 10 position in Africa and top three in the SADC region.

The PM highlighted that the country had slightly improved in the Index having been placed at position 123 in 2013. "There has been a slight improvement as currently we are placed on position 117. We want to improve from this position and will work hard to achieve this feat," he said.

The PM added that the country would also have to work hard in ensuring the enforcement of contracts as this had an effect on the Index.



IMPROVED: Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini.

"Currently we are on 169 in the Index and have set a target for 145, which we want to achieve in the next three years," he said.

Issues

Meanwhile, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo added that the country needed to work on a number of issues in order to improve the Ease of Business in the country.

"One of the things we will need to

look at is his re-launching the Investor Roadmap so that it connects with stakeholders. There are also other practical things like how we can improve things at our border posts, like ensuring that it operates 24 hours.

"We have also taken strides in as far as the registration of companies and business licences are concerned. For instance, we have managed to reduce the number of days it takes to register a company to one," he said.

Ngwenya border records over 12 000 arrivals during Easter

BY BAHLE GAMA

NGWENYA Border Post accounted for the highest number of arrivals over the Easter period with over 12 000 visitors recorded.

This was disclosed by Eswatini Tourism Authority's (ETA) Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini during an interview yesterday.

He stated that according to information gathered from the Ngwenya Border Officials, the peak of arrivals was noted from the beginning of the holidays on Thursday at around 10pm until Friday, signalling the need for 24-hour border operations during peak periods.

Significant

The highest number of arrivals over the four days was recorded on Good Friday with over 20 000 arrivals.

"The Easter Period tends to be one of the significant times in the year where Eswatini welcomes a high volume of visitations, with visitors travelling for varied purposes which include leisure, religious and visiting friends and relatives," he said.

He further stated that the perfor-

mance of visitations during the Easter period tends to vary depending on both economic and social constraints confronting the decision to travel during this period.

For years the Easter holidays have been towards month end. Month-end holidays tend to coincide with the remuneration period of the month for most workers thus the economic constraint for travel is relatively low.

Predict

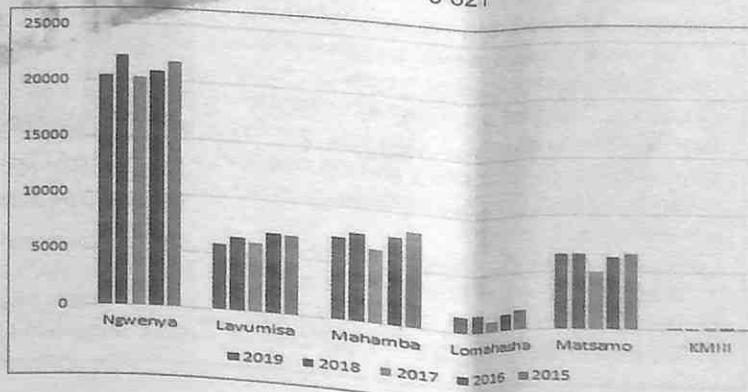
The high volume of religious visitors typical of the Easter period is sensitive to factors that are rather difficult to predict. These include decisions on which country hosts Easter revivals for churches with branches in South Africa and Eswatini.

He also disclosed that during the Easter holidays, average room occupancy rate recorded 69 per cent reflecting a minimal decline of 2.7 per cent compared to 2018, where average room occupancy of 71.7 per cent was recorded.

However, hotels tend to perform more favourably in comparison with the other types of accommodation facilities.

ARRIVALS IN THE COUNTRY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Lavumisa Border Post	5 847
Mahamba Border Post	7 268
Lomahasha Border Post	1 429
KMII International Airport	181
Matsamo Border Post	6 621



Young Entrepreneurs commend JA programme

BY SANDZASIVE NXUMALO

MLUNGISI Mdluli, an alumna of the JA (Junior Achievers) and MTN Foundation collaborative training has expressed gratitude to the organisations for their contribution towards the success of his company MM Far Fresh Produce.

Mdluli was amongst the previous programme graduates that had been invited to the launch of Out of School Youth programme held at the George Hotel in Manzini yesterday.

He said being part of the programme was easy, as all they had to do was cre-

ate a business plan for their future businesses. He stated that if the plan was found to be feasible they would then be inducted into the course and learn all that is needed to build and grow a business.

Raising

"I had been raising chickens for my family to eat and I later realised that I could make money from my chickens. The programme gave us the drive to pursue our ideas because no one chases after you if you don't attend classes," he said.

He stated that the JA also ensured that participants understood the importance of their business.

He explained that business was a separate entity from an individual and as such should not be treated as a personal bank.

"I always remind myself that the aim of MM Farm Fresh Produce is to grow and diversify its livestock.

"This is how I keep myself motivated and avoid using profits for personal reasons but instead inject it back into the business as capita.

"By so doing, I was able to get an incubator for my chicks to ensure they are kept safe and warm while producing more eggs and chicks. I am really grateful to JA for what they have done for me and his fellow youth," he said.



THE FSRA ON TUESDAY

Get in touch with fsra email: stakeholder@fsra.co.sz

A STAKEHOLDER
EDUCATION
FORUM

Understanding Insurance Excess

THE different aspects and provisions of insurance policies can be tricky to an ordinary consumer.

Such aspects may include insurance excess which is an important matter that an insurance agent, broker or an insurer should speak to you or you should ask about when taking a policy.

What is an insurance excess?

Insurance excess is the additional sum of money that an insurance company requires policyholders to pay when they make an insurance claim. The insurer pays the amount of the claim that is more than the excess. When the amount of the insurance claim is less than the excess, your insurer may not make any payment depending on your policy agreements. For instance; Mrs Dlamini took a short-term insurance cover for her car.

The car was then involved in an accident and she got a quotation for the repair of the damages amounting to E30 000 which she submits to her insurer.

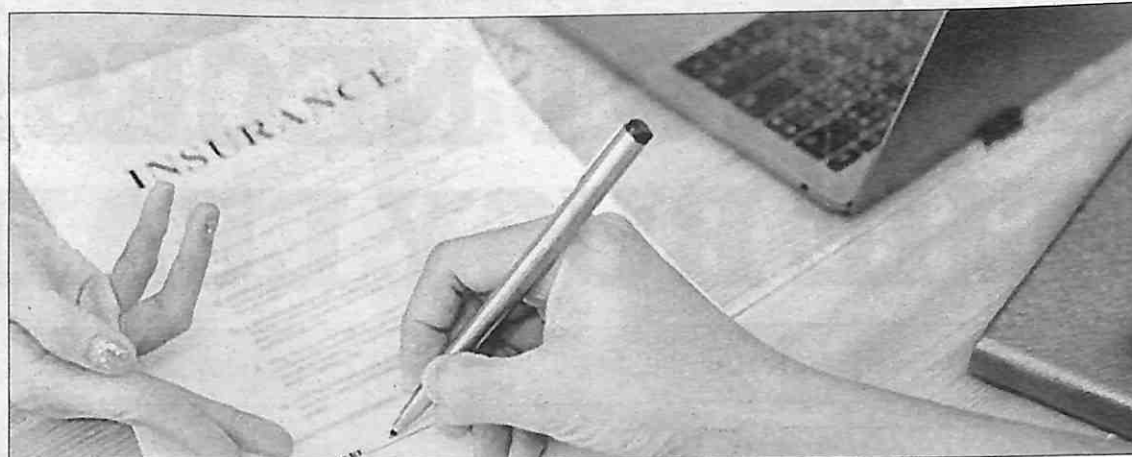
In her insurance policy she signed up for an excess of E5 000 and, therefore, her insurer will pay out E25 000 for the claim and she is liable to pay the remaining E5 000 out of her own pocket.

The excess may be paid to the garage repairing the damaged car or as per an agreement between the insurer and the policy holder.

What are the different forms of excesses?

There are different forms of excesses namely; standard or compulsory, voluntary, graduated and imposed excess;

1. Standard or compulsory excess refers to the amount of money imposed



by insurer onto the policyholder.

2. Graduated excess normally applies in car insurance whereby the standard or compulsory excess is increased for new, younger or inexperienced drivers.

3. Voluntary excess refers to what is being accepted by the insured in return for premium discount but it is higher than the standard excess. The higher your voluntary excess the lower the premium you will pay to the insurer. However, you should be prepared to be able to pay the excess should anything happen to your car.

4. Imposed excess is when the insurer enforces a non-standard excess in a policy, because of the number of claims you have made or other factor on how likely you are to make a claim.

How can policyholders know about their insurance excesses?

When policyholders are buying short term insurance they should ask an insurance agent, broker and insurance company they are dealing with to explain to them the additional amount they will pay for the loss against their insured valuables.

In addition to that, policyholders should also carefully read and under-

stand the conditions of their insurance contracts.

What is the difference between a high excess and a low excess?

A high excess insurance cover means that policyholders will pay more out of their pocket when a claim arises and a low insurance excess cover means that the policyholder will pay a lesser amount out of their pocket.

What are the reasons for policyholders to pay high excess or low excess?

Policyholders can pay high voluntary excess if they want to do so.

The higher your excess, the lower your insurance premiums are going to be.

However, should a claim arise you must be able and prepared to pay the excess out of your own pocket. A high insurance excess is derived from high risk policyholders i.e. policyholders that a specific insurer have rated or classified as high insurance risk and low risk policyholders that an insurer have rated them as low insurance risk.

What if I agree for excess and do not have money at the time of claim?

The nature of an excess is that it is usually paid to the service provider. For instance, if Mrs Dlamini referred to in the above example does not have the excess of E5 000, the garage may not release the car until she paid up the excess amount she agreed upon.

How does the low or high excess affect my insurance premium?

A high insurance excess means that policyholders will be paying low monthly insurance premiums while a low insurance excess means that policyholders will be paying high monthly insurance premiums.

This is because of risk-sharing between insurer and insured.

Can my high claim ratio affect the excess I have to pay?

Yes, a high claim ratio will cause your excess to increase and this will result in your monthly premium to increase.

The more claims you submit to the insurer to pay out, the more your claim

ratio goes up and you might be classified as a risky client.

When don't I have to pay excess?

In most cases, you may have to pay the excess amount when your claim is accepted regardless of fault, however, some policies have provisions which means if you were not at fault and the person who caused the accident is known by you and you have clear evidence e.g. accident record from the police station, the insurer mostly will pay out the whole claim and pursue the person at fault to recover the money.

Why does a policy have an excess?

Insurance policies have an excess because;

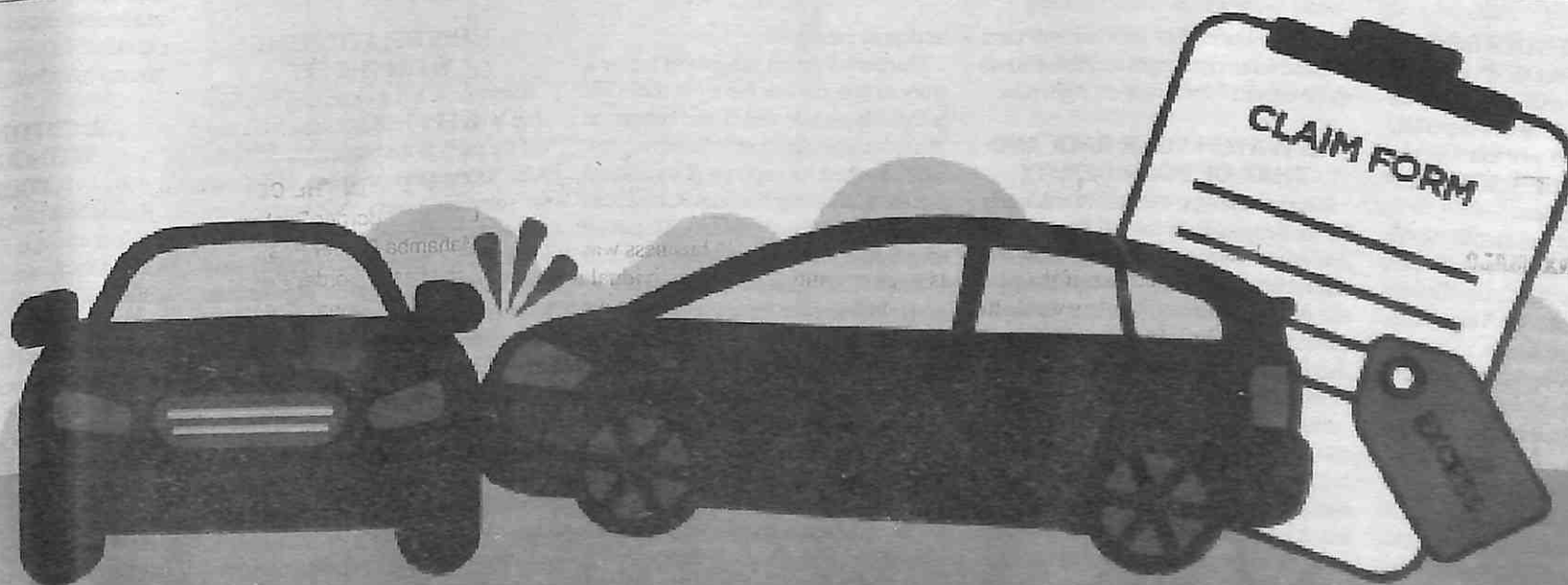
1. The excess is a measure of self-insurance on you which should encourage you to take extra care of your property.

2. The excess eliminates small claims which have a high administrative cost relative to the value of the claim. Elimination of small claims most often helps keep premiums lower.

Excess is very crucial to both the policyholder and the insurer. Hence, policyholders should make sure that they understand this concept to avoid complications and disappointments when an insurance claim arises. Remember, the more voluntary excess, the less your insurance premium.

But you will be paying more out of your pocket should you incur a claim.

Information provided in this article is meant for financial literacy purposes only and should not be construed as financial advice.



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Features & Opinions

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TIVE
LEADERSHIP
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... With

Kholwaphi
Mdziniso

Guest Writer

EFFECTIVE LEADERS
ARE NOT NECESSARY
THE BUSY LEADERS

A research done by the Harvard Business School in 2002 cites that, for people engaged in leadership positions 90 per cent of them squander their time in all sorts of ineffective activities.

In other words, a mere 10 per cent of leaders and managers spend their time in a committed, purposeful, and reflective manner.

Such a position means there is need to identify which managers and leaders in your organisation are making a real difference and which just look or sound busy.

Furthermore, this means that there is need to improve the effectiveness of leaders and managers, as well as your own personal effectiveness.

Leaders are not paid to make the predictable happen. In most organisations, the ordinary routines of business continue along without much managerial and leadership oversight. The job of leaders and managers, therefore, is to make the business do more than continue and that is to move it forward in innovative ways.

Research cites that, leaders who take effective action are those who make difficult, even seemingly impossible things happen relying on a combination of two traits which are focus and energy.

FOCUS & ENERGY

Focus in this instance, refers to concentrated attention, and that is the

FOCUS	DISENGAGEMENT	PURPOSEFUL
Low	PROCRASTINATION	DISTRACTION
	ENERGY	
	Low High	

ability to zero in on a goal and see the task at hand through to completion. Focused leaders and managers are not in reactive mode; they choose not to respond immediately to every issue that comes their way or get side-tracked from their goals by distractions like; e-mail, meetings, setbacks, and unforeseen demands.

Because they have a clear understanding of what they want to accomplish, they carefully weigh their options before selecting a course of action.

Moreover, because they commit to only one or two key projects, they can devote their full attention to the projects they believe in.

Focused leaders do not waiver on the task at hand until it is completed. Once they are convinced of what needs to be done to move the organisation to the next level, they stick to their guns.

Such a people know that they have to challenge old paradigms and breathe new life into the organisational operational practices, even when some of their superiors balked at their ideas. Often new ideas are barked at and are met with skepticism but when the leader remains focused, eventually the people both superiors and followers do come on board.

MAINTAINING ENERGY

Energy is the vigour that is fueled by intense personal commitment. Energy is what pushes the leader/manager to go the extra mile when tackling heavy workloads and meeting tight deadlines and often it is deadlines of innovation and change.

While both focus and energy are positive traits, neither alone is sufficient to produce the kind of purposeful action organisations need

most from the leaders.

Focus without energy transfers into listless execution or leads to burnout. Energy without focus dissolves into purposeless busyness or, in its most destructive form, a series of wasteful failures.

Heiker Bruch and Sumanthra Schoshaf (2002) designed a matrix that offers a useful framework for diagnosing the causes of nonproductive activity as well as the sources of purposeful action.

The exhibit 'The Focus-Energy Matrix' identifies four types of behavior which are: disengagement, procrastination, distraction, and purposefulness.

The analysis made by Bruch & Schushaf cites that 10 per cent of leaders are purposeful and that is both highly energetic and highly focused. They use their time effec-

tively but carefully choosing goals and then taking deliberate actions to reach them.

Leaders that fall into the other groups, by contrast, are usually just spinning their wheels: some procrastinate, others feel no emotional connection to their work, and still others are easily distracted from the task at hand. Although they look busy, they lack either the concentration or the liveliness required for making any sort of meaningful change.

All leaders need to find a way to be effective through combining focus and energy and further identify ways to motivate their teams to stay on track so that the organisation is able to take meaningful strides into the future.

“Such a people know that they have to challenge old paradigms and breathe new life into the organisational operational practices, even when some of their superiors balked at their ideas”

Ramaphosa's 3 biggest challenges right now

JOHANNESBURG - After finishing off Jacob Zuma's term, President Cyril Ramaphosa will officially be sworn in as president of the republic on May 25 after 57.5 per cent of the electorate voted for the ANC with his face on the ballot paper.

The lights at the national results centre in Pretoria were barely switched off when the Zuma faction in the ANC, unofficially led by Secretary-general Ace Magashule, started grinding their axes.

It is no secret that Magashule and the other Zuma supporters in the ANC's national executive committee (NEC) despise Ramaphosa. Whereas Zuma abused his executive powers to keep himself and other crooked comrades out of jail, Ramaphosa has emboldened and encouraged the law enforcement agencies to act against state capturers inside and outside the ANC.

His presidency is literally a threat to the livelihood of Magashule and his ilk. A stronger Ramaphosa will be met by an equally stronger opposition to under-

mine and hoodwink him at every turn. These three challenges are Ramaphosa's most urgent inbox matters right now.

1. WATCH YOUR BACK AND THAT OF YOUR DEPUTY

Ramaphosa's power will immediately be challenged from Luthuli House as the Zuma camp regroups to undermine and ultimately unseat him. It won't be easy – the ANC performed better at the polls than most anticipated and there is no doubt that Ramaphosa contributed vastly to this electoral victory.

Magashule's psychological warfare against Ramaphosa, by repeatedly stating that he was not individually important for the ANC to win the election, is aimed at undermining his stature and respect in the party. Magashule is hoping to convince ANC leaders and members that Ramaphosa is replaceable.

The Sunday Independent reported yesterday that Lindiwe Sisulu and Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma are both waiting in the wings to take over from David Mabuza

as deputy president.

There are different versions of the back story to this, but one theory in the ANC is that Magashule and co are betting on Sisulu's blind ambition to become president to unseat Ramaphosa. It is no secret that the relationship between Ramaphosa and Sisulu has been strained. Do not be surprised if she does not make it back to Cabinet. The Zuma camp has never forgiven Mabuza for turning against them at NASREC and giving his votes to Ramaphosa for president. Ramaphosa needs Mabuza's loyalty to buffer him from Luthuli House attacks.

A major headache for Ramaphosa is the list of the ANC's integrity committee with names of people they recommend should not represent the ANC in Parliament. Mabuza's name alongside that of other Ramaphosa allies Gwede Mantashe and Fikile Mbalula apparently feature on this list. The list also includes the names of unsavoury characters like Nomvula Mokonyane, Bathabile Dlamini and Malusi Gigaba, but Ramaphosa can hardly only

act against those "rogues" who are seen to be Zuma supporters.

3. HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EFF

Ramaphosa has a charming relationship with EFF leader Julius Malema, but the party is the biggest threat to the ANC's long-term existence. If it wasn't for suburban voters in Johannesburg taking their national votes from the DA to the ANC, the governing party may have lost Gauteng due to the large increase in township voters turning to the EFF away from the ANC.

The EFF has made major inroads in black communities in this election. The party appeals to a cross-section of middle-class and township voters who may feel the ANC is not actively championing the rights and issues of black people.

How does Ramaphosa champion non-racialism and issues pertaining specifically to the majority African population? Land and race will be central to the EFF's continued erosion of ANC support. Ramaphosa will simply have to deal with these matters in a way that

stops the bleeding of ANC votes in townships and doesn't alienate white, coloured and Indian voters who have turned to the ANC in support of Ramaphosa's "thuma mina" call.

2. CUTTING CABINET WITHOUT SPITTING YOUR FACE

Ramaphosa has promised to shrink his Cabinet and it is the right thing to do. South Africa's executive has 36 members and 35 deputy ministers on top of that. It is obscene and could be cut in half.

He simply has to cut back, but who to cut? Although Ramaphosa's position in the ANC has been cemented by the electoral victory, he is not untouchable and firing a number of experienced, senior ministers could spell danger for his long-term game.

Ramaphosa is still a politician and will have to reward his support bases like the SA Communist Party when he decides on a Cabinet. He can also not afford to alienate the ANC Women's League (ANCWL) and will have to find a way of giving something if he fires Dlamini.

News24

Focus on SA Scene

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Cyril Ramaphosa under pressure to appoint untainted Cabinet

JOHANNESBURG - President Cyril Ramaphosa is under pressure to drop ministers implicated in wrongdoing when he assembles his new, trimmed-down Cabinet.

On Sunday, the governing party's alliance partner, COSATU, and the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation were among organisations that called on him to drop rogue ministers, some of whom were also outed by the ANC's integrity committee.

This comes after it emerged that groupings in the ANC were embroiled in a debate over the deputy presidency of the country, with indications that Deputy President David Mabuza was no longer guaranteed his position.

Former AU Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and International Relations Minister Lindiwe Sisulu have been touted to replace Mabuza.

The president is expected to announce his new Cabinet after his inauguration on May 25. Today, the ANC's national executive committee (NEC) were expected to meet to decide on the premiers of the eight provinces that the party will be governing.

COSATU expected to be consulted by Ramaphosa before announcing his Cabinet. Spokesperson Sizwe Pamla told Independent Media that the labour federation's last central executive committee meeting at the end of February was clear about the requirement for meaningful consultation.

Pamla said COSATU had warned its



UNDER PRESSURE: President Cyril Ramaphosa beams during a gathering held outside Luthuli House in Johannesburg to express gratitude to all South Africans for participating in the elections and to celebrate the ANC's national victory. (AP)

ally against being legalistic about its senior leaders implicated in wrongdoing by stating they have not been found guilty by courts of law.

Inquiry

Several senior ANC leaders have been implicated in corruption and in evidence before the Zondo inquiry into state capture, including NEC members Nomvula Mokonyane, Nathi Mthethwa, Thabang Makwetla and secretary-general Ace Magashule.

COSATU's secretariat was scheduled to meet today to discuss the elections and the Cabinet appointments.

Pamla said the federation could call its political commission, which included its affiliates' sharpest political minds, to discuss the new cabinet and also extend it to include at least one national office-bearer from each affiliate.

According to Pamla, COSATU would demand reasons for recycling long-serving ministers such as Jeff Radebe, who has been in the Cabinet since 1994; former SA Reserve Bank Governor Tito Mboweni; Dlamini Zuma; and Aaron Motsoaledi, who has been health minister since 2009.

Political Bureau

He doesn't deserve to be dignified - Floyd Shivambu

JOHANNESBURG - The Daily Show host Trevor Noah received mixed reaction from South Africans after a video of him comparing EFF leader Julius Malema to US President Donald Trump was released on Friday.

The comedian made reference to moments from Malema's political career, including a clip from an interview where he (Malema) spoke about killing white people.

"Julius Malema talks about genocide like he's remodelling his kitchen," said Noah. The clip saw him trend on Twitter for most of the weekend, with some claiming he had 'sold out' while others applauded his comments.

The EFF's Floyd Shivambu took to social media to call Noah a 'puppet of establishment'.

Zindzi Mandela retweeted Shivambu's message while Malema also had a not so subtle message.

The clip appears to have been deleted off The Daily Show's Twitter and Facebook pages. But that hasn't stopped it from being shared on social media.

Times Live



TOUTED: Julius Malema, Helen Zille.

MALEMA, ZILLE TOUTED AS UCT'S NEXT CHANCELLOR

CAPE TOWN - EFF leader Julius Malema and Premier Helen Zille are both being touted as the next UCT chancellor to replace outgoing Chancellor Graça Machel.

UCT registrar Royston Pillay said Machel's term was ending this year after first elected in 1999.

Pillay said the chancellor was the titular head of the university and presided at all graduation ceremonies and conferred all degrees and awards in the name of the university.

"The role of chancellor requires an individual of stature, with exceptional personal qualities and integrity."

Pillay said nominations in writing must be signed by at least 20 people (but not

more than 30), each of whom must be either a member of the convocation or a member of staff or a student at the university. Kamvelihle Tabata, SRC Treasurer-general, was in favour of Malema. "He must be the appointed chancellor of the university based on many reasons, including the fact that he wants to transform our societies."

Tabata said: "If UCT wants to transform, there is no reason not to appoint Malema as a chancellor, especially considering the political dynamics of South Africa."

"He is also leading the biggest, fastest-growing movement in the country."

Closing date for nominations is June 7. **Cape Argus**

MAIMANE 'NOT GOING ANYWHERE'

JOHANNESBURG - Several DA leaders on Sunday threw their weight behind under-fire party leader Mmusi Maimane, demanding that he complete his term and that he not be solely blamed for dwindling electoral support.

Ahead of Monday's federal executive meeting in Joburg, Maimane is under siege from senior DA figures unhappy with its performance in last week's national and provincial elections, where the official opposition's support fell from 22.23 per cent in 2014 to 20.77 per cent.

The party also shed almost 500 000 voters, dropping from nearly 4.1 million in 2014 to just above 3.6 million this time.

Six of the nine DA provincial leaders backed Maimane, saying the party took collective ownership of its successes in the 2016 local government elections and should do the same now.

Free State and Limpopo leaders, Patricia Kopane and Jacques Smalle, respectively, said there had not been

any calls for Maimane to step down. KwaZulu-Natal provincial leader Zwakele Mncwango said the sentiment that Maimane should go was misplaced because decisions in the DA were taken collectively.

"Mmusi is not going anywhere," he insisted.

Kopane admitted that the elections were tough and complex, but Maimane should not be blamed.

She challenged Maimane's detractors to wait for the end of his term in 2021 and contest for the position. Northern Cape provincial leader Andrew Louw said nobody had the legal standing to ask Maimane to step down.

Louw said Maimane would stay as leader.

Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape provincial leaders Jane Sithole and Nqaba Bhanga, respectively, backed Maimane, saying it was through opposition parties' efforts that the ANC was below 60 per cent for the first time.

Political Bureau



HERE TO STAY: DA leader Mmusi Maimane.

ANC councillor's face severely burnt after house 'petrol-bombed'

JOHANNESBURG - At a time when election-results fever gripped the country, an ANC councillor in Mohlakeng, West Rand, was rushed to hospital after his house was petrol-bombed.

Festus Matshogo, 58, was alone in the house when it was bombed on Sunday morning.

It was unclear why it was targeted. Matshogo, whose four children were out with their mother, suffered severe burns to his face and body. He was admitted to hospital. A few hours after the bombing, neighbours and police were still trying to piece together what happened. A neighbour, who wished not to be named, said: "At 4am I heard a disturbing sound - an explosion similar to the ones you hear at the mines."

"I ran outside to see what was happening. There was broken glass and crushed brick pieces directly at my door," he said.

The man also said that when he got to Matshogo's house, he found the councillor struggling to open the front door. He managed to escape only when a side wall of the house collapsed.

"I helped him out and put him in my house. His face, arms and hands were burnt."

"I went back to his house to see if there were any items of value that could be saved. There was nothing to be saved; everything was either in pieces or ashes," he said.

The neighbour said he found three bottles of what looked like petrol in the house.

Matshogo's relatives gathered at his neighbour's house, and all of them said they were shocked by the incident. There was rubble and broken glass across the street, and the explosion also damaged one of Matshogo's neighbour's houses. **The Star**



Focus on World News

Global News

MAY SETS OUT TIMETABLE FOR HER DEPARTURE

LONDON - Prime Minister Theresa May does not need to spell out a timetable for her departure, Prisons Minister Robert Buckland said on Sunday, adding the leader had already announced she would leave office after the first phase of Brexit.

May, who offered to quit if her deal to leave the European Union was passed by Parliament, is under pressure to detail when she will leave office from angry Conservative lawmakers who want a new leader to try to improve the party's fortunes.

"The prime minister's said that she is going to go once the first phase of Brexit has been delivered," Buckland told Sky News, adding that meant after the deal agreed with the EU in November was ratified by Parliament.

"If that can be done quickly, then we have that timetable set out already. I don't think she needs to say any more about that. What we need to do is to get on with the job," he said, adding that the deal could be passed in the next few months.

AFP



EKHAYA: Prime Minister Theresa May.

It's time to rise up, Venezuelan general tells military officers

CARACAS - A Venezuelan general called on the country's armed forces on Sunday to rise up against President Nicolas Maduro, who has relied on the backing of the military to hold on to power despite an economic collapse.

Ramon Rangel, who identified himself as an air force general, said the Venezuelan government is being controlled by the "communist dictatorship" in Cuba - a key Maduro ally.

"We have to find a way to get rid of the fear, to go out into the streets, to protest, and to seek a military union to change this political system," Rangel, dressed in a suit with a copy of the constitution in his hand, said in a video posted on YouTube. "It's time to rise up."

While Rangel's pronouncement marks another blow to Maduro after a handful of similar defections by senior officers this year, there is little to indicate that he will tip the scales.

Officers who have disavowed Maduro have fled the country and the military top brass - most notably those who command troops - continues to recognise Maduro.

The information ministry did not respond immediately to a request for comment. Reuters was also unable to obtain com-



RISE UP: Ramon Rangel has called on the people of Venezuela to rise up.

ment from Rangel.

Air Force Commander Pedro Juliac posted a picture of Rangel on Twitter on Sunday with the words "traitor to the Venezuelan people and the revolution" printed across the image.

Rangel was an active military officer who fled to Colombia last month, according to a source close to Venezuela's military who asked not to be identified.

Unlike other officers who have made similar pronouncements, Rangel did not voice support for Juan Guaido - the opposition leader who invoked the constitution in January to assume the interim presidency, arguing that Maduro's 2018 re-election was a fraud.

More than 50 nations, including the United States and most South American nations, call Guaido Venezuela's legitimate leader.

Guaido and a group of soldiers called on the armed forces on April 30 to turn on Maduro, but the military never joined and the uprising collapsed. The government called the event a coup attempt and accused a group of 10 opposition legislators of treason for joining rallies that day.

Venezuela is suffering a hyperinflationary collapse that has fuelled a migration exodus of some 3.5 million people in the past three years.

Reuters

Argentine lawmaker dies after being shot near Congress

BOGOTA - Argentinian lawmaker Hector Olivares died on Sunday after being shot in Buenos Aires's Congressional Plaza three days earlier, his party confirmed.

Olivares, a lawmaker with the centrist Union Civica Radical (UCR) party, was shot by individuals sitting in a parked car as he was walking near the Argentine Congress with government aide Miguel Yadon early on Thursday.

Yadon was also shot and died at the scene.

"Hector Olivares died," UCR said in a tweet late on Sunday. "We will demand justice and that the killers serve an effective sentence."

"All those involved in the attack on lawmaker Olivares and Miguel Yadon have been detained, one day after committing the crime, thanks to the impressive work of our community forces," Argentinian President Mauricio Macri said on Friday.

Six people were arrested following the attack, Telam state news agency reported, adding that all six were "part of a gypsy clan."

On Friday, Security Minister Patricia Bullrich said that Yadon appeared to be the target of the attack. "A mafia clan ... killed a person over issues of a personal nature," she said.

DPA



FAKE: Members of the action group Extinction Rebellion (XR) hold banners in front of the Eiffel Tower, in Paris, France, after spilling fake blood on the Trocadero esplanade. (AFP)

Fake blood flows at anti-extinction protest in Paris

PARIS - Environmental protesters spilled fake blood on Sunday on the steps of the Trocadero, a Paris tourist landmark, in a stunt to highlight the accelerated loss of biodiversity on Earth, AFP journalists reported.

As sightseers and police looked on, members of the Extinction Rebellion campaign group emptied canisters containing around 300 litres of red liquid on the famous esplanade across from the Eiffel Tower.

Brandishing banners with the slogan: "Stop the sixth mass extinc-

tion," the protesters then observed a few minutes' silence before cleaning the steps.

Also on Sunday, six Extinction Rebellion activists were detained in the south-west city of Bordeaux for putting up a banner overnight on the scaffolding of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a popular tourist site.

In a landmark report last week, the United Nations warned that a million of Earth's estimated eight million species are at risk of extinction.

AFP

BRIEFS

Cuban LGBTI activists hold pride parade

CUBA - Cuban gay rights activists held an unauthorised independent pride parade in Havana despite the Communist government warning against it and calling it subversive, an unprecedented show of civil society in the one-party state. More than a hundred Cubans chanting "long live a diverse Cuba" and carrying rainbow flags joyfully marched nearly one kilometre from Havana's Central Park down to the seafront boulevard before being stopped by dozens of security officials. At least three activists were arrested by plainclothes policemen while others were ordered to disperse given the activity did not have an official permit.

Reuters

Indian cyclone death toll rises

DELHI - The death toll from a major cyclone that hit eastern India and Bangladesh in early May rose to 77 yesterday as anger grew over millions of people still without power and water. Cyclone Fani, the first summer cyclone to hit India's Bay of Bengal coast in 43 years, made landfall in Odisha state on May 3 packing winds up to 200km per hour. The winds damaged half a million houses, uprooted hundreds of thousands of trees and knocked out power, telecommunications and water for millions of people in one of India's poorest states. The Indian death toll, which earlier stood at 41, shot up with fresh casualties reported from Puri and Khurda districts on Sunday. AFP

Mystery surrounds killing in German

MUNICH - Arrows were found in the bodies of three people found dead in the southern German city of Passau on Saturday, police confirmed. Employees found the bodies of a 53-year-old man and two women aged 30 and 33 in a room in a guest house alongside two crossbows. The group had rented the room on Friday. They arrived late on Friday evening in a white pickup truck, the news portal merkur.de reported. All of them are German nationals, according to police. The 53-year-old man and the 33-year-old woman were from Rhineland-Palatinate state in south-central Germany while the 30-year-old was from Mecklenburg West Pomerania in north-eastern Germany. DPA

Sri Lanka blocks social media

SRI LANKA - Sri Lanka blocked access to Facebook and WhatsApp yesterday after a posting sparked anti-Muslim riots across several towns in the latest fallout from the Easter Sunday suicide attacks.

The country has been under a state of emergency since the suicide bombings.

Christian groups attacked Muslim-owned shops in the northwestern town of Chilaw on Sunday in anger at a Facebook post by a shopkeeper, police said.

Security forces fired in the air to disperse mobs, but the violence spread to nearby towns where Muslim businesses were also attacked.

DPA

Focus on Africa News

Continental News

CYCLONE IDAI...

MOMS, GRANNIES TELL HEARTBREAKING STORIES

MAPUTO - On March 15, a cyclone ripped through central Mozambique. Heavy rains caused the banks of the Buzi river to break, creating an 'inland ocean'.

Floods tore through communities, destroying everything in their path. Thousands of families, many of them with young children, sought safety on top of high buildings, waiting to be rescued.

On assignment for the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), photographer James Oatway met with communities across Sofala province. In the aftermath of the catastrophe, these mothers show us what strength, courage and resilience truly look like.

Marta went into labour in the Muada accommodation centre in Tica, outside Beira.

"I arrived in the camp on cyclone day. That day we suffered a lot," she remembers. "The whole house collapsed. I was running. We were seeing all the houses collapsing. I fell when I was running." Marta went into labour two weeks after arriving in the camp. Her husband took her by bicycle to the nearest hospital where she gave birth to twins. One of her babies died the next day. She thinks he was injured when she fell while running to safety. She is now devoting all her energy to keeping her remaining baby, Malina Seba, alive and



AFFECTED: Elizarda Rodina, 19 years old, from Buzi.

healthy. "My baby boy, he has no name, I still haven't given him a name. The villagers helped me bury him because I couldn't be there. I am recovering, but sometimes I feel pain. I am sad. Malina is doing okay. Sometimes she doesn't breastfeed. I don't think she knows she lost her brother."

"If I get a future, if I go home, I will go back to farming to survive. I want my baby girl to have food and clothing. We have no money; the cyclone has taken everything. I want her to go to school. I can protect my family. Things will get better."

News24

'Immoral acts' lead South Sudan to ban clubs

JUBA - All clubs in the South Sudanese capital Juba are to be banned and the operating hours of bars limited due to allegations of 'immoral acts' taking place involving girls as young as 13.

The presidency confirmed the ban in a statement released over the weekend, the East African reported. "Jubek state government has banned all night clubs, bars and night music shows in Juba city," read the presidency statement.

Augustino Wani, Juba's Governor, posted a video on Facebook explaining that bars would only be able to operate for a limited number of hours in the early evening and would be forbidden from operating during the day. "Discos we ban it totally because what is happening there is really very dangerous for the future of this country," he said, adding that girls as young as 13 frequented these clubs. "We are serious and we are going to make sure discos

are not working in this country." In other crackdowns, couples checking into hotels would have to produce marriage certificates before they could book a room. Meanwhile, the world's newest country is now in its sixth year of civil war as the government and the opposition continue to bicker over the implementation of the new peace agreement signed last September in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

African News Agency

Cameroon opposition calls for ceasefire to end crisis

CAMEROON - Cameroon's main opposition party on Friday called for an immediate ceasefire and the release of all political prisoners, during talks with Prime Minister Joseph Dion Ngute on resolving the country's regional conflict with anglophone separatists.

At the meeting in Bamenda, capital of the restive anglophone Northwest Region, Social Democratic Front (SDF) leader Ni John Fru Ndi also called for the appointment of a mediator for resolving the conflict. "Everyone must be listened to. The SDF is for inclusive political debate on the crisis..." said SDF official Jean Robert Wafo.

"We can listen to the secessionists without, however, agreeing to the principle," he said, explaining that a "clear and unambiguous" against secession, had to be taken.

During Friday's discussion, the

federalist SDF recommended four measures to resolve the crisis, according to a party statement received by AFP.

The federalist party called for "an immediate ceasefire" and the demobilisation of all separatist forces as well as "the immediate release of all political prisoners held as part of this crisis" as well as the naming of a mediator to prepare negotiations.

On Thursday, Dion Ngute arrived in Bamenda with the message that the government was ready for dialogue to resolve the regional conflict with separatists, while stressing that independence was not on the table.

He said President Paul Biya was "ready to organise a formal dialogue to resolve the socio-political crisis" while stressing that independence was not on the table.

AFP

Zimbabwe gets 10-hour electricity cuts as drought hits hydropower

HARARE - Zimbabwe has implemented 10-hour a day power cuts countrywide to avert the risk of running out of electricity within four months.

The Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) said the water level at the Kariba Dam, which has been supplying the country with an average of 542 Megawatts through the hydropower station, has dwindled.

"We had very little in terms of rainfall influence into the lake and we have reached a point whereby the power generation has scaled down. If we do not scale down, we may have to shut down the entire situation around October because we won't be having water," said ZESA spokesman Fullard Gwasira.

Zimbabwe received its lowest rainfall in 40 years over the past rain season, a situation that could also see at least five million people in need of food aid.

The last time Zimbabwe had acute power shortages was in 2016 following a devastating drought.

But if Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) receive rainfall, the water level at the Kariba Dam will rise and the electricity situation should improve.

"The patterns that we depend on are not from Zimbabwe, it is from Zambia and DRC. Their significant rainfall upkeep should be able to rejuvenate the situation as the year progresses," Gwasira said.

AFP

BRIEFS

Fallen French commandos praised

PARIS - Three hostages freed by French commandos from militants in Burkina Faso arrived in Paris on Saturday, expressing sorrow at the death of two French soldiers in the rescue operation. President Emmanuel Macron welcomed the hostages as they stepped off the French government jet less than 48 hours after French special forces stormed their captors' hideout in a daring night-time raid. Two Frenchmen kidnapped while on safari in Benin more than a week earlier, as well as an American woman and a South Korean woman who were being held with them, were liberated in the high-risk mission authorised by Macron.

Reuters

UN blasts violence on Ebola teams

GENEVA - The UN special representative to DR Congo has blasted rumours that the world body was trying to cash in on an Ebola epidemic that has claimed more than 1 000 lives. Leila Zerrougui, Head of the UN mission to the sprawling central African nation, on Friday visited the eastern city of Butembo where she slammed as "sheer madness" local speculation that "there is no illness, that they want to poison us because they are trying to cash in on us." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said additional resources were required to deal with the outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

AFP

Arrests show the rot that is KRA

NAIROBI - The arrest of more than 40 Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) employees over corruption allegations has lifted the lid on deeply entrenched cartels that have for years made a fortune by contributing to the loss of billions of shillings in revenue. The arrests, executed after a months-long operation by a team from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, the National Intelligence Service and KRA's own investigative wing, netted senior and middle level officers suspected to be at the centre of a web that has seen the taxman lose billions of shillings mainly through tax evasion.

All Africa

Will ICC go after Al-Bashir?

SUDAN - The International Criminal Court's latest finding that Jordan was at fault in failing to arrest former Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir when he visited Amman in 2017 even as it side-stepped action against the kingdom has sparked fresh concerns over the court's ability to tame the world's powerful political actors and rogue regimes. The ICC Appeals Chamber's decision was the latest in a series that has raised eyebrows and fuelled fears that the court may be caving in to pressure from powerful state actors who have waged prolonged smear campaigns against it or questioned its mandate to tackle international crimes. *All Africa*

Observer

Entertainment

New Reviews Star Signs Celebrity Watch Cartoons

MTN BUDGETS 4.2M FOR ARTS INDUSTRY

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

MTN Eswatini has budgeted approximately E4.2 million for the coun-



REVEALS: MTN Brand and Sponsorship Manager Meshack Maseko.

try's entertainment industry, for this year alone.

This was revealed by MTN Brand and Sponsorship Manager Meshack Maseko who said this included E2.5 million assigned for the MTN Bushfire Festival, E700 000 for the upcoming Joyous Celebration show, E250 000 MTN Rhymes and Laughter and E750 000 for the MTN SWAMA Awards.

He stated that MTN was in full support of the entertainment sector of Eswatini as performance art was a universal language.

Maseko said performance art was at the heart of MTN's strategy because it brought their customers together.

Maseko stated that corporate support was key to ensuring the industry developed to a level that could fully support the artists to make a living of their talents.

"We are always in full support of anything and everything our customers do or love.

As MTN one of our mandates is to assist the government in growing the youth as they are the future of the country," he stated.

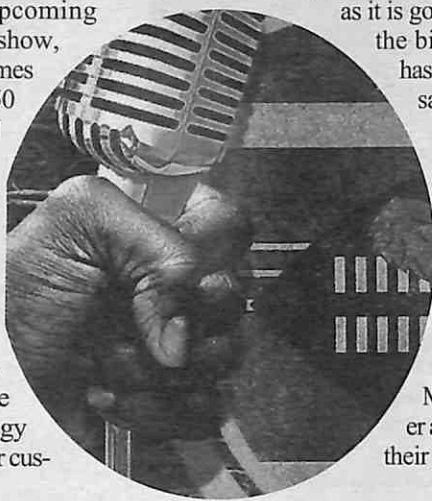
Maseko said MTN was working on being more committed to working with local artists in growing

the industry even beyond the borders.

"That is the reason that we have been working hard to make Bushfire a success. With regards to it, MTN alongside Bushfire are ready and have well prepared themselves for the show

as it is going to be one of the biggest Eswatini has ever hosted," he said.

He stated that they were looking forward to hosting the world and showcasing Eswatini's art. Maseko then mentioned that MTN would deliver a festival beyond their expectations.



MTN was in full support of the entertainment sector of Eswatini as performance art was a universal language

Grab opportunity with both hands - Zox

By Phetsile Mamba

SWAMA sends best wishes to local artists who will be performing at the MTN Bushfire Festival.

SWAMA President Melusi Zox Dlamini urged artists to prepare well for their performances, as this was an opportunity to market themselves.

"MTN Bush fire is international and attracts an international audience, media as well as captains of industry. Over and above just performing, an artist must network and make the most of their presence at the festival.

They must also make it a point to attend the arts round table, one of the essentials within the festival. This is an opportunity and we appreciate the Bushfire team and MTN for bringing all these resources to our doorstep," he said.

Local artists to perform at the MTN Bushfire festival include Bushfire Firefly competition winners, namely Harris, Lindelwa and Sar Nilo. They would be joined by the likes DJ !SOOKS, Tibow, Mkhay, LU, M-Tonic and Phylosophy Guru.

Another artist who will be on the firefly stage are Linda Dlamini, popularly known as Supa CDQ, he started Deejaying 2014 and has been a regular nightlife fixture in

popular hangout spots and clubs based in Mbabane, Ezulwini, Matsapha and Manzini.

Joining him will be Lady Zee, a versatile house music female who has the ability to please any crowd, from private parties to club events.

Also, Speech Umlangeni who specialises in afro deep, ancestral, techno and classic house.

He is one of the Kingdom's few spinners who has the ability to take one on a journey during his live sets whilst singing and dancing the night away. Speech is also a radio mix DJ for EBIS Radio and

LiveAUX.com. He

has released two singles 'Vuka' featuring Nini and 'Baleka' featuring M-Tonic and

Lomasoul.

The event will be held on May 24-26.



BE PREPARED: SWAMA President Melusi Zox Dlamini.

Make Maculuve, Scara Maziya ordained as pastors

BY DELISA THWALA

Five months after being ordained as Bishop, well known Bishop Vusi Maculuve has passed on the baton to his wife Nomvumelwano Maculuve, singer Scara Maziya and other members of the God Cares Christian Fellowship based at Mbikwakhe.

Maculuve declared that he could not do all the work alone when other serving candidates were fit to be of assistance to him. His wife, also a singer who has all along been a pastor has been ordained as Lady President.

Scara Maziya who declared publicly he was joining the Bishop's church late last year, was ordained

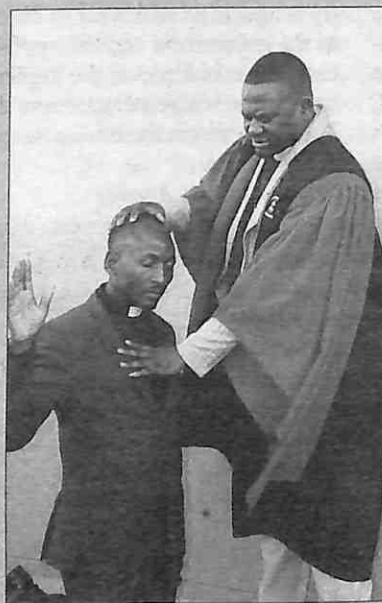
as a pastor.

Upon joining God Cares Christian Fellowship Maziya stated that he loved Maculuve's leadership style.

Maziya said, he would faithfully serve God under his bishop, and that he was happy about being a pastor.

"I am happy that I have reached such a stage in my life and to have my bishop, whom I look up to, it was a great honour," said Maziya. Other ordained members include Sikelela Sithole who is a pastor and Church's Chairperson, he was ordained as President. Upcoming singer Ndumiso Hlophe was also ordained as a pastor.

God Cares Christian Fellowship is affiliated under the League of African Churches.



IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER: Bishop Vusi Maculuve ordains singer Scara Maziya and his wife Nomvumelwano Maculuve at Fellowship based at Mbikwakhe.

The Eswatini Constitution stipulates that a church needs to have a Public Relations Officer (PRO) hence Scara Maziya was also entrusted to

take the reins as PRO for two years. He may be reinstated or reshuffled after this period. Speaking on being made PRO for 'God Cares Christian'

Maziya said God would help him execute his duties well and he would always draw inspiration from his Bishop Maculuve.

1D TO HOST MUSIC CONCERT



...artist would also be dropping single in June

BY DELISA THWALA

AFTER going solo, DJ 1D has announced that he is working on hosting a music concert.

The artist also revealed that he would be dropping a single in June.

Doing everything independently, the DJ said he hopes to work with a number of established and upcoming artists to make the concert successful.

The DJ left SwaziBoy Entertainment stable in March to pursue a solo career.

He conceded that he was supposed to have released dates for the concert but was delayed by missed meetings and the lack of the right people to talk to.

"I was supposed to attend a brainstorming meeting on Sunday but due to the

Mother's Day celebrations, I could not and this has taken the project a step back," said the DJ.

Worth noting is that it will be his first project since leaving the stable.

"I hope that everything comes together since I am still working on growing my brand.

I have to continue to grow and have to do it right, so I hope the two upcoming projects will help me give a meaning to my brand," he said.

The DJ promised to reveal dates of the concert and ticket prices as soon as he has all the necessary information.

Artists to be featured on the single will also be revealed in due course.

DJ 1D has released numerous singles such as 'Inkunzi Enjani'. The song was produced by the DJ and features Mozaik, Qibho Intalektual and KrTC.

In the future, DJ 1D hopes to release a video for the song and organise sponsored walks.

BHOLOJA LOOKING TO PROMOTE 30 LOCAL ARTISTS

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

FOLLOWING the show 'Yebo Gogo, Yebo Mzala' hosted by Bholoja every month, the artists is looking for 30 local artist to perform at the shows.

According to Bholoja, in order to be amongst the 30 artists, interested candidates should register through the show's organizer Kate.

Bholoja stated that the initiative would help empower local artists and give them exposure to learn and network with other artists that perform during the shows.

He said they would be able to interact with artists from other countries who are doing

well in the music industry.

"The lucky 30 will be able to meet and talk to artists who have been in the industry for the longest time. They will get the opportunity to ask them questions and possibly meet their potential mentors," he said. The singer said the initiative would be a great way for upcoming artists to learn how to make a name for themselves and also gain knowledge on ways to market their craft at the international stage. "In order for us to grow our craft, we need to be exposed to such things and I

am giving young artists the opportunity to grow their craft at their own pace," he said.

According to Bholoja, 'Yebo Mzala Yebo Gogo' is a concept he came up with to give his fans a great time while distressing from the rough, busy and stressful month.

"It is a form of refreshment and relaxation from the busy world everyone has," he said.

"I have so much more to give to my supporters and cannot wait to do so. To all jazz and soul lovers, these shows are a must attend and I promise you, you will not regret it," said the singer.



EMPOWERING ARTISTS: Bholoja.

Swazi Boy, Kool Swazi present Winter Break Tour

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

SWAZI Boy Entertainment, together with Kool Swazi, will tour the Lubombo region from May 24-25.

The tour will begin in Pigg's Peak, Gbolondlo Hall, then proceed to Siteki Hotel on May 25.

The tour will see South African DJs Merlon, Bongz, Chynaman and Cheeze rock the stage. These will be supported by local DJs Rylo, Cueblod, Njebza, Crooks, Mbo and M Nation. DJ Bongz is known for many songs such as 'Gwara-Gwara', which gave birth to a popular dance move. He is a house DJ who became a household name in South Africa for his albums 'Game Changer', 'No Retreat' and 'No Surrender'. He became the first South African DJ to sell double platinum and won two Best Dance Compilation awards at the Metro FM Awards.

Also coming for the tour is South African DJ Merlon, who shot to

fame after the release of his song 'Kuze kuse'.

DJ Merlon also has a project 'The Pure Black Album' with his friend and mentor DJ Black Coffee.

Swazi Boy Entertainment PRO Ur Gal Zee confirmed the tour and added that they were planning to give other regions in the country a taste of what they always offer.

"We are hoping to bring fun and good music to the Lubombo region. We know that working with Kool Swazi, who basically rules that part of Eswatini, we will be able to host one of the best parties Lubombo has ever seen," she said.

She revealed that the artists lined up for the tour would bring new materials and songs. "They are bringing new music, new sound and they promised a great weekend so we urge people from Lubombo region and other regions to join us for this tour," she said. Tickets are available at Jazz Time Bar at E80 or alternatively, at the door at E100. VIP entry costs E200.



LINED UP: DJs Merlon and Bongz.

Mzwaa announces 'Right on Time' track list

BY DELISA THWALA

AFTER a year in the industry, MTN Bushfire Firefly 2018 winner Mzwaa will be releasing his first project on May 20.

Mzwaa said he was happy that the EP is 100 per cent Swazi.

"All the music production, song writing, cover designs, distribution and publishing are done by Emaswati only," said the singer.

He said this showed the level at which the creative arts industry in the country is at.

The EP is packed with six tracks, with two of them featuring the soulful songstress Velemseni.

Also featured in the EP is upcoming rapper Young Grixxly, who is relatively a newcomer to the industry.

The EP has six tracks namely, 'Choose', 'I got it', 'Tell me', 'Lutsandvo', 'DFWM' and 'Ready'.

"The production of the project was done by Antidote Music's Sakhile 'Brainz' Mkhonta,

Motherland X's, Vuma Hlophe and Alexandros Hatzinikolaou of Semitone Records. They created an amazing sound and I cannot wait for people to hear the excellent job that these people have done," he said.

Mzwaa also extended his gratitude to musicians Sihlangu 'Sibz' Sibiyi and Likhwa 'Doctor Bass' Maseko for their contribution to the instrumentation of the EP.

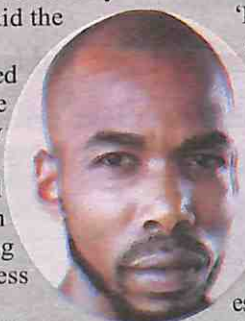
"Right On Time" will be available on both physical and digital copies.

It will also be available on iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify and Google Play Music and is distributed by Antidote Indie. This is a newly established subsidiary of

local music powerhouse Antidote Music," he added.

Mzwaa also thanked everyone who contributed to the success and putting together of the EP.

"I would also like to thank everyone who helped me put this together, my friends for supporting me and I hope people will enjoy my work," said the singer.





Celebville

International Celebrity News

Britney Spears now part of 'Free Britney' movement

LOS ANGELES - Britney Spears has joined the social media movement to free her from her conservatorship, and she told the judge as much on Friday when she was in court.

Sources with direct knowledge tell TMZ, Britney has done an about-face, now telling the judge her father, Jamie Spears, committed her to a mental health facility a month ago against her will and also forced her to take drugs. We're also told Lynne Spears' lawyer echoed the allegation.

TMZ



FREE BRITNEY: Britney Spears.

'Real Housewives of Miami' star Elsa Patton dead

MIAMI - Elsa Patton, the mother of 'Real Housewives of Miami' star Marysol Patton, has died.

Patton passed away over Mother's Day weekend surrounded by loved ones after battling a 'long illness,' according to a statement put out by her family. It's unclear what illness she was afflicted with as her family didn't elaborate beyond that.

They did, however, go on to thank the countless fans and friends who've asked about her condition as of late. The Patton family says private funerals



RIP: Elsa Patton.

services will take place in Miami. 'Mama' Elsa was a recurring star on the hit 'Bravo' series when it ran from 2011 to 2013, having constant laugh out loud moments that made

her a beloved character. Her one-liners and hilarious zingers were popular enough to get Elsa her own web series spinoff, 'Havana Elsa' which covered her endeavours to start her own coffee chain.

Elsa is survived by her two children, Marysol and Thomas Anthony Jones, her daughter-in-law and her grandson. Elsa's husband, Donald, died in 2018. She was 84. **TMZ**

Babes Wodumo actions a 'setback'

JOHANNESBURG - If Babes Wodumo goes ahead and drops assault charges against musician Mampintsha, her actions might have far-reaching effects on the fight against women abuse, gender activist Mbuyiselo Botha has warned.

Botha was reacting to weekend reports suggesting that Babes, real name Bongekile Simelane, was planning to drop assault charges against Mampintsha when he returns to court tomorrow.

"As a male person working with perpetrators of violence, I would like to say while one has to respect her right to have her own views, the sad thing about such actions is that they take back the fight against gen-



SETBACK: Babes Wodumo and Mampintsha.

der-based violence in the country," he said.

"It brings some doubt in some circles, that this is what women do. They will always be finger pointing, that she's not serious and has been frivolous about it."

Sowetan

Simz Ngema on learning to live without Dumi Masilela

JOHANNESBURG - Simz Ngema has opened up about picking up the pieces after the death of her husband Dumi Masilela and 'The diary of a young widow, single woman and divorcee' - a project she started to help other women going through the most as well.



OPENED UP: Simz Ngema.

Dumi died in August 2017 after being shot in a botched hijacking. More than the shock and devastation she felt, Simz told Tshisa Live she had to learn how to be independent again.

"It is hurtful and difficult to be a widow, to have to learn to be independent again. All the things that Dumi used to do for me, I had to now do myself."

Times Live

Remy Ma, Safaree sued for breaking contract

CHICAGO - Remy Ma and Safaree derailed a benefit concert after allegedly breaking two simple rules but it's enough to get 'em sued.

The Circle Foundation which mentors Chicago-area youths is suing the rappers, saying they signed to perform at a fundraising concert back on April 21, 2018, at the Wintrust Arena in Chicago. According to docs, obtained by TMZ, the foundation was forced to cancel the show after the rappers breached their contracts. The foundation claims their con-



SUED: Safaree and Remy Ma.

tracts specifically stated that Remy and Safaree could NOT perform within 60 miles of the arena for 30 days before the event. It's called a "performance exclusivity" clause, and it's a common practice promoters use to make sure their concerts remain in hot demand. **TMZ**

Lil Wayne cancels rolling loud performance

MIAMI - Lil Wayne bailed on Rolling Loud after festival security insisted on frisking him. Wayne was set to headline the Audiomack Stage in Miami but pulled the plug after security was unrelenting, insisting that he go through a 'mandatory' security check.

Wayne reached out to fans on social media, apologising, but standing firm "I do not and will not ever settle for being policed to do my job." He then told the fans they could still see him at the scheduled after



CANCELS: Lil Wayne.

party at story nightclub. We know he showed up for the party.

He also plugged his summer tour with Blink 182. It was a pretty wild night. Kodak Black was arrested earlier in the evening at Rolling Loud after law enforcement executed arrest warrants. The rapper was wanted for state and federal offences involving firearms. It's unclear if he was armed at the time of his arrest.

The show continued after Lil Wayne bailed ... Lil Baby performed after Wayne's scheduled set and it doesn't appear people in the audience bailed on the festival. **TMZ**

DJ Zinhle, Pearl Thusi get all the love on Mother's Day

JOHANNESBURG - Celebrity moms and best friends DJ Zinhle and Pearl Thusi's Mother's Day shoot won the hearts of many tweeps - which saw the two and their families being thrust to the very top of Twitter's trends list.

Love was in the air on Sunday as the world observed Mother's Day. While those who lost their mothers said they had nothing to celebrate, tweeps were there to offer messages of love and support. Pearl thanked Zinhle for being an inspiration to her.

"Your friendship and companionship in this journey of motherhood has made all the differ-



HAPPY MOTHERS: DJ Zinhle and Pearl Thusi.

ence. What I've learnt from you and all the support you've offered to me."

Sowetan

Zahara shakes off record label drama

JOHANNESBURG - After hogging headlines last month over her battle with her former record label TS Records, Zahara is ready to leave the drama behind and spread her wings overseas.

The star is set to embark on a month-long tour of the US and Canada in July, with another tour to the UK in the works. She will also perform in Rwanda later this month in preparation for her overseas shows. The star made headlines when Sowetan reported that she had accused TS Records of under-

paying her for performances, record sales and royalties. Zahara later told Metro FM's Mo Flava that she would sometimes get 'a mere R10 000'.

"I am focused on a new path. I am in a new space. I am exhausted from talking about it. I just want to leave it to my lawyers and move on with my life. I am focusing on my bookings and tours."

Zahara said she is booked for the next few months and would try maximise her time in the US and Canada.

Times Live

FOCUSED: Zahara.



WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY



SEEKS HELP: Dabula.

Lillian finds troubling evidence that Beauty might be right about Zanele and Qaphela. A pretty new face at the rank attracts Nlandane's attention. While Duma tries to reason with Mandla, Dabula is looking for help with dealing with the Ngubane elders.

ISIDINGO

TODAY



ON PLANS: Lincoln.

A married couple's past comes back to haunt them. Is Lincoln thinking of permanent plans for him and Lungi? A winning jackpot ticket causes trouble in the hostel.

Muvhango

TODAY

Azwindini is forced to crawl back to Mulimisi for the sake of his wife. Molehi and KK form an unholy alliance. Sundani uses Thonifro to get back at Teboho, and Mulalo is affected.



TO CRAWL: Azwindini.

RHYTHM CITY

TODAY

Gail gives David what he wants - and Suffo too. Mapula is worried about Keabetswe after the abortion. Jafra goes to new lengths to keep Bee.



FOR KEEPS: Bee.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

A love partner may host a social event or meeting of some kind, Capricorn. It might be interesting to get acquainted with friends of your mate you haven't yet met. Some of them are probably intelligent, interesting people in fascinating professions. One of them could recommend a few books that you will definitely want to read. Have fun. Don't forget to thank your sweetheart!



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

Are you contemplating a trip, Aquarius, perhaps to a place you've always dreamed of visiting? If you're in doubt as to whether or not you can do it, work out your budget and you might be surprised. Invite a friend or romantic partner to accompany you. Such a trip could boost your personal growth like nothing you've ever tried before.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

Material values may pale beside spiritual ones today, Pisces. You might consider giving up the rat race and retreating to the wilderness. This would perhaps make a good vacation, but you probably aren't ready to chuck it all just yet. Don't be too hard on yourself if your enjoyment of worldly pleasures returns tomorrow.



Aries March 21 – April 19

A current or potential romantic partner might seem like the most perfect, wonderful person in the world to you, Aries. Your romantic nature could get the better of you today. Don't gaze at your partner all dewy eyed! Instead, try to maintain a certain distance to avoid appearing too needy. It was probably your self-sufficiency and inner power that attracted your lover in the first place.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

You might not be able to concentrate on your work today, Taurus. Your head may be in the clouds and your eye for detail could fail you somewhat. Needless to say, this isn't a good day to tackle new, difficult, or complicated tasks. Concentrate on routines that you can do without thinking. That way you will get through the day without making yourself crazy.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

Are you an artist, writer, or musician, Gemini? If so, your work may take on a more symbolic or impressionistic tone. Today you're probably more interested in conveying feelings and impressions than details. It might surprise you that you're thinking along those lines. This urge may vanish tomorrow, so if you urge may vanish tomorrow, make the most of it. Try to remember how and why you're



doing it!

Cancer June 22 – July 22

Innovative art forms might seem especially appealing today, Cancer. Stay out of gallery shops unless you're prepared to take home a carload of merchandise. If you're more into music, you might break the bank downloading tunes to your MP3 player. This could be a new phase in your artistic tastes or it could be a longstanding trend. Whichever it is, have fun!



Leo July 23 – August 22

Do you believe in ghosts? Some strange phone calls, emails, or other communications may come your way today, Leo. One may come from someone who thinks you're someone else. Phone calls may be hang-ups, wrong numbers, or phantom rings. If there's a knock at the door, it may be the house settling and not a ghost, but it can still be rather unnerving.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

An unexpected sum of money could come your way today, Virgo. It probably won't be large, but it will be welcome nonetheless. Perhaps someone has owed you money for a long time and finally repays it. Or you might sell an item you've wanted to unload for a long time. Whatever it is, you might want to take a friend to dinner.



Libra September 23 – October 23

Have you been exercising too rigorously lately, Libra? If so, you might feel some little aches and pains. Stay off your feet for most of the day. When you exercise, concentrate on stretching. Spend some time soaking in a hot tub if you can. The old saying, 'No pain, no gain' has pretty much been discredited!



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

The feeling that someone is coming to visit you might be with you throughout the day, Scorpio. Your intuition is probably right, except for one thing - it's probably more than one person! Some friends may have some good news that they want to share as soon as possible. Straighten up the house and pretend to be surprised when they come to the door. Have a great evening!



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

Are all of your friends into astrology, divine science, or spiritual matters, Sagittarius? It might seem like most of them are today, anyway. You may have many new friends in those fields. You have a lot to learn from all of them, and even more that you can learn together.



BABY BLUES



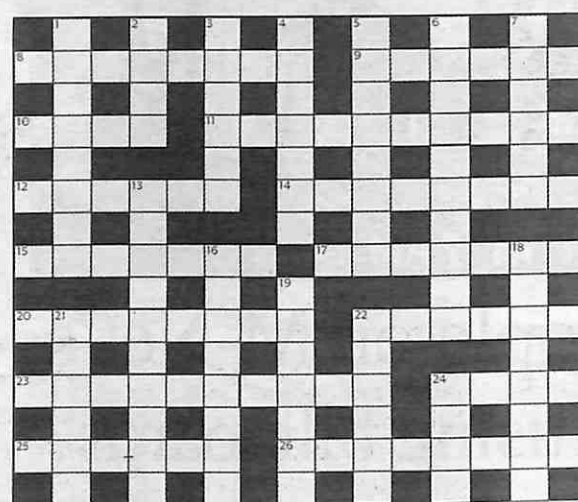
BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

8. Sibyl follows bag painter (8)
9. Cool sort of record Henry and Tom cover (6)
10. Ruth's mine and yours, at first (4)
11. Sally's in class, penning Latin (10)
12. Clingy type left Mike, taken by current favourite (6)
14. Oscar regularly pulls in money for luxury (8)
15. For Dirk, pedant's out of line (7)
17. What Victor will do, a bit charming (7)
20. Track plugged by Kelvin that is more unsettling (8)
22. Norman's bird providing fake news (6)
23. Amazed to play Viola, line's forgotten in Cliff's place (6,4)
24. Grant's a court favourite, according to hearsay (4)
25. One travelling late, a shade before Amber picked up yours truly (3-3)
26. Nancy's really with Carol, making a coiffure (8)

DOWN

1. One in dire straits could be Horace (8)
2. Guy in spin (4)
3. Two lots of Mary Jane's brewing equipment (6)
4. Harry Potter taking drug a high point for Rowan (7)
5. Hit works about Jacob's relative with right vocabulary in these (8)
6. The main youth supporting Frank in free time (4,6)
7. Terry's very good fortune? Not half (6)
13. Bull where Jack's found round rushes (4,2,4)
16. He should be in Nick's wild revel, one engaging cook (8)
18. Mary drops a name introducing artist and player (8)
19. Tommy's revealing little (7)
21. Guy in spin? That's correct (6)
22. Morgan, say, and Paddy dress down (6)
24. Chuck Norris finally punching Leo, for one (4)

CHECK BEFORE YOU SEND

The guy who invented auto-correct for smart phones passed



away today. Restaurant in peace.

DID YOU KNOW

1. Of all the words in the English language, the word "set" has the most definitions. The word "run" comes in close second.
2. A "jiffy" is the scientific name for 1/100th of a second.
3. One fourth of the bones in your body are located in your feet.
4. 111,111,111 X 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321
5. Blue-eyed people tend to have the highest tolerance of alcohol.

MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



YESTERDAY'S QUIZ

1. Who won an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of American activist Malcolm X?
- Answer: B. Denzel Washington.

TODAY'S MOVIE QUIZ

1. God bless America was a 2012 movie made by which comic filmmaker and actor? In which movie franchise did he make his name?
- A. Jeff Bridges and Beau Bridges; Susie Diamond
- A. Why is Bill Murray's character (Bob) in Tokyo in the movie 'Lost in Translation' (2003)?



TWO more need your votes now!

The coaches have made their selections and now it's all up to the fans as 16 'The Voice South Africa' contenders head into the exciting Live Shows next week to compete for the viewers' votes!

Coaches LIRA, Riky Rick, Riana Nel, and Francois van Coke chose the most promising talent for their teams in the Blind Auditions and put them through their paces in the KnockOut Rounds, and then pitted them against each other in the ferocious Battles, and now only the best of the best will get to perform live.

#TeamLIRA will be represented in the Lives by Capetonian singer Krista Jonas (29), the flamboyant Yahto Kraft (18) from Alberton, Sbu Dladlu (34) from Duduza, and The PJ Twins (20) from Bonteheuwel.

#TeamRiky consists of Amy Tjasnik (26) from Cape Town, Durban sound engineer Ross Charles (26), the glamorous Pretoria duo Aura, and the 28-year-old Bitcoin entrepreneur and musician from Port Elizabeth, Eon Claude le Roux.

#TeamRiana's Talent are Lelo Ramasimong (33) from Johannesburg, 26-year-old industrial designer Elisha James from Pretoria, Pretoria singer and actor Francois Viljoen (30), and Siki Jo-An Qwazi (25) from Port Elizabeth.

And the #TeamVanCoke singers are Daniel Jay (23) from Port Elizabeth, the singing waitress Tasché Burger (18) from Brackenfell, Cape Town payroll officer Anslyn Gysman (22)

16 SINGERS THROUGH TO 'THE VOICE SA' LIVE SHOWS!



from Filipi, and the 39-year-old pub singer Chezelle Shahadat from Johannesburg.

SMSs cost R1.50 per SMS, while voting on mobi and web is free. All info on how to vote as well as the terms and conditions for voting are available here. The voting lines opened at 19:00 on Sunday, 12 May, and will close today, at 22:00.

Tickets for the first Live Show of The Voice South Africa Season 3 at the Mosaiek Teatro in Fairlands, Johannesburg, on Sunday, 19 May are available from Computicket now.

For the first Battle of the evening Francois van Coke pitched the 39-year-old pub singer Chezelle Shahadat from Johannesburg against the 24-year-old Pretoria lawyer Matthew Reid, singing the Marvin Gaye Motown classic 'Heard It Through the Grapevine'. Coach Francois and his co-coach Majozi had to caution the singers not to perform a duet, but to do Battle! LIRA couldn't decide between the two singers, but Riky Rick thought that Matthew brought a little bit extra. Francois thought it was one of the best Battles they'd

seen, and he selected Chezelle.

Coach Riana Nel pitted her #TeamLIRA steal, 32-year-old Comeil Muller from Bloemfontein, against Pretoria singer and actor Francois Viljoen (30), performing the Sting, Rod Stewart, and Bryan Adams power ballad 'All For Love', from the movie 1993 'The Three Musketeers'. Comeil's original coach LIRA was impressed with how he adapted his classical style to more commercial music, and she thought he won the Battle.

But Francois van Coke thought his namesake had carried the day. It was a tough decision for Riana, and it was Francois Viljoen with his modern new look who made it through to the Lives.

Next up was #TeamRiky, with the Grade 11 Randburg schoolgirl Morgan Beesley battling the 28-year-old Bitcoin entrepreneur and musician from Port Elizabeth, Eon Claude le Roux. They performed Céline Dion's 'Angel' and LIRA commended the young Morgan for the way she held her own, and gave her a hug. "I want you to win!" Riana admitted to Eon, but the decision was Riky Rick's, and he chose Eon.

For her final Battle LIRA pitted

music tutor Slindo Zondo (29) from Durban against The PJ Twins (20) from Bonteheuwel, singing the Céline Dion and Andrea Bocelli anthem 'The Prayer', from the 1998 movie 'Quest For Camelot'. Sli was recovering from flu during the rehearsals, but the trio's powerful performance left their coach quite overwhelmed.

The very last Battle of The Voice SA Season 3 was between #TeamRiana's Vuyisile Mdlolophane (24) from Richards Bay and Siki Jo-An Qwazi (25) from Port Elizabeth, quite fittingly performing the Aretha Franklin classic 'Respect'.

Riky Rick said watching them was a beautiful experience. Riana said it felt cruel to have to choose between the two divas, but it was Siki Jo-An's versatility, she said, that took her through to the Live Shows.

'The Voice South Africa' airs on M-Net 101 every Sunday at 17:30 and is repeated on VUZU, Channel 116, on Mondays at 20:00. It also be available on DSTV CatchUp. Fans can visit mnet.tv and follow all the breaking news and conversations around the show on Twitter @MNet / #TheVoice-SA and on the official M-Net Facebook page.



Who are all the people on M-Net's 'Survivor SA' advertising billboards?

ROCCO VAN ROOYEN

Meet the castaways who will make sparks fly in the new season set in Samoa!

After some fans had asked whether outdoor billboards for 'Survivor SA: Island of Secrets' featured the real castaways from the show, M-Net confirmed that it was indeed some of the Survivors who signed up to outwit, outplay and outlast their tribe members in the beautiful Samoa. Mrs Cape Town, Lee-Anne van Reenen, was quickly identified as one of these contenders, whereafter M-Net verified that the other faces who looked a little familiar belonged to former Miss Namibia 2015, fitness model Steffi Brink (nee van Wyk), and Olympic athlete Rocco van Rooyen.

SEPEI MASHUGANE

You don't want to mess with entrepreneur and 'Biker Queen' Sepei Mashugane (40). She is a strong, no-nonsense single mother who has built a life for herself and her two children through grit and determination, after deciding that she wants them to have access to the absolute best education. If she puts her mind to something, consider it done.

And, as she admits herself, it's always her way or the highway. When she is not the driving force behind one of several business ventures, she revs it up on her Harley Davidson motorcycle on road trips across the country. As mobility, independence and emancipation are extremely important to Sepei, she also teaches women

that biking holds a key to freedom. This iron lady has won several road challenges on her smokin' two-wheel chariot, but will she also lead the pack on the Survivor island?

TANIA COPELAND

The rules and restrictions of society were not made with Tania Copeland in mind. Or, actually, they were. It's just that Tania isn't going to pay any attention to them. Like Sepei she is a strong, independent woman, but that's where the similarities end. Tania is one of a kind, unlike anyone else who has played the game of 'Survivor'. She may be slightly older than her competitors, but it won't hold her back. This colourful 51-year old immigration consultant is a self-proclaimed

hedonist and an avid rock climber who loves all kinds of adventures in the outdoors. Tania, who has raised several children, teaches English language to adults and knows that she's always the heart and soul of a party – with or without her no-longer-guilty pleasure, a marijuana joint. In 'Survivor SA' she wants to be part of what she calls Team Underdog – who show the big dogs how it's done. (Oh, by the way, her father was a bank robber).

NATHAN CASTLE

If you wonder who the drop-dead gorgeous hunks with the six-packs on the billboards are, meet video producer Nathan Castle (25) and event photographer Robert Bentele (28).

Don't be fooled by Nathan's sculpted, tattooed body and flirty smile, however. He is a highly competitive young man who graduated with a law degree from the University of the Western Cape and he loves playing games that require mental and physical strength. This part-time personal trainer who recently became a partner at a Post Production Facility in Cape Town is also a sharp strategic thinker and a pro at playing mind games. He has Western Province colours in chess! Even though the confident, sociable all-rounder is ready to use his looks to advance his game, he acknowledges that his competitiveness sometimes comes with a bit of a temper – and that can be a risky combination.

ROBERT BENTELE

Robert Bentele is the drop-dead gor-

geous exotic Trevor Noah lookalike on the show.

His dad is Austrian and his mother Zulu, and even though he grew up mainly in the Zulu culture, he embraces and celebrates his unique identity. He has been a bodybuilder and MMA fighter and has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, but for him "everything is about the energy".

He is into Zen, meditation, peace, balance and spiritual enlightenment. Before he outwits, outplays and outlasts, his game strategy is to outcharm his teammates and rivals alike. "I'm a chameleon, I can be anything you want me to be," Robert says. But is it possible to stay this cool and collected while others are aiming daggers at your back?

FELIX GODLO

Sales consultant Felix Godlo (29), is another 'Survivor' contestant known for going against the flow. Felix comes from a traditional Xhosa family, but was offered a sports scholarship at an Afrikaans high school.

Today, he is married to his Afrikaans high school sweetheart and in October 2018 they welcomed a baby boy. Felix is not only a good husband and father, he is also a natural leader and talented sportsman who loves to make his dad, a military man, proud. While studying at the University of Technology in Pretoria, he played rugby for The Vikings and later he represented Old Selbournians in East London. Solid, in-control Felix sees 'Survivor' as the ultimate social experiment and is over the moon to be part of it.

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1999+	Altezza	IS 200	995.00
2007+	Mazda	BT 50	995.00
2004+	Toyota	Hilux	995.00
2004&05	Toyota	Quantum	799.00
2005+	Toyota	Quantum	899.00
2003+	Mazda	Demio	1495.00
2001+	Nissan	XTrail	1395.00
2004&09	Mazda 3	Axcela	1395.00
1998+	Golf (4)	Golf 4	1295.00
2000+	Mitsubishi	Pajero 3D SD	995.00
1982&83	BMW	E30 (Kush)	795.00
2000	Toyota	Corolla (KE120)/RunX	995.00
2005&06	Toyota	Yaris I & II (LK20&LK30)	1195.00
2003+	Isuzu	Fleet side (DMAX)	995.00
2011+	Ford	Ranger	1195.00
2004+	BMW	1 Series(E87-2004 & F20new)	1195.00
2008+	Nissan	NP200	1195.00
2005+	BMW	E90 (330)	1295.00
2005+	Toyota	Mark X	1395.00
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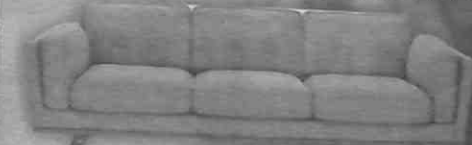
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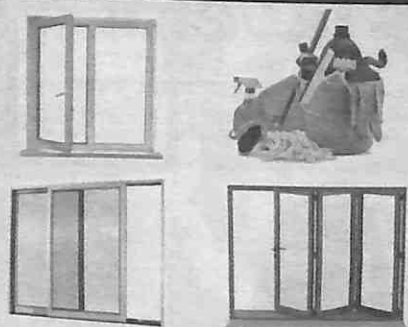


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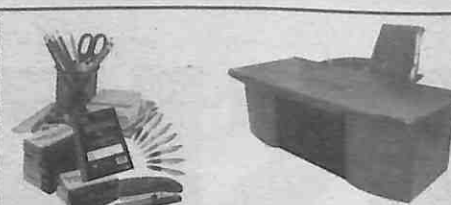
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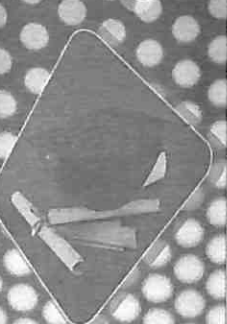
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'WRONG DECISIONS' COST BANYANA - COACH ELLIS

JOHANNESBURG - Banyana Banyana coach Desiree Ellis says while she was unhappy losing 3-0 to the number one-world-ranked USA Women's team at Levi's Stadium in California on Sunday, she was satisfied with the preparation of her side.

"We had one or two opportunities in the second half where we could have caught them on the counter, but wrong decision-making and soft passes cost us.

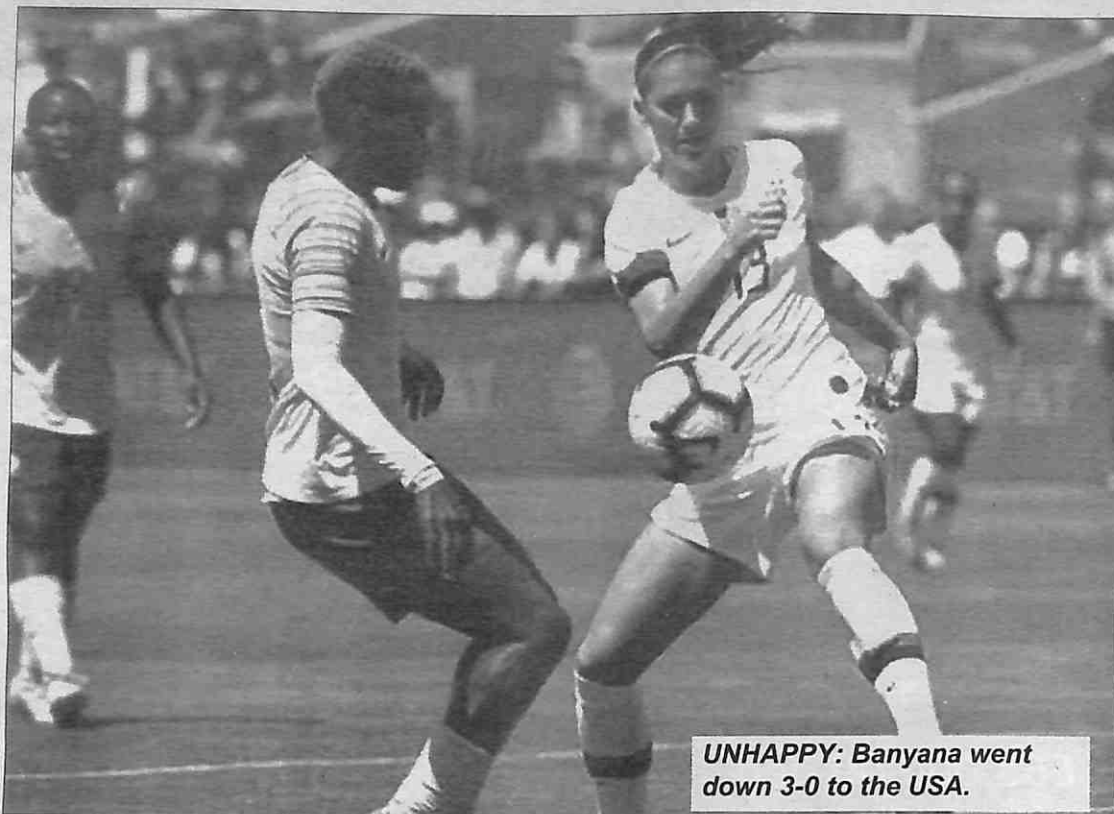
"At times we just panicked and kicked the ball away, and there were one or two occasions when we nearly caught them on the counter."

Ellis said she was happy with the team in the early stages of the match.

"There used to be a time when we would concede in the first 10 or 15 minutes, and we always pride ourselves on being defensively organised and today it showed with Janine (van Wyk) marshalling the defence really well.

"Everybody played their part in that first 30 minutes, they put in a good shift but when we won the ball our decision-making could have been more effective. We could have moved the ball more but sometimes we just kicked it away.

"Then we conceded late in the first half. I felt we were very organised, but we knew they were a quality



UNHAPPY: Banyana went down 3-0 to the USA.

team and that it would be a huge test." Ellis said when she started making changes in the second half, Banyana's rhythm was upset and she felt the two goals they conceded late in the match could have been avoided as well. Banyana Banyana also had some injury scares with Mamello Makhabane withdrawn

from the starting line-up due to a knee injury, while goalkeeper Andile Dlamini and defender Noko Matlou were replaced during the game because of injuries.

But Ellis is confident these are not serious. South Africa conceded goals in the 37th and 78th minutes through a brace from Samantha

Mewis, and also from a strike by second-half substitute Carli Lloyd in referee's optional time.

Banyana Banyana's assignment is against Norway on June 2 in Amiens, France - just a few days before the start of the World Cup from June 7 to July 7.

African News Agency

'Barcelona stars struggling to block out Champions League defeat by Liverpool'

BARCELONA - Barcelona remain 'p****d off' and are struggling to handle the 'wound' left by Liverpool following the dramatic exit from the Champions League last week, according to midfielder Sergio Busquets.

The Catalan giants made the trip to Merseyside as overwhelming favourites following a 3-0 win in the first leg, only to be left stunned after losing 4-0 and dropping out at the semi-final stage. A 2-0 win this weekend against Getafe started the healing process but Busquets insists the players are finding it tough to focus as they try to win the Copa del Rey and secure a ninth domestic double this month.

"We wanted to be at 100 per cent but it was a struggle because of what happened [at Liverpool]," Busquets told reporters in Spain following the win over Getafe. "We have to keep going and we have to focus on the Copa del Rey final. Hopefully the wound which the club the players and the fans have will heal. The challenge ahead isn't a small one, either. The double's no small thing but the wound from Liverpool is deep."

Ernesto Valverde's side had earlier wrapped up another La Liga title but their primary aim this season was to wrestle back the Champions League trophy, having seen it in the hands of fierce rivals Real Madrid for the last three seasons. AFP

Ferrari left disappointed, with 'much to learn'

BARCELONA - Ferrari had hoped to step up and take the fight to dominant Mercedes at the Spanish Grand Prix on Sunday but ended up with their weaknesses exposed and even further off the pace.

Team boss Mattia Binotto said the experience would ultimately make Ferrari stronger but the disappointment was evident.

Mercedes have now won the first five races one-two while Ferrari have taken just three third places and were off the podium entirely at the Circuit de Catalunya, behind Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

"Before we judge our performance, I think compliments to Mercedes," Binotto told reporters, with drivers Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc alongside. "They have been really very strong so far in the season."

"On our side, we can work very hard and well and the season is still long. We will never give up. I think that is our approach."

Binotto said there was much for Ferrari, who brought upgrades to the first round of the traditional European season, to learn.

"We are disappointed for the race, disappointed for the performance in the weekend. Our hope was to deliver more," he added.

"We brought some upgrades, aero and engine, and were expecting somehow to be in the fight but it has not been the case."

"I think power-wise, straight line speed, we are good enough but

certainly we have some weaknesses on the car that were highlighted this weekend.

Reuters

Atletico Madrid face up to losing Griezmann

MADRID - Atletico Madrid now 'believe that Antoine Griezmann will go and join Barcelona this summer' with his future once again a topic of debate.

According to Cadena SER, via Mundo Deportivo, just a year after announcing he was to turn down Barcelona advances to stay with Atletico, the World Cup winner now looks to be edging closer to a switch.

A meeting between the player, his representatives and the club is due later this week to discuss his future heading into the summer transfer window.

The club are believed to be tired with constant speculation over the future of the Frenchman and the report reveals they want an answer face-to-face whether he will stay or go.

From July 1, Griezmann's contract sees a €120million (£104m)



STAR: Antoine Griezmann.

release clause and that would represent an affordable fee for Barcelona,

who paid more for Ousmane Dembele and Philippe Coutinho.

Atletico Manager Diego Simeone was less than enthused to discuss the future of Griezmann ahead of the weekend's draw with Sevilla.

"Since the subject of Griezmann going to Barcelona started to pop up in the media, I always said that I think he's okay, he's cool and happy with his team-mates," Simeone said on Saturday.

"He's the captain of our team and we always give him the affection and importance he deserves, but of course we're not inside his head to know his opinion."

"If he has something to say he will one day. We think he will stay with us. I'm not afraid of losing him."

"He's our captain and whatever happens from now on doesn't depend on us."

DAILY MAIL

'I'M TIRED OF REPEATING THAT HE WANTS TO STAY'

MILAN - Wanda Nara, the wife and agent of Inter Milan striker Mauro Icardi, says she is tired of the speculation surrounding his future.

Icardi is at loggerheads with the Inter management and has been consistently linked with a move away from the club - but Nara says any exit talk is not down to the play-

...Mauro Icardi's agent and wife Wanda Nara insists he will remain at Inter Milan... but claims he and Cristiano Ronaldo 'can play together'

er. Speaking on her Italian TV show, Tiki Taka, Nara said: "I'm tired of repeating that he wants to stay at Inter. I'll turn my phone off on the first day of the transfer window. There have been offers, but Icardi's staying at Inter. That's it."

"The best teams have contacted him, the best coaches want him, but Mauro believes he's staying at Inter, regardless of who their coach will be. Everyone wants him. According to what [Inter manager Luciano] Spalletti says, it's Inter who don't want him." Despite this, Nara said Icardi

and Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo 'can play together', when asked if the pair could forge an attacking partnership.

Ronaldo has helped fire Juve to another Serie A title, while Icardi's Inter are fourth, 26 points behind the champions.

Daily Mail



DISAPPOINTED: Ferrari team Principal Mattia Binotto.

'Showdown with Deontay Wilder will happen

LONDON - Anthony Joshua is confident he will eventually have his heavyweight clash with Deontay Wilder because he will be unable to resist the money on offer.

Breakdowns in negotiations and conflicting television deals mean the world's top three heavyweights - Joshua, Wilder and Tyson Fury - are being kept apart, much to the frustration of

fans and pundits. Joshua, who will fight Andy Ruiz on June 1 at Madison Square Garden, says the superstar fights will happen eventually - simply because they are too big not to.

He told CNN: "I think now the reason why the fight will happen is because people will be interested in earning a pound note off of what's on the table".

The June 1 bout marks Joshua's first

on American soil, but has not been without disruption, after initial foe Jarrell Miller failed a drugs test.

After some last-minute scrambling by his team, the IBF, WBA and WBO champion will make his New York debut and has promised audiences stateside that he will put on a show.

He said: "I say my message is definitely to look after number one, help

elevate the people around you once you've elevated yourself and just be real."

WBC heavyweight champion Wilder meanwhile will defend his title against Dominic Breazeale this weekend, and Joshua says he will be watching closely.

He told Sky Sports: "Styles make fights, I think Wilder will fare well against Breazeale. I think Wilder is too quick, he's a very, very fast heavyweight, but Breazeale is tough, took

me seven rounds.

"I hope Wilder does it in nine, so I can be like 'hey I done it earlier'."

You know how it is, comparisons and stuff, but yeah it will be interesting to see.

"You look at the small things, I look at the small details - when he's getting tired, how many right hands he throws in a round. I look at something different, rather than comparisons to the rounds."

Daily Mail



Van Persie retires

LONDON - The curtain came down on Robin van Persie's glittering career with his Feyenoord side defeated 2-0 by ADO Den Haag on Sunday.

The 35-year-old made his final career appearance in Feyenoord's last home league match of the season rather than round off his career in tomorrow's away fixture against Fortuna Sittard.

He hit the woodwork in the first half and was substituted off in stoppage time, where he received a rapturous reception from the Feyenoord supporters. They held a banner aloft during the match to pay tribute, reading

'legends are forever'.

Van Persie started his career with Feyenoord and rejoined them in January 2018. He has kept up an impressive scoring record in that time, netting 25 times in 49 appearances in his second spell. The striker also bows out of football as the Premier League's highest scoring Dutchman with 144 goals from spells with Arsenal and Manchester United.

Van Persie spent eight years with Arsenal, who he left Feyenoord for in 2004. He won the FA Cup under Arsene Wenger before leaving for United in

2012.

There, he spearheaded United's charge to Premier League glory in Sir Alex Ferguson's final season as manager at Old Trafford. He left United and England in 2015, spending three years in Turkey with Fenerbahce before returning to his boyhood club.

On the international scene, Van Persie scored 50 goals in 102 appearances for Holland.

He started the 2010 World Cup final, which Holland lost 1-0 to Spain in South Africa.

Daily Mail

Djokovic tightens grip on ATP rankings

PARIS - Novak Djokovic tightened his grip on the ATP Tour rankings on Monday following his win in the Madrid Open.

The Serbian world number one widened his lead over Spaniard Rafael Nadal who was dumped out of the Madrid tournament by young gun Stefanos



THE BEST: Novak Djokovic.

Tsitsipas of Greece in the semi-finals.

Tsitsipas lost the final to Djokovic but eased two places up the rankings to seventh on the strength of his recent show of form.

Dominic Thiem of Austria, winner of the Barcelona Open, moved into fourth place after his elimination from the Madrid semi-finals. He is one spot behind Roger Federer, his quarter-final victim in Madrid.

Tsitsipas moved up to No 7, ahead of South Africa's Kevin Anderson, who dropped two spots to No 8.

Anderson is currently sidelined with an elbow injury and is only expected to

be back in action in the grass season.

Elsewhere, South Africa's

Lloyd Harris

dropped four spots to No

91, having reached a career-high ranking of No 87 last week.

The 22-year-old played in the Open du Pays d'Aix, an ATP Challenger event in France, last week where he lost to 6-4, 6-3 to German Daniel Masur in the round of 16. *Daily Mail*

Juve beaten by Roma as they debut new home shirt

TURIN - Roma boosted their Champions League hopes with a 2-0 win over Serie A champions-elect Juventus.

The Italian champions unveiled their controversial new home strip for the game with club chiefs deciding to ditch the traditional black and white stripes in favour of a half-and-half design.

The disappointing result for Juve comes at the end of a week that saw Manager Massimiliano Allegri forced to deny rumours he was leaving, his side let in late goals to suffer only their third league defeat of the season. Captain Alessandro Florenzi fired Roma ahead 11 minutes from time after Cristiano Ronaldo's strike was ruled out by VAR for off-side.

Edin Dzeko then made sure two minutes into stoppage time, scoring his 87th Roma goal to move level with Abel Balbo for seventh on the club's all-time scoring charts.

The win sees Roma move level with fifth-placed AC Milan with 62 points, one behind fourth-placed Inter and three behind third-placed Atalanta.

Juventus had started the game brightly as Ronaldo fired wide, Juan Cuadrado



had a shot saved by Antonio Mirante and Leonardo Spinazzola saw a shot blocked, all inside the first seven minutes of the match. Mirante then made a good save to keep out Paulo Dybala's 16th-minute shot as it headed towards the top left corner of the net. Little had been seen of Roma as an attacking force in that time but when their first chance did come Lorenzo Pellegrini was unlucky not to open the scoring as his shot can-

noned back off the crossbar. Pellegrini then fired wide again as Roma began to find some rhythm, but Mirante had to be on his toes to deny Dybala shortly after. Where Juve had been the dominant force to begin the first half, Roma were well on top at the start of the second. Stephan El Shaarawy went close with an effort in the 54th minute before Justin Kluivert headed just wide of the target. *Daily Mail*

Jesus Vallejo sees red in 11th La Liga defeat

MADRID - Real Madrid saw their hopes of finishing second in La Liga ended as they crashed to a 3-1 defeat at Real Sociedad and also had defender Jesus Vallejo sent off for handball.

The build-up had been dominated by talk of Gareth Bale's future but the Wales international, who is expected to reject a summer move, did not even make the squad as Zinedine Zidane's side suffered an 11th league defeat of the season and lost out to city rivals Atletico in the race for second behind Barcelona.

Atletico were held 1-1 at home by Sevilla but that together with Real's defeat was enough to ensure them of second in the table.

Brahim Diaz opened the scoring early on as he evaded three tackles to slot home. Sociedad were level 20 minutes later as Mikel Moreno took his time before beat-

ing Thibaut Courtois.

In a busy first half Real Sociedad also had an effort by Mikel Oyarzabal chalked off following a lengthy VAR review and the visitors were reduced to 10 men when Vallejo was dismissed for handball in the area. However, Courtois guessed the right way to keep out a poor spot kick from Wilian Jose to keep the scores level at the break.

Joseba Zaldua made it 2-1 just before the hour with a header with Ander Barrenetxea extending the lead with 23 minutes left.

Diaz opened the scoring after six minutes as the former Manchester City midfielder beat two defenders before racing to the byline and cutting back inside a third challenge to slide the ball home from a tight angle. Sociedad nearly hit back shortly after as Moreno shot from the edge of the area but Courtois was equal to the effort. *Daily Mail*



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



Chelsea interested in Coutinho

LONDON - Chelsea are interested in signing Philippe Coutinho from Barcelona if they can avoid a transfer ban this summer, according to reports in Spain.

The Blues are lining up new attacking options should Eden Hazard finally make his long trailed move to Real Madrid.

Coutinho, who has struggled to impress for Barca since moving from Liverpool in a transfer that cost a flat £106million and has various extra clauses that could cost the Nou Camp club further millions in the near future.

Spanish radio station Cadena Ser report that only one Premier League club has shown an interest in signing Coutinho - Chelsea.

However, while the Blues have the resources to cover much of Barca's original outlay and Coutinho's wages, whether they will be allowed to spend this summer is another matter.

Chelsea have been imposed with a two-window transfer ban by FIFA after breaking rules surrounding the signings of under-18 players.

The Blues lost their appeal to football's governing body but are set to make their case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in an attempt to overturn the sanction.

Despite the legal process being ongoing, Chelsea are still banned from signing players this summer - meaning Coutinho could be forced to extend his unhappy stay at the Nou Camp.

He has scored 21 goals in 74 appearances for the club, but has failed to fill either the boots of Neymar in an attacking role, nor Andres Iniesta in a play-making capacity.

Coutinho suffered further ignominy when his former club, Liverpool, dumped Barca out of the Champions League semi-finals last week.

AFP

'You b*****': Yaya Toure caught swearing at Sane

MANCHESTER - Yaya Toure swore at his former Manchester City team-mate Leroy Sane during the Premier League champions' title celebrations on Sunday.

The German winger poured champagne over the former City midfielder while Toure was working as a pundit for Sky Sports.

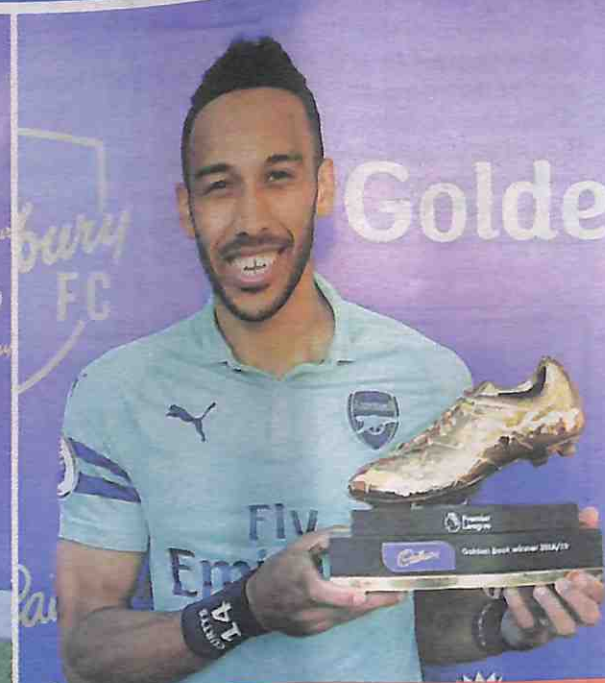
The former Ivory Coast international said while the broadcaster

was still live on air: 'Ah you b*****'.

Sane was celebrating City's 4-1 victory over Brighton at the Amex Stadium which meant they were the first team to retain the league title in a decade.

Liverpool were hot on their tails as they missed out on the crown by one point despite accumulating 97 points.

AFP



SALAH, MANE AND AUBAMEYANG SHARE PL GOLDEN BOOT AWARD

LONDON - The Premier League Golden Boot for leading goalscorer will be shared between Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang after all three finished on 22 goals.

Liverpool forward Salah went into the final afternoon leading the way but was pegged back after his teammate Mane scored twice in their 2-0 win over Wolves that proved not enough to win the title.

Aubameyang scored twice in Arsenal's 3-1 win at Burnley to take his place at the top of the leaderboard.

It is the first time three African players have shared the award.

Manchester City's Sergio Aguero scored in their title-clinching 4-1 win at Brighton but will have to settle for second spot in the Golden Boot race with 21 goals.

Though Salah finished the season with more assists than his two rivals,

this isn't taken into account so all three will share the honour.

Indeed, a beaming Aubameyang was presented with his accolade after being presented with it at Turf Moor.

It is the third time this has happened in Premier League history - Chris Sutton, Michael Owen and Dion Dublin shared it in the 1997-98 season and Jimmy-Floyd Hasselbaink, Michael Owen and Dwight Yorke were tied in 1998-99. *Daily Mail*

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Benitez future depends on crunch talks with Newcastle owner

NEWCASTLE - Rafael Benitez will hold crunch talks with Newcastle owner Mike Ashley next week to reach a decision over his future.

A 4-0 rout of Fulham at Craven Cottage concluded the season with a flurry of goals that secured the club a 13th-placed finish in the Premier League. Ashley watched from the stands as a noisy contingent of 3 000 travelling fans repeatedly called for Benitez to stay at St James' Park for another year.

The Spaniard, however, hinted that his willingness to extend his three-season reign will hinge on Ashley's vision for Newcastle.

"We will have a meeting hopefully next week and we will see where we are," Benitez said.

"I can see the potential of this massive club and hopefully we can do things in the way that would be very good for everyone to move forward together. I don't want to keep talking, we'll see what happens next week. "Mike Ashley came to the

changing room after the game to say thank you very much to all of the players.

"He was talking with me and the team. He didn't say anything special, but was congratulating the team.

"It was the end of a very good season - clean sheet, four goals, final day of the season on a sunny day.

"This is a very difficult competition and I'm very proud of this group of players who have given everything, even in the last few games when we were safe."

Goals from Jonjo Shelvey, Ayoze Perez, Fabian Schar and Salomon Rondon saw Fulham overwhelmed on the counter-attack after dominating long spells of possession.

Among the highlights at Craven Cottage was the support shown by Newcastle supporters to Benitez, who was loudly cheered on to and off the pitch.

"The fans have been so good for the whole season. Since I have been here, they have been fantastic," Benitez said. *Daily Mail*





GUARDIOLA HAILED AS 'OBSESSIVE' GENIUS

LONDON – Pep Guardiola was eulogised yesterday for his relentless hunger for success that propelled Manchester City to a second consecutive Premier League title after a titanic battle with Liverpool.

Guardiola claimed his eighth league title in 10 seasons as a coach in charge of Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City as the English champions followed up their record 100-point campaign last season with another stunning 98-point season, thanks to a 4-1 victory at Brighton.

That meant Liverpool's long wait for a first league title since 1990 continued despite the Reds posting the third-highest Premier League points tally ever with 97 after they beat Wolves 2-0 on Sunday.

"Pep's party," ran the headline



GENIUS: Pep Guardiola is being hailed as the genius behind Manchester City's title win.

in the Guardian newspaper. "The only real world star in this set-up is the manager.

"They didn't go for (Cristiano) Ronaldo or (Lionel) Messi but invested in fine young players,

almost all of whom have been pushed to the outer levels of their talent." *Daily Mail*



FIRED: Chris Hughton is no longer the coach of Brighton and Hove Albion.

Brighton take 'difficult decision' to sack Hughton

LONDON – Brighton sacked manager Chris Hughton yesterday in what Chairman Tony Bloom described as "one of the most difficult decisions" he had ever had to make.

Hughton leaves despite guiding Brighton to the FA Cup semi-finals and retaining their Premier League status for a second successive season.

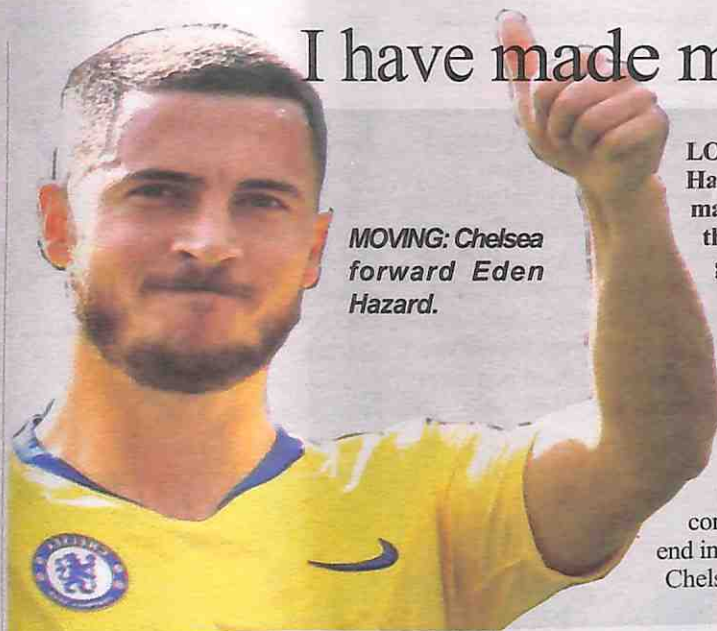
The decision may well have come as a shock to 60-year-old Hughton, who had spoken of his desire for players to bounce back from the final day 4-1 defeat by Manchester City on Sunday and other disappointing spells during the campaign.

However, the slump in their league form in the latter part of the season – which saw Watford sucked into a relegation battle – forced Bloom's hand.

"Undoubtedly, this has been one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make as chairman of Brighton & Hove Albion, but ultimately one I have made due to how we struggled in the second half of the season," said Bloom in a club statement.

"Our run of three wins from 23 Premier League matches put our status at significant risk." *Daily Mail*

I have made my decision - Eden Hazard



MOVING: Chelsea forward Eden Hazard.

LONDON - Chelsea forward Eden Hazard has confirmed that he has made a decision on his future, with the Belgium international suggesting that he will be leaving Stamford Bridge for Real Madrid.

Talks between Madrid and Chelsea regarding Hazard have been ongoing for some time, though there has been some hope in west London that the former Lille man may still sign a new contract, with his current deal set to end in the summer of 2020.

Chelsea are demanding €130 million

for their star player (£112m/\$146m), who came off the bench against Leicester City on Sunday to make what may prove to be his final Premier League appearance in a Chelsea shirt.

The 0-0 draw with the Foxes saw Maurizio Sarri's side secure third place in the table having previously ensured they would be playing in the Champions League next season with a win over Watford in their penultimate league game.

But Hazard has revealed that that achievement will have no bearing on his future, with a call already having been made on where he will play next season.

Daily Mail

United fans call for Pogba to be sold

MANCHESTER – Paul Pogba was involved in a verbal disagreement with a supporter at the end of Manchester United's 2-0 defeat by Cardiff on the final day of the Premier League season.

The shirtless midfielder was seen applauding home fans next to the players' tunnel when one member of the crowd decided to point towards Pogba while asking nearby Manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to 'get him out'.

The Frenchman gave the supporter a disapproving look before appearing to sarcastically applaud and wave.

In another video of Pogba's encounter with supporters, one fan gestures towards the 26-year-old and tells him to 'f*** off. You're f***** s***'. Pogba shrugs his shoulders in reaction to the criticism before encouraging the angry fan to calm down, closing his hands together. The man also makes reference to Pogba's activity on 'Instagram' before telling him to 'f*** off' once again. The Real Madrid target, who has contributed 16 goals and 11 assists to the United cause this season, seemed to receive criticism from multiple supporters before disappearing down the tunnel. *Daily Mail*



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Ajax CT to buy Bloem Celtic's PSL status?

CAPE TOWN - Ajax Cape Town may be on the verge of a shock return to the ABSA Premiership after being strongly linked with the purchase of Bloemfontein Celtic's top-flight status.

The Urban Warriors narrowly missed out on a promotion play-off spot by a solitary goal after finishing fourth in the National First Division (NFD) - behind third-placed Tshakhuma Tsha

Madzivhandila (TTM FC) on goal difference. The Cape side seem determined to return to the top-flight and are being linked to the purchase of Siwelele's status with the Free State side finishing the 2018/19 season in eighth spot.

Celtic remarkably had a positive campaign despite numerous behind-the-scenes troubles with players threatening to down tools over unpaid wages.

The financially troubled Bloemfontein

side has long been seeking to sell the club with owner Max Tshabalala shopping for potential buyers after falling into financial difficulty as well as trouble with the taxman.

Former Kaizer Chiefs mentor Steve Komphela resigned from the helm, pointing to financial constraints while revealing in a stinging resignation letter the chaotic circumstances he had to endure leading to his abrupt resignation. *Sport24*

DETERMINED: Ajax Cape Town CEO Ari Efstathiou.



BUCS WILL NEVER WIN A TROPHY - SAM



FOR A LONG TIME TO COME: Senzo Meyiwa's father Sam.

....until my son's spirit is at peace

JOHANNESBURG - It was so close for Orlando Pirates fans when their team almost lifted the PSL trophy on Saturday.

Even though they won the match against Polokwane City, Mamelodi Sundowns snatched the trophy away from them by beating Free State Stars. In 2017 Orlando Pirates were looking good - until they lost in the finals of the Telkom Knockout Cup to Polokwane City.

And Senzo Meyiwa's family insists this will always be the case for the PSL team until justice is done. "My son's spirit is haunting them," said Sam Meyiwa, the 66-year-old father of Senzo, who was the Bucs and Bafana Bafana goalkeeper.

He died in 2014 after being shot in Kelly Khumalo's mother's house in Vosloorus, Ekurhuleni. The devastated father is in a wheelchair now and his speech was affected after he suffered a stroke in August last year.

He told Daily Sun his son's case has brought him pain and suffer-

ing. "He loved Pirates so I'm not surprised that the team is losing in trophy games. "Pirates management must not ignore the matter. They must do something about it," he said. "They can play convincing football but nothing more."

He said it has been five years since his son died but no one has been arrested.

"People are being killed and arrests are made. But my son's murderer is still out there living as if there is nothing wrong or as if they killed an animal," he said.

"This is wrong. Someone must be arrested and justice must be done for my son. I'm not even sure if the investigation is still open." Daily Sun on Sunday spoke to Senzo's cousin Siyabonga Miya, who said they are fighting for justice. "I want those who killed my cousin to be arrested. I cannot comment on the performance of Orlando Pirates," he said.

Police spokesman Brigadier Jay Naicker said that, five years later, the investigation is still continuing. "No arrest has been made yet," he said.

Daily Sun

Kekana, Zwane and Lorch nominated for Footballer of the Season award

JOHANNESBURG - Mamelodi Sundowns captain Hlompho Kekana will hope the 16 Premier League coaches will pick him for this season's Footballer of the Season award having been nominated on four previous occasions.

On all four occasions, the Zebediela-born star has never walked away with the ultimate prize in South African football. The PSL Footballer of the Season category is voted exclusively by the 16 Premier League coaches.

Kekana was beaten to the top prize by his teammate Percy Tau last year with Maritzburg United livewire Siphehile Ndlovu the other nominee. The nominees for the Premier Soccer League (PSL) awards were announced yesterday with champions Sundowns having two candidates. Kekana will square up against his teammate Themba Zwane and Orlando Pirates top goal scorer and inspirational attacking midfielder Themba Lorch.

The trio will battle it out again in the ABSA Premiership Players' Player of the Season and the Midfielder of the Season categories.

It is for the second consecutive season that Sundowns feature two players among the three nominees for the top award.

Full list of PSL Awards nominees:

Footballer of the Season:
Hlompho Kekana (Mamelodi Sundowns)
Themba Zwane (Mamelodi Sundowns)
Themba Lorch (Orlando Pirates)

ABSA Premiership Player's Player of the Season:
Hlompho Kekana (Mamelodi Sundowns)
Themba Zwane (Mamelodi Sundowns)
Themba Lorch

ABSA Premiership Coach of the Season:
Benni McCarthy (Cape Town City)
Pitso Mosimane (Mamelodi Sundowns)
Milutin Sredojevic (Orlando Pirates)

ABSA Premiership Young Player of the Season:
Gift Links (Cape Town City)
Tebogo Mokoena (SuperSport United)
Bongani Sam (Bloemfontein Celtic)

ABSA Premiership Goalkeeper of the Season:
Peter Leeuwenburgh (Cape Town City)
Denis Onyango (Mamelodi Sundowns)
Ronwen Williams (SuperSport United)

ABSA Premiership Defender of the Season:
Sifiso Hlanti (Bidvest Wits)
Thamsanqa Mkhize (Cape Town City)
Ricardo Nascimento (Mamelodi Sundowns)

ABSA Premiership Midfielder of the Season:
Hlompho Kekana (Mamelodi Sundowns)
Themba Lorch (Orlando Pirates)
Themba Zwane (Mamelodi Sundowns)

MTN8 Last Man Standing:
Bradley Grobler (SuperSport United)
Peter Leeuwenburgh (Cape Town City)
Thabo Nodada (Cape Town City)

Telkom Knockout Player of the Tournament:
Elvis Chipezeze (Baroka FC)
Themba Lorch (Orlando Pirates)
Mduduzi Mdantsane (Baroka FC)

Nedbank Cup Most Promising Player:
Zakhele Lepasa (TS Galaxy)
Terence Mashego (TS Galaxy)
Siphehile Ntunya-Ntunya (Kaizer Chiefs)

Nedbank Cup Player of the Tournament:
Khama Billiat (Kaizer Chiefs)
Zakhele Lepasa (TS Galaxy)
Bernard Parker (Kaizer Chiefs)

MultiChoice Diski Challenge Most Precious Find:
Njabulo Blom (Kaizer Chiefs)
Sipho Chaine (Bloemfontein Celtic)
Kamogelo Mahlatsi (SuperSport United)

MultiChoice Diski Shield Player of the Tournament:
Siboniso Conco (Lamontville Golden Arrows)
Lindani Ndlovu (Lamontville Golden Arrows)

MultiChoice Diski Shield Player of the Tournament:
Kamogelo Mahlatsi (SuperSport United). *Times Live*



NOMINATED: Hlompho Kekana and Themba Lorch.

Keet vows to move back to Europe



WANTS TO GROW: Bidvest Wits goalkeeper Darren Keet.

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits goalkeeper Darren Keet has declared defiantly that he will not be playing his football in the ABSA Premiership next season.

Speaking after Wits 1-0 victory over Golden Arrows on Saturday, Keet said he was focused on a return to Europe after spending the early part of his career with KV Kortrijk in Belgium from 2011 until 2016.

He told reporters: "Definitely not playing in a different team in South Africa, my focus is on Europe. "It didn't affect me because my focus is on doing my job, I was training normally like I'm going to get into the starting line-up, I'm always professional."

Speaking of whether he'd be taking part in the Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt after being dropped in the last few matches, he added: "We have to see who makes it to the team. Of course, we want to make the country proud, we had a good qualification and we need to build up from that."

"Our opening game will be key to win so we can finish in the top two in our group."

"I'm not going to use the tournament to advertise myself, it's all about Bafana Bafana. We need to make the country proud." *Sport24*

Weekend Sports Results

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MTN First Division League

Mbabane City	1	Madlenya	2
Hlatikhulu Tycoons	1	Seven Dreams	1
Hub Sundowns	2	Rangers	1
Tambankulu Callies	3	City Warriors	0
Red Lions	0	Milling Hotspurs	0
Black Swallows	1	Tinyosi	0

Mbuso Maseko Malindza Football League E45 000

Highway	12	Calabash	1
Juventus	5	Siweni UTD	3
Dvokodweni	4	Umseshi 2	1
Black Mamba	3	Promising Stars	0
Mshana	2	Home Sweepers	0
Zamelek	1	Malindza UTD	0
Young Aces	1	Liverpool	0

Milky Max Mbabane Juniors League E30 000

Umbelbele	0	Real Tec	3
Habbana	3	Mphalati	0
Dark City	1	Hurricane	0
Freestyle	1	M Fighters	1
White City	1	Mantsholo	1

Mandla Mahewu Mbabane Juniors League E7 500

Supersport	1	M Swallows	0
Supersport	3	Mphalati D	0
Malanti Chiefs	0	Mangwaneni	3
Mangwaneni	1	M Fighters	8
Barcelona	3	Imbumba	0
Habbana	2	The Wallers	3
Umbelbele	2	Zuivini Aces	0
M. Classic	3	Wizards D	0
Freestyle	3	Hurricane	0

All Out Africa Lobamba Juniors League

Lusito Lions	0	F Reaction	3
Sunrise	6	Ebuka Stars	0
Lobamba Dynamos	0	Gunners	1
Lusito Lions	0	Real Masterd	3

Ground A U15

Real Masters	17	E Aces	1
E Vultures	3	Tinyosi	2
Golden Kings	4	E Aces	1
L Dynamos	1	Ebuka Stars	3
Lobamba Cosmos	3	Lusito Lions	0
Fast Reaction	1	Ebuka Stars	2
Lusito Lions	0	L Dynamos	3

Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League E77 000

Imbumba	1	H. Shooting	0
Umbelbele	1	Swazi Sun	0
Billy Ocean	2	Emajukujuku	2

Northern Zone

Kappa Kappa	2	Machibini	1
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Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League E70 000

Interstars	0	Corporation	1
Pot O Gold	3	Sidwashini	2
Classic	2	Pinevalley	4
Mbabane Celtics	4	White City	4
Mvalweti	3	Sandia	4
Double Action	3	Veni Cosmos	1
Real Tec	5	Amawele	4

B. Division

Mpolonjeni	5	FC Vaal	5
Freestyle	11	Darkies	0
Hurricane	6	The Wallers	0
Mbabane UTD	2	Lusoti	1
Junction Stars	3	Mphalati	4
Movers	3	Rangers 6	



Pots Sigangeni League E30 000

Total XI	0	Sigangeni	4
Villa Sport	1	Kangaroo	4
M. Chiefs	3	U. Eagles	2
Y. Fighters	3	M. Celtics	2
Real Touch	3	L. Nationals	0
Real United	3	Ntsetse Flyers	1

Buy Cash Pigg's Peak League E50 000

Maguga	2	Darkies	0
Rockville	5	Hotspurs	1
Peak City	1	Thuluzobona	2
Bush Bucks	1	Rise & Shine	1
Ndeva Galaxy	6	Mangwaneni	1
White Killers	4	Citizens	0
19 Celtics	3	Phophonyane	0

Futis Nkhaba League E30 000

Nkoyoyo Jnr	0	Majotini	6
Superstars	0	Ngwenya Utd	3
Kasi XI	6	Barcelona	4
Real Rovers	0	Nkoyoyo	8
Manyisa	5	Bafana	3
Athletico	4	Celtics	2
Lubhedze	3	Dribbling Stars	1

South Star Mdzimba League E65 000

Swallows	2	Cosmos	1
Rumbas	3	Drikoppies	2
Monaco	2	Rangers	2
Bombers	1	Rhinos	2
All Stars	1	Rumbas	2
Timbungulu	1	Blk. Mashuba	3
Kasiko	3	Killers	1
Rhinos	5	Highlanders	2

OUPA Mhlangatane League E50 000

Western Stream			
City Stars	3	Celtics	3

Bhulane Resort Ndzingeni League E50 000

Mvuma Stream			
FC Academy	3	Zizweni 1	
Happiness	4	Tsunami	1
M. Celtics	4	Blue Birds	2
Tlhabeni	1	Red Sea	1
Bulandzeni Stream			
M. Professionals	6	B. Rebels	0

MP Nelson Mamba Timpisini League

Matsamo Swallows	2	Gunners	1
Ndialambi	3	Vusweni	0
Star Wanderers	1	Ngonini 1	
Kudweleni	2	Golden	3
Soccer Rose	2	Blue Birds	0
Stone Breakers	1	Njakeni City	0
Mv. Sundowns	2	Elegence	1
H. Pirates	2	Mbashedi	2
Kudweleni	7	Ndialambi	2
Vusweni Cosmos	1	Star Wanderers	1
Elegence	3	Gunners	1
Mbashedi Swallows	1	Matsamo	1
Njakeni City	0	Mv. Sundowns	3
Golden Arrows	2	Soccer Rose	2
Blue Birds	1	Stone Breakers	2
Ngonini	0	H. Pirates	4

Manzini Regional Football Association

Dabulamanzi Civil Works & Irrigation Manzini Super League

Villa Stars	3	Young Warriors	0
Royal Swallows	1	Sisonke	0
Luvu Cosmos	2	Mhlane United	1
Nsuka United	0	Ludzeludze Killers	2
Timbutini	1	Ludzeludze Brothers	1
Moyeni United	0	Stumbos XI	1

Manzini Promotion League

Two Stricks Comrades	1	Home Sparrows	1
Manzini United	3	Young Tigers	1
FC North	2	African Chiefs	3

Combine Stars	0	Maliyaduma	1
SibonisoSelwandle	0	Green Way	1
Kholwane Flying Birds	3	The Bones	0
Wonderful Touch	1	Fairview Chiefs	0

KPMG Manzini First Division League

New Generations	1	God's Property	1
City Eagles	3	Bremer United	0

OK Foods Kwaluseni Promotion League

Mhlane United	1	Kwaluseni Rebels	5
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OK Foods Kwaluseni First Division League

Umtfuti	1	Giant Clockwork	0
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S & S Malkems Promotion League

Swazi Can United	1	Victory Nomads	2
Don Don	2	Golden Arrows	1
Star Point	1	Troublemakers	5
Makhungutsha	2	Ngodini	2
Mahanya United	0	Phondo	0
Vuka Aces	1	Power Sparks	0
Malkems	1	Ndinda Volcano	1

Malkems First Division League

Survivor	3	Thunderbolt	0
Home Boys	2	Dyanmte Hotspurs	5

Premier Bakeries Mkhweni Promotion League

All Stars	5	Coali United	0
Luvu Home defenders	0	Toronto	3
All Stars	3	LuvuSuncity	2
All Nations	4	Miba Rangers	1
Luvu Stars	0	Sangotfo	1
Colani United	1	Moyeni United	1
Manchester United	2	Mbashedi Brothers	2
Liverpool	2	Ngonini Young Aces	2
Bantu City	1	Zama United	1
Moyeni	2	All Nations	0
Zama United	1	Sangotfo	2
Miba Rangers	3	Step Ahead	5
Toronto	0	Mbashedi Brothers	2
White Killers	1	Luvu Stars	2
LuvuSuncity	3	Luvu Home Defenders	0
Luvu Classic	4	Manchester United	4

Corban Mafutseni Promotion League

Nkonga Pirates	3	Vulamhlo Classic	3
Dynamos	3	Ma-G-Man	1
Young Cannibals	2	Khamatfo	0
Supersport	1	Mafutseni United	1
Timbutini Combine Stars	1	Madubula Rovers	0
Miamuleni United	3	Mafutseni Vultures	0
Emataliyane	0	Timbutini All Stars	3
Ntabamhoshana	0	Bhuda Celtics	2

Nsingweni Promotion League

Highland Blues	0	Mfeni Pirates	1
Young Madrid	1	AC Milan	1
Taliban	4	Nsuka Fighters	1
Mcengeni Sundowns	3	Bhudiweni	2
Red Lion	1	Young Lovers	0
All Stars	2	Black Aces	0

Kulhanyeni Promotion League

Nyakeni Heroes	2	Louis XIV	2
Kulhanyeni	2	Ngwazini	2
1995 Mbuluzana	1	Umshina We-Dortmund	2
Nyakeni Cosmos	1	Brave Lion	3

Phunga Promotion League

Real Amakhosi	1	Volcano	1
Dumsani Swallows	4	Hotspurs	0
Shepherd	2	Phunga Rangers	1
Youngstars	3	Royal Santos	0
Dynamos	1	Phunga Fighters	0

22 goals scored on Mother's Day in Women's League

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - A total of 22 goals were scored on Sunday (Mother's Day) in the Women's Football League.

Elangeni Ladies soccer team recorded the highest score after they hammered S. Roses 8-0 in a match played at Lobamba Technical Centre, while Royal Leopard hammered Siteki Ladies 5-0. At the same venue, Olympafrica beat His Majesty Correctional Services side Green Mamba by a solitary goal.

At Trade Fair Sports Ground, current log leaders Young Buffaloes Ladies consolidated their top stop by beating Mbabane Swallows 2-0.

The army side's goals were scored by

Saturday results:

R. Leopard	5-0	Green Mamba
Divas	1-0	Sikhuphe Ladies
Langeni	1-0	Happy Girls
Buffaloes	7-0	Olympafrica
Swallows	2-1	Kappa Ladies
Illovo	3-0	Mbekelweni

Sunday results:

Olympafrica	1-0	Green Mamba
Elangeni	8-0	S Roses
Leopard	5-0	Siteki
Swallows	0-2	Buffaloes
Divas	4-2	Kappa Ladies

Tenanile Ngcamphalala in the 43rd minute and Cebile Mlangeni in 75th minute. The game between Eswatini Bank Womens Cup champions Manzini Wanderers and Mbekelweni failed to

take off on Sunday as the latter did not show up.

Divas won 4-2 against Kappa Ladies during a match played at King Sobhuza Memorial Stadium.

Police Academy beat Correctional in forces derby

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

It was a sweet victory for the Police Academy side that has been blowing hot and cold.

POOL - POLICE Academy Pool Club emerged the winners in the forces derby against Correctional Services on Sunday.

Police Academy won 13-9 in the Manzini Region Pool League sponsored by Dixie's International to a

tune of E40 000.

Current log leaders Manzini Pool Club dropped points after losing to Figaredo.

Way Inn continued with their fine form after they defeated Bhunya Pool Club 13-7.

Results:

Figaredo	13-8	Manzini Pool Club
Garrison	13-5	Stairs
France	13-7	Figa Five
Mankayane	11-13	Academy
Way Inn	13-7	Bhunya
Nicks	7-13	Mankayane
Police Academy	13-9	Correctional Services



MTN Premier League 2018/19 PREVIEWS

LEAGUE TITLE RACE DOWN TO THE WIRE



STORIES BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCKER - The MTN Premier League title race continues today with exciting fixtures.

The games are surely not for the faint hearted in as far as the league title and relegation is concern.

Tambuti out to dent Green Mamba's title hopes

Tambuti FC vs Green Mamba
Mayaluka Sports Ground, 6pm
Lubombo based

outfit Tambuti will be all out in their fight for relegation and of course to dent Green Mamba's title hopes during a tricky clash at Mayaluka.

The Terisayi Changara-led charges will be without Ghanaian midfielder Paa Kwesi as they enjoy home ground advantage in this encounter.

They are a hard nut to crack at Mayaluka Stadium.

They have 25 points in 24 games and it's high time the team move out of the relegation zone.

Green Mamba, on the other hand, will have to keep their title hopes alive

by beating Tambuti FC.

The Correctional Services side is trailing log leaders Royal Leopard by two points and vying for the crown.

Tambuti

Coach: Terisayi Changara

Key Players: Goshen Gabriel, Muntu Mamba

Green Mamba

Coach: Caleb Ngwenya

Key Players: Musa Dlamini, Mthunzi Mkhontfo

Can Vovovo survive relegation?

Vovovo vs Moneni Pirates
Somhlolo National Stadium, 8pm

A loss today will see Vovovo being relegated from the Premier League as the Motshane based outfit sit above already relegated Mbabane Citizens on the log table.

The Gcina 'Magiyane' youthful side will be all out for a win today as they cannot afford to lose if they are to remain in the elite league. The 20 points in 24 games does not augur well to team's Director 'Tsetla' Bhembe.

Moneni Pirates, on the other hand, have been blowing hot and cold this season. The 'Sea Robbers' are also not safe from relegation and need to collect the maximum points in this encounter.

Vovovo

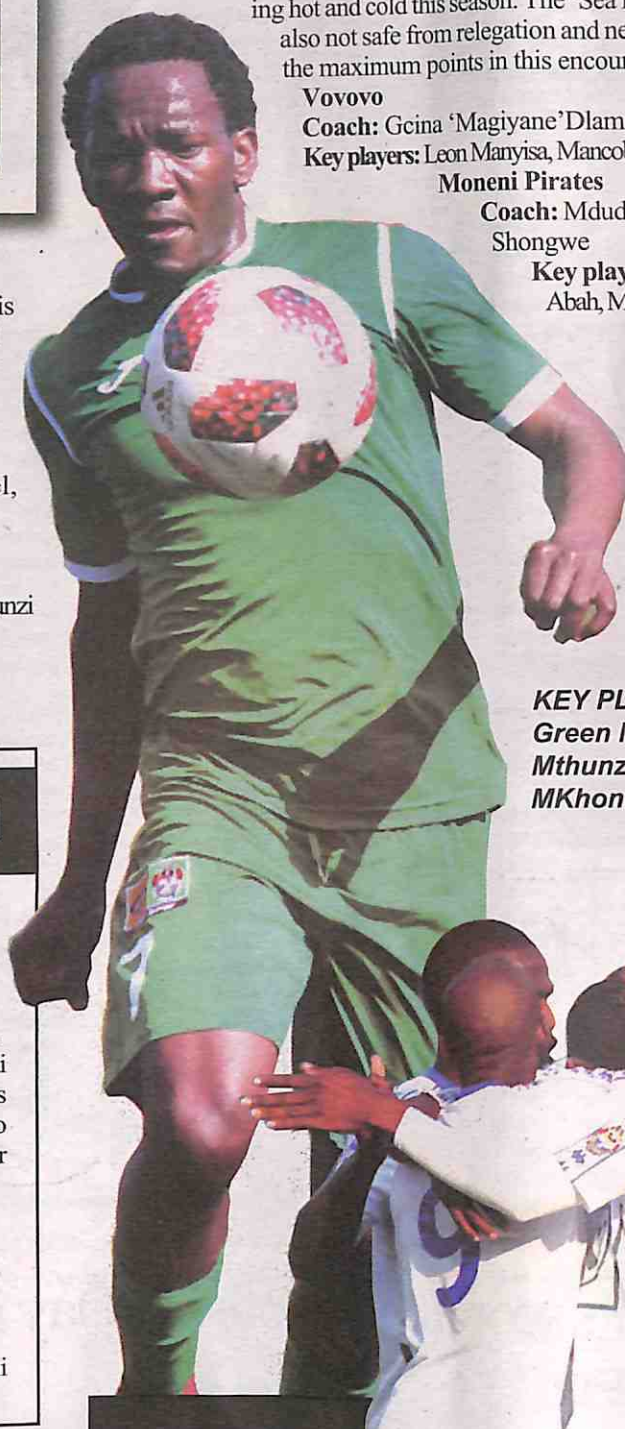
Coach: Gcina 'Magiyane' Dlamini

Key players: Leon Manyisa, Mancoba Mavimbela

Moneni Pirates

Coach: Mduduzi 'Nyama' Shongwe

Key players: Laurent Abah, Menzi Simelane



KEY PLAYER:
Green Mamba's
Mthunzi
MKhontfo.

Must win match for Wanderers as they take on Bull

Manzini Wanderers vs Mbabane
Highlanders
Mavuso Sports Centre, 8pm

SPARKS are set to fly tonight at Mavuso Sports Centre when relegation threatened side Manzini Wanderers take on capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders.

Occupying an unfamiliar position, the maroon and white outfit will be all out to fight for their

lives against 'super buddies' Mbabane Highlanders.

No doubt, this is one of the worst seasons for Manzini Wanderers. A loss today for Wanderers will plunge them deeper into relegation zone. Meanwhile, Mbabane Highlanders coach Bongani Mhlongo has already said Manzini Wanderers must not expect any favours as they were also fighting for the third spot in the MTN Premier League log.

Manzini Wanderers

Coach: Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati

Key players: Mike Dombo, Jose Machado

Mbabane Highlanders

Coach: Bongani Mhlongo

Key players: Thabiso Mokoenkone, Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze

Can Matsapha spoil Royal Leopards party?

Royal Leopard vs Matsapha United
Somhlolo National Stadium, 6pm

ROYAL Leopard has one hand on the MTN trophy.

Tonight's clash is a must win for the police side, who are sitting at the summit of the log standings with 54 points in 24 games.

Standing on the way to the title is none other than sugar belt side Matsapha United, who can cause a major upset to the Edwin Matsebula-led side. Matsapha United once flirted with relegation but they are sitting at mid-table with 26 points. They have broken the hearts of big teams before and can do it again tonight.

On the other hand, Leopard know what this match means to them. They will also be all out for the three points.

R. Leopard

Coach: Edwin Matsebula

Key Players: Berry Steenkamp, Sifiso Matse

Matsapha United

Coach: Takesure Chiyangi

Key players: Clement Sibandze, Sifiso Dlamini



Champions of Castle Africa 5s tournament



ALL YOURS: Champions of Castle Africa 5s tournament Mseni receiving the E500 and carry packs each from Castle Ambassador Siza 'King Pele' Dlamini at Nhlanguano Prison on Saturday. Mseni beat All Stars 5-3. Winners of the tournament will travel to Tanzania next month, where they will play with other teams from different countries. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



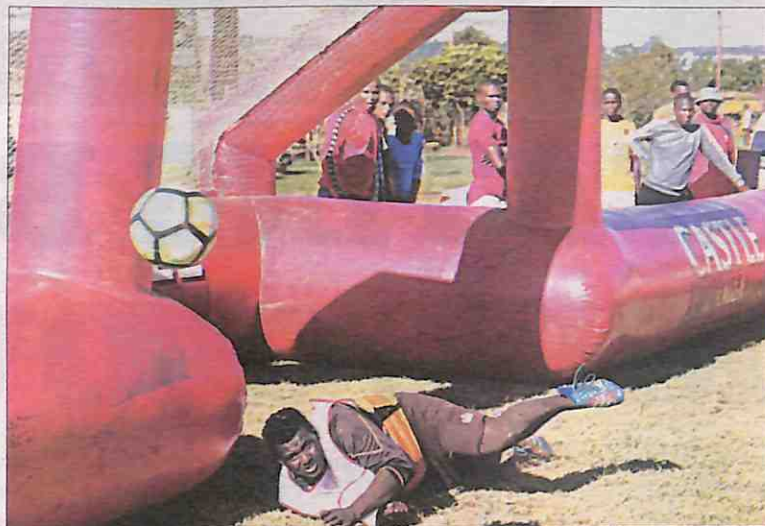
WATCHING: Eswatini Beverages Sales Manager Phetsile Mswane with sales reps, Nandi Malaza, Sipho Khoza and Camber Malinga following the games.



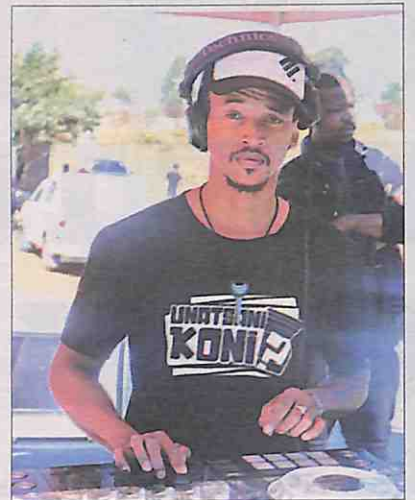
DRAW: Eswatini Beverages Sales representatives Mcolisi Dlamini and Nandi Malaza conducting a draw.



ONE MAN DOWN: Ncobas playing against Juventus during the Castle Africa 5s tournament. Juventus won 9-1.



SAVE: All Stars goalkeeper Sifiso Hlabisa making a save during the penalties shoot-out.



MUSIC: DJ 711 dishing some music for the players and fans.



SHOT: Eswatini Beverages' Thembinkosi Mdluli taking a shot during their game against Correctional Services Social.



IT ALL COMES TOGETHER WITH A CASTLE: Mseni and All Stars players alongside Castle Ambassador Siza 'king Pele' Dlamini before their clash in the final.



I THANK YOU: Achel Simelane being presented with a Castle Lager branded cooler bag by Nandi and Mcolisi.



CLEAR: Correctional playing against Mseni.



CHALLENGE: Action between Mseni and All Stars in final.



THROUGH: Mseni players in jubilation after qualifying for finals.

THE SUCKER PUNCH

...with Mphikeleli Msihi [STRIKING, STRAIGHT AND STRENGTHENED] POW!



PLE TREATING BULL WITH KID'S GLOVES

IT'S either the Premier League of Eswatini has a 'soft spot' for Mbabane Highlanders or it has to do with the chairman.

This I say because the 'Black Bull' is the only team given preferential treatment by the PLE and I wonder why. You cannot help but wonder what is so special about Highlanders.

Are they the best thing to have happened to Eswatini Football or is it that the PLE leadership is in bed with the top management at Highlanders. These are some of the questions that boggle my mind when you hear that PLE would even go out of its way to help Highlanders even when the situation does not allow. I have no problem

with Highlanders getting money from the PLE but I worry if it has to happen at the expense of the other teams.

Precedent

I say this because they are the only team to ask for money from the PLE and get it willy nilly. Why is the PLS doing this really? Why is the organisation setting a precedent that will

come back to haunt them sooner rather than later? Will the PLS be in a position to grant every team its request to pay salaries for their players? Can the PLS give money to other teams like Citizens, Tambuti, Moneni Pirates and others? Can the organisation go out of its way to solve these teams' problems just like they are doing with

Highlanders? It is clear to all that the PLE is applying different strokes for different folks and it is bound to catch up with them. Every team now should have a right to ask for money when they want to pay salaries.

Highlanders have just received money from the PLE yet they are the highest owing team, and then you wonder how they will repay the money because the debt is now above their prize monies.

Problems

Who is the PLE trying to please here and at whose expense?

Why is Chairman Peter 'Touch' Magagula's office now going out of its way to help them? Highlanders are not the best thing to have happened to our football and their problems should not be the PLE's problem too.

As I see it, the PLE is trying to score temporal points. I have more questions than answers in as far as this matter is concerned, but soon I will have all the answers and I will again mention them here. I know what is going on there, but for now I choose to focus on the Highlanders issue because it's still fresh. For now I just want the league to finish before I can review the season. I rest my case and I know some will view this as an attack to Highlanders but NO; it's only that I wanted to lay a foundation for the issues I will be addressing at the end of the season. A lot did not go right but we will talk about all that when the time is right. Mr 'Touch' sir, you will not be spared as I have a lot to say about you since you took over as the PLE chairman.

Battles for title, top 8 and survival

As clubs prepare for the penultimate round of fixtures in the MTN Premier League tonight, the races for the championship, top-eight finishes and to avoid relegation also look set to go down to the wire.

When you look at the log table, the battle for survival in the elite league is as intense as the battle to be crowned champions and it all culminates on the final day of the league season. A total of five clubs are at risk of dropping out of the premier division and being forced to ply their trade in the National First Division next season with just four points separating second from the bottom-placed Vovovo and Sundowns, who are ninth on the log.

With Mbabane Mbabane Citizens already relegated, Vovovo, Manzini Wanderers, Tambuti and Manzini Sundowns are also not safe from the dreaded axe.

12th-placed Manzini Wanderers have a tough battle against a hungry Mbabane Highlanders side at the Mavuso Sports Centre and if they can come out of that encounter unscathed, they will have survived the chop. It is even tougher for 9th-placed Moneni Pirates, who have to fend off Vovovo tomorrow while 11th-placed Tambuti face Green Mamba, who are also vying for the league title.

Manzini Sundowns have a date will already relegated Citizens in a must win

encounter for the 'Kappa Boys' if they are to survive the chop.

Nothing less than three points will do for these five clubs as they battle to keep their place in the MTN Premier League.

At the top of the table, Royal Leopard will just have to win their two games and win the title as they will not rely on other teams' results. They will take on Matsapha United, who will also be all out to be safe from the axe. This also promises to be an exciting match.

Second-place Green Mamba cannot afford to falter, either, as they have to win their last two games and hope that their main title rivals, Leopard, drop points in their remaining fixtures. The rest of the teams Malanti Chiefs, Sea Birds, Matsapha United, Moneni Pirates and Manzini Sundown are fighting to be in the top eight. Gone are those days when we used to have the Castle Cup that featured only the top eight teams.

The teams would fight all the way to make sure they make the cut. With two games left, nothing is certain at the top and bottom.

Sihlangu on the right track

First and foremost, let us all applaud Sihlangu seMnikati for getting a very important 1-1 draw over the 'Flames' of Malawi in the CHAN Qualifiers.

We salute the boys for salvaging the country's pride after making it through to the next stage of the CHAN Qualifiers during the away match played in Malawi.

Going to Malawi as underdogs, the team defied all the odds and went all the way

to frustrate and knock the home team out of the tournament.

The nation's pride really made the country proud through their spirited showing and we hope they can only build from this performance.

The boys started off with a 0-0 draw against the 'Flames' here at home before the 1-1 away draw and they made it through because of the away goal.

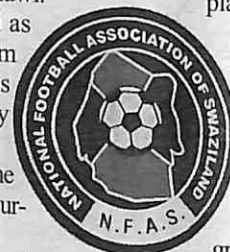
I must say that I am one of those, who did not give them a chance but they came out victorious as they managed to knock out the 'Flames'.

I am sure this achievement will see many regain their faith in the team. Credit should go to the technical team led by Kostadin Papić for instilling self-belief among the players.

I know it's still early days but this performance raised hopes that the country is indeed on its resurgence in the international scenes.

It was a goal by the ever-green Sandile Gamedze that saw us through and I must also congratulate the player for scoring his first goal for the national team. I hope this will encourage him to score more goals and continue to make the country proud.

The result will go a long way in boosting the confidence of the Papić-led charges, as they prepare for their COSAFA Cup campaign which starts at the end of this month in Durban, South Africa.



WE KNOW MAGNITUDE OF TASK AHEAD - PHAKATHI

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - GREEN Mamba CEO Thami Phakathi says his team knows exactly what they need to do in order to win the league.

The Correctional Services side will take on Tambuti FC at Mayaluka Stadium this evening, needing a win to continue their MTN Premier League title challenge.

Phakathi said they knew exactly how a win was important for them today.

He said they were not under any illusion that it would be an easy encounter.

Having won the first round encounter 2-0, Phakathi said Green Mamba players were not under any pressure with just two games left.



"We are aware that we need to win the remaining two games at all costs. The opposition will also be all out for a win. We beat them in the first round

and they will be all out for revenge but we are more than ready to rise to the occasion," he said.

He added that Tambuti would face their strongest possible squad after their players returned from national team duty.

Phakathi also invited their fans to come in their numbers to support the team. "We have no injury concerns going into this crucial game which is good news for us. I also urge football fans to come to Mayaluka Stadium so that they can watch good football on display," he said.

Meanwhile, Tambuti FC PRO Nathi Dlamini said his team needed a good result to ensure they get out of the relegation zone. He also added that no injuries were reported in their camp.

MTN Premier League log:

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Leopard	24	17	3	4	40	14	26	54
Green Mamba	24	16	4	4	44	12	32	52
Buffaloes	24	13	9	2	38	14	24	48
Highlanders	24	12	8	4	30	18	12	44
Swallows	24	13	5	6	29	18	11	42
Malanti	24	6	10	8	23	27	-4	28
Sea Birds	24	8	4	12	26	33	-7	28
Malsapha	24	7	5	12	25	30	-5	26
Pirates	24	6	7	11	24	34	-10	25
Sundowns	24	6	7	11	17	34	-17	25
Tambuti	24	6	7	11	20	29	-9	25
Wanderers	24	6	7	12	20	30	-10	24
Vovovo	24	4	8	12	15	30	-15	20
Citizens	24	2	10	12	14	40	-26	16

"The spirit is high in the camp and the players are motivated to get onto the pitch and play their hearts out. We need a good result to secure our spot in the elite league next season, so we will come out guns blazing," he said.

The PRO added that the team was starting to show signs of adjusting to new coach Terisayi Changara's tactics.

"They are adapting well to the coach's style of play and we are positive of good results tomorrow (today)."

COMFORT 'HLASELA' SHONGWE NEW BIBLE SOCIETY CUP PRO

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - COMFORT 'Hlasela' Shongwe is the new Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Bible Society Cup, replacing Mduduzi 'Mr G' Ginindza in this year's edition of the competition.

This was confirmed by Bible Society of Eswatini Public Relations Officer John Lukhele, who said this was to ensure the publicist was neutral as 'Mr G' was a known Manzini Wanderers fan.

"I can confirm that Comfort Shongwe is our new PRO following a few concerns during last year's edition. We all know that 'Mr G' is a Wanderers fan and we felt we should give the role to a neutral person to promote objectiveness.

Able

Fortunately, we were able to get Shongwe who agreed to take over the duties and we appreciate the work done by 'Mr G' during his tenure," he said.

Lukhele added that they would be launching the competition at

the Royal Villas tomorrow at 7am. The launch will be graced by Minister of Sports Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga and Minister of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe.

This year's edition will feature four teams with Mbabane Highlanders and Moneni Pirates added to the competition together with Manzini Wanderers and Manzini Sundowns.

Games will be played at Mavuso Sports and Exhibition Centre where fans will produce a new or old siSwati Bible to gain entry.



NEW PRO: Comfort 'Hlasela' Shongwe.

Umbelebele could regain First Division status

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - FORMER Premier League side Umbelebele are two games away from regaining their MTN National First Division League (NFD) slot.

This comes after the team qualified for the Swazi Trac Hhohho Regional play-offs as they won their last league match over the weekend.

Umbelebele, who play in the Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League, ended their season on top of the Southern Stream log standings

after beating Swazi Sun 1 - 0 to win the title.

This means that they will have to face the champions of the Northern Stream Manchester, who have also qualified for the play-offs in a two legged encounter. The winner of the regional play-offs will play in the NFD next season.

Manchester have previously been in the National First Division.

Umbelebele also played in the NFD during the 2014/15 season when they were eventually relegated to the Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League.

These teams could join the long list of teams that have tasted both the Premier League and First Division which include last season's play-off winners Pigg's Peak Black Swallows, Vovovo, Mbabane Citizens and Tinyosi, to name a few.



TZD athletes make Eswatini proud in Gaborone

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

(In Gaborone, Botswana courtesy of TZD Athletics Club)

ATHLETICS - Athletes from TZD Athletics Club made the country proud during the Diacore Gaborone Marathon on Sunday.

Against all odds, a majority of the country's 10km elite runners managed to break into the top 20 in a strong field that included well sponsored athletes from Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, and other Southern Africa countries.

TZD Athletics Club's President, Zakhele Dlamini said they will not rest on their laurels but would work hard to ensure that they achieve a podium finish in their next events. Below is how the elite runners from TZD fared in the various race categories:

10 KM RACE		NAME	TEAM	TIME
RANK	RACE#			
1	8613	Thabang Mosiako		0:29:42
2	8648	Sylvester Koko	DGM RUNNING PROGRAM	0:29:59
3	8618	Tendai Zimuto		0:30:17
4	8769	Kagiso Kebabshwaretse	DE BEERS GROUP	0:31:01
5	2183	Batungamili Zibani		0:31:30
6	8650	Amantle Kekganetswe	DGM RUNNING PROGRAM	0:31:50
7	8775	Amogelang Gaodumele	DE BEERS GROUP	0:31:53
8	8772	Ketshepile Panyapanya	DE BEERS GROUP	0:32:03
9	4006	Nkgadimang Sebata	BDF	0:33:24
10	8512	Enoch Skosana		0:33:40
11	8776	Thuso Rantsho	DE BEERS GROUP	0:33:56
12	3969	Obakeng Mekwe	BDF	0:33:59
13	3264	Patience Murowe	NEDBANK RUNNING CLUB	0:34:22
14	8793	Komeya Oscar	NAMIBIAN TEAM	0:34:41
15	7764	Machawe Matsebula	TZD SPORTS	0:34:55
16	8729	Oduetse Diago		0:34:57
17	1837	Mcolisi Matsebula	TZD SPORTS	0:35:03
18	3953	Mompoloki Rapekenene	BDF	0:35:58
19	3199	Onalethata Keadirile		0:36:33
20	7765	Simiso Ngcamphalala	TZD SPORTS	0:36:49
21	8173	Thuso Butana		0:37:16
22	8319	Freddy Modise		0:37:23
23	7763	Musawenkosi Mamba	TZD SPORTS	0:37:33

21 KM WOMEN		NAME	TEAM	TIME
RANK	RACE#			
1	363	Mokulubete Makatisi	NEDBANK RUNNING CLUB(LES)	1:18:36
2	2024	Leena Ekandjo	NAMIBIAN TEAM	1:19:43
3	356	Ntebaleng Letsela	NEDBANK RUNNING CLUB(LES)	1:22:18
4	2242	Kefilwe Galeitsiwe	DE BEERS GROUP	1:22:24
5	2202	Mema Tiango	DIACORE	1:24:20
6	1663	lipinge Helena	NAMIBIAN TEAM	1:24:41
7	1218	Kemeilwe Kwena	BDF	1:25:17
8	1120	Diteko Keitlhophiwe	BOBONONG SECONDARY	1:27:22
9	1123	Olebogeng Segolame	BOBONONG SECONDARY	1:27:24
10	2074	Kenelwe Segolame	BOBONONG SECONDARY	1:27:25
11	2248	Lesedinyana Tumelo	DE BEERS GROUP	1:29:18
12	1838	Sithembile Nzalo	TZD SPORTS	1:30:08

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Machawe Matsebula

"It was a difficult race, largely because we were not used to the conditions and the race course. If we had adequate time to practice on the route, I believe we would have done much better."

Simiso Ngcamphalala

"It was difficult to breathe yet the pace

was very high. The other runners had an advantage because they were used to running on a flat surface."

Musa Dlamini (10km)

"The race was good yet very challenging for us social runners. The organisation was perfect as everything started on time and I think we can learn from our colleagues on this aspect."

Mpendulo Dlamini (21km pace-

maker)

"The race was very fast and challenging for most of us. The flat surface meant we had to maintain a high pace from start to finish, which was very hard because it was also hot."

Mdumiseni Hlawe (10km)

"It was a nice race as the route had no hills. It was a lot of fun for us social runners. The only thing that we did not enjoy was the high costs of reg-

istration. I think they can do better on that front."

Dumisani Lukhele (10km)

"This was my second race in Botswana, and the good thing was that I improved my time from 37 minutes to 33 minutes this year. I am very happy with that."

Kayise Matsebula (10km)

"It was not easy running here, but I

enjoyed it. Everything seemed perfect and well organised."

Menzi Mabuza (42.2km)

"It was very tough as the pace was high. I started well but fell off at mid-way. The good thing is that I finished the race and can take the lessons from here to prepare for upcoming races. I also improved my time from two hours and 42 minutes, to two and a half hours, which was good."

Unfinished business between Leopard, Matsapha United

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCKER - ROYAL Leopard PRO Frank Hurube says they have unfinished business with Matsapha United today as the teams meet at Somhlolo National Stadium.

Hurube said they lost the first round match after a Disciplinary Committee ruling and were all out for revenge.

"We are yet to play a full match against Matsapha United this season and after what happened in the first round, I must say that we have unfinished business with Matsapha. We know it will not be easy after their recent good run but I am confident we will get the three points," he said.

The PRO added that today's match would determine if they get closer to winning the league.

"We just need to win this match. We lost in the EswatiniBank Cup finals and we have put that loss behind us. We are focusing on this match" he said.

Meanwhile, Matsapha United PRO Bheka Magagula said they were ready to prove to Leopard they deserved the points they were awarded in the first round. "I know a lot of Leopard fans are not happy we were given the points from the two matches we never got to finish but I can assure you that we are ready to beat them in the 90 minutes."

Magagula said they would continue with their trend of being giant killers.

"We want to win the remaining games so that we can end the season on a high."

THE FULL FIXTURE:

Today at Mayaluka Stadium		
Tambuti	vs	Green Mamba 6pm
Today at Mavuso Sports Centre		
Manzini Wanderers	vs	Mbn Highlanders 8pm
Today at Somhlolo National Stadium		
Royal Leopard	vs	Matsapha United 6pm
Vovovo	vs	M. Pirales 8pm
Tomorrow at Mavuso Sports Centre		
Manzini Sundowns	vs	Mbabane Citizens 6pm
Tomorrow at Somhlolo National Stadium		
Malanti Chiefs	vs	Sea Birds 6pm
Young Buffaloes	vs	Mbn Swallows 8:30pm

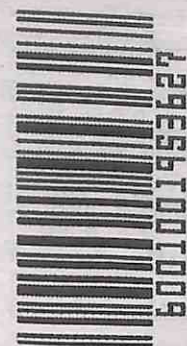


SPORTS

BSERVER

IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE ARE YOUR CHURCH

Tuesday May 14, 2019



Unhappiness at camp as...

SIHLANGU PLAYERS OWED ALLOWANCES

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCKER - OLD habits die hard!

Just four sleeps after the away 1-1 against Malawi in the CHAN Qualifiers, and we're hearing that there is unhappiness in the Sihlangu camp about bonuses.

Despite the gallant performance against the 'Flames', it has emerged that the players have not received their salaries dating back two months ago when they were participating in AFCON Qualifiers against Tunisia.

Information gathered from reliable sources is to the effect that the players were said to have been promised their training and match allowances after their away game against Tunisia on March 23, but that has not happened up to today.

The source said that the players were last paid after their international friendly game against Mozambique early March, where they received E400 each. The game was played in Pretoria High Performance Centre, where Sihlangu drew 1-1 with Mozambique. Sihlangu Semnikati goal was scored by Young Buffaloes on-form striker Sandile Gamedze.

It was proposed that each national team player would be entitled to E200 for training allowances and E1 500 for winning bonuses. The source said even national team coach Kostadin Papic was

- Players have only received E400 between March and now
- Coach Papic was not aware of matter
- Team expected to go to camp for the COSAFA Cup



NO MONEY, MORE PROBLEMS: It is alleged Sihlangu players have not received salaries dating back two months back.

also not aware his players had endured two months without pay.

"Papic was not aware the players had not received their allowances and he expressed his disappointment during a pre-match meeting in Malawi.

Ensured

He, however, ensured us that he would on our behalf to the mother body."

When asked yesterday, some of the players confirmed that they had not received their allowances.

"It's true we haven't received our allowances up to date. We

were last paid early in March after the friendly game against Mozambique where each player was given E400. We still haven't lost hope that the mother body will pay us."

Money

Another player, who preferred anonymity, said they were hoping to get the money ahead of their CHAN game against Malawi but it did not happened.

"This is really painful because we sacrifice a lot for the national team. This is not the way to go. Imagine playing for the national

team and getting E400. It can only happen in the country,"

When sought for comment, Eswatini Football Association Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe said this was an administrative issue. "The players know where to raise their complaints if they are not happy," he said. The 'hungry' players led by Serbian born coach Kostadin Papic will heard for camp on Monday in preparation for the COSAFA Castle Cup to take place in Durban, South Africa from May 25 to June 8.

Zweli Jele heads PLE governors special committee

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCKER - MBABANE Highlanders board of directors Chairman Zweli Jele was appointed to head the Premier League of Eswatini board of governors special committee.

This constitutional review committee is solely established to assist the board in reviewing the Constitution of PLE as per the resolutions taken at the PLE retreat in April.

According to an appointment letter endorsed by PLE Chairman Peter 'Touch' Magagula, the committee will resume its duties soon.

THE COMMITTEE

Chairperson
Zweli Jele
Members
Bongani 'Bhanyaza' Mdluli
Desmond Manda

It is comprised of 'learned friends' in Zweli Jele, who will assume the Chairperson position while former Mbabane City director, Manzini Wanderers legal advisor Bongani 'Bhanyaza' Mdluli and Desmond Manda have been appointed as members.

The appointed committee is expected to usher some new changes in the PLE.

Amend

The committee is expected to amend the PLE Constitution in order to enable clubs to have full rights

at the beginning of their first PLE AGM, articulate the hosting rights of teams, articulate the position of executive members whose clubs are relegated from the Premier League, review and present an update PLE Constitution in line with current global best practices.

Furthermore, the new committee will articulate functions of the office of the Premier League of Eswatini Chief Executive Officer and the organisation's COO. The three-member committee is also expected to compile the PLE policy documents and general rules in line with the new Constitution.

It is expected to report to the board on its activities, findings and recommendations at the meeting of Board of Governors on or before June 30, 2019.

Premier League of Eswatini Chief Executive Officer Simanga Nhleko did confirm that the committee was appointed some time ago.