

Boy (12)
hits road in
aunt's car

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Asian
nabbed
smuggling
E0.5m cash

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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2019

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PHEZUKOMKHONO

Minister of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe joined by Lutsango as she made an announcement about the order of dress code at the Baganu Ceremony at Buhleni Royal Residence this weekend. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

'XENOPHOBIC MATSAPHA STOPS MUSLIM CHURCH'

STORY ON
PAGE 3

...Community tells commission of enquiry that councillors told them Matsapha was of the Christian faith, therefore would not allow the construction of a mosque there



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Power blackout ends in police camps

BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlango

POWER supply to police camps around the country was on Wednesday afternoon restored after it was cut Tuesday afternoon.

This caused untold troubles for the women and men in blue such that they sought assistance from private residences.

It is said the Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) cut the power supply as a result of a bill amounting to millions of Emalangeni, which government has not settled.

The disconnection also saw some of the officers suffering huge losses in terms of foodstuffs loaded in their refrigerators.

The police officers said the almost two day blackout was hellish it was like it happened for an eternity.

"What annoyed us was that we were not informed that we would experience a blackout."

"At first, we thought it was just the power interruption or failure, which is something we are used to here in Nhlango. It was when hours passed that we later learned that EEC disconnected the power for unpaid bills," said one of the police officers.

Things returned to normal at around 3pm on Wednesday.

Shift

"For some of us who were doing morning shift, when we left our houses yesterday (Wednesday), there was still no electricity and we could not even prepare breakfast."

"We went to work without having eaten anything. At around 3pm today (Wednesday), the power was restored but that did not help some of us considering what we had lost in terms of the food which was spoiled in the fridges," said another officer.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that things had since returned to normal in all the police camps which were affected.

"We are thankful to government for making sure that whatever led to EEC deciding to cut the power supply in police camps, it was given the necessary attention," said Supt Vilakati.

CLARIFICATION

IN our February 12, 2019 publication we featured a main story and other sub stories citing Prophet Gcina Mthethwa in relation to a promise he made to teachers of Manzini Practising about a suggested holiday abroad back in 2017. In this matter, he says he was only suggesting a motivation for the Grades 6 and 7 teachers who work extra hard to produce good results and not the entire staff as claimed by our sources.

As background to the story, we cited other unrelated incidents that touched on the character of Mthethwa and he felt unfairly treated despite that these incidents were already in the public domain. We wish to assure Prophet Mthethwa that the intention was not malice or intended to attack his person but to balance issues based on the facts provided by both sides.

Asian smuggles half a million through border

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

AN Indian man was arrested for failure to declare E500 000 upon arrival into the country at the Ngwenya Border Gate.

He appeared before Senior Magistrate Nonhlanhla Dlamini yesterday morning.

Abdul Baten (34), of Oshoek, failed to declare the said amount on Tuesday and by so doing he was arrested and charged with two counts, including that of contravening Section 80 as read with Section 87 of the Customs and Excise Act 1971 as amended.

The money is said to have been in local and South African currencies.

He was also charged with contravening Section 4 (1) (d) as read with Section 89 (1) (a) of the Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism Act 2011 as amended, whereby as the owner of the said amount, he knowingly and with



good reason to believe that it has been derived directly or indirectly from acts or commissions that constitutes an offence in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

His lawyer pleaded that the accused

be granted bail after the prosecution had applied that the accused be remanded into police custody, in preparation for trial.

He further applied that in the event he was granted bail, his money be

released as well for it was a large sum and he would abide by all bail conditions. Bail was granted at E6 000, however, the second plea was not granted and he is set to return to court next Friday.

Bad cop Busta pulls yet another stunt

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

CONTROVERSIAL police officer Busta Vilakati was the centre of attention after he impeded security guards hired by the Pigg's Peak Town Council from removing illegal roast meat roadside vendors, Shisanyama.

He is fresh from being found guilty and sentenced for assaulting a female police colleague. The aforementioned vendors work only at night outside the Polani Bar selling roasted meat and porridge to hungry customers.

The incident took place outside Polani Bar on Wednesday evening.

Vilakati, who was operating not as a police officer but in his capacity as administrator at the Pigg's Peak RatePayers Association, said Pigg's Peak was the only town within the Kingdom of Eswatini that disallowed Shisanyama vendors after dark.

"Why is Pigg's Peak the only town in the kingdom that refuses Shisanyama vendors to operate? You can go to any town in Eswatini and you will find vendors operating at night, selling cooked food and roasted maize."

"Why is it not the same in Pigg's Peak? Another issue is the administration at the Pigg's Peak



AT IT AGAIN: Busta Vilakati.

Town Council composed of non-Pigg's Peak residents so they abuse local folks for personal gain. The truth of the matter is that Pigg's Peak Town Council does not care about the people and that is why they are denying the vendors a good honest living," he said.

Also speaking to this publication at the scene was First Action security guards who said they

were removing the vendors because the Pigg's Peak Town Council told them to do so.

"As security guards, we are just doing our jobs as we are hired by the Pigg's Peak Town Council. We are not fighting with the vendors and since Vilakati has chosen to react in such a manner, we will leave the vendors to operate for now but we will involve the Pigg's Peak police if the situation remains unresolved," they said.

In a previous article written by this publication pertaining to the above subject matter, Pigg's Peak Town Clerk/CEO Mzwandile Ndzinisa said the Urban Government Regulations Act of (1969) stated that no person was allowed to sell in the street or public place, without a valid permit from council. Therefore, the sale of roasted meat by the vendors is illegal, since it is a contravention of this Act.

"To add to that first statement, any sale of unwholesome or unhealthy food is not allowed in town, as stated in the Public Health (Food Hygiene) Regulations.

"This is due to the fact that unhygienic food compromises the health of the public, because it is prepared or served in unhygienic settings. For instance, the regulations state that food must be prepared in an area that has clean running water, unfortunately the Shisanyama you're referring to lacks water facilities," he added.

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FOCUS ON MATSAPHA TOWN COUNCIL COMMISSION

'ZWANE, COUNCIL REJECT MUSLIM CHURCH'

STORIES BY SAMKELISWE KHOZA
Matsapha

MATSAPHA Town Council Chairperson Sandlane Zwane and his councillors are accused of xenophobic attitudes towards the Muslim community for rejecting an application to build a mosque in the municipality.

The on-going public submissions are conducted at the Matsapha Town Council by the commission of enquiry appointed by Minister of Housing and Urban Development Prince Simelane. It comprises Lungile Magagula (Chairperson), Mzwandile Dlamini (Secretary), with commissioners, Ayanda Sigudla, Benito Jones and Ocean Zibuse Simelane.

The Muslim community representatives said their application to construct the mosque was chucked through the window by the councillors together with their Zwane.

When the councillors assumed office in 2017, the community applied for the construction soon thereafter. However, that application was declined and construction subsequently barred.

The community submitted that the councillors told them that they were of the Christian faith, therefore, they cannot allow the construction of that mosque.

During the submissions, the Arabs explained that all they wanted from the Council was to be granted permission to build the house of worship. They



ELABORATE: Chairperson of the Commission Lungile Magagula directs the proceedings during the enquiry. Next to her is commissioner Zibuse Simelane.

explained that the construction site or plot legally belonged to them, they were not asking for land.

Investor

They also brought forward that they had in the bag an investor from Kuwait who was to finance the construction of the mosque. Unfortunately, the investor packed his bags together with his money and left when he realised he was faced with xenophobic and religious intolerance.

Furthermore, council and Zwane cited that if they were to construct anything

it had to be an industrial structure because that was an industrial site. Therefore, every construction must be industrial and provide employment to a significant number of citizens.

Meanwhile, a deafening question that made the room so quiet one could hear a pin drop was that why other towns in the country had mosques yet their administrations are Christians.

The Muslims said that xenophobic act by Zwane and the councillors dented the trust Arabic countries, especially investors, held for Eswatini.

...Muslim community regrets voting for Zwane, councillors

THE Muslim-Arabic Community says they strongly regret voting for the councillors and Chairperson Sandlane Zwane.

During their submissions yesterday, the communal said they were so disappointed at how the councillors, especially Zwane, had turned into.

They said they trusted and believed in the councillors that change and development would follow after they were elected.

They brought forward that Zwane was a very smart man and well versed with the law and the constitution, hence he can get away with murder. Zwane's cleverness, they alleged, granted him the eye to notice and see every hole there is within a system or a person and use that hole to achieve personal gains. Moreover, the minister of housing and urban development was begged to order for re-elections and make Matsapha live again.

'Councillors must be investigated'

MBABANE businessman Walter Bennett has recommended to the commission of enquiry to probe further into elections of the Matsapha town councillors.

Bennett was speaking yesterday during the on-going public submissions regarding the Matsapha affairs.

"Asekubukwe kutsi wona lama councillors lasabanga hutfuli namuhla angena njani," he said in ver-

nacular, adding that the councillors had no ratepayers' interests at all, all they cared about was wasting their money.

He said before they were suspended, the councillors in Matsapha were on each other's throat over expensive trips which they were not even deserving due to their uninformed behaviours which also led to the chaos.

Moreover, Bennet said town boards, councils and municipalities ignorantly waste ratepayers' monies. Bennet said investors should also be investigated, KPMG audited Mbabane Municipality for over three years, nevertheless Matsapha Town Council councillors used that line to defend the change of an audit firm.

He said that move on its own smacked of corruption, hence the necessity to probe investors that are in line with Matsapha.

Before they were suspended, the councillors in Matsapha were on each other's throat over expensive trips they were not even deserving

Sandlane, councillors can never work under same roof - Nkhanyeti

FORMER Matsapha Councillor Nkhanyeti Ngwenya said, returning to office chairperson, Sandlane Zwane and the councillors under the same roof would be a huge mistake.

Ngwenya was chucked out of a meeting by Zwane and told to come back with a letter that grants him the leeway to double up as Member of Parliament and a councillor.

A question, however, lingered on how Ngwenya's being an MP and a councillor turned into an issue simply because it was recorded that Zwane congratulated him when he won the elections.

When making his submissions, Zwane strongly argued that he could not let

corruption dwell under his leadership hence Ngwenya and Councillor Mfanufikile Dlamini were sent packing. Dlamini was an His Majesty's Correctional Service officer when he was elected into council.

Tunes

However, tunes changed when he was transferred to the Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force last year.

He was also chucked out of the council by the then chairperson who requested a letter from his employer explaining the double up.

Interestingly, Ngwenya submitted that soon after he was suspended by Zwane, his payment was halted by the council.

He said the possibility of having a productive and peaceful working environment under Zwane and the councillors were very slim.

Ngwenya concurred with other councillors that an interim council team should take over till 2022 when elections would be conducted.

MY MIND: MP Nkhanyeti Ngwenya making his submissions during his appearance before the ongoing Matsapha Town Council Commission of Enquiry yesterday.



Councillors belittled, bullied for glaring at or touching phones

IF you have so much as touch or glare at your mobile phone during meetings or when the chairperson was speaking, nalo lilahle kuwe - woe unto you.

Ngwenya claimed during his submission that the councillors were literally forbidden to touch their mobile phones in the presence of Zwane during meetings. Ngwenya said they would be belittled and bullied. He said Zwane lacked proper leadership skills, as a result, Matsapha was a mess today.

The MP said as a leader, there were proper ways to deal with matters without belittling and degrading others in the same leadership.

OPINION: Commissioner Mzwandile Dlamini asks for clarity from MP Nkhanyeti Ngwenya during his appearance before the commission.



WET, WET, WET VALENTINE'S



WET DAY: A view of the Mbabane Bus Rank during Valentine's Day as it was raining for the better part of the day. Weather forecasters have predicted a wet marula weekend at Buhleni Royal Residence. **RIGHT** - Commuters captured as they await transport to their areas of residence. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

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KEEP WALKING: Pedestrians walking along the road along Malagwane Hill on the rainy day.



NOT SPARED: Passengers seated in a bakkie as it drove down the Malagwane Hill in the rainy weather yesterday.



SAFELY COVERED: A man carries a bundle of goods for a customer as the rain came down towards the Mbabane Bus Rank.

WHICH WAY



WONDERING: A pupil seems to be lost in the rain.

LET'S SHARE



POURING: Umbrellas were the most utilised item as it poured.

Thank you! Siyabonga!



It is with great humility that the Kuhlase family extends its profound gratitude for the overwhelming support during this difficult time after the untimely demise of **Mr. Samuel Sipho 'SS' Kuhlase.**

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. We extend our gratitude to the medical fraternity for all their efforts, and to Dups funeral parlour.

May you all be richly blessed.
May baba's soul rest in eternal peace.

Note of gratitude from baka Kuhlase.

MURDER SUSPECT SIPHO'S SON GETS 3 YEARS IN JAIL

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

MURDER suspect Siphon Shongwe's son, Sifiso Mbusi, was sentenced to three years in prison with an option of a fine of E10 000 yesterday by Magistrate Lenhle Zulu.

Shongwe was arrested on January 19, 2018 at Ngwenya Border Post after he failed to declare E60 000 to customs officers and the police. The money was found in his vehicle, a VW Polo Vivo at the point of entry into the Kingdom of Eswatini and it was in South African currency.

Declare

He was charged with contravening Section 41 (1) as read with Section 41 (2) of the Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2011 which states that one is required to declare an amount that is above E15 000.

During his court appearance on



January 21, 2018, he was granted bail at E3 500.

Shongwe was represented by his lawyer Siphon Mnisi, who applied before the court that his travel document and car be released back to his custody. He further applied that the E10 000 be taken from the money that was forfeited by the state on arrest.

The undeclared cash, his travel doc-

ument and vehicle were forfeited in terms of Section 57 of the above cited Act on the day of his arrest.

According to the magistrate, his arrest was also based on the fact that he had exited and quickly returned to the country as his father was a suspect in the murder of the late Victor Gamedze and anyone close to him was under police investigation.

ANGERED BY BROTHER-IN-LAW, HE BEATS UP WIFE

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

COULD it be true that some women are assaulted for absolutely no reason by their lovers?

This is the question which lingered in the minds of many when a man appeared before the Siteki Magistrate's Court for assaulting his wife, for no apparent reason. In fact, the accused person admitted before court that his wife did nothing wrong to deserve the said assault.

Christopher Gamedze (45) was charged with contravening Section 77 of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act 15 of 2018. He was said to have wrongfully and unlawfully assaulted his wife, Sibongile Mkhonta by choking her and further banging her head several times against the floor. When the charge sheet was read to him, Gamedze pleaded guilty to the charge. His plea was also accepted by the Crown without leading evidence to prove commission of the offence.

When asked by the court to explain how he ended up assaulting his wife, Gamedze blamed his reaction to a fight he had earlier with his brother-in-law (a brother to his wife). He nar-

rated that on the fateful day, he came home and found his brother-in-law sitting in the lounge and playing loud music. The said brother-in-law was visiting his sister. Gamedze said he asked his brother-in-law to reduce the volume, but he refused.

He said instead, his brother-in-law started an argument with him, something which eventually resulted to them exchanging blows.

Beating

The accused person told the court that he was overpowered by his brother-in-law during the fight. He alleged that his wife then made some comments which did not go down well with him. "Watsi kulo mmakabo sale angikhawula sengenele," said the accused person, meaning, "She told her brother to stop beating me because I have already had enough".

Gamedze said he felt belittled by this statement, hence he assaulted her. He stated that, however, he later realised that he beat his wife for no apparent reason.

Senior Magistrate Donald Mavuso warned Gamedze against venting his anger on his wife, saying this could see him spending years in a correctional facility. The accused was sentenced to a year imprisonment with an option to pay E1 000 fine.

Boy (12) hits road in aunt's car

BY SABELO MAJOLA AND
THEMBEKA DLAMINI
Mbabane

WHAT was supposed to be a Valentine's Day outing with friends ended badly for a Qedusizi Primary School pupil who was bundled off by the police for stealing a relative's newish looking Golf 5 and driving around with classmates.

The Grade Seven pupil (aged 12), who resides in Makhohlolo, allegedly drove off with the vehicle in the early morning and collected his four friends with whom he attended a sports' day event which took place at the Prince of Wales Sports Ground.

Just before lunch time, the five boarded the vehicle as they were going to their next destination, presumably their different homes.

Unfortunately for them, the vehicle had been parked in a muddy puddle and they were unable to drive out.

Four of the pupils got out and started pushing the vehicle with their equally short friend trying all means to steer out of the mud and instead got more stuck.

A passer-by who was attracted by the spectacle became worried and called for the boys to explain what was happening.

After much back and forth, with denials and much finger

pointing, it emerged that the boy had convinced his friends that the vehicle belonged to his mother.

What was worrisome was that the boy alleged that his friends convinced him to take the vehicle whereas he had money for transportation and didn't need to use it.

He further provided contacts of an adult who he alleged would corroborate his story, especially the part that the vehicle was his mother's. The police were called and also told the same tale.

Tearfully

Of note, the same boy boldly alleged that all five took turns in driving, something which the others tearfully tried to refute.

When a family member was contacted, it was revealed that the boy had spun a tale and lied throughout the questioning.

Instead, the family member, who asked not to be named as he feared family reprisals as he is a distant relative, said the car belongs to an aunt to the boy only identified as Phindile.

"The car is hardly ever used as Phindile says it is waiting for her child to complete his education so as to make use of the vehicle," the neighbour said.

Adding, he said the boy was taught how to drive by a church mate who is normally called upon to wash the car whenever it gets dirty from dust. Added to that, the boy is said to at times

take his pastor's car and move it around the church premises whenever his church mate is called upon to wash it as well.

"He found the keys on a television screen in Phindile's house after entering to make as though he was greeting Petros who was painting in the house," said the relative and the boy is alleged to have driven off.

Attempted

On seeing that the car was no longer in the yard, Petros is said to have attempted to look for it to no avail while telling everyone he came across that he wanted to sort the young boy.

Upon arrival at the Coronation Park, the police took the car together with the pupils to the Mbabane Police Station and their parents were called.

Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) Chief Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the matter when sought for comment yesterday. She said the pupils were advised not to engage in such unbecoming behaviour, especially because they pose a threat to themselves and other motorists on the road given that they were still minors not authorised to drive.

"Their parents were also cautioned to keep a close eye on their children to avoid such occurrences and the minors were handed over to them," she said.

Funeral Notice



Bhekisisa Soul Mbuyisa

SIMEMETELO SEMNGCWABO

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Bhekisisa Soul Mbuyisa lobekatiwa ngekutsi ngu 'Mthamo' kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Usishiye ngekutumeke lokukhulu mhlaka 12 February 2019.

Utawufihlwa ekhaya lakhe eLushikishini ngelisontfo, mhlaka 17 February 2019 nga 06h00 ekuseni.

Kwatiswa baka Mbuyisa eBhadzeni, nebasekhakhakhe baka Mtsetfwa, bekhabinina baka Mlotsa, nebasemsebentini wakhe ka Swazi Observer.

Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Mkakhe egameni lemndeni.

Five MPs to thank King for speech

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI
Lobamba

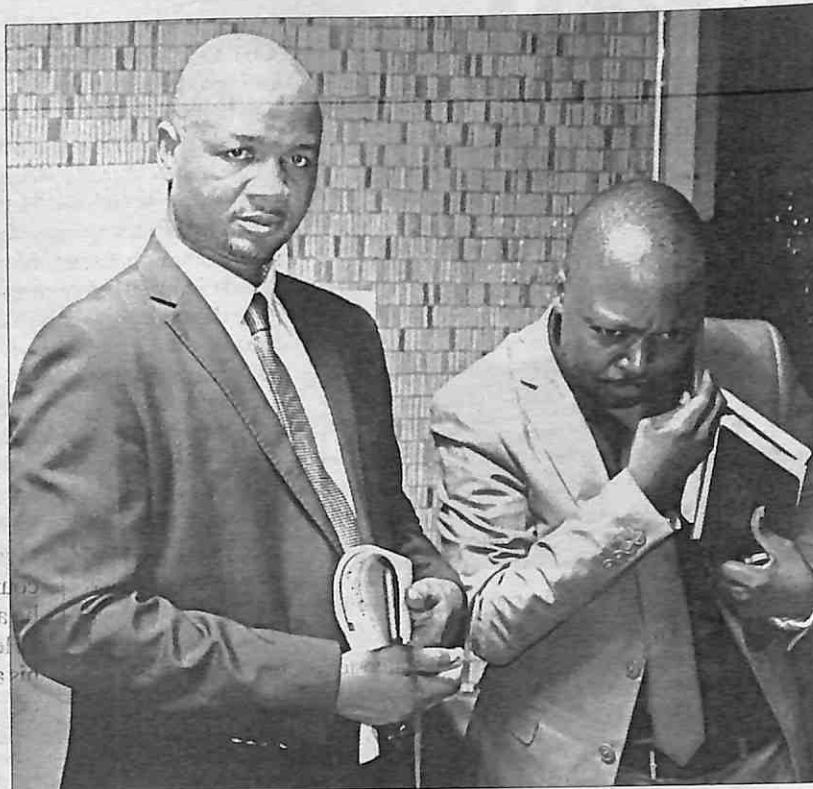
MEMBERS of Parliament (MPs) have selected a five-member committee that will convey the legislatures' gratitude to His Majesty King Mswati III for the Speech from the Throne.

Last Friday, the king delivered the Speech from the Throne which marked the opening of Parliament.

Yesterday in the House of Assembly, the legislators thanked the King for giving a clear direction to be followed by the country.

The MPs to thank the king included Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini, Speaker Petros Mavimbela, Manzi South MP Thandi Nxumalo, Maphahleli MP Mabulala Maseko, and MP Prince Mfanawemakhosi Dlamini.

The MPs will be led by the premier and the speaker to the king. This was after Deputy Speaker Phila Buthelezi suggested that MPs should thank the king for such a good speech.



PICTURED: MP Victor Mlambe of Mhlume and MP Zakhele Magongo of Nkaba captured after the first Parliament sitting yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

OPEN THE MINES - MPs

THE country's mines should be opened so as to resuscitate the economy.

This was said by Members of Parliament (MPs) yesterday in the House of Assembly after thanking His Majesty King Mswati III for delivering His Speech from the Throne. Most of the MPs who commented on the King's speech said it was imperative that government made it possible for mines to operate in the country.

Deputy Speaker Phila Buthelezi said it would be ideal if Minister for Natural Resources and Energy Peter Bhembe

was present in Parliament yesterday.

However, Bhembe was not present in the House yesterday and no reasons were stated for his absence.

Bhembe was present at Senate when the senators met in the morning. Buthelezi urged ministers to inform Bhembe that he was also expected to attend House sittings even though he was a senator.

Buthelezi quoted the King on his 2017 speech, where he called for a speedy enactment of legislations that would regulate the mining industry.

Buthelezi said he was disappointed that two years down the line, nothing

was done to implement that directive from the King. Buthelezi said he wanted to make that submission in the presence of Bhembe, so that he could hear for himself what was expected from him.

Mhlume MP Victor Mlambe also called for government to ensure that the revival of the mining industry was done speedily.

Mlambe also called for government to ensure that whatever mining companies that would be engaged, they should be challenged to process the minerals into finished goods right here in the country.

He also stated that local companies should also be considered for such tenders for Emaswati to benefit.

Senators call for unity

IT is important for the country's legislators to work as a united team when tackling the country's economic problems.

This was an observation made by senators yesterday when thanking His Majesty King Mswati III for the Speech from the Throne he delivered last Friday.

The senators observed that there was a huge need for Parliament and the executive to work as a unity if the country was to move out of the financial mess.

Before the senators made their submissions, Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini was asked by Senate President Lindiwe Dlamini to move that the senators thank the king for delivering the speech last week.

Senator Prince Magudvulela commented on the speech saying it called upon both the legislature and the executive to work together to achieve what the King had set out in his speech.

Prince Magudvulela said the executive should engage the legislature on decisions it would take when doing its work.

"It will not be good for the legislature to learn about the moves of the executive in the media," he said.

The prince further said it was imperative for the executive to act fast on the directives from the legislature. He acknowledged that sometimes, implementing those directives could be hard, but engaging the legislature would make things easier.

He made an example of electricity supply in the country, saying as legislators had called for the executive to look for other ways of generating electricity besides relying on South Africa. He said they called for that to happen in 2008, but to date, nothing had happened.

Minister for Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo said government should ensure the disharmony between the wings of government was addressed. He said the disharmony was found between different government ministries, *emabandla* and other sectors.

Khumalo added that the King's speech was based more on resuscitating the economy and that called for the whole government machinery to work in unity. He said there was a need to attract foreign direct investment by making it easy for people to do business in the country.



ALL SMILES: Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza sharing a light moment with Finance PS Bheki Bhembe after the day's proceedings.

Ministers to deliver annual reports

CABINET ministers have failed to deliver their annual performance reports in Parliament.

This is despite the fact that they were advised last Friday that they should present them yesterday before the house.

The ministers were advised to submit the reports to House of Assembly Speaker Petros Mavimbela.

House of Assembly Speaker Petros Mavimbela, when making the announcement yesterday in the House of Assembly, said he was disappointed to inform his fellow MPs that he had not received any of the reports. He pleaded with Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini to ensure that ministers adhered to calls from the legislature.

Minister for Tinkhundla Administration and Development

David Cruiser Ngcamphalala informed Mavimbela that he had submitted his report. He asked that the speaker go and look for it in his office.

Mavimbela promised to do as Ngcamphalala asked.

Submission

Deputy Speaker Phila Buthelezi urged ministers last Friday to submit the reports before yesterday. This was during the opening of the first session of the 11th Parliament, which was opened by His Majesty King Mswati III. The reports were to be submitted to House of Assembly Speaker Petros Mavimbela.

Mavimbela had been asked on Tuesday on how ministers were expected to submit the annual reports when they were barely two months in office. Mavimbela said the reports

belonged to the ministries, not the ministers. They were supposed to find the reports because they were compiled during the time of their predecessors. This meant the ministers had to take over what they found when they took over the office.

Annual performance reports are accounts that will give a picture to MPs and senators on how the different ministries have performed over the outgoing financial year. The current Cabinet ministers have only been in office for the past two months.

This means that they were not there when this outgoing financial year started, but they now have to account to the legislators on how their various ministries have performed over the past financial year. They have to do this more so because the legislators also have an obligation of taking the same reports to

the people who elected them in various constituencies.

The MPs were also elected in October last year and only had a sitting for the first time in the following month. This means when the present financial year started, they were not in office. However all of the legislators, including the Cabinet, have to familiarise themselves with what the previous government was doing.

This would help in ensuring that they work according to what was done by the goals set by the previous government. The previous government was given the task of improving the country's economy such that it would be easy to achieve the first world status by 2022. The present government has to ensure it takes from where the previous government left. This government has a task of ushering the country to 2022.

VACANCY

OPTOMETRIST

Ekululameni Rehabilitation Centre-Mzimpofu taking care of the disabled people is looking for an optometrist to work in its Optical Division.

Qualification: Bachelor of Optometry (Independent Practice-Diagnostics Optometry).

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ail.com

DOC:18453

ILO delegation in the country

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI
Ezulwini

THE International Labour Organisation (ILO) delegation is in the country for a three-day mission where several stakeholders will be engaged, including workers unions and authorities.

The team led by Director Joni Musabayana arrived in the country on Wednesday where it held a meeting over dinner with workers federations' representatives. In this meeting, the delegation was updated on the progress made by the country in as far as workers issues and the social dialogue are concerned.

Yesterday, the team had a court-

tesy meeting with the Minister of Labour and Social Security Makhosi Vilakati, who was joined by the principal secretary, the commissioner of labour as well as other government officials. The team was scheduled to also have a meeting with the United Nations (UN) offices team and Business Eswatini.

Today, the team is expected to meet with the head of government, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, and the Cabinet as a whole. Early in the morning, the US embassy is scheduled to have a meeting with the team.

Musabayana said on Wednesday, his delegation met with the workers unions who highlighted several challenges and issues that need to be addressed.

"They raised issues around taxes, funding of orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC), electricity, costs of passports and the labour market. We will be engaging other stakeholders including the business community and the country's authorities, and we gathered that they have created an enabling environment," he said.

Dialogue

Asked of the assertion that the unions were to report the government to ILO, the director encouraged the parties to engage in social dialogue and try to address matters at home before reporting to them.

He said some serious issues are resolved amicably by unions and government if they engaged in dialogue and there was no need to report



the countries involved to ILO, making an example of the Marikana case in South Africa.

Minister of Labour and Social Security Makhosi Vilakati said his ministry was more than willing to engage the labour unions in social dialogue and encouraged them to come forth and table issues they had. "Let them come, let's talk, we are open to dialogue. To us they are a stakeholder not enemies. Whenever there is an issue, they should come see us as our hands are open," he said. The minister said the ILO team was invited to establish a relationship as well as to be kept abreast on the expectations of the ministry. He thanked the team for assisting the country in formulating labour related legislations in the past.

Ngculwini chief applauds King

BY SIMON SHABANGU
Mbabane

NGCULWINI Chief, Prince Mgebiseni has applauded the His Majesty King Mswati III for the Ingwenyama Cup Culture Competition which he said would revive cultural practices across the country.

He was speaking in an interview after three groups from his area won prizes during the Manzini regional eliminations recently. The chief said he was grateful to the King for the visionary leadership through which he realised that there was need to have such a competition. He said the country would now be revived culturally.

"*Sekhuta liBayethe* because our culture was slowly 'dying', but now the cultural landscape is changing countrywide.

"Culture is very important to Emaswati because it unites the nation so that we do a lot of things together. Culture also promotes peace in the country which the King always advocates for," he added.

He also congratulated the three groups from his area which made it to the top four, although only one group qualified for the finals at Somhlolo where they will represent the Lubombo region.

Winning

"I am proud of the groups which have proven that we are the cultural hub in the region because we have always been winning this competition. I encourage even the youth to love and partake in this competition because it is all about culture," he added. Ngculwini Indlamu group managed to get position three; Ingadla was placed in first position while Lutsango got second position. The chief said this was a great achievement for the area, reiterating that they would continue to shine because even the local business community supports them.

He singled out Corban Build Hardware Director Thembinkosi Nkonyane whom he said has been supporting the culture competition since he set up his business in the area.



BAYETHE: Prince Mgebiseni.

NO PARTY: What was supposed to be used for the Valentine's Day celebration accidentally fell from its owner while at the Corporate Place yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



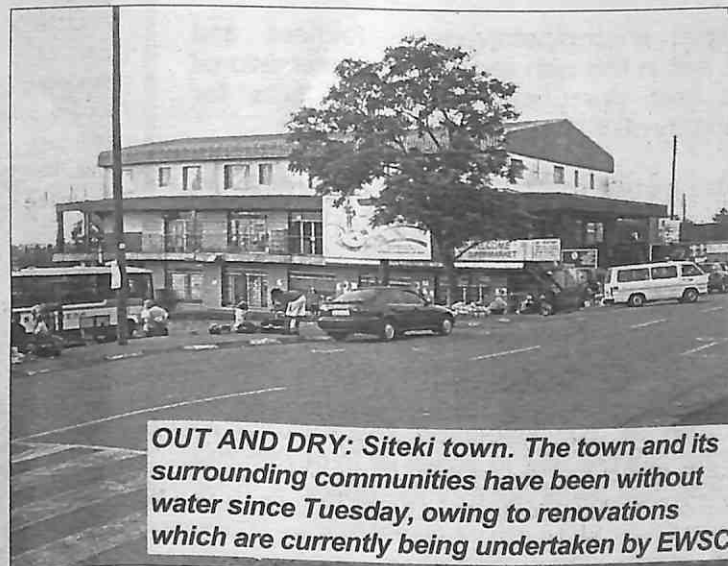
Businesses affected as Siteki without water for three days

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

SITEKI is currently without the basic commodity, water, making life very difficult for the general public and businesses.

The town and its surrounding communities have been without water since Tuesday, owing to renovations currently being undertaken by the Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC). The situation has also seen a number of businesses reporting huge losses in productivity as they cannot operate without clean running water.

Amongst the businesses which have reported losses is the sole textile factory, JS Clothing, which is situated near Mabhodweni area. The factory has been compelled to reduce its operation hours into half to ensure good health amongst the workers. Speaking during an inter-



OUT AND DRY: Siteki town. The town and its surrounding communities have been without water since Tuesday, owing to renovations which are currently being undertaken by EWSC.

view at the factory premises, Production Manager Soodesh Sivram disclosed that the management was left without a choice but to halt operations at midday. At least, this was the case on Wednesday and yesterday. Sivram said the manage-

ment noted that it would have been a health hazard to keep workers in an environment which had no running water.

"We could not keep the over 550 staff in an environment where they could not use toilets, hence we had

to halt operations at midday," said the manager.

Sivram said the situation has translated to huge losses as they had to cancel some orders which were due today.

Meanwhile, other businesses such as eateries within the town centre, also reported a similar situation. The EWSC has pleaded for patience from members of the public. ESWC's Sakhiseni Khumalo, who spoke on behalf of Public Affairs Manager Nomahlubi Matiwane, said the situation was caused by problems which have been experienced with the water network.

Khumalo said the company was currently working on repairing the said network.

"We are hoping that the situation will be back to normal on Saturday as our team is on the ground working hard to address the problem," said Khumalo when sought for clarity.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL CONSENT IN TERMS OF THE MANZINI TOWN PLANNING SCHEME OF 2013

I Isaac Kizito the owner(s) of the property in question, hereby make a Public Notice in terms of Clause 1.5 of the 2013 Manzini Town Planning Scheme that I wish to apply SPECIAL CONSENT to establish a Guest House on Plot 392, Coates Valley.

Anyone having objection to this application may lodge their objection in writing with the Municipal Council of Manzini at P.O. Box 418, Manzini, M200, SWAZILAND; not later than 8 - 15 February 2019, that is 21 days from the late publication of the notice namely on 8 March 2019.

Taiwan Roots Medical Peace Corps

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

ABOUT 500 people from Pigg's Peak and surrounding areas received free medical care from 35 Taiwanese medical practitioners under the Taiwan Roots Medical Peace Corps.

The medical practitioners, who were working at the Gobolondlo Hall on Wednesday, consisted of doctors, nurses and medical volunteers, all providing free medical checkups and medication to members of the public.

The medical experts were invited to Eswatini on February 10 by both the ministry of health and Taiwan Ambassador to Eswatini, Jeremy Liang.

Speaking to this publication Liang who was also in Pigg's Peak, said the ministry of health was responsible for deploying the medical practitioners who will be leaving the country on February 19. "The Taiwan Roots Medical Peace



WELCOME: Taiwan Ambassador to Eswatini Jeremy Liang with Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza at the Gobolondlo Hall on Wednesday.
(Pics Sizwe Dlamini)

Corps is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that travelled to Eswatini to aid the sick for free.

It is important to note that the health care organisation has very experienced doctors and nurses

es who have travelled to many other countries around the world providing all types of free medical care. The ministry of health has a good working relationship with the government of Taiwan, hence I decided to invite the organisation to the Kingdom to provide assistance," he said.

On that note, Minister of Agriculture and Pigg's Peak Member of Parliament (MP) Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza said he provided transport to help ferry people from their respective places to the Gobolondlo Hall to receive the free medical services.

"We are grateful to His Majesty King Mswati III for building vital relationships with Taiwan. It is no secret that health care is very expensive, so when an organisation chooses to bring it here for free, as a community we cannot miss such an opportunity. We are expecting that the Taiwanese mission will aid about 500 people today," he said.



ESWATINI ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PRESS STATEMENT

GENERATION CAPACITY PROCUREMENT THROUGH COMPETITIVE TENDER

Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA) is pleased to announce that it will shortly launch the first competitive tender process for the procurement of new renewable electricity capacity in Eswatini.

Following the Minister of Energy's announcement on the 25th July 2018, and in accordance with section 25 of the Electricity Act of 2007, ESERA has commenced the process of preparing a tender process for the first round of generation capacity procurement as envisaged in the Short term Generation Expansion Plan (SGEP). ESERA has established a procurement committee which includes representatives from the Government of Eswatini and the Eswatini Electricity Company to assist in the procurement of new renewable generation capacity, and is taking the necessary steps to launch an initial call for tenders in line with Government's policy.

This tendering process is being adopted to advance Government's partnership with the private sector and also to ensure the orderly development of new generation capacity to help achieve the country's strategic objectives of increasing the amount of renewable energy in our generation mix while improving our country's self-sufficiency at the same time. This competitive tendering process will benefit electricity users in the country as bidders will offer the most competitive tariffs for the new generation capacity.

1. In line with the above statement, the procurement of new capacity will now be led by ESERA and will be conducted through a competitive bidding process. In Executing this function, ESERA will be guided by the SGEP, the Energy Policy and the Energy Master Plan of Eswatini.

2. The tendering process will be conducted in accordance with the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency Act of 2011 and the Electricity Act of 2007. There will be a request for qualification (RFQ) followed by a request for proposals (RFP) and this process

will be launched openly by inviting bidders through the media.

3. Screening and evaluation of the submitted proposals will be undertaken by the procurement committee which may be supported in this regard by a technical committee, that will be comprised of key technical representatives from relevant key institutions.

4. The procurement committee will report directly to ESERA on the outcome of the evaluation process. ESERA will make the final adjudication decision in cooperation with the Minister as required in terms of section 25 of the Electricity Act 2007.

5. Licensing of the Independent Power Producer (IPP) will follow the normal process in Eswatini.

6. In the spirit of competitiveness, fairness and transparency, and in line with regional and international procurement best practices, unsolicited bids for generation capacity will no longer be considered.

7. All interested parties will be given an opportunity to compete equally and fairly to qualify and, if pre-qualified, to bid for the capacity to be procured as advertised.

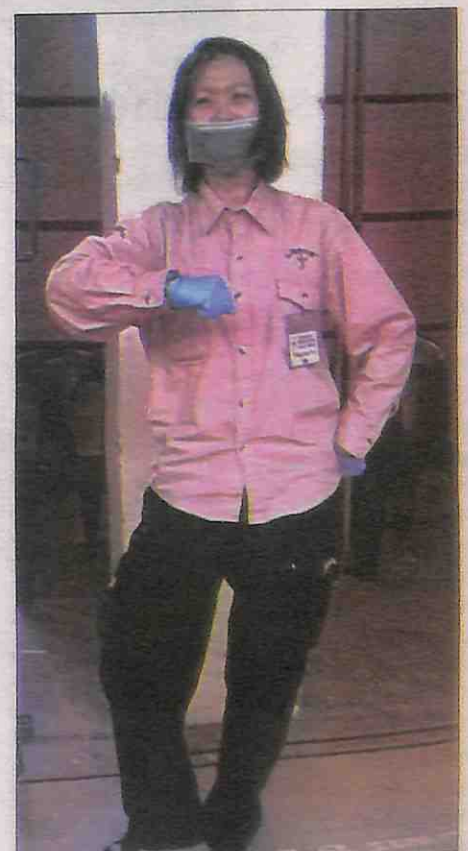
8. All necessary preparations and consultations with all relevant stakeholders are being done to ensure that the transition to the new procurement approach is seamless.

9. We call upon all our esteemed stakeholders to participate in this process and to assist us in developing this sector in accordance with Government policy.

VUSUMUZI MKHUMANE
CEO: ESWATINI ENERGY REGULATORY
AUTHORITY



POSE: Patient King Mziyako said the medical practitioners were very efficient.



KODAK MOMENT: A Taiwanese medical volunteer posing for our camera.

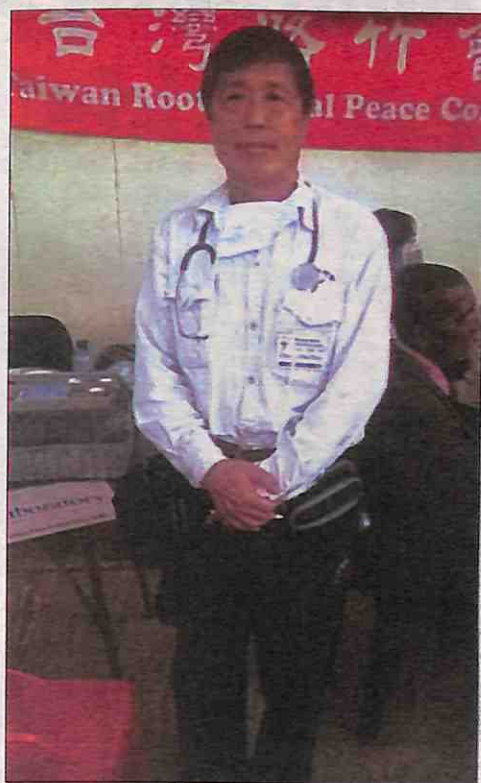
attends to 500 Pigg's Peak residents



AT WORK: Taiwanese medical practitioners assisting Pigg's Peak residents.



RELAX: Taiwanese medical practitioners captured at the Gbolondlo Hall.



BOSS: Lead Medical Practitioner of the Taiwan Roots Medical Peace Corps Dr Cheng Cho-Tsai.

...Mission happy to be assisting Emaswati

LEAD medical practitioner of the Taiwan Roots Medical Peace Corps Dr Cheng Cho-Tsai said.

This was their very first visit to the country.

He said they have traveled to many different countries in the past such as the United States of America (USA), and other countries in southern Africa, but this was their first visit to Eswatini.

"Our organisation is travelling with nine doctors, 24 medical volunteers and nurses.

We are happy to be helping the people of Eswatini," he said.



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- Assist and collaborate with segment colleagues (i.e. Relationship - and Business Banking) with activations to ensure new business opportunities are fulfilled. Resolve client queries by following business procedure and keeping client informed.
- Educate clients on the product offering by presenting them with the relevant information.
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- Address client needs by identifying effective financial solutions, using product knowledge, providing the client with proactive solutions.
- Act as client's banking partner by taking responsibility for providing regular feedback.
- Ensure retention of clients' full banking relationship through client service and client contact.
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- Ensure all client details are correct by capturing details correctly at application stage.
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see money differently

NEDBANK

Premier buys school shoes for underprivileged kids

STORIES BY SAMUKELISWE KHOZA
Matsapha

AT least over 60 underprivileged pupils have had their schooling confidence restored after receiving free pairs of school shoes, jerseys and lucrative enhancement gifts from Premier Eswatini Company.

Even though statistics reflect that there are thousands underprivileged pupils countrywide who either do not afford a proper uniform or a meal, the company, through its milling and bakery departments, has rolled out a programme aimed at boosting the country's education system by donating school uniforms, shoes and jerseys to underprivileged pupils.

The campaign, which was launched three years ago, has seen four schools, selected per region, receive lucrative educational enhancement gifts.

Apart from restoring confidence to the underprivileged pupils, this social responsibility exercise by the company has simultaneously created excitement to schools, and further promoted the passion to attain better results at the end of the year.

Premier is on a move to assist government produce better STD Five results.

Since schools opened for the 2019 academic year, over 60 underprivileged pupils have received free pairs of shoes and jerseys, plus enhancement educational gifts.

In addition, the pupils were treated to free bread and enhancement gifts including pens, school bags and rulers.

So far, the company, for the back to school campaign, has made donations to pupils from Franson Christian and



THANK YOU: Franson Christian pupils lifting up jerseys and shoes presented by Premier Bakery.

Sidloko Primary Schools.

Two more schools have been lined up to benefit in the next coming weeks.

Nelson Ndlela, Headteacher at Franson Christian Primary School, said the donation of the uniform has brought confidence to the beneficiaries and would influence the school's performance.

"Our school has performed very well in the Standard Five results and one of the driving factors is that Premier Eswatini has been bringing excitement to the pupils through giving them educational enhancement gifts.

We are very grateful to what the company is doing for schools in the country and we believe the donations contribute a lot to performance," Ndlela said.

The head teacher explained that about 30 underprivileged pupils received pairs of school shoes plus jerseys. She said the donation has brought confi-

dence to the pupils, hence they are hoping to maintain the 100 pass rate the school enjoyed last year.

"It is without any doubt that we are going to work hard since companies like Premier are assisting in bringing confidence to the pupils," she said. Meanwhile, Enock Mahlalela, Principal of Sidloko Primary School, said the donation of uniform has brought confidence to the recipients.

"It is a fact that pupils who have a full set of uniform have less stress in class. This boosts their confidence and concentration.

This is the reason we are so grateful to Premier Eswatini for such donation," he said.

"As a school, we are so excited and parents are happy too. We wish Premier can continue with such social responsibility because it doesn't only benefit the pupils but the country at large," he said.

'EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS'

PREMIER Milling Marketing Manager Sithembile Khumalo says the company recognises education as a fundamental right for every pupil.

"As part of our annual social responsibility initiatives, we have embarked on a journey to identify four different schools per region wherein we donate shoes and jerseys to underprivileged pupils. During the donations, we also give other gifts such as our products to the pupils. They include bread, buns, sweets and samp," she said.

She said the donations create excitement to the pupils such that it has become a norm for pupils to receive educational enhancement gifts from Premier.

What parents had to say:

Parent 1

We are grateful to Premier for the donations. We were shocked yet so happy when we were told the company has donated school shoes for our children. Such charity act reduces stress and anxiety.

Parent 2

God bless the company management for coming up with this social responsibility programme. They are alleviating the stress on the kids and to us parents, hence we are grateful.



HIGHER: Sidloko Primary pupils displaying shoes presented by Premier Bakery.



YOURS: Franson Christian Primary pupils holding jerseys presented by Premier Bakery.



ONE TEAM: Franson Christian Primary pupils with their teachers and Premier staff.



READY FOR WINTER: Sidloko Primary pupils trying on new jerseys presented by Premier Bakery.



SPEECH: SUB promoter Thami Sithole addressing pupils from Sidloko Primary.



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ESWATINI



URGENT APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE HON. JUSTICE M. DLAMINI 15TH FEBRUARY 2019 COURT 'D'

CONTESTED CIVIL ROLL BEFORE THE HON. JUSTICE T.M. MLANGENI MBABANE MAGISTRATES' COURT 15TH FEBRUARY 2019

Case No.	Parties	Attorney/S
1. 506/18	Brooklyn Investments (Pty) Ltd Vs Ndlangamanda Vs Bongani Bhembe	Mik Manyatsi
2. 192/17	Sdudla Engineering Ltd VS Du-Van Developers Ltd	Sithole Magagula Mlangeni
3. 1676/18	Bheki Shongwe Vs The Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi N.O. And 3 Others	S.A. Nkosi Attorney General

4. 1815/16	Posts Construction And Technical Services Vs Kukhanya (Pty) Ltd And 2 Others	C.J. Litter S.V. Mdladla
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RULE 45 (13) (i) BEFORE THE HON. JUSTICE C. MAPHANGA 15TH FEBRUARY 2019 COURT 'G'

Case No.	Parties	Attorney/S
1. 290/16	Indlelo Investments Ltd T/A Amandla Financial Services VS Baraka Investments And Another	Robinson Bertram
2. 757/17	Swaziland Building Society VS Imvunulo Retail Group T/A Sneakers Manzini And 2 Others	S.V. Mdladla
3. 223/18	Lubane Savings & Credit Co-Ops Limited VS Innocent Nkosingphile Dlamini And Another	Howe
4. 684/16	Nedbank Swaziland Limited VS Themba Samkelo Nkonyane	S.V. Mdladla
5. 1937/17	Swaziland Development & Savings Bank VS Mphumelelo Simelane T/A Shisweni Capiers	Robinson Bertram
6. 758/17	Mzwandile Masondo VS Gift Ngwenya	Manyatsi
7. 1876/16	Swaziland Development Finance Corporation VS Lakhe Investment And 2 Others	Robinson Bertram
8. 123/17	Swaziland Development Finance Corporation VS Adj & Associates Incorporate And 2 Others	Robinson Bertram
9. 1601/14	Somkhele Environmental & Management Consultants VS Loc Consulting Ltd And Another	Robinson Bertram
10. 1790/13	Nedbank Swaziland Limited VS Pebant Investments Ltd And 2 Others	S.V. Mdladla
11. 742/16	Nedbank Swaziland Limited VS Home Base Investments Ltd And Another	Robinson Bertram
12. 766/18	Lucky Hlatshwako VS Bhekisiza Zwane	B.J. Simelane
13. 751/17	Swaziland Board Of Executors And Trust Company (Pty) Ltd VS Bongani Mamba	M.C. Simelane
14. 262/15	G.S. Chiyanda Property Consultants Ltd Nzima VS Samkeliso Peterson And 2 Others	
15. 281/18	Swaziland Development And Savings Robinson Bertram VS Sinet Investments Ltd And 2 Others	
18. 1847/16	Indlelo Investments Ltd VS Everbuild Investments Ltd And 2 Others	Robinson Bertram

CASE NO.	ACCUSED
1. 37/19	Abilid Jacky Mhlanga
2. 302/18	Ndumiso Nduna Dlamini
3. 35/19	Simangaliso Sikhothane Mhlanga
4. 375/18	Mduduzi Gamedze
5. 242/18	Samkeliso Welcome Mkhonta
6. 407/18	Chris Van Annan
7. 500/18	Doctor Hlatshwako
8. 157/18	Fana Mangwe Thembela Nxumalo
9. 243/18	Sikhumbuzo Mkhumbane Simelane
10. 36/19	Sifiso Godo Mabuza Wandile Ntshalintshali

17. 723/13	Nedbank Swaziland Ltd VS Khangezile Isabel Dlamini And Another	S.V. Mdladla
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18. 806/16	Swaziland Development & Savings Bank Robinson Bertram VS Mempusi Investments Ltd And 2 Others	
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19. 1773/17	Derrick Shiba VS Bhekisiza Zwane	B.J. Simelane
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20. 1113/13	Swaziland Development Finance Corporation VS Njoma Developers Ltd And Another	Robinson Bertram
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21. 376/18	Thulisile Simelane VS Vusi Bhembe	Howe
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22. 1349/18	Nedbank Swaziland Ltd Robinson Bertram VS Gridlock Investments	
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23. 1173/17	Swaziland Building Society VS Moses Mthobisi Mlambo	S.V. Mdladla
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24. 650/12	K.S. Distributors Ltd VS Sitekhi Nazarene Primary School	Z. Magagula
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25. 44/17	Swaziland Development & Savings Bank Robinson Bertram VS Mandla Masilela	
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26. 977/18	Ramon Desouza VS Mao-Shen Sun	G.A. Reid
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27. 280/18	Swaziland Development & Savings Bank Robinson Bertram VS Masuku Impulsive Investments Ltd And 2 Others	
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28. 1780/15	Women Working Together Initiative VS Mphumelelo Mdlalose	S.V. Mdladla
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29. 1930/16	Standard Bank Swaziland Ltd VS Big Bhu Investments Ltd And Another	S.V. Mdladla
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30. 1931/16	Standard Bank Swaziland Ltd VS Bhubesi Makhela Magagula	S.V. Mdladla
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DEFAULT JUDGMENTS BEFORE THE HON. JUSTICE C. MAPHANGA 15TH FEBRUARY 2019 COURT 'G'

Case No.	Parties	Attorney/S
1. 29/19	Timothy Dlamini And Another VS Zama Jerome Magagula	Mongi Sibandze
2. 1887/18	Standard Bank Swaziland Ltd VS Bhekisile Hypesia Shongwe	Mngomezulu
3. 1661/18	Nompumelelo Kunene VS Ntokozo Dlamini	Robinson Bertram
4. 19/19	Nedbank Swaziland Limited VS Dr. Cprian Siphohale	S.V. Mdladla
5. 1952/18	Swaziland Industrial Agencies VS G.I.L.L.O.2 (Pty) Ltd T/A New Power Construction	Waring
6.		

CENTRE	ATTORNEY
Remand	N. Lukhele/In Person
Big Bend	K. Mngomezulu/ In Person
Sidwashini	M. Dlamini/In Person
Big Bend	K. Mngomezulu/G.A. Reid
Remand	N. Mabila/
Remand	L. Dlamini/S. Ngwenya
Matsapha	K. Mngomezulu/ Mabila
Matsapha	Dpp/Nkosi Attorneys
Remand	N. Dlamini
Sidwashini	M. Dlamini/Mabila

34/19	Gabsile Bawinile Fakudze VS Dolly Matsebula	Rodrigues
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7. 33/19	Maria Mahlatela - Fakudze And Another VS Dolly Matsebula	Rodrigues
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8. 1845/18	Sizwe Lucky Sydney Twala VS Makhosi Best Dlamini	Mabila
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9. 52/19	Mbongeni Dlamini VS Mzimele Simelane	L.R. Mamba
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UNCONTESTED BAILS BEFORE THE HON. JUSTICE C. MAPHANGA 15TH FEBRUARY 2019 COURT 'G'

Manzini Remand	
1. 60/19	Nkosi Nathi Smith Dlamini
2. 56/19	Tamba George Tengbeh
3. 444/18	Mndeni Ngozo
4. 84/18	David Mzondzi Mshibi
5. 58/19	Celucolo Siculo Mabuza
6. 59/19	Lindokuhle Sibandze
7. 61/19	Mnoedisi Nkale
8. 47/19	Mangatiso Shabangu
9. 4 6/19	Walter Velibandi Dlamini
10. 45/19	Ayanda Simelane
11. 44/19	Bhekizwe Sitokotoko Zulu
	Fana Vumile Zwane

Nhlengano Correctional

1. 43/19	Thabo Colten Dlamini
2. 42/19	Zwele Shongwe

Big Bend Correctional

1. 41/19	Norah Manyisa
2. 40/19	Sibusiso Sonelle Maizindisa

Pigg's Peak Correctional

360/17	Sifiso Thembinkosi Simelane
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UNCONTESTED CIVIL ROLL BEFORE THE HON. JUSTICE M. LANGWENYA 15TH FEBRUARY 2019 COURT 'H'

Case No.	Parties	Attorney/S
1. 238/15	Musa Patrick Nkonyane VS Letshego Financial Services Swaziland Ltd And 2 Others	S.B. Molsa
2. 107/19	Sikhumbuzo Dlamini VS Samukeliso Dlamini (Bom Ngwenya) And 2 Others	Waring
3. 418/18	Zelda Simelane VS Mzwandile Ntshangase N.O. And 4 Others	Z. Magagula
4. 832/18	Durbin Mlungwa VS Sibongile Mlungwa (Bom Mumanga)	Mngomezulu
5. 1843/18	Lihlanti Investments (Pty) Ltd VS Londashi Limited	T.L. Dlamini
6. 1408/18	Foodcom (Sugar) (Pty) Ltd VS Time Caterers (Pty) Ltd And Another	Dunseith
7. 525/17	Russel Joselawsky N.O. And 2 Others VS Prakash Sharma	Hamwood
8. 1940/18	Mndeni Benson Simelane VS Z. Magagula VS Nomisa Abdular (Bom Hlatshwako) And 3 Others	

9. 14/19	Benjamin Kuthula Dlamini VS The Chairman Of The Rtb Appeals Board And Another	Z. Magagula
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10. 624/17	Manzendela Ngcamphalala VS The Swaziland Government	B.J. Simelane
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11. 1377/18	Victory Sonto Nhlabatsi (Nee Mvubu) VS Samkelo Alpheous Nhlabatsi	Howe
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12. 1946/18	Wilprop (Pty) Ltd VS Delisle Phindile Dlamini N.O. And 2 Others	M.J. Manzini
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13. 1310/18	Petros Ziyaphi Ntuzi VS The Dpp In Re: Exparte Dpp	B.S. Dlamini
-------------	--	--------------

14. 53/19	Fera VS Financial Services Appeals Tribunal And 2 Others	Robinson Bertram
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15. 104/19	Indlelo Investments Ltd T/A Amandla Financial Services VS Dolly Matsebula And Another	P.M. Dlamini
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16. 138/19	Indlelo Investments Ltd T/A Amandla Financial Services VS Hancy Investments Ltd	Robinson Bertram
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17. 1569/18	Daniel Thandokuhle Mshali VS Moses Davis Mwel	K. Vlakati
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18. 1283/16	Thomas Moore Carl Kirk And Another VS Spic	L.R. Mamba
-------------	--	------------

19. 1684/18	The Attorney General VS Sifiso Yuri Ngwenya And Another	Attorney General
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20. 1360/18	Mazibuko Mndeni VS Bit Drywal - Swaziland	Z. Magagula
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21. 140/19	Khoja Enterprises VS Mahlangu	Mkhonta
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22. 1945/18	Intellipak Lm (Pty) Ltd VS The Municipal Council Of Manzini And 3 Others	Hamwood
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23. 1132/17b	Sejo Family Trust And Another VS Selby Solwako Maseko And Another	Bhamba Nyoni
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24. 113/19	J & L Investments VS Only The Best Investments Ltd	Rodrigues
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25. 707/18	Ntombi Mary Smith VS Sipho Mkhabela And 6 Others	S.A. Nkosi
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26. 1624/18	Nonhlanhla Happiness Mavuso VS Joseph Sipho Mavuso And 2 Others	Mik Ndlangamanda
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27. 162/19	Samson Shiba VS Doris Shiba And 2 Others	S.A. Nkosi
------------	--	------------

28. 1931/18	Khoja Enterprises VS Ncamiso M. Mavimbela And 2 Others	Mkhonta Mhlangu
-------------	--	-----------------

29. 1643/18	Diamond Investments/A Total T-Junction Filing Station VS Siyaphemba Investments	Hamwood
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30. 1715/18	Swaziland Reformed Church Khohho VS Bheki Mabena	Ntshangase
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31. 1715/17	Chubb Electronic Security Swaziland VS Du-Van Developers Ltd	M. C. Vlakati
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32. 42/19	Nontando Zwane (Nee Shabangu) VS Ndumiso Zwane	Sithole Magagula
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33. 1255/18	Lomakhosi Phumle Dlamini (Nee Dlamini) VS Mthokozisi Siphemanda Dlamini	Ngomomezulu
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EMPOWER CHILDREN AT

STORIES BY SIMON SHABANGU
Matsapha

PRINCIPAL Secretary in the Deputy Prime Minister's Office Khangeziwe Mabuza has said empowering children at an early stage prepares them to adequately deal with life challenges as they grow.

She was speaking at the launch of 'Select Sikhula Nawe School Shoes Campaign' at Esibayeni Lodge on Wednesday morning where she was the guest speaker.

Select Limited will be distributing over 300 pairs of shoes to 20 rural schools from the four regions of the country. The PS officially launched the campaign on the day.

She said government was excited about the contribution by the financial service provider which she said would go a long way in empowering the children who are destitute.

Long-standing

"It is on this note that we welcome interventions by good corporate citizens such as Select Limited that contribute to providing solutions to this long-standing, intractable social issue. I am reliably informed also that Select Limited, a licensed financial services provider, is celebrating 20 years of its existence and that as they grow and mature in the industry, they have found it fit not to leave the communities they serve behind," she said.



UMNTFWANA NGUMLIBA LOYA EMMBILI: Select Limited management joined by guest speaker PS Khangeziwe Mabuza, principals, school representatives and some of the pupil during the launch of Select's 'Sikhula Nawe School Shoes Campaign' at Esibayeni Lodge on Wednesday morning.

The PS said she was elated that the company had committed to a number of corporate social investment (CSI) activities to benefit vulnerable groups in commemorating their milestone.

Deciding

She encouraged the nation to join the company in celebrating their two decades of existence. She further thanked Select for deciding to celebrate in such a fashion. She invited other corporate entities to emulate the good work done by Select Limited.

"Investing in children is the most strategic way to go as this is planting a seed that will yield abundantly in the future. Umntfwana ngumliba loya emmbili," she noted.



REMARKS: Deputy Prime Minister's Office PS Khangeziwe Mabuza making her remarks.



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Deadline for submission of applications is 08th March 2019

Doc:17999



Examinations Council
of Eswatini

ANNOUNCEMENT

All Heads of Primary and High Schools are informed that E-Registration workshops for 2019 will be held at the following Centres and dates. All meetings start at 9:00 am sharp. Each Head of School is requested to bring one computer literate officer who will assist in the E-Registration of candidates.

DATE	VENUES	REGION
18 th Feb 2019 Monday	1. Hluthi Teachers' Centre 2. Evelyn Baring High	Shiselweni
19 th Feb 2019 Tuesday	1. Christ the King Primary 2. Siphofaneni High	Shiselweni
20 th Feb 2019 Wednesday	1. Mankayane High 2. Siteki REO	Lubombo
21 st Feb 2019 Thursday	1. Mkhuzweni Primary 2. Mhlatane High	Hhohho
22 nd Feb 2019 Friday	1. Manzini Central High 2. Mbabane Central High	Manzini

Announcement By:
REGISTRAR

DOC:18370



SIKHULA Nawe: The PS who represented government, receiving a pair of shoes from Select Limited CEO Bongani Motsa and board member Henley Rennie during the launch. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



PLEASANTRIES: Select Mbabane Branch Manager Gugu Dlamini, Manzini Branch Manager Raisibe Nkambule and the PS sharing a light moment.

POEM: Some of the pupils reciting a poem in appreciation of Select Limited's kind gesture.



AN EARLY AGE - PS



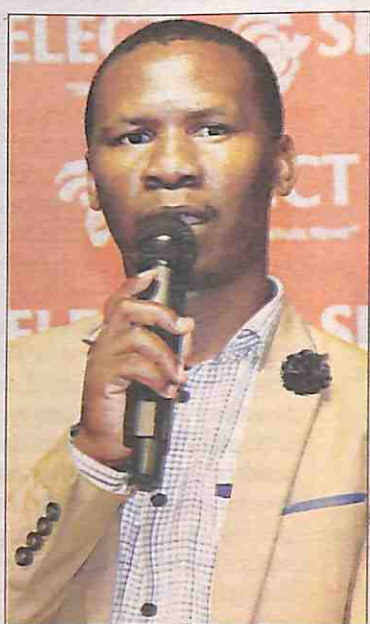
APPRECIATIVE: Ngwenya Primary Principal Gugulethu Dlamini (late ex-PM Sibusiso Dlamini's wife) receives shoes on behalf of the school from PS Khangeziwe Mabuza.



HAPPY DAY: The principal secretary presenting shoes to Loyiwe Primary School Principal Simangele Nxumalo while Motsa and Rennie look on.



PRESENT: Late ex-PM Sibusiso Dlamini's wife Gugulethu was also among the principals present.



GRATEFUL: Hlabazonke Primary School Principal Peter Simelane speaking on behalf of the schools.



FOLLOWING: Select Limited staff following proceedings.



THANK YOU: Principal of Vulamehlo Primary School Busisiwe Dlamini receiving shoes from the PS.

Deceased ex-PM's widow back at work

THE late former Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini's wife Gugulethu is back at work.

She was among the school principals who were at the Select Limited shoe campaign launch as her school, Ngwenya Primary, is one of the 20 that would benefit from the donation.

Attendance

She was spotted mingling with the other principals who were in attendance and also joined them in the photo shoot with the pupils as they received the donation.

She also had a brief chat with the guest speaker PS Khangeziwe Mabuza during the function.



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KaShali Pro-Learning High School

2018 SGCSE RESULTS

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

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

Student Name	Subjects & Grades
Sandiso Nkambule	First Language Swati: C, Mathematics: A, Geography: A, Physical Science: B
Mxolisi Mdluli	English Language: B, Mathematics: A, Business Studies: B, Physical Science: B
Bongumenzi Dlamini	First Language Swati: B, English Language: B, Mathematics: A, Business Studies: C, Physical Science: A, Geography: C
Minenhle Dlamini	First Language Swati: B, English Language: A, Biology: C, Mathematics: D, Physical Science: C, Religious Education: C
Candy Mazibuko	First Language Swati: A, English Language: A, Biology: A, Mathematics: B, Physical Science: A, Geography: C, Religious Education: C
Evander Dlamini	English Language: B, Physical Science: A, Business Studies: A
Nomfundo Mkhwanazi	Upgrading: English Language: C, Biology: A, Geography: B
Linda Dlamini	Upgrading: Biology: B, Physical Science: B
Zakiswa Mavuso	English Language: B, Mathematics: A, Biology: B, Physical Science: A, Geography: C, Religious Education: C
Mandisa Matsenjwa	Upgrading: Mathematics: A, Physical Science: A
Brian DuPont	Upgrading: English Language: B, Mathematics: A, Biology: C, Physical Science: B
Mgiyo Khaya Simelane	First Language Swati: A, English Language: C, Mathematics: C, Biology: B, Physical Science: B, Geography: B, Religious Education: C
Nombulelo Nleko	First Language Swati: B, English Language: B, Mathematics: B, Biology: C, Physical Science: B, Geography: C, Religious Education: B
Swelihle Ndlovu	First Language Swati: C, English Language: C, Mathematics: B, Accounting: B, Business Studies: B, Economics: A
Langene Nkambule	First Language Swati: B, English Language: B, Mathematics: C, Biology: D, Geography: C, Religious Education: B
Mthabisi Mkhonta	English Language: B, Mathematics: C, Business Studies: B
Samkeliso Dlamini	Upgrading: Mathematics: B, Physical Science: B
Njabulo Bhebe	Upgrading: Mathematics: B, Physical Science: B
Nhlontlo Ndlovu	English Language: B, Biology: B, Science: A
Bandzile Sukati	Mathematics: C, Physical Science: B, Geography: B
Nesipho Ntintane	English Language: B, Mathematics: B

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ALLEGED CON ARTIST TEACHER UNFAZED

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

"I hardly hide and I will never hide, the police will come and find me at the school where you reported me to the head teacher."

This is the bold statement of Welile Dlamini, the teacher who is accused of conning up to 191 people through a dubious pyramid scheme.

The 191 were allegedly conned E57 000. She is employed in one of the schools around Ezulwini.

The scheme began in early December 2018 where Dlamini allegedly promised the members that they would quadruple their investment of E300 over a short period of time by simply recruiting more people to join.

The members were led to believe that they would receive a payout of E5 400 for the mere E300.

The accused is alleged to have created a WhatsApp group in which she coordinated the flow of cash. She is alleged to have offered them an opportunity to join a pyramid scheme operated through mobile money.

The pyramid scheme is called the Strategised UCN Eswatini. It is alleged that in order to become a member, one pays E300 joining fee to a mobile money account.

The accused teacher has resorted to eluding the victims. She is alleged to have removed one of the victims from the WhatsApp group and told him to go ahead and report her to the police. A source who is one of the victims said he has already reported the matter to the police.

He also vowed to pursue the matter and will not let her get away with what she did to them. In a story published last week by this publication, allegations are that more people are coming forward.

A source said people from all over the country have alleged that they also fell victims of the accused's dirty tricks.

She is alleged to have done the same

...Teacher accused of conning up to 191 people boldly says bring it on



NOT YET WITH US: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

to other people.

However, the source said many are reluctant to come forward due to various reasons. Only two have reported the matter to the police.

Victim

One victim is said to have reported the matter in one of the police stations in Mbabane while the other opened a case at Lobamba Police Station on Tuesday.

In a heated argument between the accused and one of the victims, the victim who was removed from the WhatsApp group said; "Removing me from the group will not change anything; it only shows your guilty conscious. The fact is we are coming for you, you can remove us but you cannot hide, just know that."

In her response, she arrogantly told the victim to go ahead with pursuing the matter as she will not hide. The text reads: "I hardly hide and I will never hide, the police will come and find me

at the school where you reported me to the head teacher." Another victim who also reported the matter to the police, when contacted by this publication, said her wish is to see the law taking its course.

"Now when we speak to her, she arrogantly refers us to the police, when we call her demanding our refunds she tells us to go to the police. It is impossible to speak to that woman as she is so arrogant," said the victim.

She further stated that she is completely the opposite of who she was when she recruited them. Now all they get when contacting her for their refunds are threats.

Contacted, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said the matter had not been formally reported to the police. She further encouraged the complainants to open a case with the police so investigations can be conducted.

Angry dad sprints after man accused of raping daughter

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

AN angry father (41) from Pigg's Peak literally chased down and apprehended a man (23) who he claimed had raped his daughter (19) in a Honda Fit last Saturday evening.

The chase unfolded in the presence of shocked on-lookers outside U-Save Shoprite in Pigg's Peak on Sunday afternoon.

Due to the fact that the incident is still under police investigation, the identities of all those involved shall be deliberately withheld, for now.

Speaking to this publication on condition of anonymity on Wednesday, some police officers said the angry father had caught his daughter exiting the Honda Fit that is owned by the alleged rape suspect. "The whole drama began last week Friday when the father, who lives behind the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital, came home late from work only to find a Honda Fit parked outside his residential gate. The father walked past the car only to see his unsuspecting daughter exiting the passenger's side door of the car while fixing her T-shirt. The daughter, who was surprised to meet her

father, screamed when her eyes met her father's angry gaze," said the police.

According to the police sources, the agitated father then tried to open the passenger's side door of the Honda Fit but the driver pressed the car's central lock system and drove off towards the Pigg's Peak Police Station.

"After that incident, the daughter confessed to have had sex with the Honda Fit driver. On Sunday afternoon, the alleged rape suspect was walking past Shoprite only to hear the angry screams of a man behind him. Out of fear, he ran into the bushes behind Puma Filling Station but the escape attempt was futile as the angry father chased and caught him. After concluding the chase, the father dragged the suspect to the Pigg's Peak Police Station in full view of shocked onlookers. However, the whole incident may have been unnecessary as the alleged rape victim is 19 years old, meaning she is legally an adult who is capable of consenting to any adult activity," added the police source. Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident but said the police were investigating it.

Disgruntled man burns tyres on public road, arrested

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

WHILE stock theft persists, a livestock farmer vented his anger by burning tyres on the road after his herd of goats were stolen, and police seemingly did not take his case seriously.

The farmer was eventually arrested for his conduct. Samuel Tsabedze (28) of Malindza appeared before Siteki Senior Magistrate Donald Mavuso after he was charged with contravening Section 83 as read with Section 122 of the Road Traffic Act.

He is said to have wrongfully and unlawfully placed or abandoned stones on a public road, posing danger to users of the road. Particulars of the offences also included that the accused person further burnt tyres on the same road, blocking traffic in the process.

When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused pleaded guilty. His plea was accepted by the Crown without leading evidence to prove commission of the offence. When asked by the court what led him to commit the said offence, the accused stated that he acted out of anger and frustration.

He told the court that before committing the offence, he lost a herd of goats.

He said he later gathered infor-

mation to the effect that his goats were stolen by a fellow resident who was notorious for stealing goats in the area.

The accused said he relayed this information to the police, but they seemingly turned a deaf ear.

He said burning tyres on the road was meant at drawing the attention of the police. Moreover, the road on which he burnt the tyres leads to the homestead of the person he suspected to have stolen his goats.

The accused person asked the court to be lenient when passing sentence.

He was accordingly found guilty by the court and was sentenced to four months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 000 fine.

The sentence was wholly suspended for a period of a year on condition that the accused person does not commit a similar offence.

He is said to have wrongfully and unlawfully placed or abandoned stones on a public road, posing danger to users of the road

'PAKANI' COMING TO NHLANGANO

BY STARSKY MKHONTA
Nhlangano

WITH parking space fast becoming scarce within Nhlangano, the town council is now seriously considering introducing the parking vending system, popularly known as 'Pakani'.

Currently, this system operates within the two main town of the country, Mbabane and Manzini.

Finding parking space within the streets of Nhlangano town is now a nightmare as they are always congested. Some motorists park and leave their vehicles along walkways for the whole day due to lack of parking space. Commuters now find it difficult to use walkways as they compete for these with motorists who are desperate for parking space.

In order to deal with this problem, Mayor Deon Anderson said it had now



become necessary to introduce the 'Pakani' system in Nhlangano.

He said the issue of 'Pakani' would be discussed at length at council and also included in by-laws.

"The way the town is congested with vehicles is like everyone now owns a vehicle.

It's good to see this as it shows that we have developed as a country but this has also come with challenges to us who are managing and administering the town. We now want a levied parking

space and this will be in our agenda in one of our meetings," said Anderson.

The mayor said as a town council, they will not impose 'Pakani' but would first consult and then decide how best to communicate this to all stakeholders.

"This is not something we will implement overnight but we will follow all the processes, including seeking Parliament's guidance.

The people are expected to contribute recommendations on how best we can go about this. The business community will also make its own recommendations. Some of these businesses will have loading zones reserved once we have 'Pakani' in this town," said Anderson. Anderson said the way the town was growing is an indication that achieving Vision 2022 is possible. "By the look of things, as a town the vibe of Vision 2022 is already upon us," said Anderson.

KFC DOLES OUT E100 000 TO MANZINI SCHOOLS

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Manzini

KFC Swaziland has splashed over E100 000 to local schools in the Manzini region.

For over 13 years, the famous fried chicken brand has partnered with local schools and care points by sponsoring food and other learning aids.

One of the schools that has been benefiting from the KFC programme of giving back to the community is Sydney Williams Primary School.

KFC Manager Patricia Ferreira said this year, they saw it fit as a company not only to bring food to the school but also add stationery. On Tuesday, KFC donated stationery, food and snacks to Sydney Williams Primary School in Manzini. The donation follows after many donations that have been extended by KFC to the school.

According to Thamsanqa 'Thamie' Dlamini, Sydney Williams Principal, KFC has been sponsoring the school for 13 years. Dlamini said it was worth mentioning that KFC is their main sponsor of food at the school and expressed his gratitude.

"Over the years, KFC has donated food like rice, cooking oil, mealie meal and beans to the school," he said.

Functioning

Dlamini said the food donation would go a long way in the school kitchen since the school has 940 pupils. He said some of the pupils come to school on empty stomachs without packed lunch boxes and money.

"The functioning of the school feeding schemes brings smiles and lives to those children and it all thanks to KFC," he said. He added that since their partnership with



FINGER LICKING: Pupils were presented with KFC gifts. (Pics: Nonduduzo Kunene)

KFC, there had never been a single day whereby the school kitchen was without food. "We start by serving soft porridge in the morning before classes and, during lunch break, we serve lunch and it's all thanks to partners like KFC," he said.

Revealed

Other people present at the presentation were Manzini South MP Thandi Nxumalo, Lomalungelo Simelane, Sydney Williams Primary School chairperson, KFC staff members and teachers.

The principal revealed that as a school, they also show appreciation to KFC by hosting a feast day every year in the school. Dlamini said during the feast day, every child at the school is expected to buy a box of streetwise two.

He said this is a way of giving back to them for the continuous support the company has shown them over the years.

...MP applauds KFC's initiative

MANZINI South Member of Parliament Thandi Nxumalo has applauded KFC for taking the initiative to ensure that children are well fed.

Nxumalo, speaking at Sydney Williams Primary School, said the future of the country really looks brighter when gig brands like KFC are taking it upon themselves to ensure that children are well fed. She said over the years, children from poor backgrounds performed poorly at schools not because they were academically weak but because they were hungry.

Existence

"The existence of companies like KFC ensures that the learning ability of our children is not compromised," she said.



GIVE BACK: KFC Swaziland Manager Patricia Ferreira, Sydney Williams Principal Thamie Dlamini and KFC area coach Zanele Ferreira.

The MP further urged other companies to help the government in this critical economy to fight hunger.

Robbery suspect pupil granted E50 000 bail

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

THE school-going juvenile who was arrested for robbery, house-breaking, theft and assaulting the victim during the robbery successfully moved his bail application and has been admitted to E50 000 bail.

The pupil whose name has been deliberately withheld was arrested by the Malkems Police on February 7 and he, yesterday appeared before High Court Judge Muncy Dlamini who granted him the bail.

However, Judge Dlamini ordered that he pays E2 000 in cash and E48 000 in a form of a surety.

Crucial

Represented by lawyer Sanele Jele, the pupil informed the court that he missed crucial classes, ever since his incarceration as during this time of the year their teachers strategise their approach for the end of

year exams.

He informed the court that his incarceration was prejudicial to his studies and infringed not only upon his right to liberation but also to education as per the Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

When Judge Dlamini enquired from him about his future professional aspiration upon finishing school, he told the court that he wanted to be a lawyer as he had now fallen in love with the profession, sending the court into stitches of laughter.

Hearing

When he appeared in court yesterday, he was escorted by His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) officers attached to the Malkems Juvenile Centre who escorted him back after the hearing while his relatives and Mabila deposited the bail amount at the Treasury Department.

In his founding affidavit, he submitted that on January 7, 2019, he

was arrested by the Malkems Police and charged with the offence of robbery and house breaking with intent to steal.

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

Implicated

He submitted that he is a sickly person suffering from stomach ulcers and therefore constantly requires medical attention, adding that he was advised the Correctional Services facilities were not adequately equipped to cater for such illnesses.

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

"I happened to get out of my room that Saturday night after hearing

the commotion as I heard people saying my elder brother had been stabbed by the victim Elijah Dlamini, however, I did not take part in the process of assaulting the complainant but instead I was supportive and it is evidentiary from the fact that I was the only person who assisted the complainant by taking him to the traffic police who were manning a roadblock nearby and requested they take him to the hospital," he submitted.

Arguing

He averred that he never even noticed that some members of the mob were unlawfully helping themselves with assets belonging to the complainant arguing that his only interest was to see the complainant taken to the police for stabbing his brother.

He further argued in his submissions that he had no control of the actions of the mob since all of them were individuals much older than him hence during the assault and commission of the offences he tried in vain to drum some sense to the mob.



HELP: Mayibongwe Shoyisa.

'PLEASE HELP ME'

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Manzini

MAYIBONGWE Shoyisa, a 22-year old first-year student at the Southern African Nazarene University (SANU) in Manzini has pleaded for help as he struggles to keep up with tuition fees.

Shoyisa is from Ethunzini area in Nhlalango. He is the eldest of four children who are now orphans as they lost both of their parents in 2014. He said he lost his father in August and his mother passed away in November the same year.

Shoyisa completed his high school education at Ngwane High School. He said when his mother was sick, his academic performance was greatly affected and he was forced to drop out of school.

In 2015, his neighbour offered to cater for his educational fees; however, he eventually passed away as well.

He said fortunately enough in 2017, he managed to complete his high school and attained good grades. He forwarded his application and was accepted at SANU where he is pursuing a teaching diploma.

Shoyisa, who is a breadwinner, is pleading to anyone who is willing to help sponsor his education so he can be able to support his family. He is the eldest and so, automatically, his siblings are looking up to him to provide for them.

The student said he has been knocking on various doors looking for help with no luck. He added that he was unable to travel to Mbabane to fill up government scholarship forms due to unavailability of funds as he was at home in Nhlalango.

Subsequently, he said he forwarded applications for a scholarship at the Tibiyo offices as well as the US Embassy but he was not successful.

He said he was worried that he would not be able to sit for the exams this semester. In the first semester he pleaded with the administration at SANU to allow him to sit for the exams. He explained his situation to them and they allowed him to sit for the exams.

"I am worried that I will not be able to complete my first year because I will not be allowed to write my exams without paying my tuition," he added.

Shoyisa said anyone who is willing to help can contact him on his mobile phone: contact details are 7821 4156.



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POSTAL & TELECOMS on Observer



EPTC OPENS CONTACT CENTRE AT SONGCONDVONGCONDVO HOUSE

IN 2015 the Ministry of ICT mandated Eswatini Posts & Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC) to establish a Contact Centre or Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) as part of the government's vision for the Royal Science and Technology Park and Biotechnology Park.

On the 10th of August 2018, His Majesty King Mswati III officially opened these Information Technology Centres officially naming the Royal Science Technology Park building situated at Phocweni, the Songcondvongcondvo Wemaswati House.

The Songcondvongcondvo Wemaswati House is where you will find the location of the National Contact Centre (NCC). The National Contact Centre Business Process Outsourcing Services Limited, is a registered subsidiary company wholly owned by the Eswatini Post and Telecommunication Corporation (EPTC) and was duly incorporated in terms of the Eswatini Companies Act No.8 of 2009 under certificate of registration 743 of 2017.

The BPO sector has demonstrated the capability to absorb low-skill employment/school leavers/graduates, generate export revenue, trigger ICT development, improve efficiency of other sectors, precipitate the development of professionals and specialised labour and in the broadest sense be a major contributor to the dynamic growth of the economy of the country as a whole.

When launching this business unit at Mavuso Trade Centre, the former prime minister, Dr Bamabas S. Dlamini highlighted that "this is an excellent innovation and we are delighted to see it taking up residence in the national—and we hope international—innovation hub, the Royal Science and Technology Park. Given our access to the technology, and English being one of our two official languages, this is a service that we can offer at a high level of proficiency to the rest of the world as well as to the members of our own society".

Vision: To lead in business process outsourcing solutions globally

Values

- Integrity (confidentiality, honesty, transparency)
- Innovation (agility)
- Excellence (quality)
- Customer experience

In establishing the NCC, EPTC partnered and benchmarked with world renowned CSL a wholly owned

subsidiary of Mauritius Telecom Company. Mauritius is a regional leader in ICT and it is expected that the BOP sector will become the leading pillar of the Mauritian economy by 2020. CSL has 18 years' experience in the BPO sector and was a huge asset in providing the required technical and professional expertise to EPTC.

Having emanated from the best in the region, the NCC is nothing short of a superior service excellence personified facility that is sure to take the country to the first world status as the kingdom of Eswatini's first National Contact Centre.

Growing in line with ICT technology development is fundamental for success in the BPO sector.

The NCC uses the latest Innovative technologies and a highly skilled team to steer businesses forward through offering outsourcing solutions whilst businesses focus on their core business. This offering goes a long way in positively impacting revenues and improving operational efficiencies within the business communities locally, regionally and globally.

Facilities and Floor Plan

Fully equipped with a 204 sitter floor, with the capability to operate three shifts at 24 hours a day, seven days per week, at full capacity the centre can employ 612 agents making it most suitable to serve the needs of any sized business entity locally, regionally or internationally. It is also equipped with the following state of the art facilities to cater for unique needs and requests of our clients:

- Access control mechanisms
- Training room
- Adequate power back-up generators
- Security surveillance

Systems Capabilities

- Can draw real time and historical reports
- Implementation of the following campaigns:
 - Outbound
 - Inbound
 - Email
 - Social Media
 - Voice recording and retention
 - Customised scripting
 - Systems capacity to handle hundreds of call simultaneously, scalable to 960 calls at a time
 - Redundancy on the call routing
 - Ability to integrate with other systems and make a single view by integration as Database level
 - Live monitoring dashboards

Products and Services

The NCC service offerings available to our clients are categorised into; front office, back office, web based services and training.

Front Office Outsourcing: These are services which deal with customer interactions. The main objectives of these tasks are to manage and support business stakeholders like customers, suppliers and potential clients. These services are carried out using channels such as emails, fax, and telephone conversation.

Front Office Outsourcing support service that the centre provides are as follows:

- Telemarketing
- Customer service/support
- Technical support/help desk
- Appointment scheduling
- Inbound/outbound sales
- Market research

Back Office Outsourcing: These are internal business functions that are necessary to the operations of the company but are not part of the core functions of the business. The centre offers organisations the opportunity to outsource tasks like billing, purchase, data entry, data management, surveys, payment processing, quality assurance and accounting support to help keep the business running smoothly.

Web-based Outsourcing: These are management services that include social media, live chats and other web based service solutions and campaigns.

Training: These included on-site and off-site training services.

Business Process Outsourcing Terminology

One of the main objectives of National Contact Centre is to provide world class business outsourcing solutions to the local market and to international clients. Since this is a new concept in Eswatini it is best to define some of the commonly used terminology in business process outsourcing.

Offshore outsourcing. This is when an organisation is contracting out to company outside its own country.

Near shore outsourcing: This is when the company is contracting to a company operating in a

neighbouring country. Onshore outsourcing is when the services have been contracted to a company within the same country.

WHY SHOULD YOU CONSIDER OUTSOURCING SOME ELEMENTS OF YOUR BUSINESS TO THE NATIONAL CONTACT CENTRE?

- Fully trained & highly versatile team of agents
- Adaptation to client requirements.
- Backed by the latest technology and tools in computer telephony integration
- Competent technical team for non-stop availability of services
- Rapid deployment of Campaigns
- Round the Clock availability
- Full Time support to Customers

Book a guided tour of the National Contact Centre, a centre that offers excellent customer service, the latest innovative technologies and a highly skilled workforce to steer businesses forward through offering outsourcing solutions by contacting:

Mr Sabelo Dube
Tel: 2518 0000
Mobile: 7606 0041
Email: sabelod@sptc.co.sz

Book a guided tour of the National Contact Centre, a centre that offers excellent customer service, the latest innovative technologies and a highly skilled workforce to steer businesses forward through offering outsourcing solutions by calling 2518 0000



Cuisine. Leisure.

Travel

GOING SUSHI ON VALENTINE'S DAY

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE AND
AYANDA DLAMINI

OCEAN BASKET (THE HOME OF SEA FOOD)

Ocean Basket Mbabane is famous for its sea food specialty. For Valentine's Day the restaurant did not only change its look but also made sure to have a plethora of choice from special dishes to tempt customers.

The store manager Philela Mathunjwa said they had a busy day as couples and families came in their numbers to celebrate Valentine's Day.

He also mentioned that their platters for two dishes were a hit on the day.

This is because they are not only affordable but the variety of dishes allow people more options to choose to from," said Mathunjwa.

The restaurant was also decorated in red.

They removed their blue table cloths and replaced them with red ones.

They also had red balloons all over the restaurant.

Mathunjwa said Valentine's Day tends to be one of their busiest days because they get a lot of customers throughout the day.

"We get a lot of customers during this time of the year, we even close later than usual because we do not want to disappoint our customers," he said.

Available dishes

1. Sushi Platter

- Salmon Roses
 - Rainbow Rolls and Salmon
 - Frutomaki Prawn Tempura
 - California Rolls and Fried Crisps
- Served with wasabi and soy source*

2. Platter for two

- Muscles
- Prawns
- Fish
- Chips
- Chalamari Heads and Tubes

MOUTH-WATERING: Sushi platter and platter for two on display at Ocean Basket in Mbabane yesterday on Valentine's Day. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)



Pink Lotus offers mouth-watering recipes

Life revolves around making people happy through the food that you cook. The connection between food and love is so strong. But you certainly don't have to be a professional chef or date a professional chef to reap the same benefits of the connection. Instead, on the one day a year devoted to love, try to slice out a bit of time to spend in restaurants, whether you're with a significant other, friend, family member or even if you're by yourself, to take the time to check cuisines around the country.

Make that dinner reservation, have the generic roses and velvet heart shaped box of chocolates and enjoy the yummy food. Situated at the Mall in Mbabane, Pinky Lotus is the go out restaurant when it comes to scrummy food.

Yesterday the modern restaurant painted the Mall pink as their theme for the Valentine's Day.

The restaurant embraced Valentine's Day more on the visual front with yummy cookies and fresh pink roses on each tables for the food enthusiasts. Recipes on the menu were to die for,



INDULGE: Pink lotus painted the Mall pink yesterday as food enthusiasts indulged on special dishes such as the Lotus burger.

from their most favourite Serircha wrap to whole brain muffins with pumpkin seeds. Fresh and healthy food indeed. They also have yummy recipes on special every week.

Special recipes

- Chicken Sala Wrap
- Roasted Vege Wrap
- Roast Butternut, Lenti, Chickenpea and feta salad
- Citrus Avocado Salad



HEALTHY: Whole bran muffins with pumpkin seeds from the restaurant are to die for.



YUMMY: Lotus Burger.

ON THIS DAY

...February 15

1758 - Mustard was advertised for the first time in America.

1764 - The city of St. Louis was established.

1799 - Printed ballots were authorised for use in elections in the state of Pennsylvania.

1842 - Adhesive postage stamps were used for the first time by the City Dispatch Post (Office) in New York City.

1879 - US President Hayes signed a bill that allowed female attorneys to argue cases before the US Supreme Court.

1898 - The USS Maine sank when it exploded in Havana Harbour for unknown reasons. More than 260 crew members were killed.

1900 - The British threaten to use natives in their war with the Boers.

1903 - Morris and Rose Michtom, Russian immigrants, introduced the first teddy bear in America.

1932 - George Burns and Gracie Allen debuted as regulars on *The Guy Lombardo Show* on CBS radio.

1933 - US President-elect Franklin Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami. Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak was killed in the attack.

1942 - During World War II, Singapore surrendered to the Japanese.

1943 - 'My True Story' was heard for the first time on ABC radio.

1946 - Edith Houghton, at age 33, was signed as a baseball scout by the Philadelphia Phillies becoming the first female scout in the major leagues.

1953 - The first American to win the women's world figure skating championship was 17-year-old Tenley Albright.

1961 - A Boeing 707 crashed in Belgium killing 73 people.

1962 - CBS-TV bought the exclusive rights to college football games from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) for a figure of \$10 200 000.

1965 - Canada displayed its new red and white maple leaf flag. The flag was to replace the old Red Ensign standard.

1982 - During a storm, the Ocean Ranger, a drilling rig, sank off the coast of Newfoundland. 84 men were killed.

1985 - The Centre for Disease Control reported that more than half of all nine-year-olds in the US showed no sign of tooth decay.

1989 - After nine years of intervention, the Soviet Union announced that the remainder of its troops had left Afghanistan.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Birdman (Rapper)
February 15, 1969 (50 years old)



Miep Gies (Activist)
February 15, 1909-Jan 11, 2010 (age 100)



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What's in Your Mind

Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

Be my black Valentine



Ackel Zwane

ENERGY giant Eskom, fountain of the life-giving breast milk for stunted baby Eswatini Electricity Company, announced stage 2 load shedding from 8am to 11pm yesterday, Valentine's Day.

Eskom could as well be heralding the return of blockbuster NBC 'Revolution' series, which begins with the switching off of power supply to mark the start of apocalypse era. But Eskom announced some reprieve due to "some improvement in generation performance and the notable strides made in replenishing water and diesel reserves".

On a similar note EEC might as well be having a template ready each time the parent screams 'load shedding': 'There won't be load shedding for now, we're monitoring the situation closely.'

No doubt the power system remains vulnerable in South Africa and authorities say "while there has been some improvement, should Eskom experience significant unplanned generator trips, this could impact the magnitude and risk of load-shedding".

Eskom is technically insolvent and at the current trajectory, it will not survive beyond April.

Burden

Acting DG of the department of public enterprises Thuto Shomang told South African Parliament on Wednesday morning that Eskom's E420bn debt burden represents 15 per cent of the sovereign's debt and that if the power utility defaults on its debt, it will threaten the economy.

The escalation of municipality and Soweto debt at around E28bn is another problem facing Eskom, including the increase in the number of Eskom employees from 32 000 in 2007 to 48 000 in 2018, with associated costs growing from E9.5bn to E29.5bn, reports Times Live. The costs for the plants have escalated significantly to more than E300bn - Medupi from E24.9bn to E145bn and Kusile from E80.7bn to E161.4bn.

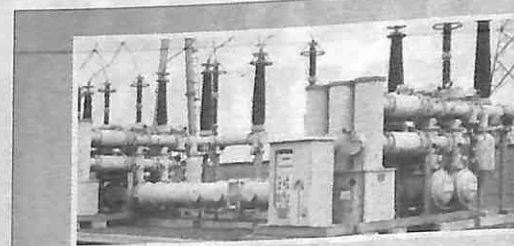
Last July, Eswatini and Eskom met over the possible expansion of the 25-year power supply deal between the two countries whereby South Africa supplies the kingdom with about 80 per cent of electricity was in its 18th year and coming to an end in 2025.

Officials said Eswatini's average demand for electricity was between 191 and 223 megawatts. In order to meet this demand, the country planned to increase its internal generation capacity by developing some renewable projects (Solar PV).

It was said Eskom had offered some assistance during the commissioning of such projects so to ensure that the quality of supply was not compromised. The country is reported to be generating only 10 per cent of the electricity it requires and imports the other 10 per cent from Mozambique.

Archives are filled with impressive research work on alternative sources of energy as opposed to importing on relying on neighbours.

Anne Wheldon, 1990, for instance, says Eswatini has many energy resources including biomass, coal, hydro and solar. These resources, in particular biomass, supply a major proportion of



energy consumption, but all petroleum products and most coal and electricity are imported from or via South Africa.

Eswatini could increase self-reliance, at a financial cost, by substituting local coal for imports, and by generating more electric power from biomass, coal or hydro sources.

Ethanol for 20 per cent petrol blending should soon be produced from molasses. Deforestation is evident in the country and suggests that fuelwood demand exceeds the sustainable supply from accessible land: this is an issue in both national and individual self-reliance.

Supply and demand could be matched by using wood more efficiently; increasing the supply; and substituting other energy sources. Stoves and afforestation programmes can succeed only if they meet the perceived needs of individual consumers, and require proper market research and marketing.

Fuel substitution shows limited promise, but hydro and photovoltaic systems might assist rural development.

Incentives

According to Eswatini Power Africa Fact Sheet, the biggest issues are; Lack of clarity in roles for procurement between the Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority (SERA) and EEC; Need for incentives to improve electricity service performance and system to track performance standards; Historical reliance on power imports from South Africa; Limited ability to provide credit enhancement; and utility concerns about large scale integration of intermittent renewable.

Around the same time, in 2017 the whole of Southern African Development Community (SADC) announced to the world that it was experiencing surplus electricity-generation capacity

as a result of regional cooperation in energy planning, that was of about 2 616 Megawatts (MW) back then.

Experts observed that that excess in electricity supply was partly a result of an economic slowdown in SADC.

Just day before yesterday, it was reported the world over that Zambia had stopped importing electricity.

"In the first quarter of 2018, and for the first time in its history, Zambia stopped importing electricity and now its surplus electricity production is expected to power the SADC."

Zambia has been importing power from neighbouring countries such as Mozambique and with the new milestone, the country's constant power cuts are now a thing of the past.

"The turnaround is due to a robust hydro and solar power generation industry in recent years making the country self-sufficient in energy."

For the Southern African nation, electricity production could soon be in surplus and citizens could enjoy the benefits of exporting power to the neighbouring countries which are not energy sufficient." But Eswatini is not neighbouring Zambia to tap on the windfall.

Not that Eswatini Electricity Company is a cry-baby, that it has been drooling since independence, as a matter of fact over the years it has generated myriad ideas and strategies of coming out of the quagmire of dependence to either of the neighbours.

It is true, as a matter of fact that the lifestyle of the average resident has changed drastically since rural electrification of the entire countryside, courtesy of the Taiwan - Eswatini Cooperation Agreement that is equally as old as half a century, the country's age since independence.

Now this speaks volumes, it means without electricity the average person in Eswatini cannot be expected to revert to *lubhaca*, lighting of the grass stock prior to settling down into bed or the use of *luvatsi* to start a fire for cooking in the same way the Bushmen or the Koi and San still do.

Rather people would contemplate the use of solar power as an immediate alternative or the generator, the problem now lies with sustainability of the generator and also affordability.

Our life is undoubtedly centred around electricity, all round, any deviation from the norm is doom, unless a miracle happens over night, the time when there will be no electricity. Hope it was no so much a blackout Valentine, or is it a matter of time?

“The country is reported to be generating only 10 per cent of the electricity it requires and imports the other 10 per cent from Mozambique”

Your Religious Corner

'Unpacking the diverse religious beliefs in the country

with Futhie Dlamini

THE CHURCH AGE

FROM a young age, our parents instil a church discipline in us.

I, too, had to go through this church 'ritual'. It didn't matter whether I felt like church or not, it was a non-negotiable rule at home.

I know most of you can relate, we've all gone through it. From that out of tune songs meted out by the Sunday school teacher we referred to as auntie, to the main service's gruelling two hours sermon, yet all we wanted was to just play.

I guess our parents had gone through same during their time and, well, we had to feel it too. But did we really have the time to think what all the fuss was all about? No. All we knew was, Sundays were non-negotiable.

This custom culminated throughout my teen years straight into adulthood. It is then that I somehow got to understand what attending church was all about and here I am today doing the same thing to my own child; the church culture.

It was not until I gave it some thought what could church or religion might be about, hence the birth of this interesting column. We will try, bit by bit, to untangle the mysteries behind the coming about of the church, down to unpacking the different denominations we have in our beautiful country, Eswatini.

So, what is the church age? Where does it fit in biblical history?

An 'age' is a historical period of time or an era. Some historians divide human history into many epochs and name them according to their defining characteristics: Middle Ages, Modern Age, Postmodern Age, etc. Biblical history, too, can be divided into different eras.

When those divisions emphasise God's interaction with His creation, we call them dispensations. More broadly, biblical history can be divided into two periods, roughly following the division of Old and New Testaments: The Age of the Law and the Church Age.

Therefore, the church age is the period of time from Pentecost (Acts 2) to the rapture (foretold in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). It is called the Church Age because it covers the period in which the church is on earth. It corresponds with the dispensation of Grace. Jesus predicted the Church Age in Matthew 16:18 when He said, "I will build my church." He has kept His promise, and His church has now been growing for almost 2000 years.

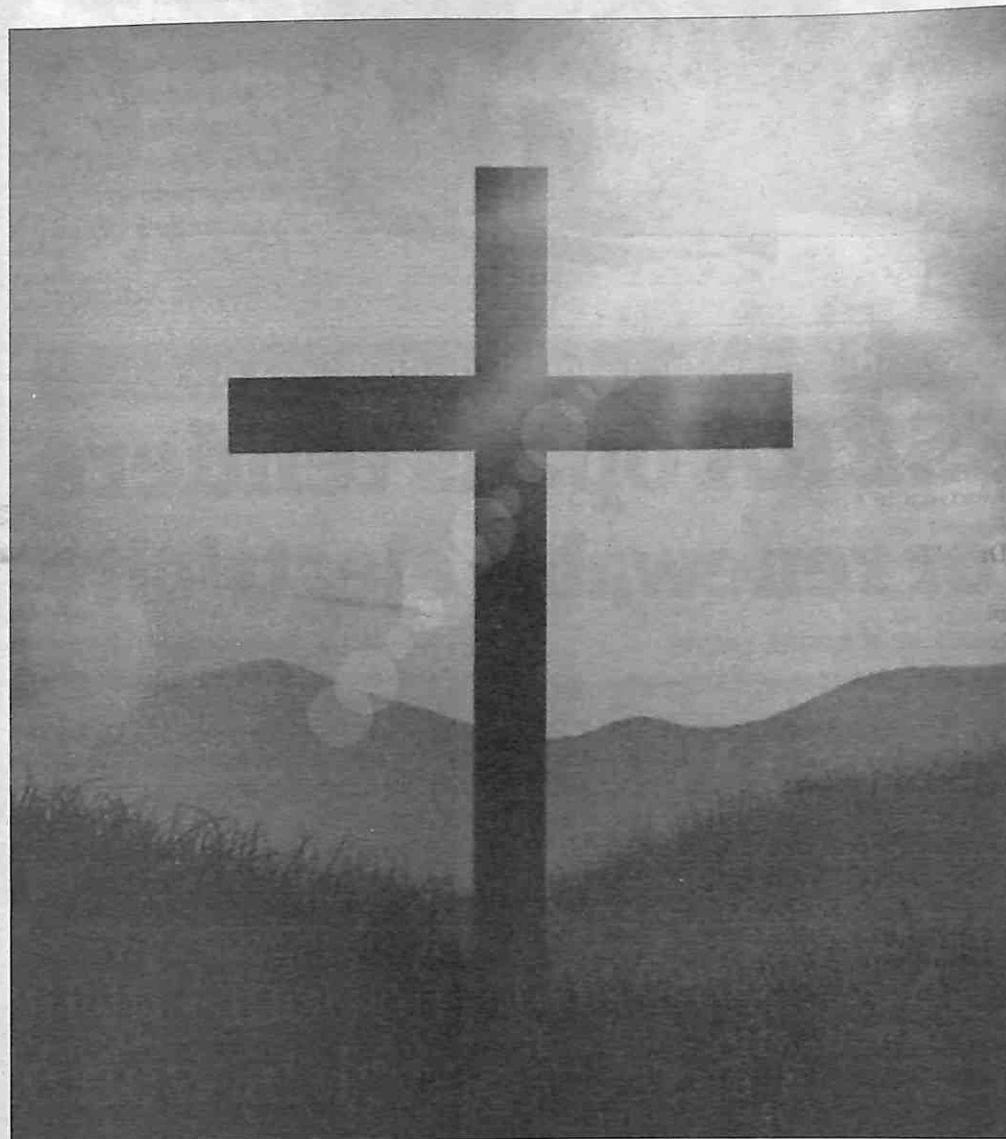
The church is composed of those individuals who have by faith accepted Christ Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Therefore, the Church is people rather than denominations or buildings. It is the Body of Christ of which He is the head. The church is universal in scope but meets locally in smaller bodies.

The Church Age will end when God's people are raptured out of the world and taken to be with the Lord.

The rapture will be followed in heaven by the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:6-9) as the church, the Bride of Christ, receives her heavenly reward. Until then, the church carries on in hope, exhorted to "stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain".

When did the church begin/start?

The church began on the Day of Pentecost, 50 days after the Passover when Jesus died and rose again. The word translated 'church' comes from two Greek words that together mean 'called out from the world for God.'



The word is used throughout the Bible to refer to all those who have been born again through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The word church, when used to reference all believers everywhere, is synonymous with the term 'Body of Christ.'

The word church first appears in Matthew 16 when Jesus tells Peter, "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (verse 18). The 'rock' here is the statement Peter had made, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (verse 16). That truth about Jesus is the bedrock of the church that has flourished for over 2 000 years. Everyone who makes that truth the foundation of his or her own life becomes a member of Jesus' church.

Jesus' words, "I will build my church," were a foretelling of what was about to happen when He sent the Holy Spirit to indwell believers (John 15:26-27; 16:13). Jesus still had to undergo the cross and experience the resurrection. Although the disciples understood in part, the fulfilment of all Jesus had come to do had not yet been accomplished.

After His resurrection, Jesus would not allow His followers to begin the work He had given them, to make disciples of all nations, until the Holy Spirit had come (Acts 1:4-5).

The Book of Acts details the beginning of the church and its miraculous spread through the power of the Holy Spirit. Ten days after Jesus ascended back into heaven, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon 120 of Jesus' followers who waited and prayed.

The same disciples who had quaked in fear of being identified with Jesus, were suddenly empowered to boldly proclaim the gospel of the risen Messiah, validating their message with

miraculous signs and wonders.

Thousands of Jews from all parts of the world were in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. They heard the gospel in their own languages and many believed.

Those who were saved were baptised, adding daily to the church. When persecution broke out, the believers scattered, taking the gospel message with them, and the church spread like wildfire to all parts of the known earth.

The start of the church involved Jews in Jerusalem, but the church soon spread to other people groups.

The Samaritans were evangelised by Philip in Acts 8. In Acts 10, God gave Peter a vision that helped him understand that the message of salvation was not limited to the Jews but open to anyone who believed.

The salvation of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-39) and the Italian centurion Cornelius (Acts 10) convinced the Jewish believers that God's church was broader than they had imagined. The miraculous calling of Paul on the road to Damascus set the stage for an even greater spread of the gospel to the Gentiles.

Jesus' prophetic words to Peter before the crucifixion have proved true. Though persecution and 'the gates of Hades' have fought against it, the church only grows stronger. Revelation 7:9 provides a glimpse of the church as God designed it to be:

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."

The church that Jesus began will continue until the day He comes for us and we are united with Him forever as His bride.

TODAY'S WORD

VISION

Scripture: Habakkuk 2:1

What is the vision?

- It is God's provision for redemption.
- It is a divine plan of God made manifest for the redemption of His people.
- It is the ability of what you can see. What you cannot see, you cannot have it.

- It is knowing what to do at a given time. Who is going to do it? Where is it going to be done? What are the resources that must be used? It is simply planning ahead.

When you have a vision, you have a fundamental picture in your mind. Every time you have a picture of what you want to be, it is attached to the time of manifestation.

Many people missed the time for their vision to manifest. Have discernment to know what kind of season you are in. There is a season for you.

Everything is programmed in the vision of God. There is a time that God has assigned to you.

When you miss the time of God, the vision will not come to pass. There is nothing more painful than missing your time. When you miss your time, you become a disaster. Establish your life when it is your season.

If you procrastinate for the perfect moment, you could be in waiting your entire life. You can sit around and say "When this happens" and "If this happens," then I will pursue my dream but the truth is, only YOU can make it happen.

If you have a dream, don't wait for a perfect moment to start achieving it, you need to make the moment happen.

This message is for anyone who is uncertain if they can really do something, when the timing or the situation seems imperfect. The truth is, you can! It doesn't matter how young you are, there is nothing you can't do when you try.

There is a famous English phrase which says, "If you can dream it, you can do it".

Therefore, if you have dreamt it why can't you do it? and if you can do it, why wait? If you are waiting then why did you dream it? Start with small steps and build your way up.

The greatest failure is defined, not when you try and fail but when an individual simply refuses to take a step forward.

“If you have a dream don't wait for a perfect moment to start achieving it, you need to make the moment happen”

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.50%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	5.2%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	10.25%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.0%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E12.80 per litre
Replacement	E12.85 per litre
Diesel	E12.80 per litre
Paraffin	E 9.15 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 14 FEB 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.0091	14.0591
British Pound/SZL	18.0255	18.0898
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.8988	7.9263
Swiss France/SZL	13.8924	13.9406
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3169	1.3356
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.9745	10.0115
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.5817	10.0115
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	15.7974	15.8537
Gold	1,308.1600	
Oil	63.66	

For more information contact:
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Standard Bank



NEW DAWN: ESERA Manager Consumer and Stakeholder Management Sikhumbuzo Nkambule and CEO Vusumuzi Mkhumane in yesterday's press briefing. (Pic: Hlengiwe Ndlovu)

Eswatini's sunshine to finally be profitably used as:

ESERA opens tenders for renewable electricity

STORIES BY HLENGIWE NDLOVU

THE days of Eswatini's heavy reliance on South Africa for electricity could slowly be coming to an end as ESERA Chief Executive Officer Vusumuzi Mkhumane yesterday announced that everyone interested in producing renewable electricity will now stand an equal chance to do so.

This is because ESERA has finally conformed with the dictates of Section 25 of the Electricity Act of 2007 which calls for competitive tendering processes for the procurement of renewable energy in the country.

ESERA is the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority, formerly SERA.

Mkhumane acknowledged in a press briefing held in the company's boardroom that the manner in which the country previously solicited its electricity was unstructured and to a great extent unsustainable. "We previously procured through unsolicited bidding which was unstructured because this depended on individual investors coming through and presenting their case on what they had to offer.

"This was not competitive bidding, and this resulted in the few investors we found easily slipping away" Mkhumane admitted, adding that now that the situation had been rectified, renewable energy producers would stand an equal chance to get tenders through competitive bidding processes.

Mkhumane reiterated that the country's renewable energy production would be staggered in two phases: solar and biomass electricity production.

Produced from sunshine, solar energy is touted as the cleanest form of electricity and highly reliable too, which means Eswatini will now be using its good days of sunshine into profitable use. Biomass electricity, on the other hand, encompasses a large variety of materials, including wood from various sources, agricultural residues which are converted into electric power through several methods.

Making his remarks, Mkhumane made an assurance ESERA would issue the first tender notice.

In the meantime, Mkhumane pointed out that the latest developments in the country's energy production, transmission and distribution sector were in line with good international practice.

Relief as electricity tariffs projected to go down

WHERE healthy competition exists, consumers are bound to get value for money.

In Eswatini, it is projected that the leveling of the playing ground in the production, transmission and distribution of electricity could lead to electricity tariffs going down.

Consumers are currently reeling from exorbitant electricity costs as unit prices went up from E1.48 to E1.75 in April last year. This means that one only gets 28 units for E50 electricity and 57 units for E100 electricity.

Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA) Chief Executive Officer Vusumuzi Mkhumane yesterday reiterated that competitive tendering processes in the procurement of electricity would make the country energy secure, increase FDI inflows and most importantly result in tariff decreases.

Bidding

"Critically, through healthy bidding, tariffs will become affordable as the competition will most likely impact the electricity price structure," he said, emphatically stating that ESERA is looking for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to take the country's energy sector to another level.

ESERA's tendering processes will be guided by the ministry of natural resources and energy's Short-Term Generation Expansion Plan (SGEP) and the country's Energy Policy.

In the meantime, Africa has taken the renewable energy production route as the African Development Bank for instance has committed about E350 million to improve access to sustainable energy across the continent.

UNESWA, I Can Foundation sign Memorandum of Understanding

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE University of Eswatini's Consultancy and Training Centre (CTC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with I Can Leadership Institute.

The MoU formalises a three-year agreement and partnership for the delivery of leadership, personal and professional development courses through CTC by I Can Leadership Institute effective from February 7, 2019.

The official signing ceremony took place last week at UNESWA Kwaluseni campus' main Conference Room. The CTC is aimed at fulfilling the needs for consultancy, training and development of government ministries, private and public sectors, parastatal organisations, NGO's, individuals and contribute to the development of Eswatini.

I Can was represented by its President Dr. David Molapo who in the signing ceremony, assured the university that the institute would deliver high quality and internationally accredited



TOGETHER AS ONE: UNESWA representatives with I Can Foundation founder Dr. David Molapo shortly after the MoU signing. (Courtesy pic)

ed courses through CTC.

"Our mission is to build capacity through empowerment, leadership development, education, networking coaching and mentoring. We are excited by the opportunity to work in the Kingdom of Eswatini and believe that this partnership will benefit its participants greatly," he said.

Dr. Molapo also assured that I Can, would work within all the legal confines and expectations of the MoU as they had already done so in other countries.

Meanwhile on behalf of UNESWA the Vice Chancellor Professor Justice Thwala said such partnerships were

valued by the institution.

"UNESWA values partnerships and we believe that they are necessary in order to take the institution to greater heights. We appreciate I Can for choosing UNESWA as the focal point for bigger things to come," he said. He said UNESWA would provide coordination and administration support in all trainings offered in the partnership.

Also present at the signing ceremony were UNESWA officials, senior management, department representatives and I Can officials from South Africa and Eswatini as well as I Can partners.

More details about the leadership, personal and professional development courses to be offered through this partnership will be shared with the public in due course or interested people can make enquiries at CTC.

I Can will be also hosting a first-ever Fourth Industrial Revolution Leadership Seminar next week at the Royal Swazi Sun's Convention Centre in Zulwini.

Dr Molapo said this seminar was just one of the ways I Can was proving that it is an organisation aimed at empowering and providing information to accelerate development through networking and partnership.

Mashayinkonjane Investments win EYA Manzini

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

MASHAYINKONJANE Investments are the winners of the Entrepreneur of the Year (EYA) Manzini Region Awards.

The Retail Company whose Director is Sifiso Nhlengethwa was crowned the best in the region during an event held at The George Hotel in Manzini yesterday.

Not only did they walk away with the biggest prize on the day but the company also walked away with the Best Retail award in the Region.

Taking the runners up award in the Regional Awards was Manzini Mayor

...as Waxola Investments claim runners up award

Mxolisi Mabuza owned company, Waxola Investment.

Interviewed after the event, Nhlengethwa said he was happy to have won the award and this was a sign of growth for his business.

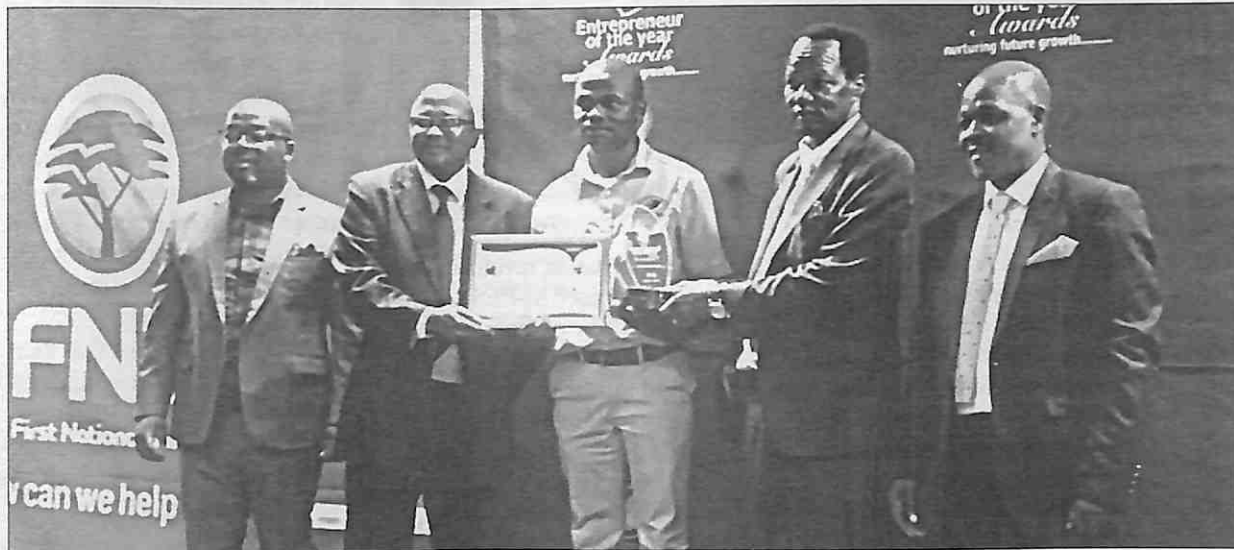
He said the Retail Supermarket and Butchery had two branches in the City, one in Madonsa and the other next to Lihaga Flats.

"This is not the first time we have entered the competition and compliance has been one of our major challenges in the past. But after motivations from people, we decided to enter again and I am happy with the win.

We are really growing as a company considering that we started out only as a spaza shop but currently employ up to 53 people in the business," he said.

Other winners on the day included last year's Regional winners Acero Steel Frames who received the most improved business award while Ecco Buzz walked away with the most innovative award.

Presenting the awards to the various winners on the day, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Director SME Mluleki Dlamini said there were a number of factors considered in awarding the prizes including Innovation and also business compliance.



WINNER: Manzini region EYA winner Sifiso Nhlengethwa who is Director of Mashayinkonjane Investments receiving his awards from the dignitaries during the EYA Manzini Region awards ceremony held at the George Hotel yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

THE LIST OF WINNERS

NAME OF BUSINESS

Zamokuhle
Nkosephayo Handicraft
Buhle Bem Africa
Mliba Boutique
Muziyafana Investments
Patit Drilling
Mashayinkonjane Investments
Vince Investments
Gemini Beauty Parlour
EWorld Technology
Eco Buzz Investments
Acero Steel Frames
Waxola Investments
Mashayinkonjane Investments

APPLICANT

Claudia Thwala
Ncamisile Dlamini
Dlalile Matsebula
Olipha MacKenzie
Hloniphile Dlamini
Mfanukhona Dlamini
Sifiso Nhlengethwa
Mbongiseni Sihlongonyane
Nokuthula Shongwe
Sicelo Ndlandla
Mndeni Mabila
Thamsanqa Mdluli
Mxolisi Mabuza
Sifiso Nhlengethwa

CATEGORY

Street Vendor
Handicraft (Runner-up)
Handicraft
Merchandier Trade
Agribusiness
Green
Retail
Service
Youth
Technosavvy
Most Innovative
Most Improve
Regional (Runner-up)
Regional



FUTURE: SEDCO Managing Director Darrington Matiwanane making his remarks. (R) SPEECH: Acting PS in the Ministry of Commerce Nkululeko Dlamini speaks on behalf of the Minister Manqoba Nxumalo.



...Ministry to establish finance interventions for MSMEs

THE ministry of commerce, industry and trade is looking to establish development finance interventions geared towards making the acquisition of loans by MSMEs easy and affordable.

This was revealed by the ministry's Under Secretary (US) Nkululeko Dlamini who represented Minister Manqoba Nxumalo during the Entrepreneur of the Year (EYA) Manzini Regional Awards presentation held at The George Hotel yesterday. In his address, Dlamini said they would be engaging banks and other financial institutions to come up with finance packages that are Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) friendly.

"I am happy that most commercial banks, sponsors of the competition included have established MSME banking units to service the unique needs of this sector," he said. The minister said he was pleased to learn of the 35 per cent increase in the number of applicants for this year's competition.

"I want to encourage those in the SME sector and stakeholders to collaborate and work with government towards improving our economy. It is through the contribution of SMEs that we can create

more employment opportunities and improve the majority of livelihoods in the Kingdom," he said.

He said the government was currently working on strategies to boost economic growth and that is in vein that they have placed the development of the SME sector at the centre of economic development agenda for the country. The minister highlighted that the Manzini Region was the key driver of economic development in the country.

"The region has the highest number of MSME owners with 41 per cent of the 59 000 business owner population. It is therefore not surprising that most of the past winners of EYA have been from this region," he said.

The minister expressed gratitude to the sponsors of this competition and also applauded the SEDCO Board, management and staff for their efforts in the entrepreneurship development space.

"Government alone cannot be able to do this great work. As we look at how to boost economic growth, the government continues to encourage the private sector to consider possible public-private-partnerships (PPPs) that can be explored for the betterment of our nation," he said.



EAGER: A section of the business entrepreneurs who were in attendance.

How Lilangeni firmed up against major currencies in January

BY HLENGIWE NDLOVU

IN January, the external value of the Lilangeni strengthened against major currencies, the Central Bank of Eswatini reported in its Recent Economic Developments report.

Against the US Dollar, the local unit strengthened by 2.4 per cent to average

E13.87 compared to December. "The local unit rallied as investors cheer a policy U-turn by the Federal Reserve to a dovish stance throwing emerging market economies a lifeline," the Central Bank said, also adding that international financial pressures on the Rand had eased as the now-market-friendly African National Congress rides high in polls ahead of the May election.

Against the Pound Sterling, the local

unit appreciated by 0.7 per cent to close January at E17.87 on average. The CBE attributed the Lilangeni's strengthening against the Sterling to the unexpected political chaos in the UK resulting from slow progress and mounting uncertainty around the delivery of a prudent Brexit plan.

The UK government has a looming deadline of March to conclude the Brexit plan.

Against the Euro, the Lilangeni strengthened by two per cent to average E15.84 compared to the previous month.

Stronger

At the end of the month, the local unit was stronger at E13.37 to the US Dollar, E17.56 to the Pound Sterling and E15.38 to the Euro after closing the month of December at E14.39 to the US Dollar, E18.24

to the Pound Sterling and E16.44 to the Euro. In the meantime, the South African load shedding debacle by power utility firm ESKOM seems to have had adverse effects on the Rand. Businessday newspaper reported yesterday that the Rand, which is pegged to the Lilangeni on a one-on-one basis was back at the R14/\$ mark from R13.73/\$ on Wednesday.

Confusion over power investment in Africa

DESPERATE times call for desperate measures.

So Tanzania, where 80 per cent of the population has no reliable access to electricity, is planning to import biomass as fuel from Ethiopia this year and is building a \$2 billion hydropower project threatening the Selous Game Reserve.

Meanwhile, several thousand Tanzanians are finding an easier, eco-friendly solution: solar-powered LEDs available through a pay-as-you-go model.

Tanzania's woes aren't unique. The World Bank says annual outages in sub-Saharan Africa can range from 50 hours to 4 600 hours at the latter end, that's more than half a year. So an off-the-grid solution is proving valuable in the region and throughout Africa.

From Kenya to Tanzania, Uganda to Rwanda, Nigeria to Ivory Coast and even war-torn Somalia, Africans are embracing solar energy solutions that help them power their homes even without being connected to the grid, on an unparalleled scale. Nairobi-based M-KOPA started the revolution. Launched commercially in 2012, M-KOPA allows low-income families access to solar energy for as little as \$1 per month.

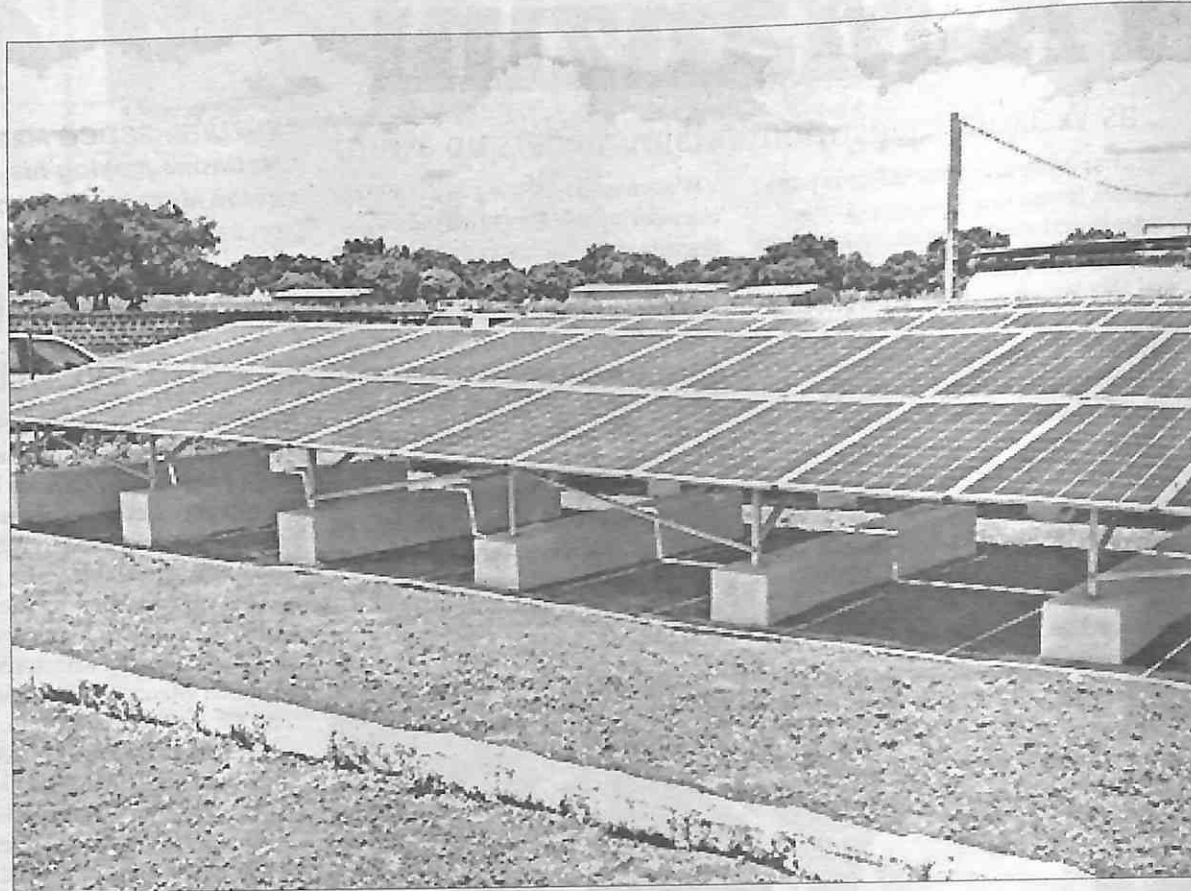
This is cheaper and more environmental than the alternatives, kerosene or diesel fuel, and offers a metered payment system tracked through their phone SIM cards.

The first firm in the world to develop that innovation, M-KOPA now has 600 000 customers across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and is bringing solar power to 500 new homes every day.

It has received \$162 million in investments since 2014. But the firm is no longer alone.

Solar

International solar energy players are increasingly focusing on African nations too. Dutch startup Lumos entered Nigeria in 2016. It had sold 73 000 units by the end of 2017. In 2018, it entered the Ivory Coast. Its kits include a solar panel, battery, power sockets, LED light bulbs and



a mobile phone adapter. BBOX, which launched in the UK in 2010 and has raised \$100 million, has over the past two years moved its operational headquarters to Kigali, Rwanda. It distributes its solar kits through agents in 10 African countries and uses remote monitoring technology to improve battery life and users' experience.

And there's plenty of market space still for more home-grown and international solar energy startups to support the growing demands for electricity on a continent home to several fast-growing economies that are mostly not yet connected to the grid, say experts.

The World Bank estimates that the sector will see sales worth \$8 billion by 2022.

Market

"There's this incredible market opportunity that's not being met by the relatively small handful of companies that are operating on the continent," says Jem Porcaro, Senior Director for energy access at the

United Nations Foundation.

For sure, the spread of solar energy to off-grid communities isn't unique to Africa. From Quetsol in Guatemala to Simpa Networks in India, a few startups have made similar attempts in parts of Latin America and Asia too.

But both the scale of the problem and the spread of nations where solar off-the-grid solutions are being accepted are unique to Africa.

The continent had 580 million people who were off-the-grid in 2016 and is expected to be home to 80 percent of the world's off-the-grid population by 2030, according to the International Energy Agency.

Africa-based startups in this sector have received comfortably more than half of the total global investment in this sector, pegged at \$922 million by the World Bank.

What's more, the key technology that's the backbone of the payment model used by most of these low-cost, smart-tech solar energy providers in Africa is also homegrown. Customers

use mobile payments, revolutionised by the Nairobi-based M-PESA. "The widespread uptake of mobile money has provided the right environment for off-grid utilities to operate and grow," says Mansoor Hamayun, CEO and co-founder of BBOX.

Costs

The sharp reduction in costs globally of solar panels and batteries over the past 15 years has helped make the solar kits these firms offer affordable. For the M-KOPA kit, users need to pay an initial deposit of \$35, with 365 payments of 45 cents each after that.

They can spread the payment out, with a minimum of \$1 a month. Once completed, they own the kit — and can access solar energy free after that.

But the spread of off-the-grid solar energy solutions in Africa is also helping the emergence of other local firms that help distribute these kits. PEG-Ghana, for instance, distributes solar kits in three countries and has raised \$50 million in investments.

These firms are well-placed to take on distribution because they either have local relationships they can leverage to develop sales networks, says Porcaro.

Getting to this point hasn't been easy. "The main challenge has been developing this new category," says Jesse Moore, CEO and co-founder, M-KOPA.

"We have had to build the business and technology from scratch." But he's confident they've now demonstrated the scalability of the platform. "The entire off-grid tech category has come of age."

A lack of access to finance remains a challenge, according to Porcaro. Energy sector finance is still largely skewed toward large infrastructure projects that don't always reach the underserved, he says. "We see ... a relatively small amount of financing" going toward firms working in remote communities.

They're "leveraging some really innovative technologies and business models but the amount and the type of capital is just not there yet." Still, the benefits of off-the-grid solar solutions are clear.

According to the GoGLA, the global association for the off-grid solar energy industry, 58 per cent of households connected to off-grid tech undertake more economic activities because of their solar home system, while 36 per cent of households generate additional income once they connect to off-grid tech.

And there's consensus that there will only be expansion in this energy market, as the off-grid consumer becomes increasingly commercially viable, creditworthy and loyal. "It is already clear," says Moore.

Africa.com

From Kenya to Tanzania, Uganda to Rwanda, Nigeria to Ivory Coast and even war-torn Somalia, Africans are embracing solar energy solutions that help them power their homes

Valentine's Day spend likely to increase for most South Africans - FNB

DURBAN - The frenzy around Valentine's Day will again see consumers spending more than usual to gift their loved ones.

Past trends have indicated that FNB Credit Card holders spend more each year on buying flowers and cosmetic gifts with a 35 per cent increase recorded and restaurant visits increasing by 30 per cent in 2018.

Online florists see the biggest increase in the week of Valentine's with a 228 per cent increase compared to usual spending patterns, with men show-

ing a 403 per cent increase in buying flowers, compared to a 29 per cent increase by women. Interestingly, the spending habits of this pool of clients showcases that it's more single men spending around this period.

"Like with all other big South African thematic days, our data shows that Valentine's Day drives a significant amount of Credit Card spend by consumers to celebrate and spoil their loved ones. Credit Cards provide consumers with a great amount of convenience and safety as they can shop



from the comfort of their home or work. We're encouraging consumers to prioritise money management by

spending responsibly and not going overboard," said Cilliers Kriel, Chief Executive of FNB Credit Card.

Additional insights indicate an increase in the use of alternate modes of transport i.e. Uber and Taxify with 17 per cent increase in FNB Credit Card spend. Fast Food businesses also see a boom on the day of Valentine's, with an increase of 20 per cent compared to a normal business day.

"Consumers who use our Credit Card will also benefit from optimal security when shopping online, by

entering a bank issued One Time Password (OTP) on a secure merchant website.

They can also use the FNB APP or Online Banking to verify the cell-phone number or email to receive the OTP. If used responsibly, our customers can get maximum value from using their FNB Credit Card by getting rewarded through eBucks and being able to freely access benefits such as two-for-one specials at restaurants, spas and hotels through our partnership with the Entertainer app," said Cilliers.

Business Report Online

Chinese exports unexpectedly perk up

BEIJING - Chinese exports unexpectedly rose last month, according to official data released yesterday just as China sat down for crucial trade talks in Beijing with its top trade partner the United States.

Exports rose 9.1 per cent in January from a year earlier, data from the customs administration showed, ahead of forecasts and turning a corner after exports fell in December.

China's imports, however, continued to fall in January, down 1.5 per cent from a year earlier, though at a slower pace than a 10.2 per cent decline forecast by Bloomberg News.

Analysts cautioned that it is difficult to compare trends at the start of each year due to the Chinese New Year holiday, which came in early February this year and can affect business activity.

"The broad trend in shipments still appears to be pointing down," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics.

"The downbeat outlook for global growth means that this year is likely to be challenging for Chinese exporters, even if the ongoing US-China trade negotiations culminate in a deal," Evans-Pritchard wrote in a research note.

Officials from the world's top two



CAUTIONED: A slew of bad economic data has added to concerns about China's economy.

economies have been holding negotiations in Beijing since yesterday and ending today in a bid to resolve their thorny trade dispute.

China and the US have already imposed new duties on more than \$360-billion in two-way trade, which has weighed on their manufacturing sectors and shaken global financial markets.

Pressure to seal an accord ahead of a March 1 deadline set by Donald Trump appears to have eased slightly after the US president indicated he was open to extending a trade truce depending on progress in Beijing.

Trump in December postponed

plans to sharply hike tariffs on \$200-billion of Chinese imports to allow more time for negotiation.

A slew of bad economic data has added to concerns about China's economy, which grew at its slowest pace in almost three decades last year.

AFP

SA currency breaches R14 to dollar as ESKOM sours outlook

JOHANNESBURG - The rand weakened past R14 per dollar yesterday as power utility Eskom entered a fifth straight day of blackouts that have discouraged investors over the economy, days before the annual budget.

At 0630 GMT, the rand was up 0.2 per cent to R14.0425 per dollar, halting a slide that has seen the currency tumble around three per cent in three sessions as a rising dollar compounded the pain of the Eskom crisis. "The heightened domestic risk premium has prompted selling, with almost R2 billion of net outflows from the domestic bond market yesterday," analysts

at Rand Merchant Bank said in a note. The dollar out-stripped most other currencies, supported by good inflation data and weak growth in Europe. On Wednesday, the government said power utility Eskom was technically insolvent and needed an urgent bailout to help it manage its more than \$30 billion of debt as it battles to keep its plants running. Yesterday, Eskom said it would cut 2 000 megawatts of power from the national grid from 0600 GMT. Eskom poses a threat to the country's credit rating, which is hanging by a thread with Moody's, the last of the top three agencies to rate it investment grade. *Reuters*

'SA mining output down 4.8%'

JOHANNESBURG - Mining production decreased by 4.8 per cent year-on-year in December, with negative contributions coming from gold, iron ore, other metallic minerals, copper and chromium ore, Statistics South Africa said yesterday.

Total mining production was 1.6 per cent lower in 2018, following an increase of 3.9 per cent in 2017.

Gold output fell 31 per cent on a year-on-year basis in December, contributing a negative 4.6 percentage points to the overall number, while iron ore was down 14.3 per cent, adding a negative

2.1 percentage points. Other metallic minerals declined 18.4 per cent, while copper output dropped 30.8 per cent, contributing -0.3 percentage points, and chromium ore fell 9.3 per cent. Stats SA said mineral sales increased by 17.4 per cent last December compared with the same month in 2017, with the largest contributors being platinum group metals, coal, iron ore and manganese ore. Total mineral sales were 5.2 per cent higher in 2018 compared with 2017. The rise compared with increases of 8.4 per cent in 2017 and 12.9 per cent the year before. *African NewsAgency*

UK's May faces revolt from Euroskeptic Tories in Brexit vote

LONDON - Prime Minister Theresa May is facing a revolt from pro-Brexit members of her Conservative Party who are unhappy at signs she's planning to take a no-deal split off the table.

Members of the anti-EU European Research Group met with Chief Whip Julian Smith on Wednesday evening to insist that leaving the bloc without an agreement must remain an option, according to people familiar with the matter.

The issue came to a head yesterday when the House of Commons votes on what should happen next in the Brexit talks, as May seeks to renegotiate her deal with the European Union. In just six weeks the UK will leave the EU - with or without an agreement. May's draft withdrawal contract was rejected by a huge margin in the Commons last month. No new accord has so far been reached.

May is aiming to mollify her critics and earn herself another two weeks of breathing space, promising Parliament further opportunities to have a say over what happens next if she can't get a deal. Pro-Brexit members of her Tory party are demanding she re-writes the deal because they say it keeps Britain tied too closely to EU rules, potentially forever.

Many euroskeptics would prefer a no-deal Brexit to leaving on May's terms, despite fears it would cause severe damage to the UK economy. Yesterday, May will ask the Commons to endorse the result of previous voting on January 29, when members of Parliament backed calls to re-write her Brexit agreement but opposed the idea of a no-deal divorce.

Wednesday's meeting between euroskeptic Tories and May's chief whip broke up without resolution, meaning some Conservatives in the ERG could vote against the government or abstain. As May doesn't have a majority in Parliament, that raises the prospect that she could be defeated. While this would be embarrassing for the prime minister, its main practical effect would be to signal to Brussels how little room she has for maneuver. *Fin24*



FACES REVOLT: Prime Minister Theresa May.

Nigeria 'Delta Avengers' militants vow to cripple economy if Buhari re-elected

ABUJA - A militant group in Nigeria's oil-rich southern Niger Delta threatened yesterday to cripple Africa's top oil producer if President Muhammadu Buhari is re-elected in a vote due to be held tomorrow.

The Niger Delta Avengers - who have been demanding a greater share of the oil revenue produced in the impoverished southern region - said in a statement they hoped to end Buhari's rule through elections and that opposition candidate Atiku Abubakar was their

preferred choice for president.

Buhari faces a tight contest against Abubakar, a business and ex-vice president, in tomorrow's elections in Nigeria, Africa's biggest democracy.

The Niger Delta Avengers were behind a 2016 wave of violence that helped push Nigeria into recession.

The group warned that if Buhari is re-elected there would be "a perpetual recession for Nigeria" and that if elected, Abubakar should start a "restructuring of Nigeria" within six months to

forestall further attacks in the Niger Delta.

No substantial attacks have been carried out by any groups in the Delta region since January 2017.

Attacks on pipelines and other facilities in the Niger Delta in 2016 cut Nigeria's crude output from a peak of 2.2 million barrels per day (mbpd) to near 1 mbpd - the lowest level seen in Africa's biggest economy in at least 30 years.

That, combined with low oil prices, pushed the OPEC member state into its first recession in a quarter of a century - crude sales make up two-thirds of government revenue and most of its foreign exchange. *Reuters*

Nestle profit surges as Swiss food giant eyes selling Herta

ZURICH - Swiss food giant Nestle said yesterday that profits surged last year, boosted by income from the disposal of businesses, and it would consider selling its Herta charcuterie business.

Net profit leapt 41.6 per cent to 10.1 billion Swiss francs in 2018, Nestle said in a statement.

Sales grew by 2.1 per cent to 91.4 billion Swiss francs, helped by net acquisitions of 0.7 per cent but hit by changes in exchange rates in several emerging markets that reduced

sales by 1.6 per cent.

The company also announced it will "explore strategic options" for its subsidiary Herta as "a further step in positioning the portfolio towards attractive high-growth categories". Nestle CEO Mark Schneider welcomed the results.

"We made significant progress with our portfolio transformation and sharpened our group's strategic focus, strengthening key growth categories and geographies in the process," he said in the statement. *AFP*

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

Lekota accuses Ramaphosa of selling out struggle stalwarts

CAPE TOWN - Congress of the People (COPE) leader Mosiuoa Lekota stunned Parliament on Wednesday afternoon by accusing President Cyril Ramaphosa of selling out struggle stalwarts.

Lekota, who first refused to address the House during the debate on the State of the Nation Address because Ramaphosa had briefly left the chamber, said he would wait

for the president to return, much to the consternation of presiding officer Thandi Modise.

Lekota, who was only allocated four minutes to speak, said he would not be joining Ramaphosa on the journey to turn the country around.

He said Ramaphosa had sold out his comrades in the struggle.

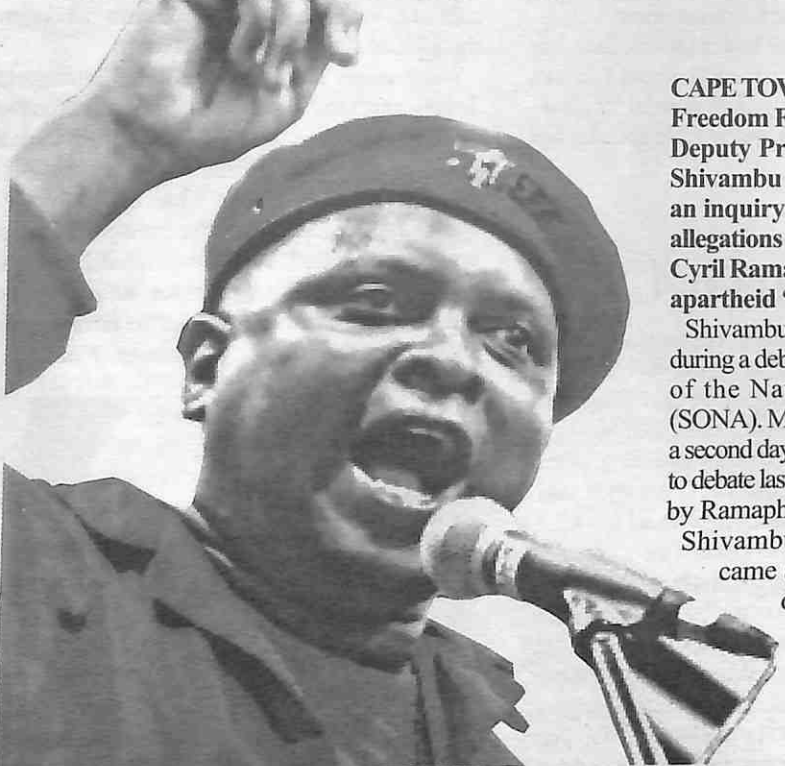
"In doing so, you condemned us to the special branch and I say this to you because the special branch rewarded you as they always reward their victims, and they send you home."

Lekota received a standing ovation from the Economic Freedom Fighters and left the podium without referring to his prepared speech. *Eyewitness News*



ACCUSES:
Congress of the People (COPE) leader Mosiuoa Lekota.

CALLS TO PROBE RAMAPHOSA 'SELLOUT' CLAIMS



CAPE TOWN - Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Deputy President Floyd Shivambu has called for an inquiry to investigate allegations that President Cyril Ramaphosa was an apartheid "sellout".

Shivambu made the call during a debate on the State of the Nation Address (SONA). MPs gathered for a second day on Wednesday to debate last week's address by Ramaphosa.

Shivambu's comments came after Congress of the People (Cope) leader Mosiuoa Lekota accuse

Ramaphosa of selling him out to the special branch back in the 70s.

He said that South Africa can't have an office of the president with such questions hanging over it.

"We want to officially recommend to you president that you should allow the Chief Justice to appoint a judicial commission of inquiry to investigate your involvement with Special Branch during apartheid and we do so because these allegations of your collaboration with the establishment is not coming for the first time [sic]." *Eyewitness News*

INVESTIGATE: Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Deputy President Floyd Shivambu.

DA heads to concourt for president to give reasons for executive decisions

JOHANNESBURG - The Constitutional Court is expected to hear arguments about whether the president should give reasons to the public for his executive decisions.

The case stems from a High Court ruling two years ago, which found former President Jacob Zuma should have provided reasons for sacking finance minister Pravin Gordhan.

The Democratic Alliance (DA),

which brought the application, believes that any decision must be rational. Federal Chairperson James Selfe: "There are a series of appointments that are made in government, sometimes these appointments can manifest as irrational and need to be set aside. We have seen a period of state capture where all sorts of executive decisions were made which needed to be reviewed and set aside." *Eyewitness News*

'WHERE WERE YOU'

CAPE TOWN - Freedom Front Plus leader Pieter Groenewald says President Cyril Ramaphosa must take responsibility for "nine wasted years," referring to former President Jacob Zuma's Presidency.

At a dinner at the World Economic Forum in Davos last month, Ramaphosa intimated the country had lost almost a decade of growth and development under Zuma.

But responding to the State of the

Nation address on Wednesday, Groenewald hit back, saying Ramaphosa was complicit in those lost years. "You became the deputy president for South Africa in 2014. So, where were you? What did you do in the five to seven years of the nine years that have cost South Africa and its taxpayers dearly?"

Groenewald says Ramaphosa must grow the economy and create jobs, and he's offered some advice. *Eyewitness News*

KZN ANC deeply concerned after party member killed

JOHANNESBURG - The African National Congress (ANC) in KwaZulu-Natal says the murder of one of its members is deeply worrying and a disappointing turn in the investigations into political killings in the province.

Mhlengi Khumalo was shot several times while watching TV at his home on Tuesday.

Last year, Police Minister Bheki Cele appointed a task team to hunt for the masterminds behind the killings.

The provincial ANC said it has called on the police ministry to intensify its investigations into the political killings in the province. Provincial spokesperson Nomagugu Simelane-

Zulu says Khumalo's death comes after the killings had lessened. "We had actually expected not to have any more killings. So, we really are disappointed." Simelane-Zulu says it's the masterminds of the killings who now have to be put behind bars. "We think that the ones who should also be on trial are the masterminds who had planned for the killings."

Eyewitness News



Twitter reacts to Lekota's claims

CAPE TOWN - COPE leader Mosiuoa Lekota's accusation that President Cyril Ramaphosa sold out Struggle leaders to the Special Branch during the 1970s has been met with mixed reactions.

Lekota made the accusation on Wednesday during the debate on Ramaphosa's State of the Nation address. Many people discounted Lekota's statement that Ramaphosa was rewarded by the Special Branch for betraying his comrades as cheap electioneering ahead of the national elections in May. A number of people, though, believe that Lekota's accusations have some merit. President Ramaphosa has not responded to the allegations. *IOL*

ANC retains all seven wards in Kimberley by-election

KIMBERLEY - The governing African National Congress (ANC) has retained its seven seats in a by-election at the Sol Plaatje Municipality in the Northern Cape.

Wednesday's by-election in Kimberley's Galeshewe township saw political parties vie for the vacant wards following the expulsion of seven ANC councillors last year. The governing party retained wards 11, 9, 19, 13, 12, 32 and 16 but lost 2 459 votes to independent candidates, some of whom were the expelled councillors. In some of the

wards, the independent candidates garnered more votes than the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and Democratic Alliance (DA), coming second to the ANC.

A court interdict application by the former ANC councillors to halt the by-elections was dismissed with costs by the Northern Cape High Court on Tuesday. The councillors were booted out in October 2018 for defying their party after they voted along with opposition parties to oust the then ANC mayor Mangaliso Matika. *ANA*



SHOCKING: Noah's whole body is engulfed by the sac, giving him a startling, alien-like appearance.



STARTLING: The photos have been posted online and garnered thousands of likes and comments.

Baby born inside intact amniotic sac

VILA VELHA - These impressive images show a baby boy who was born while still inside his amniotic sac after it failed to burst in an almost one-in-100 000 rare occurrence.

The startling images were taken at the Praia da Costa Hospital in the city of Vila Velha in the Brazilian state of Espírito Santo by photographer Jana Brasil, who specialises in photos of births.

In the photos, the newborn baby, named Noah by mother Monyck Valasco, can still be seen inside the amniotic sac after he is born by caesarean section.

Noah's whole body is engulfed by the sac, giving him a startling, alien-like appearance.

Experts say the special births occur in every 80 000 or 100 000 natural births and do not put the baby or mother at risk. They are believed to be less common during caesarean section because the scalpel typically punctures the amniotic sac.



RARE: The newborn baby, named Noah by mother Monyck Valasco, can still be seen inside the amniotic sac after he is born at the Praia da Costa Hospital in the city of Vila Velha, Brazil.

The photos have been posted online and garnered thousands of likes and comments.

Mother Valasco, 34, told reporters: "People all around the world are reposting the photos and looking

for us. I saw him being born. They lowered the screen so I could see. I cried a lot. It's an emotion that has no size." Brasil dedicated herself to photographing births as a full-time job three years ago and

said: "It's indescribable to register that moment. Last year I took photos of babies in the sacs, I have two awards. "But nothing like the photo of Noah, it surprised me. I thought I had been through all the emotions, but he pulled a face and did a little pout."

Gynaecologist Rafael Angelo Baggieri said: "An en-caul birth occurs when the baby is born without breaking the amniotic sac, in other words, within a little house which shelters it during gestation."

Baggieri says the special births occur in every 80 000 or 100 000 natural births and do not put the baby or mother at risk.

They are believed to be less common during caesarean section because the scalpel typically punctures the amniotic sac. Noah is reportedly still in hospital as Baggieri says the newborn was 'tired' after the birth but the tot is expected to be allowed to go home by the end of the week. *Daily Mail*

WHAT IS AN EN CAUL BIRTH?

Being born 'en caul' means a portion of the amniotic sac or membrane remains on the baby's head at birth.

It affects less than one-in-100 000 newborns.

A caul is a thin, filmy membrane that may be attached to the head, face and ears or could drape over the head and cover part of the torso.

The caul is harmless and can be removed by healthcare professionals by peeling it back from the skin.

Incisions must be made at the nostrils to allow the baby to breathe.

The loops can then be carefully removed from behind the baby's ears.

In folklore, children born en caul are said to possess supernatural abilities and be destined for greatness.

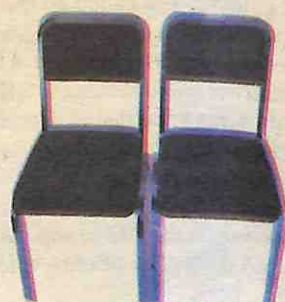


UNUSUAL LABOUR: The amniotic sac fails to burst in a one-in-100 000 rare occurrence. (Daily Mail)

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Focus on Africa News

Continental News



PEACE: Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

Under-fire Bashir vows peace push for war zones

KHARTOUM - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who has faced weeks of protests against his three-decade rule, pledged to promote peace in the country's war zones in an address to paramilitary units on Wednesday.

"I assure you that the year 2019 will be the year of peace in Sudan," the president told members of the Popular Defence Force (PDF), a paramilitary unit that has been widely used to fight longstanding rebellions in Darfur and in regions near the South Sudan bor-

der.

"We want to keep our guns completely silent," said Bashir, wearing military uniform.

His remarks came weeks after he extended ceasefires in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, where troops and paramilitaries have been battling rebels with pre-independence links to South Sudan.

"We want you to go to the war zones, not for fighting but for building schools and health centres," Bashir said.

The paramilitaries of the PDF are civilians, many of them young students. Before South Sudan broke away in

2011, they played a major role in the brutal decades-long civil war against the independence movement.

The PDF has also fought in Sudan's western region of Darfur, where ethnic minority rebels took up arms in 2003, drawing a scorched response from the government that prompted war crimes charges against Bashir from the International Criminal Court. The president has repeatedly denied the charges, which also include genocide and crime against humanity.

AFP

Opposition welcomes firmer stance from US against army violence

HARARE - The Nelson Chamisa-led Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) on Wednesday welcomed the US government's call for "a neutral third party" to preside over dialogue between Zimbabwe's political rivals.

The US issued a strong statement on Tuesday, in which it condemned the violence that broke out last month and the heavy-handed response from security forces that followed.

Deputy government spokesperson Robert Palladino said the US wants soldiers accused of rape and torture during the crackdown to be tried for their crimes.

"The US remains seriously concerned about the excessive use of force by government of Zimbabwe security forces since January 14, which has resulted in at least 13 deaths, 600 victims of violence, torture or rape, and more than 1 000 arrests," he said in a statement.

"The US calls on all sides to come together immediately in national dialogue. The dialogue process must be credible, inclusive and mediated by a neutral third party.

"In order for such a dialogue to succeed, the government of Zimbabwe should end its excessive violence and intimidation, immediately release the civil society activists who have been arbitrarily detained, and hold security force members responsible for human rights violations and abuses accountable."

Palladino's statement came a day after Namibian President Hage Geingob, the Chairperson the Southern African Development Community (SADC), weighed in on Monday with support for president Emmerson Mnangagwa's administration. SADC's response angered civic society groups and the MDC for failing to censure Mnangagwa for deploying the army. This is the second time in six months that the army has been deployed onto the streets to quell protests.

Times live



WELCOMES: Nelson Chamisa.

Cameroon's opposition leader formally charged with 'rebellion'

YAOUNDE - Cameroon's opposition leader Maurice Kamto was on Tuesday charged with rebellion, insurrection and hostility against the homeland, more than two weeks after his arrest on 28 January, one of his lawyers said.

Kamto lost what he says was a fraudulent presidential election in October and was detained late last month after organising a small rally against long-serving President Paul Biya. Security services broke up that rally with live fire, shooting and wounding six people, and have put down other rare anti-Biya protests across the country, including the main commercial city Douala and the capital Yaounde, since the vote. There was no immediate comment from Kamto's party and supporters whether the charges

made against him on Tuesday would trigger more demonstrations.

"The investigating judges charged Maurice Kamto at the military tribunal," his lawyer Christopher Ndong told Reuters. "This is not a judicial matter. This is politics."

Another of his lawyers, Emmanuel Simh, told Reuters the charges he faces include: "hostility against the homeland, incitement to insurrection, offence against the president of the republic, destruction of public buildings and goods." Twenty-two members of his Cameroon Renaissance Movement (MRC) are also on trial for the same charges, lawyers said.

Cameroon authorities could not immediately be reached for comment.

Africa News

'Death toll in election stampede now at 15'

PORT HARCOURT - Fifteen people were killed in a stampede at an election campaign rally in southern Nigeria held by President Muhammadu Buhari, health officials said on Wednesday, in an updated toll.

Kem-Daniel Elebiga, spokesman for the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, said "a total of 15 bodies were brought in" on Tuesday.

Three were men and the others were women, he added.

Twelve injured people were brought in, nine of whom remain in hospital. "They are all responding well to treatment," he said.

Police in Rivers state, of which Port Harcourt is the capital, earlier

gave a toll of four dead and four injured, while Buhari's office said "several" people lost their lives.

Conflicting death tolls are not unusual in Nigeria, although the authorities often issue lower numbers.

Local media said the stampede happened when panic broke out at the end of a rally, held in the city's Adokiye Amiesimaka Stadium.

Crowds tried to force their way through a locked exit.

"Those from behind were pushing and putting pressure on those in front, leading to some persons falling on the ground and being trampled upon," said journalist Egufe Yafugborhi, of the Vanguard newspaper.

AFP

BRIEFS

'Respect legal right to free speech'

PARIS - France has officially reacted to the arrest of Cameroon opposition chief Maurice Kamto and hundreds of his supporters. The French foreign ministry said it was following developments in Cameroon and called on the government to respect the rights of people to freely express their opinions. "We are concerned at this legal development and are continuing to follow the situation of Mr. Kamto and that of approximately 200 of his supporters who are being held in detention. "The Cameroonian opposition, of which Mr. Kamto is a leading figure, must be able to freely express its opinions, in accordance with the law," a response to Q&A daily press briefing read.

Africa News

'Election No Be War'

LAGOS - President Muhammadu Buhari's party has issued a stern warning to the United States and other foreign allies for allegedly making "unguarded" public statements ahead of Nigeria's presidential polls this weekend.

The US, Britain and the European Union have in recent weeks publicly warned against vote-rigging and election violence, and also expressed concern over President Muhammadu Buhari's suspension of Nigeria's top judge last month.

"Nigerian security services must provide a safe and secure environment for the Nigerian people to exercise their rights," read part of a statement issued by the US State Department last week.

AFP

US-Libya forces raid al Qaeda site

CAIRO - Joint US-Libyan forces raided an al Qaeda site in the Libyan city of Ubari on Wednesday, according to a statement by a Libyan official.

The spokesperson for Fayez al-Sarraj, Head of the Presidency Council of the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord of Libya, said in a statement late on Wednesday that a site with a number of al Qaeda members in Ubari was "raided" but gave no details. "This joint work between the Presidency Council of the government of National Accord and the US government coincided with the meeting of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Foreign Minister Mohamed Sayala at the Global Coalition To Defeat Islamic State meeting last week", spokesperson Mohamed El Sallak said in the statement. Reuters

AU calls for peace conference

ADDIS ABABA - The African Union (AU) has proposed a global conference in July to try to resolve the Libya conflict with the aim of holding elections in October. A statement on Tuesday said the 55-member body would like to hold "an international conference on reconciliation in Libya under the auspices of the AU and UN" during the first half of July. The declaration also requested the AU commission, alongside the United Nations and the Libyan government, take "all the necessary measures for the organisation of presidential and legislative elections in October 2019".

Aljazeera

Focus on World News

Global News



US, China seek deal to prevent trade-war escalation

BEIJING - US and Chinese negotiators yesterday kicked off two days of high-level talks that President Donald Trump says could decide whether he escalates the bruising tariff battle between the world's two biggest economies.

Trump indicated this week he was open to extending a trade truce beyond March 1 depending on progress in Beijing. In December, he postponed plans to sharply hike tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports to allow more time for negotiation. The two economic superpowers have already imposed duties on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, which has weighed on their manufacturing sectors and shaken global financial markets. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin are meeting with China's top economic czar Liu He, seeking to build on progress made in Washington last month. "We are looking forward to discussions today," Mnuchin said as he left his hotel yesterday morning for the talks.

Expectations for a trade deal have grown as China faces pressure from slowing economic growth, and as swooning global markets pose a challenge to Trump and his economic advisors.

Data released yesterday in China showed its trade surplus with the US -- a major source of anger within the Trump administration -- narrowed in January to \$27.3 billion, even as its American imports plunged 41 per cent for the month from a year earlier.

China's total imports also sank for the month, pointing to weak demand, amid slowing economic growth. Chinese President Xi Jinping plans to meet with the US officials in Beijing this week, a report in the South China Morning Post said on Wednesday, bolstering hopes for the talks and world markets.

AFP

US fails to halt Iran's bid to free frozen billions

WASHINGTON - An international court on Wednesday ruled Iran can proceed with a bid to unfreeze assets in the United States, rejecting Washington's claims the case must be halted because of Tehran's alleged support for international terrorism.

Washington had argued that Iran's "unclean hands" -- a reference to Tehran's suspected backing of terror groups -- should disqualify its lawsuit to recover \$2 billion in assets frozen by the US Supreme Court in 2016. The International

Court of Justice in The Hague threw out some of the US challenges, and said it had the right to hold full hearings at a later date as to whether Tehran will get the money back. Chief judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf said the UN's top court "unanimously rejects the preliminary objections to admissibility raised by the United States of America". The court also "finds that it has jurisdiction in the case," Yusuf said at the end of an hour-long reading of the decision. Washington, however, called the court's ruling a "significant

victory" for America because it threw out a key issue pertaining to Iran's claims of sovereign immunity. The case is one in which "the Iranian regime seeks to misuse legal process and distort principles of international law," the State Department said. Tehran said the United States had illegally seized Iranian financial assets and those of Iranian companies -- and with Iran's clerical regime facing economic difficulties after sanctions and a fall in its currency, resolving the case remains crucial. **AFP**

Venezuela opposition takes steps to seize oil revenue

CARACAS - Venezuela's opposition-controlled congress named new temporary boards of directors to state-oil firm PDVSA on Wednesday, in an effort to wrest the OPEC nation's oil revenue from increasingly isolated socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

Maduro lashed out at the congress leader, Juan Guaido, saying in an interview that he would face the courts "sooner or later" for violating the constitution, after Guaido invoked constitutional provisions last month to assume an interim presidency.

Although many Western countries have recognised Guaido as legitimate head of state, Maduro retains control of state institutions and Guaido needs funds if he is to assemble an interim government.

Controlling PDVSA's US refiner Citgo Petroleum, Venezuela's most valuable foreign asset, would go some way to helping in that, though seizing the reins of PDVSA itself seems improbable while Maduro remains in power. "We have taken a step forward with the reconstruction of PDVSA," Guaido said on

Twitter, just after congress named the directors. "With this decision, we are not only protecting our assets, we also avoid continued destruction." PDVSA's crude output has slumped to 70-year lows, due to crushing debts, widespread corruption, and little maintenance of its infrastructure. The administration of US President Donald Trump, which backs Guaido, imposed sanctions on Venezuela's oil sector on Jan. 28, aimed at curbing exports to the United States and upping the pressure on Maduro.

Reuters

Brussels proposes adding Saudi Arabia to money-laundering blacklist

BRUSSELS - Saudi Arabia expressed "regret" yesterday over EU proposals to add it and six other countries to a money-laundering blacklist of governments that do too little to thwart the financing of terrorism and organised crime.

The move comes amid heightened tensions between Riyadh and European capitals over the murder last year of the columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate

in Istanbul. The European Commission said on Wednesday it wanted to add seven countries including Saudi Arabia and Panama to another 16 already on the register -- such as Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Ethiopia and North Korea.

Inclusion on the list does not trigger sanctions, but it does oblige European banks to apply tighter controls on transactions with customers and institutions in those countries. **AFP**

BRIEFS

Brazil's Bolsonaro leaves hospital

BRASILIA - Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro left the hospital in Sao Paulo on Wednesday early afternoon and is returning to Brasilia to resume his duties, his spokesman said.

Bolsonaro had an operation on Jan. 28 to remove a colostomy bag that was attached to his intestine after he was stabbed in the abdomen while campaigning for the elections in September. "In the last five months, there have been three surgeries and one month in hospital," Bolsonaro tweeted. "I just have to thank God and everyone for finally being able to return to work."

Reuters

Black eye for Chinese diplomacy

CARACAS - China and Venezuela seemed like natural bedfellows: one is the planet's top crude-oil importer and the other possesses the world's largest reserves. But Venezuela's descent into crisis -- with President Nicolas Maduro and self-proclaimed leader Juan Guaido vying for control as the economy unravels -- has highlighted the gamble inherent in China's \$60 billion investment in the South American nation. Over the past decade, Beijing has extended vast amounts of credit to Caracas for oil shipments and infrastructure deals, in what China has touted as a "mutually beneficial" relationship.

AFP

Sanctions-proof energy technologies explored

NAMPO - Power-strapped North Korea is exploring two ambitious alternative energy sources -- tidal power and coal-based synthetic fuels -- that could greatly improve living standards and reduce its reliance on oil imports and vulnerability to sanctions. Finding a lasting energy source that isn't vulnerable to sanctions has long been a top priority for North Korean officials. Leader Kim Jong Un used his New Year's address last month to call on the country to "radically increase the production of electricity" and singled out the coal-mining industry as a "primary front in developing the self-supporting economy." For the longer-term, he stressed the importance of atomic, wind and tidal power. **AP**

'Possibility to weather new sanctions'

MOSCOW - Russia has the tools to shield its economy from possible new US sanctions, and the central bank and finance ministry have already created a buffer to protect the country's banks, the Russian finance minister said yesterday. US Republican and Democratic senators on Wednesday introduced a bill seeking to punish Russia for meddling in US elections and for its aggression in Ukraine by imposing sanctions on its banking, energy and foreign debt.

Reuters

Observer Entertainment

New Reviews Star Signs Celebrity Watch Cartoons

ITS VALENTINE'S EXTRAVAGANZA WEEKEND

COMPILED BY AYANDA DLAMINI

IF you were left out with no roses, chocolates, partner yesterday on Valentine's Day, well, you can still celebrate with other kids this weekend. The spirit of the month love is still on. Sibebe Resort brings you the Valentine's Extravaganza featuring strictly local acts. You don't to miss this!

Tonight

FRIDAY HANGOUT FEATURING NKABINDE FROM ISIBAYA

Where: Solani's Shisanyama
Time: 6pm

Tonight, Solani's Shisanyama brings you the 'Friday Hangout Featuring Nkabinde from Isibaya.' He is expected to make a special appearance. All kinds of music will be dished out by Solani's Shisanyama's resident DJs such as DopeDeep, Bloss, M'eugie, Ayacity, Rhythmic Soul and Yung Yas. Entry is free before 10pm and E50 thereafter.

HOF TRAFFIC LIGHTS party

Where: House on Fire
Times: 8pm

This year's HOF Valentine's themed event promises to deliver best performances from spinners.

Traffic light stickers will be available at the door. These will be your ticket to love's fast lane. Choose a red sticker if you are taken, orange if you are undecided and green if you are single.

Music will be dished out by DJs SoWhat, M'kay, Ophis, Lu, and Supa CDQ. Tickets will be available at the door at E80. Doors open at 8pm.

TOMORROW

OUT OF TOWN SESSION

Where: Encrypto Arts Lounge, Ngwenya
Time: 2pm

Encrypto Arts Lounge brings the second session of Fun Out Of Town tomorrow. Line-up of the day includes Quad Element, Lerato; an upcoming country musician, as well as Smallz the Comedian.



Themba 'TBK'



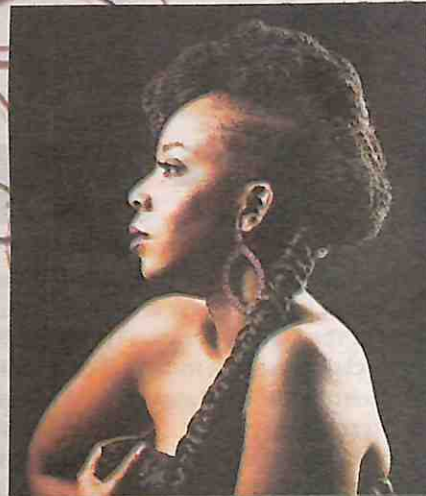
DJ Mbo.



Nkabinde at Solani's.



Nomalungelo D.



Amanda Mo.

Valentine's Extravaganza

Where: Sibebe Resort

Time: 2pm

The Valentine's Extravaganza is here. The concert will showcase Eswatini's biggest stars such as Bholoja, Amanda Mo, Symphony, Nomalungelo, Floewe, Denzel, X-Mile, Quad Element, Lindelwa, DD Cool, MBO, Master P, Zulu D, MixMash, 1D, Zwide, Knoxman and Bloss, to mention a few. Tickets are vying for E150 for general, E250 VIP and E350 for VVIP.

URBAN SATURDAYS WITH CZAR

WHERE: Solani's Shisanyama

Time: 6pm

Tomorrow's chill session at the most loved spot; Solani's Shisanyama will be headlined by DJ Czar.

Supporting acts will be the spot's resident

spinners such as Ayacity, DopeDeep, Bloss, to mention a few dishing FINE tunes for fun devotees. Entry fee is free before 10pm and E30 thereafter.

International Condom Day Celebration

WHERE: The George Hotel

TIME: 12 noon

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) Eswatini has partnered with SwaziBoy Entertainment and other artists to put together a music show in an effort to commemorate the International Condom Day. The event will also see artists entertaining the attendees. Swazi Boy Entertainment DJs will be part of the celebrations on the day together with KrTC and Nobuhle.

Entry is free.

Save the date

Sands- Loyiso Ndimbonile Night with Mixmash

Where: Happy Valley Hotel

When: February 23

Sunday chill out with Afrotration

When: February 24

Where: The George Hotel

Solani's with Aka

WHERE: Solani's Shisanyama

WHEN: March 1

MTN Bushfire 2019

WHERE: Malandelas

WHEN: May 24-26

Standard Bank Luju Festival

WHERE: Malandelas, Malkerns

WHEN: August 3.

BACK TO THE CROSS CRUSADE DATES REVEALED

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

THE third edition of the Back To The Cross Crusade dates have been revealed.

The third edition of the crusade will be held from February 25 to March 1 in Mbabane.

Under the leadership of Bishop Mpendulo Nkambule and his wife

Zanele Mbokazi-Nkambule, the crusade promises to be bigger and better this year.

Like in the previous years, where many pastors and gospel artists came to support and minister, featured this year are the likes of Dr Tumi, Sipho Makhabane, Phathwakahle, Dr SD Gumbi, Pastor Sandile Mlambo, Shongwe and Khuphuka, Sipho Ngwenya and many more. This year's

powerful line-up is just as the exciting as gospel artists that will grace the stage.

"This is a soul winning and revival crusade. It is not about any church or any ministry. It is for everyone who believes in Jesus Christ and the finished work of the cross. We are, therefore, calling upon and inviting everyone who wants to contribute towards the success of this crusade to join the

BACK TO THE CROSS soldiers team." "We are calling on various soldiers of the Cross to come forward and assist.

Our aim is to make the crusade as inclusive as possible. People from the Catholic Church, Lutheran, AmaZion, and these who are not believers must feel free to attend. This is the main purpose of this crusade; to bring people to Christ," said Mbokazi-

Nkambule. As a build-up to the crusade, this year will see Mbokazi-Nkambule visiting schools and colleges and the evangelism team visiting bus ranks and all strategic areas to proclaim the risen Christ.

Those who want to volunteer as soldiers of the cross must like the Back To The Cross Facebook page, and send a WhatsApp message with their names and what they would like to assist with to +268 7820 6155 / +268 7626 2538.

MINISTER LAUNCHES FIRST ARTS SUMMIT

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

THE first ever Eswatini Arts Summit kicked off on a high note with Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga gracing the event.

The minister expressed his excitement about the event held at Eswatini Electricity Company auditorium in Manzini yesterday.

Speaking at the event which was also graced by a number of artists in the country, Madze said the summit was a very exciting time for the arts industry in the country as it provides the nation with an opportunity to come together for the first time to share ideas on how they can take the industry and even greater heights.

"Indeed, the cultural and creative industries have become a driver and enabler of sustainable development worldwide, generating annual global revenues in billions. It is also estimated that the sector provided nearly 30 million jobs worldwide and employed more people under the age of 29 than any other sector," said Bulunga.

He said these few statistics were a clear testimony of the vast potential carried by the arts industry and lay bare some of the results the country can reap if it properly empowers the industry. The minister also stressed on various points, including the importance of such summits, which according to him, can help develop the industry.

"It is clear that through the arts industry, we can counter one of the biggest challenges facing Eswatini, that of youth unemployment. We hope that this platform will allow you as stakeholders to come up with ideas and

"...It is clear that through the arts industry, we can counter one of the biggest challenges facing Eswatini, that of youth unemployment. We hope that this platform will allow you as stakeholders to come up with ideas and strategies that will help the arts industry alleviate this challenge, amongst others,"

strategies that will help the arts industry alleviate this challenge, amongst others," said Bulunga.

He said living in the 21st century, frameworks should also address the significant and rapid changes posed by digital technologies while protecting and promoting the work of artists and cultural professionals in the digital environment.

"In this regard, government is committed to creating an enabling environment within which arts will be promoted as an integral component of our culture," he added.

Ending his opening speech, the minister encouraged all attendees to make it a point that their deliberations during the summit provide

swift interventions for the creative sector to take its rightful position within the competitive industries' space and ensure striving and sustainable professions. "We are keenly looking forward to the resolutions and declarations from this summit," said the minister.

EXCITED:
Minister of
Sports, Culture
and Youth Affairs
Harries 'Madze'
Bulunga.



In my opinion...

Buying an album is out dated

NOW that technology has become more widespread and common, it's safe to say that 'physical' methods of buying just about anything have decreased dramatically. Music is not an exception.

There's easy access to free and paid for music streaming services such as Spotify, Apple Music, Deezer and so on. When an artist releases new music, I'm sure that most, if not all people, will turn to YouTube before running to the nearest music store. It's about money, convenience and precious time. CDs are mainly used for decoration nowadays.

Building on the last point, if people can get the same goods for free, why bother paying? This means that piracy is on the rise.

Downloaders

The main examples are the 'Deezloader' software and 'YouTube to MP3' downloaders that allow high-quality music to be downloaded instantly. Roughly 80 per cent of the country's population stopped buying CDs because of the price tag. Of course, some people prefer to buy music in order to support artists - usually in the form of CDs. But those numbers continue to drop as piracy software make advancements.

The problem with the music industry is that it still hasn't adapted to the internet era. It's easy to blame fans, but we need to acknowledge the fact that the business, as a whole, is failing musicians. The problem is, the music business has changed, but the record labels have not. Artists don't need to have physical albums printed. They don't necessarily need a record label's pricey public relations hype machine in order to become a success. A singer or band can use

social media as PR and put their album online without the help of a major label.

It's my opinion that music should not be free, and my prediction is that individual artists and their labels will someday decide what an album's price point is. I hope they don't underestimate themselves or undervalue their art.

So what do you do instead? How do you support an artist that you really love?

Purchasing

Buy merchandise directly from the artist if possible. Many stores will take cuts for distribution and sales, so purchasing directly from the artist is the best way to ensure your money is going to them.

If you do want to buy an album, don't do it through iTunes or at a store. Do it through the artist's personal site or at a show, where there are fewer middlemen taking a cut of the revenue.

Ultimately, there's no ideal way to support your favourite musician at this point in time. Streaming hasn't stabilised itself as a consistent form of income, touring can be expensive, and only a big fan is going to buy a T-shirt. But buying albums is not a solution to this problem.

By Simangaliso Zwane

The main examples are the 'Deezloader' software and 'YouTube to MP3' downloaders that allow high-quality music to be downloaded instantly

DJ CZAR to host 'Bucket Sundays Dedication'

BY SIMANGALISO ZWANE

DJ CZAR means business.

The deep house spinner has introduced a series of shows dubbed; 'Bucket Sundays Dedication' which will be held at The George Hotel.

According to the spinner, this is a new concept meant to bring the spirit of a chilled-out Sunday through music and soul food that recognises strings beyond arts and culture.

"Possibly the best avant-Garde experience the country has to offer. The family reunion style venue boasts a comfortable, expansive eating and drinking zone featuring quality music programming and performances from the country's best artists

and DJs combining nu-jazz, neo soul, hip hop, house and anything with a groove," he said.

Mouth-watering

He said the hotel's chefs would bring their unique experience to deliver mouth-watering cuisines adding a signature in their lead traditional braai, shisanyama and games that would see you coming back for more.

"Ambient music adds extra psychedelic atmosphere, another tint is to bring your camp chairs, cooler boxes (beers and ciders only), settle, relax unwind and chart a course on the garden lawn." Entrance to the event is free. Cooler boxes with beverages will be charged only E50," he added.

MegaSound co-founder's birthday slated for April 18

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

HAVING celebrated his birthday for the past five years with his fans, former DJ and MegaSound co-founder Zipho Zwane promises another banging birthday celebration.

The show will be held at Solani's Shisanyama on April 18.

"The team is busy working out what could be the best theme for the event but we aim to make everyone feel like this is their party. We started preparations ahead of time to make sure we deliver the best entertainment and get the right acts on board early.

"This will definitely have a different feel than the past birthday party but still being the best way to start your Easters," he said.

He said because he would be celebrating his birthday publicly for the fifth time, he was proud to say all the other years have been nothing short of amazing.

He mentioned that the entertainment has been great and the support from the public has been fantastic as always when it comes

to MegaSound events but yet again, this party is never about him but all the 'January kids' that don't get to celebrate their birthdays because of the excuse that everyone is broke in January.

"So to all the January kids, on April 18, it's your birthday party. Also, this birthday party is about all the charities that get to benefit from the proceedings of the event through the MegaSound Charity Campaign," he added.

Zwane also revealed that this would be the last time he celebrates his birthday with the public.

"This being my last birthday to be celebrated with the public; people should expect a massive celebration to end what has been a great five years.

"I'm lucky to have made good relationships with so many artists and DJs in the Kingdom of Eswatini and South Africa so I will definitely be inviting quite a number of those friends to make sure the entertainment is of high standards. Some may not be on the line-up but people should expect lots of great surprises," he said.



COME ONE, COME ALL:
MegaSound Co-Founder Zipho
Zwane.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

George Clooney slammed by Thomas Markle

NEW YORK - Thomas Markle agrees with George Clooney - the press is treating Meghan Markle like crap, but he's pissed off at George's comments on his relationship with his daughter.

Sources close to Meghan's father tell TMZ, he's upset the actor chimed in over the letter the Duchess of Sussex sent him - which has now been posted by multiple media outlets.

ICYMI -- George said in a recent interview he found the broadcasting of Meghan's letter to her dad "frustrating" and "irresponsible." We're told Thomas took this as a dig, and



SLAMMED: George Clooney.

thinks Clooney should "do a little research before he talks about Meghan and her father." **TMZ**

Cardi B gets lip pierced for \$25

LOS ANGELES - Cardi B is proudly showing off a new piercing, and the tattoo artist who gave it to her had no clue she was a huge celeb!!! Luis Vega, the owner of City of Angels Tattoos, tells TMZ, Cardi randomly walked into his shop Monday looking to get her lip pierced. Luis says he didn't know it was Cardi -- amazing, right -- until they started talking. It's funny, Luis thought he recognised her face, and initially figured she was just a former client. After Cardi told him she was from



UNRECOGNISABLE: Cardi B.

New York, Luis told her she looked and sounded like Cardi, and that's when light bulbs started going off. **TMZ**

Kandi Burruss' hubby defends her after she's mommy shamed

ATLANTA - Kandi Burruss is a boss, and those bagging on her for taking a month off from her son's life to do "Celebrity Big Brother" are a bunch of lame-os, so says her hubby, Todd Tucker.

We got Todd and his whole brood Wednesday at LAX and he staunchly defended his wife for choosing to take part in the reality show.

If you didn't know, the 'Real Housewives of Atlanta' star caught some flak over the weekend when some fans called her out for missing her son, Ace's school recital.

Todd is having none of it, and wanted to make it perfectly clear that Kandi's decision to join the CBS hit show only came after she sat down



PROTECTED: Kandi Burruss.

and talked to the whole family. In fact, her daughter, Riley was at the airport, too, and co-signed on that sentiment. **TMZ**

Usher says he's okay after recording studio robbery

LOS ANGELES - You wouldn't blame Usher for being rattled less than 24 hours after he narrowly avoided a run-in with armed robbers during a recording session, however, he seems totally unfazed by it.

Usher was out Wednesday in LA when a photographer asked him about the harrowing experience. TMZ broke the story, the singer was at the same WeHo recording studio as Rich The Kid when a suspect pistol-whipped the rapper and his entourage.

Usher still won't say anything about the experience, but did have a message for any fans concerned about

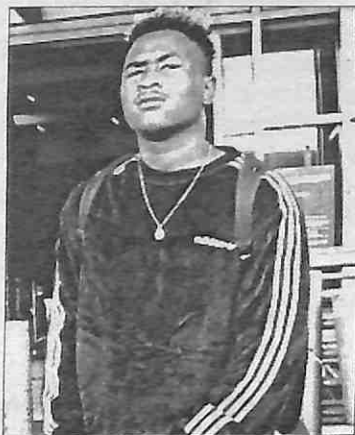


FINE: Usher.

his well-being. As reported, the suspect or suspects made a clean getaway after opening fire Tuesday outside Westlake Recording Studio. **TMZ**

Distraction Boyz muso loses over 200k followers

JOHANNESBURG - A global Instagram glitch has led to a social media meltdown and Distraction Boyz muso Zipho "Goldmax" Mthembu losing over 200 000 followers in a matter of minutes. Instagram users were outraged on Wednesday when some accounts suddenly lost thousands of followers. Ariana Grande and Kylie Jenner were among the hardest hit. Ariana lost over three-million followers, while Kylie lost two-million. Locally, Goldmax was among the worst hit losing two-thirds of his followers. The star took to Instagram yesterday morning to complain about the losses and pleaded with Instagram to sort their ish out. According to Elle, there is speculation that the



LOSES: Muso Zipho.

problem started when the social media giant went on a cleanup operation to delete all spam, automated and fake accounts. **Times Live**

Trevor Noah announces deets of second book

CAPE TOWN - Trevor Noah is already owning 2019 and it's only the second week of February! The South African comedian recently bagged four nominations at the prestigious National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) awards. Trevor took to social media to express his gratitude to his fans and explained what The Daily Show With Trevor Noah got nominated for.

"That excitement after finding out we've been nominated for four NAACP awards: Outstanding Talk Series, Outstanding Variety Show, Outstanding Host in a Talk Show/Series,



NEW HEIGHTS: Trevor Noah.

Outstanding Writing in a Comedy Series. Thank you so much to everyone who's been a part of this journey!" **Sowetan Live**

Prince Kaybee on love triangle, stolen songs

DURBAN - Prince Kaybee has confirmed cheating allegations involving his ex-girlfriend and close friend, TNS. The Charlotte hitmaker also responded to claims of "royalty theft" leveled against him by TNS.

Kaybee shared a lengthy statement on Facebook in response to a Sunday World report that claimed the Wajellwa hitmaker allegedly didn't pay TNS for songs they co-produced.

"I would like both the public and the media to know that the allegations made against me are false and they are spread by Nkazimulo Ngema with the intent to discredit my brand." Prince accused TNS (real name Nkazimulo Ngema) of spreading the "lies" in order to tarnish his brand.



CONTROVERSIAL: Prince Kaybee.

Kaybee said he especially felt betrayed that TNS had allegedly taken his girlfriend. **Times Live**

Lerato Kganyago's clap backs are getting more brutal

PRETORIA - Not a day goes by that someone on Twitter doesn't just randomly come for Lerato Kganyago and, while she may have let them have it in the past, the chilli in her clapback sure is increasing! The Metro FM presenter can't even breathe without offending some people and this time it was her comments on black people constantly pulling each other down, that got one tweep rattled.

The person tweeted that because Lerato is a celebrity and not a "social-ogost" (erm... whatever that means, he might have meant sociologist), she shouldn't comment on social



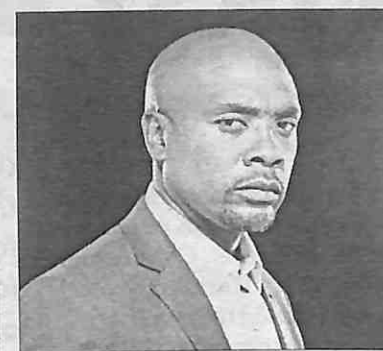
ATTACKED: Lerato Kganyago.

issues. To add fuel to the fire, the troll also claimed Lerato doesn't qualify as a black person. "We do not regard Lerato Kganyago as a black person, therefore she cannot speak for us," the tweep said. **Times Live**

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST



TODAY



DEAD END: Mpiyakhe.

Lillian's life is on the line, forcing Beauty into a difficult position. Still battling with his own demons, Mpiyakhe's investigation of Ngwebedla leads to another dead end. Ntwenhle gives Busi a piece of her mind.



TODAY



NEW SPY: Lincoln.

While Gabriel ties himself in knots, Lincoln hires a menace to spy on him. Hendrik lands himself in a surreal position. Makgorometsa's date takes an unexpected turn.



TODAY



GETS A TASTE: Moliehi.

Is it the end of the road for Shumi? Moliehi gets a taste of her own medicine. Vho-Mukondeleli relives her youth.



TODAY



DISCOVERS: Mampho.

Gail is forced to give David an alibi. Dumi follows Sabelo to the scene of the heist. Mampho discovers Joe was lying all along.

The Most Confusing lyrics I've ever Heard "if i Marry You, Will You Marry Me"

Follow Us @ No Chill In Mzansi



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Be more aggressive when it comes to your intentions in a romantic situation, Capricorn. It would be a great idea to impress your lover with a delicious home-cooked meal on a night like this. Put a bit more passion into the equation and relight the spark that might have recently gone out. Don't hesitate to be the instigator in love.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

It would be a good idea to socialize with others today in a comfortable, open setting. Say what you feel instead of just concentrating on what you think, Aquarius. Be just as good a listener as you expect others to be for you. Join a writing circle or take a painting class. Your creativity is looking for an outlet today, so you might as well share this gift among friends.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

Stick with what comes naturally, Pisces. If something feels difficult or abrasive, this is a sign that your energy is better used elsewhere. But don't turn away until you're sure that what you're facing is actually a combative force instead of your own skewed sense of reality. You could be overly sensitive about a given situation and thereby making up scenarios that don't even exist.



Aries March 21 – April 19

Your heart may feel extra loving today, Aries, which is good, since you will probably need it. There is most likely someone close to you who needs a lift of some sort. You may be like the tow truck that arrives to pull a car out of the ditch. Be careful when you hook up the chains. Don't scratch the bumper or pull too hard all at once!



Taurus April 20 – May 20

You may feel a bit protective today, Taurus, and with good reason. Others are likely to be aggressive when it comes to moving in on your territory. Be strong. Assure yourself as well as those in your charge that everything will be fine. Take reasonable precautions, but don't completely close yourself off to the outside world. That knock at the gate could just as easily provide much-needed help.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

You may be a bit confused today, Gemini. More than likely, it will be hard for you to get an accurate read on your emotions. One of your automatic responses in such situations like this is to turn to a close partner for advice. Unfortunately, this partner for advice may throw you into even more of a tailspin. What you need more than anything is to spend quality time alone.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

Secure your emotions and make sure

you're set in your mind before you take action today, Cancer. This is a terrific time to get things started. Following through to completion shouldn't be a problem. The difficult part is taking that first step. This can be easily done on a day like today, so don't miss this opportunity when your intuitive sense is extra keen.



Leo July 23 – August 22

Break through the potential moodiness of the day, Leo. Burst into song while walking down the street. Encourage others to sing back to you, as if your life were an opera. Your creativity is extra strong at this point, so let it shine in unexpected areas of your world. You have the wonderful ability to turn even the most mundane situations into something exciting.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

You may be plagued with restlessness, Virgo, to the point that you may not be able to get anything done. If you sense that this is happening to you even in the slightest degree, stop whatever you're doing and take a break. Your work isn't worth the sacrifice of your sanity. Consider going to a spa or call up a friend with a hot tub so you can soak in some warm, relaxing water for a while.



Libra September 23 – October 23

Be careful of exerting your will too strongly toward someone who really isn't receptive to it, Libra. Be conscious of other people's feelings. Be gentle when it comes to love and romance. You have a yellow light, which means that it's OK to proceed. Be careful that the other person is receptive to your advances. Don't come across as too aggressive and end up making a fool of yourself.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

Overall, this should be a pretty good day for you, Scorpio, as long as you don't get overly sensitive about certain things. Your awareness is bound to be extra sharp today, so use this ability to stay alert and open to what's going on around you. Perhaps you're feeling a bit restless when it comes to matters of the heart. This is telling you to stop fidgeting and take action.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

This is one day in which your heart pounds with excitement. For some reason, Sagittarius, there's a quiet voice inside warning that you may be getting yourself into a great deal of trouble. An enthusiastic approach toward love may be necessary, but this may not be the best day to act. People are too sensitive and not necessarily that impressed with your potentially abrasive demeanor.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



HOME WORD SEARCH

PUZZLE CHOICE

WRITINGS

Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

C E R U T P I R C S J T E N N O S Q T
N E V S I S E H T V E S I T A E R T Q
I A A O B B I C H R O N I C L E D D V
E U B U O I D E W I J G O L V L I O O
D T T O T E O R P O S M G E E I S C L
I H K P V O I G U I P S L T T M S U U
T O E V I T B R R O S I U T O E E M M
O R R E E R N I S A R T N E N R R E E
R P U R P A C I O Y P O L R V I T N V
I A T R L L T S R G T H T E C C A T O
A P A T E I A A D A R C Y I H K T V T
L E R R O C I Y T A D A P T A T I O N
V R E N D D O I D B P E P P I I O E T
E L T M I L O R N T O M E H V J N S X
R E I E H N A I D E Q P N C Y N R S E
S D L M E F S G N I T I R W H P S A T
E G V O T V H T P I R C S U N A M Y L
M E M O I R S C X L E V O N O M E O P
N R E S O R P D N O I T A C I L B U P

ADAPTATION, AUTHOR, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, BIOGRAPHY, BOOK, CHRONICLE, COMPOSITION, DIARY, DISSERTATION, DOCUMENT, DRAFT, EDITORIAL, EPIC, EPISTLE, ESSAY, ISSUE, JOURNAL, LEDGER, LETTER, LIMERICK, LITERATURE,

MANUSCRIPT, MEMO, MEMOIRS, NOTATION, NOTE, NOVEL, PAPER, PLAY, POEM, PROSE, PUBLICATION, RECORD, SCRIPT, SCRIPTURE, SONNET, TEXT, THESIS, TOME, TREATISE, VERSE, VOLUME, WRITER, WRITINGS.



PANDA

A panda walks into a bar, sits down and orders a sandwich. He eats the sandwich, pulls out a gun and shoots the waiter dead. As the panda stands up to go, the bartender shouts, "Hey! Where are you going? You just shot my waiter and you didn't pay for your sandwich!" The panda yells back at the

bartender, "Hey man, I'm a panda! Look it up!" The bartender opens his dictionary and sees the following definition for Panda: "A tree dwelling marsupial of Asian origin, characterised by distinct black and white colouring. Eats, shoots and leaves."

USELESS FACTS

- There are more plastic flamingos in the US than there are real ones.
- The crack of a whip is actually a tiny sonic boom, since the tip breaks the sound barrier.
- Jupiter is bigger than all the other planets in our solar system combined.
- Hot water is heavier than cold
- The common idea that only 10 percent of the brain is used is not true as it is impossible to determine the actual percentage because of the complexity of the brain.

BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's Brainteasers

1. Ava has 18 stick insects. She gives away all but six of them. How many are left?
Answer: Six

2. A little boy and a soldier in uniform are at the park. The boy is the soldier's son but the soldier in uniform is not

the little boy's father. How can this be?

Answer: The soldier in uniform is the boy's mother.

Today's Brainteasers

- What thrives when you feed it but fades when you water it?
- What tree does everyone carry in their hand?



DSTV
Feel every moment

NEWS



Newly single Brenda has options! - Unmarried

BRENDA has found herself single but not without suitors.

In the groundbreaking season premiere of #Unmarried, her husband was getting married to someone else.

The ceremony came to a tragic end when her friends attended the wedding and gave Brenda a heads up. She

was never ready for the rest of the tea, the other women had a baby with her husband. To make matters worse, Donald handed over divorce papers because he wanted out!

Lesego - The Security Guard

Girls night always seems like a great idea when you're single, but what hap-

pens when we wake up with the security guard from work? Lesego has always been the polite guy from work, always respectful and friendly. Turns out, he's also a bartender at the girls favourite nightclub. Fast forward to a few drinks, and she wakes up next to him in the morning! Sure, he does-

n't have money but he seems like a good guy. Isn't that the only thing that counts?

Vuyo - The good looking actor

Vuyo is the new guy pursuing Brenda, and he's a total flame! Lesego actually had her eyes on him, but he was fixated with Brenda's beauty. These

two have gone on their first date, and the chemistry was lit! Vuyo had to ask "Your place or mine?", Brenda quickly put the brakes on the question insinuating it was too soon. Was it? You be the judge of that! However, we think they would make a picture perfect couple.

Donald - The ex husband

Well...ex husbands are always an option! She is familiar with Donald and surely, it can't be that easy to get over their relationship! Sure, he's a cheater and a liar but she's single and she needs to mingle. We think Donald might want to work things out, when he realises the perks of having a rich wife are gone!

The boss

Brenda has two options, sleep with her boss and get promoted OR don't sleep with him and her life at work could be really difficult! What should she choose? She is highly capable at her job, but the luck of being promoted on merit will prove to be impossible! If she's as ambitious as we think she is, she might consider this. However, her credentials speak for herself and she could apply anywhere!

Stay glued to your screens to catch how all of this will unfold, #Unmarried airs every Wednesday at 8pm.

These two have gone on their first date, and the chemistry was lit!

...Broken Hearts on V-Day

IT'S not all love and romance for these couples on Mzansi Magic.

If you're spending Valentine's Day alone and heartbroken, you're really not alone. These Mzansi Magic couples just couldn't get love right this Valentine's Day and will be spending it heartbroken too. Which couple do you wish would make amends and rekindle the flame?

Cebile and Eddie - #KhayaMzansi

Nothing kills love and trust like secrets and lies. No one knows this better than the Madimetjas! Cebile and Eddie's marriage was over before it began because he already had a wife in Limpopo, Raisibe, who is his first love and the woman he always meant to return to.

When Raisibe found out about Cebile, it was when she was mourning her only daughter, Mosima. Now Raisibe wants nothing to do with Eddie and Eddie wants nothing to do with Cebile because she killed Mosima.

While Eddie is trying to get back together with his first love, she seems to have already moved on with her long-time friend, Tokelo.

It's a long and complicated affair but this will certainly be a lonely Valentine's Day for Eddie and Cebile.

Fezile and Qondi - #Isibaya

They are the Mzansi favourite couple who just can't seem to get it together. At first, power stood in their way. Now, it is not very clear why Fezile and Qondi can't be together. He seems to think it is because she became the Queen Mother and is no longer on his level. She feels betrayed by his relationship with Cebile.

Will the greatest love story ever be told again? What we know for sure now is that with Fezile helping Cebile find her sister, Qondi is going to be enjoying a very lonely Valentine's Day wondering if she should have been more forgiving.

Khethiwe and Mndeni -

#eHostelaMzansi

They are no longer Khethumndeni - the couple separated on their wedding day and now it is just Khethiwe and Mndeni. The truth about Mndeni killing Khethiwe's father came out and although she loves him, she can never forgive him.

Should Mndeni have stayed away from Khethiwe when he found out what he had done to her family? Regardless, Khethiwe and Mndeni will both be shedding tears this Valentine's Day.

He loves her, but it seems she loves him not.

Kentucky and Bongani - #Isibaya

Is there anything more painful than seeing the love of your life moving on? Yep, try seeing the love of your life, who also broke your heart, moving on with your friend. Kentucky is already seething at the thought of Dabula and Ntwenhle being an item. Valentine's Day is going to be anything but romantic for her and just as lonely for her ex, Bongani.

It was the ultimate gesture of love: Even after being humiliated by Mapula's

lies about the baby in front of family, Otsile decided to forgive and beg her to come back to him. However, it was not meant to be. Mapula is back in Johannesburg now and Otsile is still lonely in Kweneng.

Vava Voom and Dam Dam

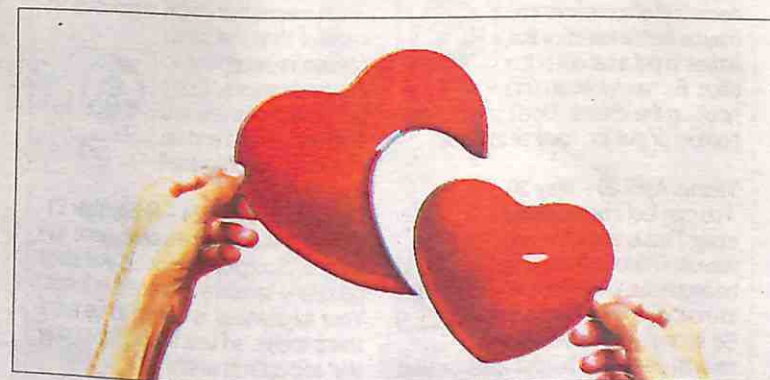
They are definitely not broken up, but with Saddam fighting for his life in hospital, it is going to be a grim Valentine's Day for Lillian. Here's hoping Saddam pulls through for her and Myeken'eze.

He loves her, but it seems she loves him not. Palesa is trying to get her life together and move on from the past,

unfortunately for Cheez, he is part of the past. Maybe a grand Valentine's Day gesture could bring the two together, but it looks like Palesa and Cheez are single this Valentine's.

It may be the greatest tragedy of all this month of love: Sengwayo's new wife has gone missing just days after their wedding. It's not that they don't want to be together, it is that they simply cannot be... until Sengwayo finds who kidnapped her and where she is being hidden.

Which of these couples are you rooting for? Stay tuned to see if your favs will get it together!



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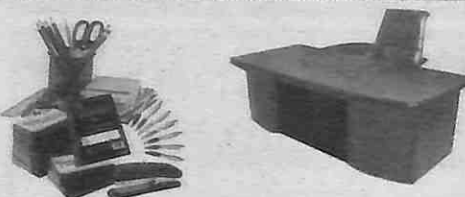
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Funeral: 16/02/2019
Vigil: 15/02/2019
Place: eNhlambeni

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Musa Patrick Maziya



Funeral: 16/02/2019
Vigil: 15/02/2019
Place: eNkamanzi

Kwatiswa tihlobo bangani nebasemsebentini kutsi Musa Patrick Maziya akasekho emhlabeni. Utawufihlwa ngeMgcibelo 16/02/19 ekuseni emva kwemlindzelo ngalesihlanu khona ekhaya lakhe eNkamanzi phansi KweMdzimba. Simemetelo sikhishwa nguJabulani Maziya egameni lemndeni.

Ndumeni Letta Dlamini
(La Makhubu)

Funeral: 16/02/2019
Place: eGolf Course

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Ndumeni Letta Dlamini(La Makhubu) lobekahlala e Trelawny Park kaManzini kutsi akasekho emhlabeni, emva kwekugula sikhatsi lesidze. Utawufihlwa eGolf Course Cemetery kaManzini ngeMgcibelo mhlaka 16 kulesetulu. Inkondzo itawubanjelwa khona ekhaya nga 5:45 ekuseni. Kute umlindzelo, kutaba nenkonzo lemfisha 6:30pm 15/02/2019. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngemalangenasekupheleni ka Sobhiyose.

Caleb Fana Dladlu



Funeral: 16/02/2019
Vigil: 15/02/2019
Place: eNgololweni

Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni wababe Caleb Fana Dladlu kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Utawufihlwa eNgololweni ngeMgcibelo mhlaka 16/02/2019 emva kwemlindzelo wangalesihlanu 15/02/2019. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Fida na Veli Dladlu egameni lemndeni.

Setsabile Mamba



Funeral: 16/02/2019
Vigil: 15/02/2019
Place: eMdumezulu

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani neskolwa sa Setsabile Mamba kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Umlindzelo ungalesihlanu bese ufihlwa ngeMgcibelo 16/02/2019 emdumezulu. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumake wakhe lomkhulu egameni lemndeni.

Mndofi Absalom Ndzinisa



Funeral: 16/02/2019
Vigil: 15/02/2019

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Mndofi Absalom Ndzinisa kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa 16/02/2019. Kunemlindzelo ngalesihlanu 15/02/2019. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeni.

Mahlabane Mngometulu



Funeral: 16/02/2019
Vigil: 15/02/2019
Place: Jamehlungwini

Relatives of Mahlabane Mngometulu are notified of his demise. Funeral on Saturday 16 February 2019 after a night vigil at Jamehlungwini ka Shewula. Announcement by family.

Nonhlanhla Mamba



Funeral: 16/02/2019
Vigil: 15/02/2019
Place: Emvembili

Relatives and friends of Nonhlanhla Mamba are notified of her untimely demise. She will be laid to rest on the Saturday 16/02/2019 after a vigil and memorial service on Friday 15/02/2019 at Calvary Methodist Church Emvembili at 5pm.

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Deepest
Condolences

Death is only a bridge towards eternal life with God. Certainly Heaven is rejoicing for another soul has finally reached his true home.



JOB

13:15

Though He slay me,
yet will I hope in him;
I will surely
defend my ways to
his face.

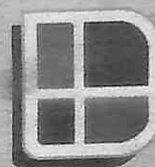
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*Death brings pain that time can only heal, no words could ease
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Spurs seize control after late flurry

LONDON - Tottenham produced a scintillating second-half performance to beat Borussia Dortmund 3-0 in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie at Wembley.

Heung-Min Son scored for the fourth game in a row to put Spurs ahead in the 47th minute.

Jan Vertonghen then volleyed in from Serge Aurier's cross in the 83rd minute before substitute Fernando Llorente headed in from a corner (86). Dortmund looked shell-shocked and now have a mountain to climb in the return leg on March 5.

The Bundesliga leaders had looked the brighter side in the first half but they could not match Spurs when they raised their level after half-time.

Son's goal - his

ninth in 11 games against Dortmund - set the tone for a dominant finish from Mauricio Pochettino's side that has put them on the brink of the last eight for the first time since 2011. Such a one-sided result in favour of Tottenham looked unlikely early in the game as Dortmund started positively. Spurs did see an eighth-minute shot from Lucas Moura whistle just past the post, but they were fortunate not to fall behind when Juan Foyth lost the ball in his own box and Christian Pulisic failed to beat Lloris at the near post.

The lively Jadon Sancho asked questions of

Tottenham's defence, but Dortmund could not find the final pass.

Thomas Delaney's shot from outside the box was palmed out by Hugo Lloris before Spurs started to threaten as Christian Eriksen fired over and then Roman Burki saved with an outstretched leg from Son.

Dortmund went close to breaking the deadlock late in the first half but Lloris produced a brilliant diving save to claw away a header from Dan-Axel Zagadou on the line.

Spurs looked a team transformed after half-time as they attacked with more vigour and intensity.

Son opened the scoring in the 47th minute when he volleyed in from Vertonghen's cross, before Vertonghen fired over after a driving run and then Eriksen shot at Burki. Dortmund were pinned back inside their own half and Spurs added to their lead late in the game.

Sky Sports



Asensio, VAR help Madrid snatch victory against Ajax

AMSTERDAM - Real Madrid needed a late winner from Marco Asensio and VAR's debut in the Champions League to beat a spirited Ajax 2-1 in the first leg of the last 16 on Wednesday.

Ajax have not beaten Madrid in 24 years and thought they were on their way at the Johan Cruyff Arena when Nicolas Tagliafico headed home after a Thibaut Courtois error.

But referee Damir Skomina judged Dusan Tadic to be offside upon review and Madrid showed no pity on their youthful opponents, Karim Benzema and Asensio scoring two

precious away goals in the second half.

Hakim Ziyech's equaliser at least keeps Ajax in touch heading into the second leg at the Santiago Bernabeu but Asensio's 87th-minute winner was a sucker-punch in a match the Dutch team had largely dominated.

Their ruled out opener will only add to the sense of what might have been and it was no surprise to see a cluster of red and white shirts surrounding the officials at the final whistle.

AFP

Ramos denies intentional booking

AMSTERDAM - Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos has denied he intentionally picked up a booking against Ajax in the Champions League, despite initially suggesting otherwise.

Ramos fouled Kasper Dolberg with Madrid leading 2-1 in the closing stages of the last-16 first-leg tie in Amsterdam, ruling him out of the return leg at the Bernabeu.

A suspension at this stage of the competition reduces the risk of missing a match in the final rounds.

In his post-match interview Ramos told reporters he would "be lying if I said I didn't force the booking", describing the act as a "tough deci-

sion".

However, the Spain international took to Twitter on Wednesday evening to deny manipulating UEFA's rules around suspension.

"In a game there is always a lot of tension and you have

to take decisions in seconds. The best thing about tonight was the result, the worst that I will not be in the second leg due to one moment in the game," he wrote.

"I want to make it clear that this hurts me more than it would hurt anyone, I did not get the yellow card on purpose, just like the last yellow card I got in the competition.

"I will be supporting from the stands like any other fan hoping we get into the quarter-finals."

Ramos faces a further one-match ban if he is found guilty of purposely obtaining a booking.

Sky Sports



'Sanchez is hopeless and a big disgrace'

LONDON - Alexis Sanchez has seen his recent showings for Manchester United branded 'a disgrace,' with Paul Ince accusing the Chilean of being 'a joke' and a 'million miles away from being at his best'.

A man acquired by the Red Devils from Arsenal in January 2018 has struggled to justify the faith shown in him during a difficult 12 months at Old Trafford.

He was considered to be quite a coup when snapped up ahead of rival interest from the likes of Manchester City. Sanchez has, however, delivered just five goals and a series of disappointing displays. The most recent of those came when stepping off the bench in a 2-0 Champions League defeat to Paris Saint-Germain. Goal

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Barcelona expecting Lionel Messi to sign another contract

BARCELONA - Lionel Messi will stay at Barcelona and his relationship with the club will last "forever", according to Club President Josep Maria Bartomeu.

Messi, 31, is enjoying another fine season with the Catalan giants, having scored 21 goals in as many La Liga games this season, with Barca six points clear at the summit.

The Argentine star has just over two years left on his Barca contract and will be 34 when it expires. Messi has previously stated his desire to play in his native Argentina with Newell's

Old Boys before he finishes his career. But Bartomeu does not want to see Messi leave the club, confident a new contract will be agreed to keep him at Camp Nou for the remainder of his career. "Leo Messi will continue with us," Bartomeu told RKB. "He is a club player and the relationship will continue forever. He has told us that he wants to continue. We have offered him a new contract over five years and I hope we will continue discussing the deal."

While keen to keep Messi at Camp Nou for as long as possible, Bartomeu has acknowl-

edged that Barca must begin to prepare for an inevitable departure at some stage.

He told Radio 5 Live: "I know one day Lionel will say he's retiring. We have to prepare the club for the future."

"We are bringing great young players to the team because we need to continue this era of success. That's our responsibility."

Bartomeu added during his discussion with RKB that he expects Ernesto Valverde to remain at the club for the foreseeable future, adamant he will stay even if they win no trophies this season. **Goal**



Klopp faces touchline ban

LONDON - Jurgen Klopp has been charged by The FA over comments he made about referee Kevin Friend following Liverpool's 1-1 draw at West Ham.

The FA wrote to Klopp the day after his side had been held at the London Stadium to ask for his observations over an interview he gave to Sky Sports; Friend and his assistant linesman had failed to spot James Milner was offside in the build up to Sadio Mane's goal.

Klopp, who was involved in a heated exchange with West Ham Manager Manuel Pellegrini after the game, said that: "I think the referee knew at half-time... he knew for sure at half-time and then you saw a lot of strange decisions."

When Klopp faced the written media later that evening, his tone was significantly different and he was much contrite; by that point he had seen replays of Mane's goal.

After considering the Liverpool manager's reply, the FA felt there was sufficient grounds to charge Klopp and he has until 6pm next Monday to submit his plea.

The FA released a statement in which they said they believed he had questioned the match official's integrity.

The statement read: "Jurgen Klopp has today been charged with a breach of FA Rule E3."

"It is alleged that comments he made in a post-match interview following Liverpool's league game against West Ham United on February 4, 2019, breached Rule E3(1) as they questioned the integrity of the match referee and/or implied bias."

Daily Mail

Klopp, who was involved in a heated exchange with West Ham Manager Manuel Pellegrini after the game, said that: "I think the referee knew at half-time... he knew for sure at half-time and then you saw a lot of strange decisions"

Mashaba is worried Rantie could be lost

JOHANNESBURG - Former Bafana Bafana coach Shakes Mashaba is pained by the situation of striker Tokelo Rantie, who is without a club at the moment.

Rantie is said to be having personal problems that are affecting his football, which has seen him go from having a playing career in Europe to not making a single first-team appearance for Cape Town City after he was signed in the first half of the season by head coach Benni McCarthy.

In Europe, Rantie played for Malmo in Sweden, Bournemouth in England and Gencerbirligi in Turkey.

Recently McCarthy spoke of how disappointed he was that things did not work out with Rantie. He said: "When you have personal problems, sometimes you don't know the extent and sometimes it gets the better of a human being."

Mashaba, who coached Rantie in the senior national team, gave his thoughts on the matter, saying clubs need to know their players.

"I am more worried, because I worked with that boy. I know what he can offer," Mashaba said with a look of a man who is really concerned.

"But what we don't know his private life. Unfortunately we did not have time, which is what we need to do as teams. Know at least part of your players' lives, how they live, what they do, are they married and where are they staying. Sometimes it gives you a chance to sit with him to say, 'I know you are married, how is your life?' But if you don't know those things, then you can't go to him."

"With Tokelo, I am pleading. When you have him up front, you know that you have an opportunity to play all the systems you want to play. You can play one striker up front, you can play him as sniffer, you can play him anywhere."

He continued: "But to lose a talent like that, not because he lost form or got injured but because of things we don't know, that really pains me."

Kick-Off

PSL to announce new date for Nedbank Cup clash

JOHANNESBURG - The Premier Soccer League last night confirmed Black Leopards and Bidvest Wits did not agree on playing their Nedbank Cup last 16 clash today.

The match at Thohoyandou Stadium was called off last night due to heavy rain which left the pitch waterlogged.

"We just met the two clubs. We were trying to discuss the possibility of playing on Thursday (yesterday), unfortunately there is no agreement, which means that the League will set a new date for this fixture," PSL head of communications Lux September told the media after the game last night.

"Obviously we have to look at the conditions of this stadium, the conditions of the field to ensure the pitch is playable. We will be in contact with the

stadium and the home club."

Rule 14.20 in the PSL handbook says: "If a match is postponed or abandoned due to the unsuitability of the ground caused by inclement weather, the state of the pitch or for any other reason, but not because of insufficient illumination from floodlights, the league will set another date on which the match will be played. In such an event all records of an abandoned match will be expunged except that any dismissals that occurred will remain in force."

Rule 14.21 says: "In the event of a replay because of the unsuitability of the ground due to inclement weather the league will be responsible for all reasonable costs incurred."

Despite being 1-0 up at the time it was abandoned, Leopards coach Dylan Kerr says they did not for one second think they

had the game in the bag. Kerr feels sorry for supporters who came out to the stadium hoping to see a good game of football.

"No, no, no, I never think that. It was only at half-time, knowing Gavin [Hunt] he would have come out in the second half more determined not to lose," Kerr said.

"I feel for the supporters, they had to make their way home and it was night time as well, it was loadshedding at the time and they couldn't see where they were stepping in."

"There were a lot of cars up to the roof flooded with water, some cars you know you could just see the roof top in the mall. By the time I went out after 10 minutes of the announcement, you couldn't see the grass, it was covered in water."

Kick-Off

Bruce to stand goalkeeper for Chiefs against The Magic FC

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp has confirmed that goalkeeper Bruce Bvuma will start in goal for Amakhosi against The Magic FC at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium on Sunday.

New goalkeeper Daniel Akpeyi played for Chippa United in the Nedbank Cup last 32 against Mamelodi Sundowns, a game the Chilli Boys won 2-1, so he is cup-tied.

Akpeyi made his debut for the Soweto giants in the Soweto Derby last weekend, but will be watching from the sidelines this weekend as Bvuma gets an opportunity to impress.

Virgil Vries, who made a cou-



CUP-TIED: Goalkeeper Bruce Bvuma.

ple of errors which cost Chiefs in league matches played in January, will be on the bench as back-up for the match.

Bvuma, meanwhile, has not made any first-team appearances for Amakhosi this season, playing most of his games in the

MultiChoice Diski Challenge, so he will no doubt be itching to show what he can do.

Kick-Off

Weekend Sports Fixtures

...Compiled by Jongile Xuba

MTN Premier League fixtures

Tonight at Somhlolo Stadium			
Mbn Citizens	vs	Vovovo FC	6:30pm
Tomorrow at Mhlume Stadium			
Matsapha Utd	vs	Tambuti FC	3pm
At King Sobhuza II Stadium			
Sea Birds	vs	Mb. Swallows	3pm
At Mavuso Sports Centre			
Green Mamba	vs	Y Buffaloes	2pm
Mon. Pirates	vs	Mzn Wanderers	4:10pm
At Somhlolo Stadium			
R. Leopard	vs	Mzn Sundowns	2pm
Mb. Highlanders	vs	Malanti Chiefs	4:10pm

MTN First Division League fixture

Tonight at Mavuso Sports Ground			
Hub Sundowns	vs	Hlatikulu Tycoons	6:30pm
Tomorrow at Tambankulu Stadium			
Tambankulu Callies	vs	P/P Black Swallows	3pm
At Mayaluka Stadium			
Madlenya FC	vs	Red Lions	3pm
Sunday at Prince of Wales Ground			
Mbabane City	vs	City Warriors	2:30pm
At Somhlolo National Stadium			
Seven dreams	vs	Milling Hotspurs	1:30pm
Tinyosi FC	vs	Rangers	3:30pm

Women's Football League fixtures

Tomorrow at Technical Centre			
R. Leopard	vs	S Roses	1:30pm
Mbekelweni	vs	Y Buffaloes	3:30pm
Sunday at Correctional Services			
M Swallow	vs	Illovo	11am
Langei	vs	Happy Girls	1pm
M Wanderers	vs	Kappa Ladies	3pm
Tomorrow at King Sobhuza II Stadium			
S Divas	vs	Olympiafrica	2pm
Sunday at Simunye			
Mhlume	vs	Green Mamba	10am
Siteki	vs	Sikhuphe	12pm

SUCSA Games fixtures

Tomorrow at Kwaluseni			
Men's Soccer			
VOCTIM	vs	Good Shepherd	9am
William Pitcher	vs	Ngwane College	11am
Netball			
VOCTIM	vs	Good Shepherd	9am
William Pitcher	vs	Ngwane College	10:30am
Men's Volleyball			
VOCTIM	vs	Good Shepherd	9am
William Pitcher	vs	Ngwane College	10am
Ladies Volleyball			
William Pitcher	vs	Ngwane College	10am

Swazi Trac - Lubombo Super League Fixture

Tonight at Mayaluka Stadium			
Illovo	vs	Ntengenyane	7pm
CPL	vs	Rail United	9pm
Sunday at Mayaluka Stadium			
Magwanyane	vs	M Peacemakers	12pm
Samampela	vs	Illovo	2pm
CPL	vs	Crookes United	4pm
At Tambankulu Stadium			
Shewula Arsenal	vs	Ubombo Flyers	1pm
OK Survivors	vs	Malaheni United	3pm
At Siphofaneni Sports Ground			
Mkhweili All Stars	vs	Rail United	1pm
Ntengenyane	vs	Juventus	3pm
Malaheni Sports Ground			
Bhelebane	vs	Mauritius	3pm

Eastern Zone fixtures

A Division			
Tomorrow at Siphoso Sports Ground			
Mpolonjeni United	vs	Six to Six	3pm
Siteki Sports Ground			
Lukhula Bayern	vs	Lukhula Black Stars	3pm

RSSC SIYAKHA 1800 North - West

Tomorrow at Tambankulu Stadium			
Tambankulu Celtics	vs	Young Killers	1pm
Tambankulu Sports Ground			
Brave Lions	vs	Revelations	3:30 pm
Sunday at Tambankulu Sports Ground			
Tsambokhulu Rovers	vs	Eastern Pirates	1:30 pm
Tambankulu FC	vs	Skyline	3:30 pm
At Simunye Sports Ground			
Born Again	vs	Equator	3:30 pm

Malindza Zonal League

Tomorrow at Mpaka Stadium			
Black Mamba	vs	Malindza UTD	9am
Siweni Utd	vs	Calabash	11am
Liverpool	vs	Home Sweepers	1pm
Highway	vs	Dvokodweni	3pm
Sunday			
Zamalek	vs	Juventus	11am
Umseshi	vs	Young Aces	1pm

Super League

Bhelebane	vs	Mauritius	3pm
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Swazi Trac - Shiselweni Super League

Southern			
Tomorrow at Mangena			
JB Tigers	vs	Mahlalini	2:30pm

Sunday at Nsingingini

Nsingingini H Spur	vs	Manchester	1pm
Piano	vs	Mvela	3pm
At King's House			
Shooting Stars	vs	Mazomba	3pm
At Maseyisini			
All Nations	vs	Ngwane College	3pm
At Bhahwini			
Mashekesheni	vs	Black Mashuba	3pm

Nhlangano Promotion League

Tomorrow at Bhahwini			
Sibovu	vs	Mashobeni	3:30pm
Manchester	vs	Intermilan	2pm
Sunday at King's House			
Makhwelela	vs	Mkhitsini Killers	9am
City Stars	vs	Nho Sun	11am
Sprinters	vs	Sibovu	1pm
At Maseyisini			
Fast XI	vs	Vusweni Killers	1pm
At Bhahwini			
Nedso Arsenal	vs	Home Affairs	1pm

Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League E77 000

Southern Zone			
Tomorrow at Maphalaleni Sports Ground			
Billy Ocean	vs	PMT	3:30pm
Tomorrow at Casino Sports Ground			
Swazi Sun	vs	Imbumba	3:30pm
Tomorrow at Motshane Sports Ground			
H. Shooing	vs	Emajukujuku	3:30pm
Sunday at Mhlambanyatsi Sports Ground			
Community	vs	Wizards	3pm
Sunday at POW Sports Ground			
Umbelebele	vs	Kupheleni	1pm
Sibovini	vs	Burning Spear	3pm

Northern Zone

Tomorrow at Prison Sports Ground			
Khanjana Rovers	vs	Mvuma	3:30pm
Tomorrow at Ntfontjeni Sports Ground			
Vultures	vs	Mshaweni	3:30pm
Tomorrow at Ngonini Sports Ground			
Manchester	vs	Machibini	3:30pm
Tomorrow at Fontotje Sports Ground			
Kappa Kappa	vs	M. Arsenal	3:30pm
Sunday at Fontotje Sports Ground			
N. Swallows	vs	Sigodlo	1pm
Horo Spinners	vs	Pachanga	3pm

South Star Mzimba League - E65 000.00

Tomorrow at Hhukwini Sports Ground			
Arsenal	vs	Amacabane	1:30pm
Sibuyeni	vs	Cosmos	3:30pm
Tomorrow at Nsukumbili Sports Ground			
Highlanders	vs	Bombers	1:30pm
Rebels	vs	Blk. Mashuba	3:30pm
Tomorrow at Mzimba Sports Ground			
Top Centre	vs	Driekoppies	1:30pm
Rangers	vs	Young Chiefs	3:30pm
Sunday at Nsukumbili Sports Ground			
All Stars	vs	Afrika Stars	1pm
Swallows	vs	Bush Bucks	3pm
Sunday at Hhukwini Sports Ground			
Rhinos	vs	Rhumbas	9am
Sundowns	vs	Timbungulu	11am
Monaco	vs	Kasiko	1pm
Killers	vs	Green Sea	3pm

Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League E70 000

Tomorrow at Msunduzi Sports Ground			
Corporation	vs	Pine Valley	1:30pm
Real Tec	vs	Supersport	3:30pm
Tomorrow at Sidwashini Sports Ground			
Sidwashini	vs	Mb. Arsenal	3:30pm
Sunday at Msunduzi Sports Ground			
Pot O Gold	vs	White City	11am
Mbabane Celtics	vs	Mvukweli	1pm
Amawele	vs	Double Action	3pm
Sunday at Sidwashini Sports Ground			
Sandia	vs	Classic	1pm
Interstars	vs	Veni Cosmos	3pm

B. Division

Tomorrow at Police Sports Ground			
Mphalati	vs	Mangweni	1:30pm
Junction Stars	vs	Mpolonjeni	3:30pm
Tomorrow at Sidwashini Sports Ground			
Mantsholo Utd	vs	FC Vaal	1:30pm
Sunday at Police Sports Ground			
Hurricane	vs	Mantsholo FC	11am
Movers	vs	Free Style	1pm
Mbabane Utd	vs	D. Darkies	3pm
Tomorrow at Sidwashini Sports Ground			
N. Rangers	vs	Lusoli	1:30pm
The Wallers	vs	R. Dynamos	3:30pm

Pots Construction Sigangeni Football League E30 000

Tomorrow at Sigangeni Sports Ground			
Mighty Chiefs	vs	Maz. Celtics	1:30pm
Young Fighters	vs	Kangaroo	3:30pm
Tomorrow at Ntsetse Sports Ground			
Total XI	vs	Real United	1:30pm
Ntsetse Flyers	vs	L. Nationals	3:30pm
Sunday at Sigangeni Sports Ground			
U. Eagles	vs	Real Touch	1pm
Sigangeni	vs	Villa Sport	3pm

Buy Cash Pigg's Peak League E45 000

Tomorrow at LaZwane Sports Ground			
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Hotspurs	vs	Bush Bucks	11am
Maguga	vs	Rise & Shine	1pm
Thuluzobona	vs	Citizens	3pm

Tomorrow at Plantations Sports Ground

Mhlathane	vs	Mangweni	11am
Darkies	vs	Rockville	1pm
19 Celtics	vs	Ndeva Galaxy	3pm

Tomorrow at Malanda Sports Ground

White Killers	vs	Supersport	1pm
Phophonyane	vs	Peak City	3pm

Sunday at LaZwane Sports Ground

Maguga	vs	White Killers	11am
Hotspurs	vs	Peak City	1pm
Supersport	vs	Mhlathane	3pm

Sunday at Plantations Sports Ground

19 Celtics	vs	Mpolonjeni	11am
Ndeva Galaxy	vs	Thuluzobona	1pm
Darkies	vs	Bush Bucks	3pm

Sunday at Malanda Sports Ground

Citizens	vs	Rockville	1pm
Phophonyane	vs	Rise & Shine	3pm

MP Nelson Mamba Timphisi Regional Football League**Tomorrow at LFTC Sports Ground**

Njakeni Utd	vs	Red Lion	9am
Zamalek	vs	All United	11am
Ellegence	vs	Njakeni City	1pm
Mba. Swallows	vs	Gunners	3pm

Tomorrow at Ngonini Sports Ground

Ngonini	vs	Matsamo	1pm
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B. Division**Sunday at LFTC Sports Ground**

All Stars	vs	Young Tigers	9am
Young Savilla	vs	Besutwini	11am
Vusweni Cosmos	vs	H. Pirates	1pm
Soccer Rose	vs	Ndialambi	3pm

Sunday at Ndialambi Sports Ground

Golden Arrows	vs	Stone Breakers	11am
Blue Birds	vs	Mv. Sundowns	1pm
Star Wanderers	vs	Kudweleni	3pm

Sunday at Ngonini Sports Ground

Young Swallows	vs	Sikhaleni	11am
Juventus	vs	Ak 47	1pm
Young Bombers	vs	JB Arsenal	3pm

MP Bakhanyisele Mabulala & Gongz Maphalaleni League**E60 000****Eastern Stream**

Tomorrow at Maphalaleni Sports Ground			
Hotspurs	vs	XI Experience	11am
Barcelona	vs	Manchester	1pm

Tomorrow at Bizza Sports Ground

Luvunjelo	vs	Blue Birds	1pm
Young Stars	vs	Rangers	3pm
Sunday at Maphalaleni Sports Ground			
Killers	vs	Young Lovers	1pm
Khulawwane	vs	Professionals	3pm

Sunday at Bizza Sports Ground

Umkhokha	vs	Junior Stars	1pm
Liselesele	vs	Thuluzobona	3pm

Futis Nkhaba League E30 000**Tomorrow at Motshane Sports Ground**



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PLS Youth Development
Communications Manager



WE recall with pride when His Majesty King Mswati III watched a club tournament for the first time in 2009.

The King, like a true lion, made a grand entrance to the Somhlolo National Stadium on that special day, joining an over 20 000 strong crowd along with members of the royal family to watch the 'Mighty Black Bull' squaring up against their traditional rivals Manzini Wanderers in what was a closely-contested encounter.

You would occasionally see the King smiling clearly enjoying what he was watching in the field of play as both clubs dished out entertaining football that kept spectators at the edges of their seats.

Highlanders, the most successful club on our land, lived up to their known reputation as they won this game 1-2 on the day to be crowned the eventual champions. It was a memorable game indeed and this is what Eswatini Bank Cup is all about. It is not just a tournament but a national event.

It is a must-have tournament in local football given the fact that it has changed the face of the game since 2004. Tournaments do not come any bigger than this one because it does not only offer exciting prize money for the winners but it is a tournament that every coach in the big league wants to win, there is no doubt

The Majestic Eswatini Bank Cup unmatched!

...this tournament has become one of the country's colourful national events

about that. The obvious big motivation about winning this tournament is that it provides the champions with the ticket to represent the country in the CAF Confederation Cup, which is a huge motivation on its own for the players and coaches alike.

This is what brings the beauty out of the Eswatini Bank Cup and people can expect exciting games up to the very end as we witnessed in the last 32 games where boys were separated from men hence we now only have 16 teams remaining. Young Buffaloes are the defending champions of this tournament but the million-dollar question is, will the army side defend the title or will we see new champions being crowned this time around?

Only time will tell but looking at the first round results, this promises to be one of the most competitive tournaments this season.



DULA WESELI: Manzini Wanderers' Jonson Blay Mensah scoring the team's second goal against Midas City during the Eswatini Bank Cup at Somhlolo National Stadium.

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Such innovative ideas provided by the bank with a heart deserve to be wholly supported by all those who love and follow local football. It is such good endeavours that will take the country to greater heights as we all march towards 2022.

EswatiniBank management deserve a big round of applause for always thinking outside the box and coming up with such useful promotions for their customers through this tournament. We say bravo to the Managing Director (MD) Zakhele Lukhele and his management team for always providing the best service care for their customers.

We know that the marketing team in the bank are self-motivated excellent workers and the effort they put towards ensuring that the tournament is organised cannot even be described in words because it is huge. As football people, let us show our appreciation to the bank by supporting such initiatives because it is the right thing to do.

MTN Premier League returns to action

Those who have been following this season's

MTN Premier League would agree that it has been the most competitive in years.

It is difficult for a football supporter to miss the weekend games because you are guaranteed twists and turns in terms of results.

To put it into perspective, a win gives you another position and a defeat does the same. It is an up-and-down jigsaw puzzle that will only come clear in the very last games of the league. It is difficult to even predict the champions nor who will be relegated because the difference is not big.

One thing we can be sure about is that the champions will have more points than the rest while those relegated would have less points than the others. Mathematically, even the bottom-placed club at the moment can win the league championship and likewise, even the table-topping sides can still find themselves in the relegation battle.

Basically, there is no margin for error now and this is what provides the excitement for football followers. Games are continuing this weekend and we anticipate big crowds in those games because this season's league has taught us that there are no small games now. All of them are big and vital for all the clubs. Please refer to the local media for the full fixtures.

Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa is our host in football

We really appreciate the growing number of supporters who continue to watch local Premier League games loyally and religiously every weekend.

We always enjoy watching them singing on top of their voices, dressed in their respec-

tive teams' attires because that adds colour and a much-needed vibe in our football.

I am sure we can all agree that football can never be complete without the supporters. Our records tell us that the numbers have swelled impressively compared to previous seasons which is an indication that there is something different about this season's competitions.

So, therefore, supporters should always keep it in mind that whenever they attend any game of football, they are the National Football Association (FA) President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa's guests hence obligated to behave as such.

Even the person next to you in a stadium is a guest and we do not expect any form of fighting involving those people because they are all the FA president's guests. In the regions, you are guests of that region's chairman and likewise, if you watch Premier League games which could be the Under-17s, Under-20s or elite games, you are automatically the guest of the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) Chairman Peter 'Touch' Magagula.

By extension, you are still the FA president's guest, meaning that no insults, fighting or any other form of misbehaviour which has the potential to bring our game into disrepute will be tolerated. From now onwards, I personally do not believe that we will witness any form of violence in our games.

Esibayeni Lodge Under-17 League official launch confirmed

The official launch of the Esibayeni Lodge Under-17 league will be held on the 1st of

March at the hotel's premises in Matsapha starting at 4pm.

Never mind that games started a while back because the official launch still must happen.

The PLE Development officer Banele Masondo is currently working on the logistics of this big event, which normally attracts the presence of top VIPs like Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs, FA President, PLE Chairman and other dignitaries.

Still on this league, games are continuing this weekend as per fixtures released to the local media where reference can be made. We are happy at the way the games are penning out because it is difficult to predict the champions at this stage, which provides the excitement people want to see.

Games are also continuing in the PLE Under-20 league and fixtures are also available in the local media. We urge all football lovers not miss out on these games.

From the PLE CEO Simanga Nhleko

The date for the finals of the much-anticipated Ingwenyama MVA Cup (soccer and culture) has been confirmed for March 17 at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

The soccer final, as we all know, will pit defending champions Young Buffaloes against Mbabane Highlanders.

Given the performance of these two big clubs, we can all look forward to an exciting final. Let us also encourage football supporters to continue buying tickets from the designated areas and avoid waiting till last-minute to do that.

MILKY MAX UNDER-13 JUNIORS' LEAGUE PRIZE PRESENTATIONS



ALL SMILES: Mbabane Juniors League champions Dark City lift their trophy after being presented during the prize presentation ceremony recently. The event was graced by Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga and other dignitaries. (Pics: Jongile Xuba)



LIGHT MOMENT: Eswatini Football Association Vice President Dr Comfort Shongwe sharing a joke as he delivers his speech.



ALSO THERE: Parmalat Key Account Manager Kim Thring and Marketing Officer Qinisile Maphanga-Kunene following proceedings.



GRATEFUL: Hhohho Regional Football Association Chairman Nigel Shongwe spoke on behalf of the association.



YOU SEE: Black Swallows coach Linda Chisano receiving the team's share from Minister Bulunga whilst team captain Simakhelwe Magagula shows off their new kit.



REMARKS: Parmalat Marketing Officer Qinisile Maphanga-Kunene addressing the gathering.



WELL DONE: Dark City players receiving their medals and trophy from Minister Bulunga and the sponsor.



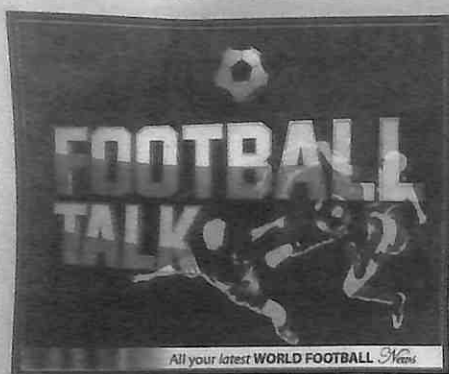
REAL DEAL: Lobamba Juniors Knockout winners Real Masters coach Phumlani Motsa displays their winners cheque whilst team captain Philani Dlamini holds the trophy.



WINNERS CIRCLE: The winners of the three different Milky Max Junior Leagues with the dignitaries and sponsor after the presentation ceremony.



FOLLOWING: Team representatives listening to speeches during the function.



● Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany is set to sign a new one-year contract on reduced wages. The Belgium defender, 32, will have a testimonial in August. **(Mail)**

● Manchester United have reportedly enquired about 30-year-old Barcelona midfielder Ivan Rakitic, joining Premier League rivals Chelsea in a bid to sign the star for a proposed fee of around £57m. **(Sport, via Mail)**

● Manchester United will make a summer move for Benfica's Portuguese midfielder Joao Felix, 19. **(Sun)**

● Barcelona President Josep Maria Bartomeu says Argentina forward Lionel Messi, 31, will renew his contract at the Nou Camp. His current deal is due to expire in the summer of 2021. **(RKB, via Marca)**



● Benfica will sanction the £30m sale of striker Raul Jimenez to Wolves this summer, with the 27-year-old currently on loan at Molineux. **(Mirror)**

● Liverpool players Naby Keita and Sadio Mane have told Germany striker Timo Werner, 22, to move to Anfield if he leaves RB Leipzig this summer. **(ESPN)**

● Senegal winger Mane, 26, says he was a target for Bayern Munich while Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola was in charge of the Bundesliga giants. **(Bild, via Goal)**

● Juventus have ruled out selling Argentina forward Paulo Dybala, 25, this summer in a blow to Chelsea and Manchester United. **(Sun)**

● Former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has revealed he tried to sign Borussia Dortmund and England forward Jadon Sancho while the 18-year-old was at Manchester City. **(beIN Sports)**

● Manchester United have four main transfer targets this summer - defenders Kalidou Koulibaly, 27, of Napoli, Lucas Hernandez, 22, of Atletico Madrid and Fiorentina's Nikola Milenkovic, 21, plus Juventus winger Douglas Costa, 28. **(Mirror)**

● Real Madrid left-back Marcelo, 30, could leave to join former team-mate Cristiano Ronaldo at Juventus this summer. **(Mail)**

● Chelsea Manager Maurizio Sarri is under pressure to win the Europa League this season to save his job. **(Telegraph)**

● Manchester City will rival Manchester United for Lyon and France midfielder Tanguy Ndombele, 22, in the summer. **(Sun)**

● Arsenal want Roma Sporting Director Monchi to be their next technical director, but face competition from Manchester United and Paris St-Germain. **(Mirror)**

Swimming youngsters off to Namibia today

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

SWIMMING - SEVEN youngsters will today leave the country to compete in the CANA Zone IV Championships 2019 to be held in Windhoek, Namibia.

This was revealed by the Eswatini Swimming Association (ESA) President Berger Nxumalo yesterday.

"We have seven youngsters who have been picked to represent the country in the CANA Championships.

These are youngsters have a bright future in the sport and we expect them to shine because they are the future of swimming in the country. They are all talented and we are confident they will do well," he said.

ESA Vice President (VP) Welcome Nhlabatsi, who will be leading the team, also

The team

Boys

Damon deSouza
Ethen Abraham

Girls

Hayley Hoy
Nina Hlophe
Siwakhike Dlamini
Reya Young
Senamile Dlamini

expressed his optimism.

"We have prepared thoroughly for this tournament and as tough as it is, we expect our swimmers to do us proud.

The good this is that the team is also hungry for success, so we are banking on that to unleash the best that they have to offer.

They also got an opportunity to prepare this past weekend, so now they are ready for the competition.

Amongst the travelling team is 10-year-old and record-break-

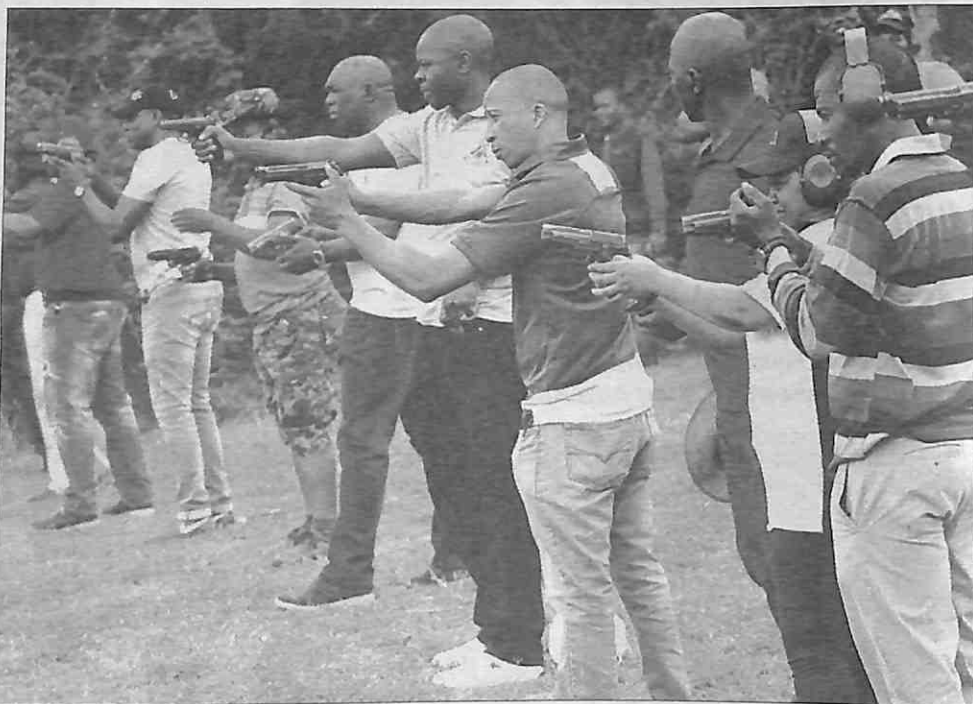
er Hayley Hoy, who albeit her tender age, will be competing in the 12 years and over bracket.

Nhlabatsi said they were looking at keeping her competing in that very category for the next two years.

"Hayley is an exceptional talent, one for the future if nurtured properly of course. Right now, she will be competing in the 12 years and over age category and she will continue there for the next two years. One can only imagine how improved she will be by that time," he said.

Nhlabatsi also announced that the national championships would be held next week.

"This past weekend's tournament was the last before the nationals. Next week (February 26), we will have our nationals and teams are invited to come in their numbers."



AIMING: Shooting stars in a previous shooting competition. Teams are urged to pay the annual club affiliation to the association.

Shooting clubs urged to pay up subscriptions on time

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

SHOOTING - SHOOTING clubs in the country have been urged to pay the annual club affiliation to the association by February 28.

This was said by the association's Secretary General (SG) Sifiso Mtsetfwa yesterday.

"We would remind all members that the deadline is February 28 and they should ensure they pay-up on time to avoid a situation where they aren't formally part of the association. They should avoid being left out of tournaments and activ-

ities," he said.

Mtsetfwa also spoke of the individual subscriptions - a decision taken in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the Manzini Regional Police Headquarters last month, and urged shooters to also keep them in mind.

Proposal

When making a proposal to teams on the day, Eswatini Rifle Association (ERA) Chairman Elvis Shabangu said the cards would be means of ensuring that each and every shooter is affiliated to the association and pay their subscription - individually.

"We proposed to amend the code of conduct and introduce membership cards and the teams accepted it.

This will ensure that we know for a fact that all shooters are registered, they affiliate with the association and are part of a team before any participation in a tournament."

"Shooters must now that we are introducing the individual subscriptions this year, so the earlier they also pay-up, the better," said Mtsetfwa.

New teams that will be joining the league this season include Correctional, Big Bend and Mbabane.

Eswatini Golf Nomads partner with Vulamasango High

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

GOLF - THE Eswatini Golf Nomads have partnered with Vulamasango High by introducing the sport at the school.

The club is currently conducting weekly coaching clinics at the school where they are scouting for 20 golf youngsters.

Nomads coach and local professional golfer Meshack Zwane said the aim of the clinics is to groom future stars for the country.

"We are currently working with Vulamasango High School where we are scouting new talent. We want to guide and groom the youngsters in the sport. The clinics are held once a week at the school.

"We are looking at finishing the recruitment exercise in April where we will take the youngsters to fulltime clinics, possibly at the Manzini Club. We would like to thank Vulamasango High School for allowing us to initiate the programme at the school," he said.

Zwane further thanked their sponsors Eswatini Nomads for their continuous support to the initiative.

"We are grateful to Eswatini Nomads for supporting the initiative and we believe their contribution will improve the standard of golf in the country. We further thank Swaziland Golf Union and other sponsors for their assistance," he said.

Wanderers face Kappa Ladies in hub derby

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - IT will be a Manzini derby as Wanderers take on Kappa Ladies this weekend in the Women's Football League (WFL).

The match will be played on Sunday at Correctional Services Sports Ground at 3pm with second placed Wanderers hoping to continue putting pressure on leaders Young Buffaloes by securing a derby win.

Young Buffaloes will take on Mbekelweni at the Technical Centre tomorrow at 3:30pm.

Royal Leopard host Shiselweni Roses at the Technical Centre as the third placed police side look to build on their previous victory.

A bottom of the table clash between Mhlume and Green Mamba will be played on Sunday at Simunye Stadium at 10am, while Siteki have a date with Sikhuphe at 12pm.

Other fixtures would see Shiselweni Divas taking on OlympAfrica at King Sobhuza II Stadium at 2pm tomorrow.

Women's football fixtures:

Tomorrow at Technical Centre			
R Leopards	vs	S Roses	1:30pm
Mbekelweni	vs	Y Buffaloes	3:30pm
Tomorrow at King Sobhuza II Stadium			
S Divas	vs	OlympAfrica	2pm
Sunday at Simunye			
Mhlume	vs	Green Mamba	10am
Siteki	vs	Sikhuphe	12pm
Sunday at Correctional Services			
M Swallows	vs	Illovo	11am
Langeni	vs	Happy Girls	1pm
M Wanderers	vs	Kappa Ladies	3pm

Wanderers to introduce supporters DC

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – HUB giants Manzini Wanderers are currently working towards establishing an in-house supporters' Disciplinary Committee to reprimand their misbehaving fans.

The new committee is part of the club's on-going restructuring exercise that also saw the recent disbanding of the club National Supporters Committee (NSC).

The club's Executive Officer Pat Mahlalela confirmed the news through a press statement released yesterday.

"A Disciplinary Committee will in time, be set up to enforce rules and regulations. Stakeholders are informed that in the initial, all fans and sympathisers that want to be

official supporters need to register and pay a general subscription fee to be announced soon.

To be considered a supporter, an individual must be of a good standing (in the Manzini Wanderers structures), meaning that consideration of the previous instances of bringing the club good name into disrepute, will be made.

Underway

"Currently, effort is underway to develop a Manzini Wanderers handbook that will act as a guide to acceptable behaviour by various members, including committee members, officials by providing rules and regulations," reads the statement.

Mahlalela further stated that their supporters would be expected to have a minimum of 50 supporters in order to form a branch.

"To qualify to be considered a supporters branch, there should be a minimum of 50 registered and subscribed members in that specific branch designated area.

Only fully registered members will be allowed to stand for elections and even vote. Please note that the every person within the Manzini Wanderers structure (from Council of Elders to MC) will have to affiliate to a branch.

"The task team with the support of the marketing and communications department is expected to start in the earnest, the role out of the registration process is expected to begin in March, with nine major branches by the end of March 2019.

To promote and popularise the registration process, there will be road shows. Also, the now popu-



CONFIRMED: Manzini Wanderers Executive Officer Pat Mahlalela.

lar branches games will be used – with the hope that the very next ones (touted for the next FIFA week) could be used to reinforce the idea of showing a supporters card to gain entrance," he said.

'Shana' boost for Weslians against Moneni

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

SOCCER – HUB giants Manzini Wanderers will be boosted by the return of captain fantastic Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya when they face-off with town rivals Moneni Pirates tomorrow.

The two teams will be battling it out in an MTN Premier League fixture set for the Mavuso Sports Centre.

'Shana' started light training last week, and when interviewed, he made it known that he was frustrated to be out of action.

He said he was following all his rehabilitation routine rules and would be back soon and that it was now in the hands of the technical bench to see whether he would be deemed ready to play.

True

"It's true, I started light training last week and this week I have joined training with the lads. I am gradually transitioning back and in my own assessment, I'm good. It now depends on the coach's plans and assessment on whether I'll be back in action soonest.

"I should be ready for action soon. My rehabilitation process ensured that I stay as fit as I can despite the injury, but then again, game fitness is another story. So my availability will be based on the coach's needs and assessment of my readiness.

On my part, I am looking forward to getting back in action and I sure hope that it will be soon. The lay-off has been quite frustrating," he said.

The lanky midfielder further invited the team's fans to come in their numbers and support the maroon and white ensemble.

"I would like to invite all our supporters to come in their numbers as they have done in most of our games and support us tomorrow.

I know the boys are hard at training and will pull every stop at the Mavuso turf to ensure we take maximum points against Moneni Pirates.

We still have lots to fight for in our position, so we know this game is another must win."



Athletics teams pass vote of confidence on interim committee!

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

ATHLETICS – MEMBERS of local athletics clubs have passed a vote of confidence on the association's interim committee.

The members have since mandated the interim committee to lead the association until 2020 where the next elections will take place.

The decision was taken during the association's extra ordinary meeting held on Wednesday afternoon at the Eswatini Football Association Technical Centre.

The interim committee is led by top lawyer Zakhele Dlamini from the TZD Athletics Club.

Other members are Vice Chairman Harry Malindzisa, Treasurer Delisile Simelane and committee member Muzi Mabuza.

The committee has been mandated to amend the Constitution and further run the administrative issues of the association until the next general assembly.

The local athletics mother body is rocked by power struggle between incumbent executive committee headed by outgoing President Gideon Mthembu and the interim committee.

The High Court recently ordered the estranged executive committee to surrender signatory powers to the interim committee.

The interim committee's Secretary Thoba Mazibuko confirmed their meeting when contacted yesterday. "We did meet with the mem-



LEADER: Lawyer Zakhele Dlamini.

bers and they entrusted us to lead the association until 2020 and we promise to work towards delivering the mandate given to us," he said.

Meanwhile, the outgoing President Gideon Mthembu described the outcome of the meeting as something unconstitutional when also reached.

"Change in leadership is usually determined by a ballot (voting) and you cannot bully other people by doing something that is unconstitutional. I am constitutionally in office until the right procedure is followed at the end of our term of office," he said.

First choice keepers blow for leopards, Sundowns

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER – ROYAL Leopards and Manzini Sundowns will both be without their first choice goal keepers during their next MTN Premier League clash at Somhlolo National Stadium tomorrow.

Phephisanani Msibi for Royal Leopards and Lwethu Simelane (Manzini Sundowns) will miss the league encounter after they were nabbed by the yellow card rule.

This was confirmed by Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) Chief

Executive Officer (CEO) Simanga Nhleko. Players, who have accumulated three yellow cards, receive a one match suspension according to the rules. "I can confirm that the said players are automatically suspended from participating in the next match to be played. This is according to Article 6.2 of the MTN Premier League Rules and Regulations," he said.

Also falling victim to the suspension rule is Tambuti FC's Zwakele Dlamini, who will be out of their encounter against Matsapha United at Nsunkwansukwa Stadium tomorrow.

Premier League suspended players:

Phephisanani Msibi
Lwethu Simelane
Zwakele Dlamini

Royal Leopards FC
Manzini Sundowns FC
Tambuti FC

NFD suspended players

Ndumiso Dladla
Lindokuhle Mkhwanazi
Thapelo Nsibande
Given Mwandza
Mangaliso Nkambule

Mbabane City FC
City Warriors FC
Milling Hotspurs FC
Red Lions FC
Tinyosi FC

Security forces derby in Reserve League headliner

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

SOCCER – THE Under-20 league will this coming weekend be headlined by a security forces encounter between Correctional Services side Green Mamba and their counterparts Young Buffaloes.

This is according to the fixture released by the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) through the office of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Simanga Nhleko.

The two sides will clash during a fixture set for the Old Trade Fair tomorrow, and this is expected to be a thriller because

both sides have very good players, who are always competing for honours in the development space. The match will start at 11am.

The Old Trade Fair will be host to a quadruple-header and the first match of the day will see newbie's Mbabane Citizens, who thrashed hub-giants Manzini Wanderers in the opening match 5 – 1 taking on Vovovo at 9am. The other match will see Police side Royal Leopard take on Manzini Sundowns while Moneni Pirates have a date with Manzini Wanderers.

Somhlolo National Stadium will see Manzini sea Birds and Mbabane Highlanders

The full fixture:

Old Trade Fair			
Citizens	vs	Vovovo	9am
Green Mamba	vs	Young Buffaloes	11am
Royal Leopard	vs	Manzini Sundowns	1pm
Moneni Pirates	vs	Manzini Wanderers	3pm
Somhlolo National Stadium			
Manzini Sea Birds	vs	Mbabane Swallows	9am
Mbabane Highlanders	vs	Malanti Chiefs	11am
Mhlume Stadium			
Matsapha United	vs	Tambuti	noon

host Mbabane Swallows and Malanti Chiefs, respectively.

At Mhlume Stadium Matsapha United will face-off with Tambuti.

Papic's first test against Mozambique

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – SIHLANGU Semnikati is expected to take on neighbours Mozambique during an international friendly match likely to take place next month in Maputo.

The nation's pride will be using the upcoming match to prepare for their last AFCON 2019 Qualifier against Tunisia on October 30 in Tunisia.

The upcoming encounter will also serve as a first official assignment for new head coach Kostadin Papic since assuming the hot seat about two months ago.

A source close to the matter revealed that talks before the two countries were now at an advanced stage.

"Sihlangu will play Mozambique next month before they travel to Tunisia and the two federations are already arranging the logistics of the match to be played in Maputo after they both agreed to stage the match. The squad will have a two weeks camp where they will be preparing for the two upcoming matches," the source said.

Eswatini National Football Association Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe said they were still waiting for the approval of the coach's (Papic) programme when contacted yesterday.

"I cannot commit myself on the matter you are talking about until the relevant committees approve the programme of the coach. It is difficult for me to say anything until the necessary logistics are done in as far as such matters are concerned," he said.

Papic could not be drawn for comments on the matter when also reached.

Papic will also lead the senior national side in the 2019 COSAFA Senior Challenge likely to be staged in Zimbabwe in May before taking on Malawi in the 2020 CHAN qualifiers in September.

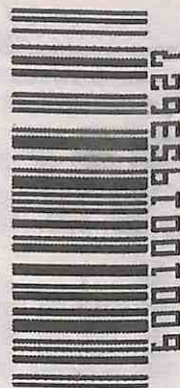


FIRST TEST: Sihlangu head coach Kostadin Papic.

SPORTS

BSERVER
IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE ARE YOUR CHURCH

Friday February 15, 2019



'WANDERERS DID NOT SUPPORT ME'

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER - FORMER Manzini Wanderers coach Nyanga 'Crooks' has blamed lack of support from the team's management for his unsuccessful stint.

Hlophe left Wanderers under a cloud of controversy towards the end of last season with the team deep within the relegation zone in the MTN League.

"I did not fail at Wanderers. The problem was that we used the same players over time yet the quality was not good. Management did not make an effort to improve the squad," he said.

The coach added that it did not matter how hard they worked, if the quality was not good, results were not going to come.

"We tried to achieve something with what we had but it was difficult because the other teams were constantly improving. I was happy to have been given the opportunity to lead the team and I hold no grudges.

It is now time to focus on my job at Swallows," he said.

Of note is that after the coach parted way with Wanderers, the team then brought in a number of good players to boost the squad and add quality in all departments.

They signed players in the likes of Mpendulo Ngidi, Johnson Mensah, Ncedo Mamba, Ugochuku Ohakwe, Mhlengi Mngometulu,

- Nyanga complains about lack of quality during his stint
- Says he holds no grudges against his former team
- Shifts focus to Swallows job



WELCOME BACK HOME: Mbabane Swallows new head coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe presented with the team's scarf by General Manager Sandile Zwane while goalkeeper coach Etienne Massoye looks on recently.

Mphumuti Ginindza, and John Pako, among others.

'Crooks' was unveiled as the new Mbabane Swallows coach on Tuesday, and he vowed to recapture the glory days with the 'Birds'.

Support

Swallows' General Manager Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane assured that they would give the coach all the support he needs. Hlophe's immediate task is to

return the 'Birds' to the CAF Champions League or the Confederations Cup.

His first game for Swallows is against Manzini Sea Birds at King Sobhuza II Stadium tomorrow.

Hlophe has been urged to qualify the team for CAF competitions by his new employers.

CAF is the Confederation of African Football, and this is the body responsible for running inter-

club competitions on the African continent.

These include the Confederations Cup and the Champions League.

Swallows played in the CAF Champions League Group stages for the first time last season but could not make it out of their group which included Tunisian Club Etoile du Sahel, Primeiro de Agosto from Angola, and Zambia's Zesco United.

Suspended Bull NSC questions new interim committee!

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – THE cold war between the Mbabane Highlanders directors and the ousted National Supporters Committee seems to be intensifying with each and new every day.

This comes after the suspended Mbabane Highlanders National Supporters Committee's decision to challenge the existence of the newly

appointed interim supporters committee.

The estranged NSC Chairman Kenneth Dlamini says the new committee has no right to be in office since they have not been constitutionally elected by the team's supporters.

Dlamini said this during an interview with this publication, following the appointment of the interim committee by the team's Directors Chairman Zweli Jele on Monday night.

"We are still shocked by the announce-

ment of the interim committee as we are still waiting for the report of the probe which was announced by the directors some time ago when they suspended us through media statements.

"We still want to hear about the report of the said probe before we can be dissolved by the supporters in a mass meeting. All we know is that we are still constitutionally in office since the relevant procedures have not been followed during the said sus-

pension of our committee," he said.

Dlamini further stated that they would still execute their duties in the team.

"We will continue serving the interest of our team until the supporters dissolve the committee and we want to see the team achieving great things within the local football fraternity," he said. Highlanders Board of Directors Chairman Zweli Jele declined to comment on the matter when contacted.

"I cannot comment on hearsay and I can only be in a position to do so

once I receive something formal," he said. Attempts were also made to get Chairman of the Patrons Isaac Shabangu but his cellphone rang answered when tried several times.

The rift between the estranged supporters committee started four months ago after the committee announced an MTN Mobile Money number for the supporters during a meeting which was held at the Lobamba National High School, something that did not sit well with the directors.