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A LOL AND A YAWN: Monday is always received with mixed reactions as the two monkeys portray it. The two were captured at Mantenga Cultural Village during a visit on the weekend. Monkeys form part of the experience at the village, which does not only have a culture village and an accommodation facility, but also has a nature reserve making it a home to wild animals like monkeys among others. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



SANDZ COLLABORATES WITH TSEPO TSHOLA

PAGE 27

'TAXATION OF ESWATINIBANK WILL CRIPPLE DEVELOPMENT'

PAGE 3

As the drugs shortage problem deepens...

NURSES THREATEN TO

RELEASE

PSYCH PATIENTS



STORY ON PAGE 3

● We are addressing health challenges – Minister Lizzy

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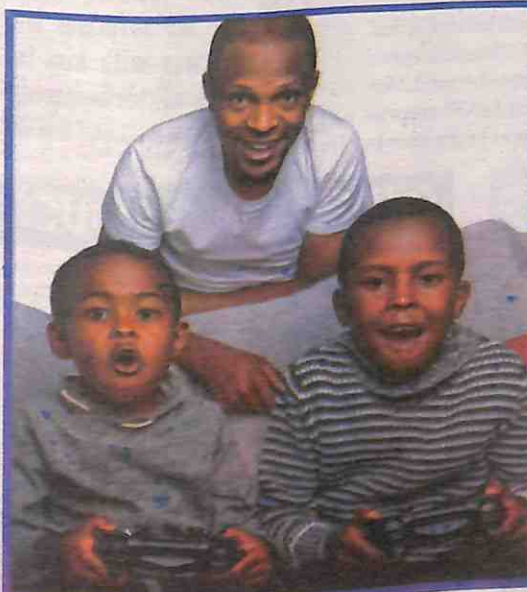
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in touch...

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Normal winter temperatures predicted

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

NORMAL winter temperatures are predicted this week.

This week's temperatures are expected to range from five to 26 Degrees Celsius.

According to information sourced from Accu weather services, clear skies are expected today. Temperatures are expected to start from seven rising to 26 Degrees Celsius.

Tomorrow, lower temperatures are predicted and clear skies are predicted too. Mankayane is predicted to be the coldest at five Degrees Celsius.

Wednesday is predicted to be the coldest day of the week with temperatures ranging from four to 23 Degrees Celsius. Clouds are expected in some parts of the country. On Thursday, temperatures are expected to slightly rise from Wednesday's temperatures. Clouds are expected in some places.

TODAY	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big Bend
Mbabane 7/22	6/22	8/24	9/23	9/24	8/26
TOMORROW	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big Bend
Mbabane 6/20	5/21	8/24	9/22	8/24	7/25
WEDNESDAY	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big Bend
Mbabane 5/17	4/19	9/21	7/20	5/22	5/23
THURSDAY	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big Bend
Mbabane 7/20	6/21	8/23	7/22	7/24	7/25

PSPF SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN UPGRADED - OWEN

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI
Lobamba

FORMER Public Service Minister Owen Nxumalo told the Government Assurance Committee (GAC) that Cabinet erred by upgrading the Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) into a Category A parastatal.

In fact, he told the committee that the PSPF should still be under Category B.

Nxumalo revealed this when he appeared before the GAC on Wednesday.

The GAC is a committee of Members of Parliament responsible for following up on decisions made by the House and ensuring that they are implemented.

To have PSPF as a Category B enterprise was widely accepted mostly by stakeholders, particularly the pensioners.

The former minister was called by the committee to answer why he did not implement a Parliament resolution concerning PSPF, which was taken by the 10th Parliament in 2015.

Nxumalo said his conscience told him that PSPF was not supposed to be where it was, which was Category A, but should be in Category B.

Nxumalo said this after he was asked by GAC Chairperson Motshane MP Robert Magongo, about the PSPF issue.

The former minister said he could not implement the resolution of Parliament because it was difficult for him to do so at Cabinet, mainly because of the collective responsibility.

Resolution

"When I became part of Cabinet in 2016, I found that Cabinet had already taken a resolution on the matter.

The Cabinet resolution was taken even before we worked on it as a Parliament Select Committee.

I could not change that resolution on my own," Nxumalo said.

He further said he found that the ministry was under the tutelage of Minister Jabulani Mabuza, who was acting at the time, now Minister of Agriculture.

"I asked 'Buy Cash' about this matter

and he clearly told me that a Cabinet resolution had been taken on this matter.

He stated that if I wanted to be part of the Cabinet, I had to abide by the resolution because failure to do so would mean that outside elements had informed me to effect Parliament resolution, much against the Cabinet resolution.

Bengingeki ngikhona kukwenta lokoBahlonishwa kule Cabinet leya. (I could not do so, Honourable members in that Cabinet)," Nxumalo said, much to the amusement of the GAC members.

Being under Category A means that the parastatal is entirely owned by government and this did not go down well with the stakeholders.

This was how Parliament weighed in on the matter in 2015. A select committee was appointed chaired by former Hhukwini MP Saladin Magagula.

Nxumalo was also part of that committee.

The committee resolved that the re-categorisation should be reversed. That did not happen.

Magongo disappointed with Owen

GAC Chairperson Robert Magongo expressed his disappointment with former Minister of Public Service Owen Nxumalo.

Magongo said what disturbed him was that Nxumalo was part of the Parliament Select Committee that probed the re-categorisation of the Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF).

Magongo said he understood that there was the collective responsibility at Cabinet, but that was not superior to the law.

Magongo wondered why it was difficult for him to effect the resolution, now that he was the public service minister. However, when Nxumalo explained why it was difficult for him to reverse the re-categorisation, Magongo seemed to understand.

Nxumalo explained that being an MP was different from a minister. He would want the PSPF to be under Category B as an MP, but it was difficult for him to implement the decision as a public service minister.

Abide

Nxumalo said he had to abide by the decision taken by Cabinet, which was taken before the august House made its own resolution on the same matter.

"Your Cabinet chairman [the late former Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini] was very clever. He appointed you to the very ministry that you challenged while still an MP," Magongo said.

The other members of the GAC laughed.

Nxumalo interrogated by 'Small Joe' on matter

IN a rather surprising move, former Minister of Public Service Owen Nxumalo found himself having to answer about the PSPF to his Cabinet colleague Mduzuzi 'Small Joe' Dlamini.

Dlamini was Minister of Tinkhundla Administration and Development when Cabinet took a decision to re-categorise Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) to Category A in 2014. This means Dlamini was part of the ministers that decided that PSPF should be re-categorised.

The former tinkhundla minister wanted to know from Nxumalo if he found himself having to answer somewhere besides Cabinet about the PSPF. Dlamini also wanted to know if Nxumalo knew how the profits from PSPF were used.

Nxumalo, in response, expressed surprise because they were together with Dlamini at Cabinet. In fact, Dlamini was at Cabinet when the decision was taken. Nxumalo could not understand why he was asked by someone who was with him in Cabinet.

"Uyangihlekisa uMhlonishwa ngoba besinaye le Cabinet nakwenteka letintfo (The Honourable MP surprises me because I was with him in

Cabinet when all this happened)," Nxumalo said.

However, Dlamini said he understood that they were together at Cabinet, but he asked because he wanted things to be set straight before the committee. He pleaded with Nxumalo not to take his enquiries in a wrong way. Manzini North MP Macford Sibandze, who is also part of the committee, intervened in the discussion.

Sibandze said he knew and understood what was said by Nxumalo. He said there were times at Cabinet where ministers would abide by decisions taken by Cabinet. There would be no way in which another different opinion would be allowed because a decision would have been taken.

Uyangihlekisa uMhlonishwa ngoba besinaye le Cabinet nakwenteka letintfo (The Honourable MP surprises me because I was with him in Cabinet when all this happened)

GAC to meet Wednesday

THE Government Assurance Committee is expected to meet again on Wednesday.

This was confirmed by Motshane MP Robert Magongo yesterday when called to state the next date on which his committee would meet. However, Magongo did not want to state whom they would be calling to have a date with on Wednesday.

He said it will not be good for the concerned individuals to be known at this stage. He said his committee would need to first inform House of Assembly Speaker Petros Mavimbela, who would then formally invite the particular person or people to the GAC.

Meanwhile, Nfonjeni MP Sifiso Sompisi Magagula said with Nxumalo having appeared to state his side on the PSPF matter, it was now clear will find answers on the matter. Magagula said this without stating where they were supposed to go.

Kumethula MP Derrick Masuku also shared the same sentiments. He said former Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini

BELOW IS A TIMELINE OF EVENTS CONCERNING THE PSPF:

- 2014: Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) is converted from Category B to Category A, without approval of stakeholders, particularly the pensioners.
- According to the PEU Act of 1989, a Category A entity is a public enterprise or body which is either wholly owned by government or in which government has a majority interest or which is dependent on government subvention for its financial support.
- A Category B enterprise is a body in which government has a minority interest or which monitors other financial institutions or which is a local government authority.
- 2014: Concerned stakeholders approach Parliament for intervention on the matter.
- 2015: MPs of the 10th Parliament appoint a five-member Select Committee to probe on why and how the PSPF was re-categorised into Category A.
- The committee was chaired by former Hhukwini MP Saladin Magagula and included former MPs Jan Sithole (Manzini North), Titus Thwala (Zombodze Eruva), Sikhumbuzo Dlamini (Nkwene) and Owen Nxumalo

- (Manzini South).
- The committee recommended that PSPF should be put back to Category B.
- 2015: Parliament took the same resolution and ordered government to reverse the re-categorisation.
- 2015: GAC at 10th Parliament, headed by former Kwaluseni MP Mkhosi Dlamini, summons ministers to answer on why they did not implement the Parliament resolutions. However, that did not yield any fruit on PSPF as it remained where it was, which was Category A.
- 2016: Former Manzini South MP Owen Nxumalo is appointed as Minister of Public Service. He replaces Jabulani Mabuza, who had been acting on behalf of Patrick Magobane Mamba, who had been indisposed.
- There was hope among stakeholders that Nxumalo would easily implement the resolution, as he was part of the Select Committee. However, that did not happen.
- 2019: GAC, which is chaired by Motshane MP Robert Magongo, works on the matter. It remains to be seen what the results will be.

also appeared before the GAC and it was clear to them that he was also not the one who had powers to make a decision on the matter. It is said that the decision about

a parastatal was made by a ministry concerned. It would then be endorsed by Cabinet and the ministry of finance would effect that change.

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NURSES THREATEN TO RELEASE PSYCH PATIENTS

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

AS the country's health system wiggles, nurses at the National Psychiatric Centre have issued a second intent to release psychotic patients due to lack of medication.

This is the second occurrence in a year, where the nurses have threatened to release the institution's patients due to lack of medication.

In the first instance, they threatened to do so when petitioning the ministry of public service for a Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (CoLA) and lack of medication.

The National Psychiatric Centre is located at Two-Sticks Township which is about four kilometres away from the Manzini Central Business District (CBD).

Some of the nurses who preferred anonymity conveyed that the situation at the institution was appalling in that the patients no longer received the amount of medication that they described as 'calming'.

The health practitioners said the shortage of medication was an ongoing issue but was worse this time around. They said in the past, when one drug was out of stock an alternative prescription would be available.

The nurses said the medication



NOT AVAILABLE: Ministry of Health Principal Secretary Dr Simon Zwane.

predicament resulted to violence within the institution which was dangerous to them as health practitioners as well as to other patients.

"The wards have become battle rings because the patients are fighting more than usual since there are those who need to be kept in check through medication. It's hard for us because our patients can't reason due to their ailment," said one nurse.

Evident to this, another nurse said the pharmacy department of the hospital was of late prescribing medication for those who had sus-

tained injuries during the fights.

Prolonged absence of the necessary medication, according to the nurses, would result to worse results of the prevailing fights among the patients.

Shortage

Conversely, the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial (RFM) Hospital is not spared from the drug shortage that has hit most of the country's health facilities.

According to the institution's medical practitioners, the hospital was part of the national public health network and just like other

national health centres; it received its medical stock from the Central Medical Stores.

The hospital is said to have only paracetamol as a pain killer. Patients who needed stronger pain relievers are said to be forced by the situation to purchase them at pharmacies around town.

Also, those that had fractured limbs were only bandaged and informed to return at later date or alternatively take their medication as the cast-formulating chemical was out of stock.

When sought for comment, RFM's Senior Medical Officer Mbuso Sihlongonyane confirmed that there were challenges in many public health centres including their institution.

Although he did not have the list of medication that was out of stock, he said most was not available but alternatives were.

The Director of health Dr Vusi Magagula, when called for comment, requested that he be given some time to enquire from the psychiatric hospital about the medication out of stock.

When he was called again yesterday, he said, through a text message, that he was in a meeting.

The Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Health Dr Simon Zwane could not be reached for comment as his phone rang unanswered.

Health ministry addressing problems in hospitals

BY MBONO MDLULI
Mbabane

THE ministry of health is acknowledging the problems faced by health workers, especially nurses, and is addressing the problems.

This was said by Minister of Health Lizzy Nkosi, when called on the matter yesterday.

Nkosi said this after nurses engaged in a go-slow in various health institutions in the country. The nurses are complaining about lack of drugs in the health facilities and staff shortages.

Nkosi said she was aware that the health workers were undergoing those challenges and they contemplated delivering a petition to Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini this Friday.

Nkosi stated that they were working tirelessly on the matters to improve the working conditions of the health workers.

She said drugs were in short supply because of some problems in procurement matters. However, the minister assured Emaswati that ARV drugs were available in health facilities.

Complained

The minister further stated that the health workers complained about the shortage of staff in health institutions.

She said the shortage of staff had been a problem for a very long time, mainly because of the cash flow challenges faced by the government. Nkosi said the ministry of public service would give them a few posts at a time to fill the vacancies. She said the vacancies would be filled slowly because of the economic problem faced by the country. The minister said she could not give the exact numbers of health workers that were given by the ministry of public service. The minister said some of the vacancies were created way before the current government and it was hard to fill them up because of the cash flow problems. The minister told the health workers that the ministry was aware of the challenges they faced and they were working on solving the challenges. However, she acknowledged the slow pace saying that was due to the lack of money.

'ESWATINIBANK TAXATION TO CRIPPLE ITS DEVELOPMENT'

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

ESWATINIBANK Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele has revealed that taxation of the bank would cause it to fail to provide for future projects.

Last Wednesday the Senate Portfolio Committee tabled the Eswatini Development and Savings Bank Amendment Bill No. 08, whose objective was to amend the Eswatini Development and Savings Bank Order, 1973 in relation to the Income Tax Order, 1975 to render the bank liable to tax and provide incidental matters.

Following extensive deliberation on the Bill the Senate Finance Portfolio Committee found it appropriate to recommend approval of the Bill.

When responding to this development, Lukhele said taxation of the bank would not provide an opportunity for it to provide for future projects.

"The bank's profitability is still at low levels and the introduction of tax will significantly reduce its profits to be invested back into the business," said Lukhele.

He mentioned that the bank appreciated the fact that this was a stakeholder issue and was not in a position to support or not support the removal of Section 27 of the Eswatini Development and Savings Bank Bill (SDSB) order.

He said the bank operated inline with its developmental mandate to provide extensive support to farmers and small micro and medium enterprises.

In the absence of government funding or direct development support, it had become crucial for the bank to focus on improving its commercial wing, which in turn subsidised the loss making developmental business.

Affordable

He added the subsidisation enabled the bank to price the developmental products competitively and in a manner affordable to all citizens. Lukhele said the bank relied on borrowings and public deposits for funding.

"Customers expect competitive products in particular the digital innovations. The bank therefore uses the profits generated to invest in these innovations to ensure maximum customer retention, without which the bank would easily run into liquidity challenges," said the MD.

Finance Minister Neal Rijkenberg told senators that the exemption from income tax conferred on public enterprises or parastatals were like hidden subsidies, whereas subsidisation of state owned enterprises should be done in a transparent manner by direct grant or subsidy.

To address this matter and ensure consistency in the implementation of the new policy, the ministry submitted the amendment bill that removes the exemption section.

Also worth noting was that senators held dissenting views over the taxation of the bank as it was the only bank in the country which

had a developmental mandate.

They were of the view that the relief on tax component was intentional to allow the bank to execute its developmental mandate.

On the other hand some felt the Bill should be passed and the bank should be taxed like any other

entity basing their argument on that the bank would be taxed only what was due. The committee eventually voted the amendment should be accepted.

After extensively deliberating on the clauses of the Bill, noting the stake-

holders concerns, the committee concurred with the house of assembly to pass the Bill without any amendment.

Minister of Finance Rijkenberg met with the bank's Managing Director regarding the imposition of income tax on Eswatinibank.

"It was clarified that the intentions of tax was not in any way meant to remove or reduce the development mandate of the bank but only take part of the bank's profits and invest them in a bigger development agenda with government, whilst the rest was ploughed back in the bank's business," said the minister. The minister said they discussed other measures with the MD, which could be considered to improve the profitability of the bank as the ministry would be working more closely with the bank on the initiative.

The minister also had discussions with the governor of the central bank of Eswatini to clarify concerns of the bank's developmental mandate.

In this meeting it was appreciated that the policy stance seeks to level the playing field for all banks under the Central Bank's supervision.



REVEALED: Eswatinibank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele.

FATHER'S DAY



NKHOSI: The Dlamini family came all out to celebrate their father at Happy Valley Hotel yesterday. (Pics: Delisa Thwala)



FATHERS: Khiyazitho Kunene and Jabulani Kunene relaxing after their meal.



SURPRISE: Mr Mazibuko said he was surprised by his wife with lunch after church.



HAPPY: Richard Dlamini and Athe Dlamini posing for the camera during their lunch at Royal Swazi. (R) **OLDIES:** Mr and Mrs Mabuza took time to celebrate the day too.



HI: Machawe Motsa, Tsepho Motsa and Viwi Motsa enjoying their lunch at Royal Swazi Spar.



CAKE: This cake was served as dessert.



FOR HIM: The Mazibuko family also celebrated father's Daddy Mazibuko yesterday as he means the world to them.



APPLAUSE: This family wore matching outfits for the day.



SAXO: Zwile Bhembe thrilled the crowd at Happy Valley during the Father's Day lunch.



FIRST TIME FATHER: Bongani with his son Hleliwe spending their first Father's Day together.

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LUNCH



ALL SMILES: Thulani Matsebula being celebrated by his wife Lihle and son Thapelo during the father's day lunch at the George Hotel yesterday. (Pics: Setsabile Nkambule)



PROPHET AND FAMILY: Prophet Chris Ndzimandze and family enjoying themselves. (R)
PERFECT FAMILY: The Malaza family were also noted celebrating father Colani.



FOODIE: Some of the food that was on the menu.



JUST THE THREE OF US: The Vilakati family having a chilled Sunday and enjoying great food.



DADDY: Mom Samkelisiwe alongside children Wendziwe, Temacusi, and Lwazi celebrating their father Colen Malinga.



GUMBI FAMILY: The Gumbi family showing love and appreciation to the man of the house Eric Gumbi.

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NEDBANK

Hunter Shongwe back in court on gun charges

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

SHOULD owners of toy guns expect a visit by law enforcement officers too?

This is the question that one should ask after it was ascertained that private investigator Hunter Shongwe was arrested and charged for a toy gun.

Shongwe is back in court for the commencement of his trial, after he was arrested last year for failing to take reasonable precaution in the safe keeping of his firearms.

Shongwe was charged with contravening Section 15 (4) (5) as read with Section (6) of the Arms and Ammunition Act 24 of 1964, after he was said to have, on February 19, 2018 at or near Mvutshini in the Hhohho region, possessed a firearm and wrongfully and unlawfully failing to take reasonable precautions to ensure that ammunition of the firearm

was kept in safe custody while at Mvutshini.

During his appearance before Mbabane Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi on Thursday, Shongwe's attorney put it to the crown counsel's first witness Thobile Dlamini, that the firearm she was called to identify on the day in question, was in actual fact, a toy gun.

Approached

This was after Dlamini had informed the court that, as Shongwe's landlord, she was approached by three police officers to unlock the bedsitter occupied by Shongwe.

"After I opened the door, the police officers and I entered the living room area, where, laid out on the dining room table were seven yellow gun cartridges, 14 rounds of ammunition, a small, black firearm and a rifle palm which hung on a nail on the wall," Dlamini stated.

According to Dlamini's recollection of the events that took place that day, Shongwe was present when the



CHARGED: Private investigator Hunter Shongwe.

police officers approached her in the his house.

However, when the crown counsel represented by Nomkhosi Dlamini cross examined the crown's second witness, neighbour Mzwandile Vilakati;

he relayed a different version of the events that occurred that day.

"I live just 300 metres away from the compound where Shongwe lives, however I was sitting right by his compound that day, when I saw a sedan drive up and park right by Shongwe's front door. Inside was Shongwe, who was accompanied by uniformed police officers," Vilakati recalled.

Confiscated

Vilakati relayed that the police officers called him towards the car, where they had 14 live rounds of ammunition, seven cartridges and two guns – one small gun with a torch on the underside, and one large rifle.

"The police officers brought the items to me, where they asked me to count all of the items, to which I did. They then confiscated the items and are now in police custody," he stated.

During his cross examination of both witnesses, Shongwe's attorney questioned them, whether there was

easy access into Shongwe's abode, considering the security precautionary measures his client had put in place.

"I put it to you that is it not true that my client has burglar proof windows and doors around his house? My client has a state of the art camera system installed both in the interior and exterior of his house, which serves as a means of taking reasonable precautions to ensure that firearms and live ammunition are kept in safe custody," the attorney stated, to which both witnesses responded to the affirmative.

As the crown was set to call one of the investigation officers as its third witness, it was later ascertained that the police officer had sustained an injury. This compelled the crown to postpone the matter until August 22 for continuation of trial.

After I opened the door, the police officers and I entered the living room area, where, laid out on the dining room table were seven yellow gun cartridges, 14 rounds of ammunition, a small, black firearm and a rifle palm which hung on a nail on the wall.

German wants to forge development partnerships with locals

STORIES BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

REPRESENTATIVES from German Parliament paid a courtesy visit to Eswatini for discussions with local parliamentarians.

Last Thursday a delegation of members of the German Bundestag from the Federal Republic of Germany visited various parliamentarians and government officials to engage on discussions and sharing of knowledge with their local counterparts.

Among their numerous engagements, the delegation of the parliamentary friendship group for relations had a meeting with both chambers of Parliament, senate and the house of assembly at the parliament boardroom in Lobamba yesterday.

Engagement

The parliamentary friendship group headed by Member of the German Bundestag Martin Rabanus are currently on an engagement exercise with the southern African states. Two weeks ago the friendship group visited South Africa and from Eswatini, they would



UNITY: Eswatini parliamentarians and the German parliamentary group after successfully engaging in discussions and exchanging ideas yesterday. (Pics: Sifiso Dlamini)

be visiting the Republic of Botswana this week.

Martin Rabanus said the purpose of

the visit to Eswatini was to forge development partnerships between the two countries.

"The engagements would assist both parties in familiarising themselves with each government's day to day

operations and lay foundations for future investments," said Rabanus.

Senate Deputy President Ndumiso Mdluli welcomed the friendship group.

He said the courtesy call was historic and a vital means of establishing a mutual partnership with German government going forward.

Fruitful

Mdluli said Eswatini government welcomed the formation of partnerships and was looking forward to a fruitful relationship, where both nations would benefit from one another.

Mdluli said the 11th Parliament of the Kingdom was characterised by various committee work to diligently execute its core mandate of oversight, legislation and political will.

"The country has just launched its blue print economic strategy, which serves as a roadmap on how best to execute oversight and legislation on how to leverage the country's economic development," he said.

Deputy Speaker Phila Buthelezi welcomed the opportunity to exchange programmes between the two governments.

He said it was important to share ideas as both nations faced similar challenges regardless of the difference in locations.

Programmes in place for addressing youth unemployment

DEPUTY Prime Minister Themba Masuku has informed the German Parliamentary Friendship delegates that Eswatini is making strides in addressing youth unemployment.

This was last Thursday during a meeting with the friendship group yesterday at the Royal Villas in Ezulwini.

Among the questions asked to the DPM was that of the issue of youth unemployment which stands at 27 per cent. Masuku said the country had a number of initiatives and programmes in place intended on assist-

ing the country's youth unemployment issue.

Masuku said education remained key in ensuring the country's population was well equipped in terms of skills and education to ensure investors found a skilled labour force.

Limited

He added that the focus was not to train people to look for jobs since the country's job market was limited.

"The focus is on training the youth to be able to establish their own businesses and

become future employers instead of employees," said Masuku.

In this regard, the DPM said there were a number of programmes accessible to the youth to assist them in establishing their own businesses.

He said there was the Youth Enterprise Fund, the Poverty Reduction Fund as well as the Regional Development Fund which were available and set up to assist the Kingdom's youth in establishing businesses and meaningfully contribute to the economy.

LOCAL ECONOMY WILL RECOVER

MINISTER of Finance Neal Rejkenberg says the country is in the process of economic recovery.

The minister in addressing a question about the economic situation in the country said the country was categorised as a middle-lower income country, meaning the country only qualified for a particular group of benefits from the international investors.

He said government was in the process of finalising a loan to ensure the national cash flow was back to its normal state.

MLAWULA-MAGADZAVANE WALK:



ON TOP: The participants of the tour taking a group photo at the peak of the 6km track.

FOREIGN TEAMS CONFIRM PARTICIPATION

STORIES BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Mlawula

THE impact of the Mlawula-Magadzavane Challenge Walk is steadily gaining momentum and making notable contributions to the country's tourism sector.

This comes after a number of teams from outside the country having confirmed to bring participants for the fourth edition of the challenge walk.

The initiative is pioneered by Eco Lubombo Organisation (ELO), in col-

laboration with the ministry of tourism and environmental affairs. Senator Sylvia Mthethwa is the patron of ELO.

Tour

The challenge walk which was recently launched by Minister Moses Vilakati is scheduled for June 30.

The organisers of the event over the weekend hosted media personnel and other stakeholders on a tour of the tracks, which will be used during the main event. According to ELO Public Relations Officer Bonwa Simelane, the tour was meant to assure participants of their safety during the main day.

Apparently, the challenge walk goes through Mlawula game reserve, where participants also get the opportunity to see wild animals while undertaking the walk.

When briefing the media, Simelane disclosed that there have been a number of groups from neighbouring South Africa and Mozambique confirming their participation on the challenge walk. One of these is said to be the South African Police Service (SAPS) who have confirmed to be bringing a large group of participants.

"The SAPS and another fitness groups

All Nations Church in Zion pumps in E80 000 to challenge walk

ALL Nations Christian Church in Zion has once again led by example in supporting initiatives which are aimed at taking the country to the First World Status by 2022.

The church has pumped in a sum of E80 000 towards the Mlawula-Magadzavane Challenge Walk which is scheduled for June 30.

This was announced by one of the church's Pastor Sabelo Khumalo who represented its leadership during the media and stakeholders' tour of the Mlawula-Magadzavane tracks on Saturday.

Khumalo said the leadership of the church managed to mobilise funds and paid for 475 members to participate during the main day of the event.

Khumalo said the figure might increase before the end of this week as the church is still working on further logistics.

"The bishop has sent me to confirm that at least 475 members of the church will participate in the

challenge walk as they have already been paid for," said Khumalo. Khumalo said however, the leadership of the church may not be present to take part in the event as there was a possibility that it attends to a service in South Africa.

Meanwhile, ELO Public Relations Officer Bonwa Simelane also disclosed that there have been a number of companies and organisations confirming their participation in the event. The Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC) is said to have forked out a sum of E10 000 in support of the event.

Other groups who will be taking part during the challenge walk will include TZD Sport, Crooks Plantation, Eswatini Water Service Corporation, amongst others. Simelane said the event will be graced by the patron, Senator Sylvia Mthethwa and some cabinet ministers. Proceeds of the initiative are used mostly for charity projects.

from South Africa have confirmed that they will be taking part in the challenge walk.

Another group from Mozambique is yet to confirm before the end of this week," said Simelane.

When launching the walk last month, the minister of tourism and environmental affairs urged the

organisers to engage foreign groups in the initiative. Vilakati noted that the initiative had the potential to enhance tourism in the country.

It was highlighted that the initiative seeks to empower the less privileged in the region, while simultaneously showcasing the beauty of the Lubombo landscape.

Pigg's Peak mayor is new ELGA president

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

PIGG'S Peak Mayor Victor Rodrigues is the new president of the Eswatini Local Government Association (ELGA).

Rodrigues was voted into office by about 60 councillors from all 13 towns in the Kingdom on Saturday at Matsapha.

Rodrigues replaces former Mayor of Nhlanguano, Mashumi Shongwe as the president of ELGA, formerly known as the Swaziland Local Government Association (SWALGA).

Councillor Khethokuhle

Dlamini from Manzini continues as first Vice President of ELGA and second Vice President is still Councillor Billy Fitzpatrick from Malkerns.

Board Administrator under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and ELGA Director, Gordon Mbuli said the voting was professional as the councillors were very confident in their new president.

"All attending councillors expressed their satisfaction and confidence in their new president. Voting took place during the annual ELGA general meeting that was held in Matsapha on Saturday. About 60 councillors were involved in the vot-

ing. Pigg's Peak had a very strong presence in the results because Rodrigues was voted President, Pigg's Peak Councillor Sizwe Themba was voted an administrative ELGA board member," he said.

Mbuli added that the job of ELGA was to promote all initiatives under local government to ensure accountability for each town in the Kingdom of Eswatini pertaining to donor and development projects.

President Rodriguez confirmed his presidency election to this publication.

He said a roadmap with all ELGA's projects would soon be made public.

MORE COPS TRAINED ON SODV ACT

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

IN a bid to improve efficacy, the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) has trained 35 officers on the newly enacted SODV Act and other relevant legislations.

This was revealed by the Assistant National Commissioner Mxolisi Dlamini on behalf of the acting national commissioner, during the official closing of the basic DCS Investigators Course of 2019. The event was held at the Matsapha Police Academy last Friday.

According to Dlamini, such a course was a clear indicator on organisational efforts in ensuring that capacity gaps

within the Domestic Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Units (DCS) were addressed. He said this included that all its personnel is empowered with the latest models and theories on investigative techniques. On a broader perspective, Dlamini said training had been recognised and trademarked as one of the fundamental drivers for any organisational success, hence the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) adopted and embraced its obligation to build the capacity of its personnel. With the massive boost to efficiency of an organisation, Dlamini said it was of utmost importance that trainings be at the top of the organisational priorities list.

Directing to the participants, the assistant NatCom representative said he hoped that this training managed to address, among other things, the dilemmas of the courts and the communities that they served.

Furthermore, he said such a course was meant to address certain deficiencies identified at the workplace with respect to the investigation of gender-based violence related cases and the presentation of evidence in courts. "We expect every one of you to be a true reflection of the organisation and be instrumental in assisting the Service to gradually regain its good image, respect and confidence it deserves," Dlamini directed to the participants.



ESWATINI CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

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P.O. Box D361, The Gables, H126, Kingdom of Eswatini

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR AIRPORT ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT KING MSWATI III INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

TENDER NO. 03 OF 2019/2020

1. Expression of Interest (EOI) are hereby invited from suitably qualified Service Providers to provide proposals for the Airport Advertising Concession at King Mswati III International Airport.
2. Expression of Interest (EOI) may be purchased from; the **Eswatini Civil Aviation Authority Head Office, Matsapha Airport Road** (Finance offices) effective from the **14th June 2019** for a non-refundable fee of **E300.00** per set. The method of payment shall be cash, bank guaranteed cheque or electronic fund transfer proof in favour of ESWACAA.
3. Completed Tender Documents shall be delivered in a sealed envelope to:
**The Secretary of the Tender Committee
Eswatini Civil Aviation Authority
Matsapha Airport Road
Matsapha
P.O. Box D361
The Gables**

Not later than 12 noon Eswatini time on the 26th July 2019 at which time the tenders will be opened.

On the outside, the envelope shall be clearly marked:

**"CONFIDENTIAL
TENDER NO.03 OF 2019/2020
PROPOSAL FOR AIRPORT ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT KING MSWATI III INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

(Not to be opened before 12 Noon on the 26th July 2019)"

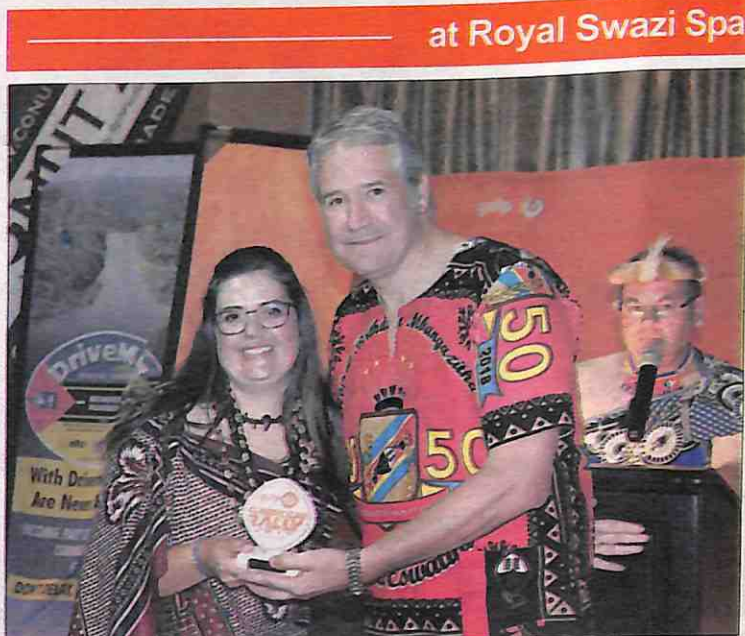
4. The Eswatini Civil Aviation Authority does not bind itself to accept any proposal and reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

BY MANAGEMENT

CLASSIC CAR RALLY GALA DINNER



CONGRATS: Classic Car Rally Marketing and Administration Director Saydi Janse van Rensburg presenting a trophy to Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati. This was during the themed gala dinner for the competitors at Royal Swazi Spa on Saturday night. The rally moved to Mozambique yesterday morning. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



ALL SMILES: Saydi presenting an award to Galp Eswatini MD Francisco Ferreira.



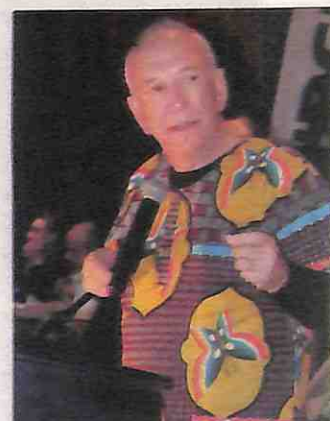
BEST DRESSED: Minister Vilakati posing with William Bunting, who was the best dressed competitor for the night.



ENTERTAINMENT: Local Afro soul group Ezamaswazi from Mahlanya entertaining the gathering.



THERE YOU GO: Coordinator of the rally Antonio Barbosa presenting awards to Paul Greene and his wife Annelise.



EMISSARY: Lois Simao from Mozambique speaking on behalf of the competitors.



ATTENTIVE: Some of the competitors and navigators who were at the dinner.



KODAK MOMENT: Bright Spark Crew awardees Sybrand van Niekerk and his wife Carman all smiles after receiving their awards from Saydi Janse van Rensburg.



GOLDEN OLDIE: Leon was awarded for driving the oldest model being a 1958 Ford Fairlane.



VACANCY – BOARD SECRETARY

The Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) is a Category "A" Public Enterprise established by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority Act, 2010 to regulate non-bank financial institutions for the growth and stability of the country's financial sector and economy. The FSRA is looking for a personable, analytic and well-rounded individual to fill the position of Board Secretary which will be on a contractual basis.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Reporting to the CEO, the Board Secretary will be responsible for:
- Providing Company secretarial services to the Board of Directors to assist the Board and the CEO in ensuring that there is follow through on all Board decisions and outstanding matters.
 - Ensuring FSRA's compliance with all applicable legislation, corporate governance regulations and guidelines.
 - Advising the Board and respective committees on any changes to regulations and the subsequent implications to the FSRA.
 - Implementing the corporate governance framework practices and code of ethics across the business through planning, directing and coordinating of all corporate governance activities.
 - Establishing terms of reference and internal governance capability for the Board of Directors.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

The competencies listed below are representative of the requirements:

- Minimum Bachelor of Laws Degree
- Must be an admitted attorney of the High Court
- Minimum 5 years (post admission) experience, 3 of which should have been in a similar position as company secretary and / or executive governance position
- Experience in working in a highly regulated environment
- Sound knowledge and experience of corporate governance and secretariat processes and procedures
- Knowledge and experience of Financial Service Laws and Regulations.
- Ability to interact and advise ethically at Management and Board levels
- Ability to exercise strong initiation, judgment and discretion;
- Resilience and emotional intelligence with strong analytical and problem solving skills
- Strong interpersonal, negotiation and leadership skills
- Strong written and oral communication and presentation skills

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All applications should be directed to:

- The Recruitment Consultant, KQ Consulting (Pty) Ltd
 - By e-mail to recruitment@kq.co.sz, with position title on subject line.
 - Closing Date: Friday, 21 June 2019
 - Late applications will not be considered. Selection will be subject to competency assessments and reference checks.
- Correspondence will be limited to short-listed applicants only.

▶ ▶ MTN 21 days of Y'ello Care 2019



MTN PLAYING ROLE IN CURBING ESWATINI'S SOCIAL ILLS

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

TODAY marks day number 12 of the 2019 MTN 21 Days of Y'ello Care project.

This is the 13th edition of the mobile communication giants' volunteerism project. The Swazi Observer has been covering the campaign and today, we compile what happened thus far.



URGED: Minister of Agriculture Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza delivering his speech day one of the activity.



Monday, June 3 (Official launch)

THIS was the official launch of the 2019 MTN 21 Days of Y'ello Care.

The event was held at Ngwenya Glass and graced by Ministers Mabuza, Public Service Minister Christian Ntshangase, who attended in his capacity as acting Minister of Education, Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Under Secretary (PS) Nhlankhla Motsa, who was standing in for Minister Harries 'Madze' Bulunga as well as MTN Eswatini Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sibusiso

Nhleko.

The launch started with a tour around Ngwenya Glass by the dignitaries and thereafter, they were introduced to the young entrepreneurs taking part in the MTN 21 Days of Y'ello Care business-

Focused

Minister Mabuza's speech focused on the stereotypes by young people, on the false assumption that agriculture is labour-intensive which leads to the business potential being ignored. "For the longest

time, agriculture has been mistaken as predominantly labour-intensive by most young people who then end up losing out on a big opportunity. I call upon young people to stand up against unemployment, and tap into the potential that agriculture possesses.

As outlined in the recently launched strategic direction by the prime minister, creating sustainable job opportunities is one of our key priorities," he said.

The theme for this year's campaign was revealed to be 'Youth Empowerment'.

Tuesday, June 4 (Construction of classrooms at Mpofu Primary School)

WITH the project having been launched the previous day, MTNers started the campaign with a drive to the Hhohho region for one of this year's projects, which is the construction of four classrooms at Mpofu Primary.

The school, which is under the Mhlangatane Inkhundla, will now see

pupils learning under humane conditions as the classrooms were already in need of rehabilitation having been used for over two decades.

AfriSam and Micro-Projects are the partners working hand-in-hand with MTN Eswatini on the ground for the construction of the classrooms.



Y'ELLO LOVE: MTN Eswatini staff after a hard day of labour at Mpofu Primary School.

Thursday, June 6 (SWIFT training opening at CODEC)

IN line with this year's youth empowerment theme MTN and SWIFT had a group of over 100 young people in training, and during the opening, they sat through presentations from officials from the Youth Fund as well as MTNers from different departments who taught them about business.



WINNER'S PRODUCT: The winning product by Amani Creations.

Wednesday, June 5 (bee-hive construction at Mphumakudze)

The third day of the campaign saw MTN and ESWADE head to the Lubombo region, deep in the Siphofaneni mountains for the first bee-hive construction at

Mphumakudze.

The MTNers got their hands dirty and helped set up the toilets, fencing as well as construction of the beehives.

Friday, June 7 (Ekwetsembeni Egg Hatchery)

MTNers ended the first week by heading to the capital city to Ekwetsembeni School for the academically challenged.

They refurbished the egg Hatchery. Partners Macmillan and Huawei were also present for on the ground support.

Friday, (Launch of E100 000 youth entrepreneurs project)

After a gruelling three and a half hour drive down to the Shiselweni region, MTNers helped set up the bee-hive at Ngobolweni before the launch for the Khula Natsi loan scheme.

The event was graced by the Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga, MTN Eswatini Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sibusiso Nhleko, Lugongolweni Member of Parliament (MP) Ntsetselelo Magongo, Director of Youth Affairs Bheki Thwala, as well as the area's Chief Dambuza Lukhele. Partners present were Macmillan and ESWADE.

Thursday, June 12 (Painting of egg hatchery at Ekwetsembeni)

MTNers braced the cold at the capital city to paint and finish off the egg hatchery.

Macmillan staffers were also present for support.

Monday, June 10 (Bee-hive at Ndushulweni)

Monday was back to business as MTNers left early in the morning for the Lubombo region to set up another bee-hive at

Endushulweni for the youth. Once again, they had partners ESWADE and Macmillan supporting them.

Tuesday, June 11 (Training closing ceremony at CODEC)

YOUNG people who had been undergoing training on business had an opportunity to present their products to the judges specially selected and one group was picked as winners for their unique product.

The SWIFT Igniting Minds for Success beneficiaries (handmade products) were being judged by MTNers and reps from partners (Macmillan and SEL) on the group projects they came up with after

all the series of training workshops they received. Group 2 'Amani Creations' ('Amani' means peace in Swahili) won the big prize of E5 000.

The group's project was unique in the sense that their cushions were designed to incorporate the visually impaired, with textures and 3D material on the covers such as wooden tusk sewn onto the elephant, leather for the ears and beads for the outline).

2019 21 DAYS PARTNERS

macmillan education

SEL

ESWADE
Making a Difference

SWIFT

AfriSam
Creating Concrete Possibilities

YOUTH FUND

STANBANK ESWATINI

RESOURCES

CODEC

PC SYSTEMS

INDZ

Build it

ZIS

AMANI

USAID

World Vision

VC

CODEC

B

SWIFT

ESWADE

Macmillan



CONFIRMED: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

87 motorists nabbed for DD

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

DESPITE the increased intensity of road patrols, it seems as if the number of drink-driving cases continues to increase.

More drink-driving cases were recorded over the weekend as compared to last week.

The Royal Eswatini Police Service recorded 87 cases of drink-driving over the past weekend. This is an increase from the 83 of last weekend.

Despite the increase in the number of drink-driving cases, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said there were no fatal accidents that were reported over the past 48 hours.

She condemned motorists who drive under the influence of alcohol. Currently, REPS is strategising on reducing road accidents. As a result, there is a noticeable num-

ber of roadblocks in all the country's roads. Vilakati said drunk drivers will not be spared during the roadblocks. She urged motorists to stay away from the driver's seat once they imbibe in alcohol because it reduces driving ability, thus causing accidents.

As the week resumes, Vilakati urged everyone who will be using the road to use it wisely and safe.

"As we begin a new week, I urge everyone who will be using the road to use it safely," she said.



As we begin a new week, I urge everyone who will be using the road to use it safely

Woman (32) arrested for squandering late mom's pension

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A young woman is facing the retributive arm of the law after she unlawfully squandered her late mother's pension monies.

Geebile Mkhweli of Emvembili area under Chief Solani is said to have stolen money amounting to over E45 000 in respect of her late mother Theresa Mkhweli's pension. She was arrested and charged with theft.

According to her charge sheet, Mkhweli is said to have, between the periods of November 2017 to September 2018, unlawfully and intentionally stolen money amounting to E45 090.19, which were monies paid into a Swaziland Building Society (SBS) account. The mentioned sum of money was in respect of pensions for the late Theresa Mkhweli.

Geebile allegedly further made withdrawals from the SBS account, with the sole intention to use the

money for her personal gain. The monies are said to have been in the lawful possession of the Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF), in their capacity as issuer of pension monies.

Geebile reportedly made these unlawful withdrawals knowing fully well that she was unauthorised to make the withdrawals as she was not legally entitled to the pension payments.

As, in her first appearance before the Mbabane Magistrate's Court, she had pleaded not guilty. She appeared before the court on Tuesday for the continuation of her trial.

This was where the court was set to call its first witness to lead evidence in the case.

However, it was later ascertained that the crown's witness could not make an appearance as he could not be located. This last minute turn of events compelled the court to postpone the matter for a continuation of trial on July 16.



FOCUS on DD cases

Senior citizen records highest

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

DURING his appearance before the Mbabane Magistrate's Court yesterday, Sunnyboy Mbuli (54) of Zone Two said the death in his family drove him to make the mistake of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

"Your Worship, the news of my father's passing forced me to drive and unfortunately for me, I was arrested by the police as I was on my way home.

I made a mistake and I plead with the court to be lenient with me," Mbuli pleaded.

Mbuli was arrested and charged with contravening the Road Traffic Act after he was found to have, on Saturday at Checkers, been driving his Toyota Hilux van while under the influence of alcohol.



Mitigation

A breathalyser test conducted on him read 1.73mg/l.

This was the highest alcohol content reading recorded.

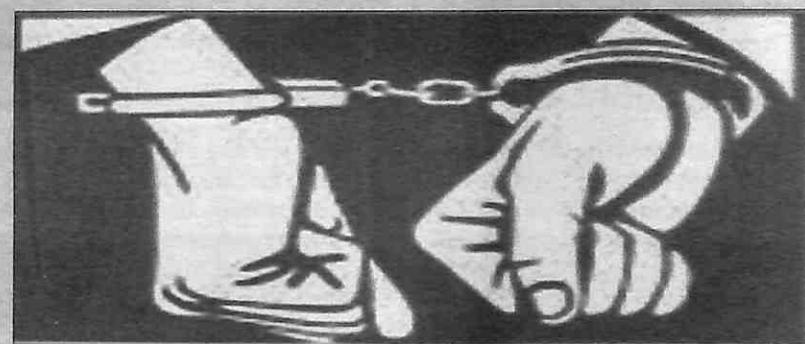
After hearing his mitigation, Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi sentenced him to pay a fine of E3 000 and in default of payment, he will serve two years in a correctional facility.

However, upon hearing his sentence, Mbuli made an application to pay his fine in two installments, pleading with the court to allow him to pay E1 500 yesterday and the balance at the end of July. The court granted Mbuli his application, further postponing the matter to July 30, where Mbuli is set to appear to pay the balance of his fine.

UNEMPLOYED FATHER OF 2 NABBED

UNEMPLOYED father of two Mzwandile Dlamini was arrested and charged with contravening the Road Traffic Act.

He was alleged to have been found morning, near EEC yesterday, driving his Isuzu LDV while under the influence of alcohol. With the second highest alcohol content reading of the day, Dlamini is said to have had a blood alcohol content reading of 1.33mg/l. During his mitigation, Dlamini claimed that he had two minor children who were dependent on him for their wellbeing, adding he



was unemployed. He said he made ends meet through piece jobs. Principal Magistrate Nhlabatsi sentenced Dlamini

to pay a fine of E2 500 and in default of payment to serve two years imprisonment.

Man nabbed for DD claims to have taken energy drink

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

TWO cans of Dragon energy drink resulted to a Mozambican man missing his father's funeral.

Patrick Matola (32) was slapped with two counts of driving while under the influence of alcohol and also driving without a licence.

He appeared before Magistrate Sebenzile Ndlela yesterday.

The Mozambican was arrested on Saturday near Eswatini Beverages traffic lights while driving a Nissan sedan. His specimen reading was 0.49mg/l, exceeding the legal limit of 0.38mg/l. The man was driving a vehicle with registration number USD 842 AL.

On the second count, Matola is said to have failed to produce a valid driver's licence when requested to do so by police officers.

When explaining his story, Matola said he arrived in the country on Friday with the intention to fetch his dead father's body from Dups as he had died

while in Eswatini. He said while at the morgue, he was asked by another to accompany him to get some food.

After meals, Matola said he gulped down two cans of Dragon energy drink. When all this was done, the Mozambican said he was then asked to take the wheel of the vehicle they were travelling in to Matsapha to fetch two other people who were going to Mozambique for his father's funeral only for them to be stopped by traffic police along the way.

Shocked

"I was shocked to learn from the police that there was some alcohol content in my blood system because all I drank was the energy drink," he said.

He went on to inform the court that the police told him that the energy drink had guarana extracts. According to www.drugs.com, a dose of guarana paste has a caffeine content of between 3.6 and 5.8 per cent.

"I don't even know what guarana is," said Matola.

In the case of driving without a licence, Matola said he had one but it was left in his car at Dups when he went for

food in another vehicle that was not initially driven by him. He said although he was not aware that the energy drink had alcohol, he did not intend to drive any vehicle hence he left the licence.

When mitigating, the Mozambican pleaded with the court to be lenient because he did not have any money after the costs he had to pay to ensure that his father's body was returned back to Maputo. To substantiate this, Matola said he had to pay E2 000 for transport that would ferry his father's body to Maputo since his own car was too small to carry the coffin.

He was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment with an option of E1 000 fine for the first count and five months imprisonment with an option of E500 for the second one. His sentences were to run concurrently, meaning he was supposed to pay E1000 or spend 10 months behind bars.

Even after this leniency that was demonstrated by the court, Matola was heard murmuring that the E1 000 was too much for him because he did not have any money on him.

DD cases alcohol content

THESE ARE SOME OF THE DRINK DRIVERS WHO APPEARED IN COURT YESTERDAY:

NAME	ALCOHOL CONTENT	SENTENCE
Sunnyboy Mbuli	1.73mg/l	E3 000 or two years
Mzwandile Dlamini	1.33mg/l	E2 500 or two years
Mxolisi Nkambule	0.86mg/l	E2 000 or two years
Samkelo Sikonela	0.58mg/l	E1 500 or 15 months
Ginah De Sousa	0.58mg/l	E1 500 or 15 months
Themba Mkhonta	0.53mg/l	E1 500 or 15 months
Andile Ndlangamandla	0.48mg/l	E1 500 or 15 months
Saneliso Ncube	0.44mg/l	E1 400 or 14 months
Bhekinkosi Simelane	0.40mg/l	E1 400 or 14 months

Troublesome drink driver gives cops incorrect particulars

A man who thought that by furnishing law enforcement officers incorrect particulars was a 'good' idea, earned himself an additional charge.

Mxolisi Nkambule (29) of Gebeni is said to have been initially arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol, where he is said to have, yesterday at Satellite in Ezulwini, been driving his Honda Fit.

After a breathalyser test was conducted, it was ascertained that Nkambule's alcohol content reading recorded 0.86mg/l.

As the law enforcement officer jotted down Nkambule's particulars to be added onto his charge sheet, Nkambule is said to have misinformed the officer when he informed him that his surname was Bhembe, when he knew full well that his surname was Nkambule.

Nkambule is also said to have been charged with two additional charges, those being on a public road, whilst carrying a driver's

licence to which he is not the holder.

He is also said to have been driving a vehicle with a cracked windscreen, making it an unroad-worthy vehicle.

Principal Magistrate Nhlabatsi ordered the first three charges to run concurrently, with the fourth charge holding a fine of E500 or five months standing alone.

This mean that Nkambule was to pay a fine of E2 500 to gain his liberation.



As the law enforcement officer jotted down Nkambule's particulars to be added onto his charge sheet, Nkambule is said to have misinformed the officer when he informed him that his surname was Bhembe, when he knew full well that his surname was Nkambule

OTHER OFFENDERS

1. Ncamiso Magagula	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
2. Phinda Dlamini	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
3. Sakhile Sizwe Shabangu	32 months imprisonment/ E2 800 fine
4. Mcolisi Gamedze	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
5. Mcolisi Mamba	15 months imprisonment/ E1 500 fine
6. Sihle Shabangu	2 years imprisonment/ E2 400 fine
7. Ntombifuthi Sibitane Simelane	15 months imprisonment/ E1 500 fine
8. Mangaliso Mhlanga	15 months imprisonment/ E1500 fine
9. Sizwe Hero Bhembe	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
10. Dumisa Ngwenya	15 months imprisonment/ E1 500 fine
11. Michael Shabangu	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
12. Mlungisi Dlamini	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
13. Calvin Robertson	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
14. Brian Dlamini	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
15. Sizwe Malinga	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
16. Sakhile Myeni	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
17. Norman Dlamini	10 months imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
18. Vuyisile Dlamini	15 months imprisonment/ E1 500 fine
19. Stanley Chitundu	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
20. Sebenzile Nhleko	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
21. Senzo Jethro Khumalo	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine
22. Kedibone Ramanamane	2 years imprisonment/ E2 000 fine

Elderly couple arrested for 65 kg dagga

STORIES BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

WHILE most senior citizens spend their golden years enjoying the fruits of their labour, an elderly couple will spend time behind bars for being in possession of a large consignment of dagga without a permit.

Aaron (75) and Sibongile Dlamini (61) of Maphalaleni were arrested after they were found to have contravened Section 12 (c) (i) of the Pharmacy Act of 1929.

The couple, who was arrested along-

side Sabelo Dlamini and Mandla Mhlanga and is said to have, on May 15, a t Maphalaleni area, acted jointly in furtherance of a common purpose and not being holders of a valid licence or permit possessed 65 kilograms of dagga.



After their arrest, it was discovered that the accused persons were also in possession of 0.520 kilograms of dagga seeds, thus contravening the Opium and Habit Forming Act of 1922.

During their first appearance before the Mbabane Magistrate's Court on Tuesday, the four-some was remanded back into custody for their trial date set for July 15.

Woman granted E2 000 bail for 14 kg dagga

A 55-year-old woman has been admitted to bail fixed at E2 000 after she was nabbed with 14 kilogrammes of dagga without a permit.

Sibongile Mncina of Nkomanzi appeared before the Mbabane Magistrate's Court on Tuesday after she was arrested and charged with contravening the Pharmacy Act of 1929.

Mncina is said to have, on June 9, at Nkomanzi, not a holder of a valid licence

or permit to possess dagga, did wrongfully and unlawfully been in the possession of 14 kilogrammes of dagga, a potentially poisonous substance, thus contravening the Act.

Contravened

Mncina is also said to have an additional charge placed against her, she is said to have contravened the Opium and Habit Forming Act after she was discovered with 1.8 kilogrammes of

dagga seeds, further contravening the Act.

The crown informed the court that Mncina's application was not opposed, thus compelling the court to grant her E2 000 bail to gain her liberation until Friday for her trial date set for Sunday.

In the event that Mncina is unable to pay the bail set by the court, she is to be remanded back into the custody of the correctional facility.

WRONG TURN



OFF THE ROAD: The position in which the Mazda Verisa landed during the accident.

Over a week later, 2 locals still at large after farmer's murder

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI AND BONGIWE DLAMINI
Mbabane

TWO Emaswati farm workers wanted by the South African Police Service (SAPS) in connection with the murder of a 66-year-old farm owner are still at large.

The incident is alleged to have happened last Saturday at a farm in Waaihoek, Sheepmor near Piet Retief. It has been nine days since the police have engaged on a manhunt for the killers but to no avail. The locals who are still at large are now suspected to have had a hand in the murder of the farmer.

What makes things harder for SAPS is that the identities of the Emaswati is unknown by the police as they do not have their pictures.

After killing the farm owner, the two are suspected to have dumped his body in a plantation within the farm and vanished with his firearm.

According to Colonel Mtsholi Bhembe from SAPS, information at their disposal revealed that the farmer was last

seen on Saturday, and was reported by a relative as missing, on Tuesday.

Bhembe said a search was conducted and his body was found in the plantation, not far from his residence. A preliminary probe suggested that the deceased was struck repeatedly with a sharp object.

He said his firearm was also missing from his house as well as his two employees believed to be from the Kingdom of Eswatini. Bhembe said the two employees' identities are yet to be established.

Urged

Bhembe said the two were still at large and no arrest had been made as yet.

He said, however a woman was taken in for questioning.

Bhembe said anyone with information that might assist police in their investigation should to contact Lieutenant Colonel Mbongeni Myeni at 082 556 5605 or the SAPS Crime Stop number, 08600 10111.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintended Phindile Vilakati said local police were not aware of the matter.

This is not the first time farm workers working in a South African farm

near Piet Retief have been implicated in the murder of their employee. A few years back it was reported that Charlotte van Zyl, 55, the wife of a Mpumalanga farmer Johannes van Zyl, 84, died two days after she was attacked with a set of crutches.

The alleged attacker was a 35-year-old Swazi national who was an employee on their farm in Dirkesdorp near Piet Retief.

The suspect was taken into custody and is currently incarcerated in one of the South African prisons on murder charges.

According to News 24, the police arrived on the scene to find Johannes van Zyl on the bathroom floor. She had sustained serious injuries and later died at the scene.

Most Emaswati flock Piet Retief in search of work in the farms. These workers are usually employed in forest plantations by the farmers.

They usually go to Piet Retief due to its close proximity with Eswatini. Most of these Emaswati are undocumented citizens who use informal crossings to get to the other side.

"LET US GROW THE FUTURE TOGETHER"

Theme: 25 years of implementation of the Convention and beyond



The installation of gabions protects further degradation of the soil.

Desertification is a major economic, social and environmental problem of concern to many countries in all regions of the world. It is a type of land degradation where arid land regions become increasingly dry, typically losing bodies of water as well as vegetation and wildlife. The main cause of development of desert-like conditions in regions is usually experiences in conditions of human disturbance such as deforestation, overgrazing or poorly managed agriculture. Annually on 17 June countries come together to observe this day as means to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. This is a unique moment to remind everyone that Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is achievable through problem solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification UNCCD strongly advocates for bold new solutions to protect and restore land resources for current and future generations. Eswatini joins the rest of the world in the commemoration of this day with the aim to promote public awareness on land degradation and also to draw attention to the implementation of interventions that can try to curb issues of serious drought and/or desertification. This year the theme requests for countries to look into what has been achieved in the past 25 years, focusing on the path the Convention has taken and also what countries hope to achieve in the future in the next 25 years

What the country continues to strive for
The kingdom of Eswatini became part of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1994. The country continues to focus on activities that promote Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD). The country is an active stakeholder to the UN that carries out the mandate to combat desertification and is also expected to converge and seek a joint implementation of the UNCCD at the local level.

The country is focused on four Strategic objectives and they are:

1. To improve the living conditions of affected populations
2. To improve the condition of affected ecosystems
3. To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD
4. To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors

As we commemorate this day, as a country we take the opportunity to reflect on our deteriorating land resources that undermine the nations efforts in alleviating poverty and food security. The Potential of our land is seriously undermined by its vulnerability to climate change, climate variability and land degradation, among other factors. We also take the opportunity to remind ourselves of the causes and impacts of land degradation with a view to address them so that we can improve the livelihoods of people staying in this country, especially in the drought-stricken areas. Unsustainable land use, eventually causes degradation and loss of critical ecosystem services. As a result, consumption of the Earth's natural reserves have doubled in the last 30 years, with a third of the planet's land already severely degraded.

By turning land degradation into land restoration/recovery, we can realize the land's full potential. Healthy and productive land can bring not only environmental, but also significant economic gains. The country is rich in natural resources and has an abundance of water resources, pristine rivers and diverse species of flora and fauna. Desertification poses a serious threat to the sustainable management of these resources which includes sustenance of livelihoods as well as attainment of sustainable development of the country. Three important causes of desertification are:

- I. over-grazing
- II. over cultivation and
- III. deforestation.

Major threats include land degradation, depletion and extinction of species (loss of biodiversity), increasing frequencies of droughts, water stress, dwindling production and productivity and overdependence on natural resources. Direct and indirect causes of Land Degradation in Eswatini include: improper land use, climate effects, uncontrolled fires, invasive alien plant species, population increase, road infrastructure development, effects and impacts of poverty, crop farming practices, livestock farming practices, and others.

Operational objectives:

Achieving these long-term goals as a country involves developing and implementing long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously, in affected areas, on improved productivity of land, and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level. These are not limited to:

1. Advocacy, awareness raising and education: To actively influence relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues.
2. Policy framework: To support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.
3. Science, technology and knowledge: To become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.

4. Capacity-building: To identify and address capacity-building needs to prevent and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

5. Financing and technology transfer: To mobilize and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness.

What has been achieved by the country in the past 25 years

Since its adoption in 1994, UNCCD has contributed to the advancement of sustainable land management. Today, its 197 Parties which include Eswatini implement the Convention under coordinated and results-oriented actions with clear targets to recover and restore degraded land. The end goal is to protect our land, from over-use and drought, so it can continue to provide us all with food, water and energy.

There are clear evidences of recovery and restoration of degraded landscapes through sustainable land management (SLM) that have been practiced by the country over these years. For example, in Sithobela, Nceka, sihangwini and Gucuka degraded land has been restored through rehabilitation (using gabion baskets and planting of trees). Re-introduction of Agroforestry, increased trees on the farm.

There is still a lot that needs to be done by the country and this has to happen sooner rather than later. The current pressures on land still remain enormous and still continue to grow. Continued land degradation and drought poses a threat on desertification. Moreover, the recurrent and growing threats of forest fires, heatwaves, mass migrations, flash floods, and food and water insecurity are still more evident.

What the country hopes to achieve in the next 25 years

The importance and urgency of addressing these challenges is more widely recognized than it was two decades ago as shown in the adoption of achieving land degradation neutrality as one of the Sustainable Development Goals.

2030 is viewed as a significant milestone



Land rehabilitation is one of the interventions that should be practiced by communities to prevent soil degradation.

for achieving land degradation neutrality as one of the Sustainable Development Goals. This is a stepping stone towards a true land-based sustainable future. By achieving land degradation neutrality, the country will have more land available for further sustainable development. The country is urged to generate and sustain fundamental and sustainable positive change by keeping the land productive. As an international agreement on good land stewardship, the country must ensure that the convention moves forward to achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030 and dive into the world beyond 2030 where land degradation neutrality will ensure an enabling environment for people, communities and countries to create wealth, grow economies and secure enough food, clean water and energy. Towards this ambition, the Parties to the Convention are taking concrete steps that include tackling of the root causes of instability in Africa (3S Initiative); developing comprehensive national plans for drought management; and restoring Africa's degraded landscapes at massive scale (Great Green Wall Initiative).

Key messages

- As the world has become more and more fragile against the effect of a changing climate, the Convention must grow, and be recognized as the authority and leader in achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and leveraging LDN as a stepping stone towards true land-based sustainable development beyond 2030.
- The 197 Parties to the Convention renews their commitment to good land stewardship that helps people, communities and countries create wealth, grow economies and secure enough food, clean water and energy by ensuring land users an enabling environment for sustainable land management.
- Sustainable land management is everyone's business. Together, we can restore the productivity of over 2 billion hectares of degraded land and improve the livelihoods of more than 1.3 billion people around the world.

ESWATINI TO REINFORCE CLEANLINESS EFFORTS

STORIES BY SIMON SHABANGU
Ezulwini

MINISTER of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati says Eswatini aspires to be the cleanest place in the region.

He said the ministry, in collaboration with a number of stakeholders, would soon engage in vigorous means of keeping the environment clean.

He was speaking at the gala dinner hosted for the Classic Car Rally 2019 at Royal Swazi Spa on Saturday night.

Vilakati said His Majesty King Mswati III and government has given his ministry a mandate to double the numbers of tourists coming into the country each year. He said the ministry was identified as key to enhance job creation and also boost the economy of the country.

He said when tourists come into the country, they must find a very clean environment so they feel safe.

"We will soon be launching a campaign called 'Clean up Eswatini'. We want Eswatini to be the cleanest in the Southern Africa. Yes we are a clean country, but we want to be even better. We are excited that you came here and enjoyed your stay but we aspire to be even cleaner. We are proud that we are also a safe country to be in, so I trust you felt at home during your stay. I trust that you will soon come back for a visit," he said.



THANK YOU: Minister of Tourism Moses Vilakati receiving E4 400 cash from Tony Barbosa raised by the competitors for charity at the gala dinner hosted for the Classic Car Rally 2019 at Royal Swazi Spa on Saturday night. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

The minister said the country is proud to be associated with the rally which is classified as the best in the Southern Hemisphere. The minister said they would be waiting to welcome the participants even next year. He further pledged that next year, he would welcome the group at Ermelo and lead them through to the kingdom.

Stronger

"The partnership must continue and become even stronger so that more people, including locals, become part of the rally. We are looking forward to the 10th edition of this great partnership we start-

ed two years back since this is the third edition of the partnership," he said.

The minister also applauded the organisers for hosting such a successful event. He noted that the visit strengthens the cordial relations that exist between the three countries Mozambique, South Africa and the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Meanwhile, Eswatini Tourism Authority Chief Executive Officer Linda Nxumalo said they were pleased to be partners in the rally which she described as the perfect event for the people of Eswatini.

She said this partnership promoted domestic tourism.

'ESWATINI HAS BEEN A GREAT PLACE TO BE'

ORGANISERS of the Classic Rally are pleased with the hospitality they received while in the country.

They made an undertaking to come back next year.

Rally coordinator Antonio Barbosa said the kingdom had been a good host in all aspects, noting that the gesture by the minister to welcome them at the border gate was a humbling experience.

He said the partnership they have is getting stronger each passing year, adding that with Galp coming on board the work has been strengthened.

Meanwhile, Lois Simao from Mozambique shared similar sentiments in that the country has been a great host. He said despite that he has been involved with the rally only for three years, he has enjoyed every moment, especially being in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

"This is a big event which has been enhanced by the great hospitality we received in the Kingdom of Eswatini. Emaswati are warm

people who are ever smiling something which you rarely see in other places. We thank the locals for the hospitality and a special thanks to Galp for sponsoring the event," he added.

Francisco Ferreira, the MD of Galp Eswatini, said as a company they were excited to be part of the rally adding that their coming on board was influenced by that they were celebrating their 10-year anniversary in the kingdom.

"As Galp we are pleased to have you all, especially the involvement of the minister and the tourism authority. As we say at Galp, energy connects energy and the positive energy all the partners are bringing is commendable. This is the third edition and we are happy that we have been involved since the first year. We want to commit that even next year we will be part of this and make it even bigger.

This is one special event to us, especially because it involves the neighbouring countries," he added.

She said they were also excited that rally participants also had an opportunity to see part of the country's beauty by visiting Maguga Dam and also experienced the beau-

ty of the culture of Emaswati at Mantenga Cultural Village.

"We are looking forward to the next edition of the rally which will be bigger and better," she added.

RALLY DONATES E4 400 TO CHARITY

THE Classic Rally might have come and gone, but its impact left lasting memories to the people of Eswatini, especially with the donation of E4 400 to charity.

The participants of the rally raised the money among themselves through a gold competition they had. The money was presented to the Minister of Tourism Moses Vilakati at the gala dinner held at Royal Swazi Spa. The minister said they would ensure that the donation goes to a worthy cause, adding that the charity organisation to benefit from this kind gesture has already been identified.

Donation

He said he would inform organisers of the rally on who the beneficiaries are and how the donation was spent, in the spirit of transparency.

"We are happy that as part of the initiatives from this rally you have collected some money to be donated to a worthy cause.

This is very important that in whatever you do you keep the underprivileged and needy in mind and make an effort to donate something towards a worthy cause.

For that we are happy as a country and really appreciate the kind gesture. We will keep you informed on who the beneficiaries are," said Minister Vilakati.



HAPPY DAY: It was a happy day as the competitors were awarded on the night.



FOLLOWING: Competitors and navigators listening to speeches on the night.



GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT

P.O. BOX 58 | MBABANE | ESWATINI



REMOVAL OF ADVERTISING SIGNS AND STRUCTURES ALONG MAIN ROAD 7 (MR7) FROM LONHLUPHEKO TO SITEKI

Notice is hereby given that all advertising signs and structures erected within the 38m wide road reserve of Main Road 7 from Lonhlupheko to Siteki are to be removed by the owners within 30 days of the publication of this Notice unless prior approval to display such signs and structures had been granted.

The owners of such who wish to continue to display must apply or reapply for permission to do so to the Chief Roads Engineer, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, P.O. Box 58, Mbabane within 30 days failing which The Ministry of Public Works and Transport shall arrange for their removal under the powers delegated by the Minister under Section 60 of the Roads and Outspan Act, 40 of 1931.

S.M. MNDWE
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

SHISELWENI NEWS

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...With

Starsky Mkhonta



MP KUNENE SUPPORTS COMMUNITY POLICE

ZOMBODZE Emuva Member of Parliament (MP) Muzi Kunene has donated a cow valued at E7 000 towards a workshop for community police from areas under his constituency.

Currently, the Nhlanguano Police Station's crime prevention wing is conducting workshops for community police from areas under the constituency.

Under Zombodze Emuva, over 60

community police attended the workshop from four chiefdoms, namely Zombodze, Engwenyameni, Mampondweni and Ebulekeni.

Lawmakers

Nhlanguano Police Station Acting Station Commander Assistant Superintendent Lucky Msibi thanked the MP, adding that if all lawmakers could emulate him, police would do their work easily and continue with outreach programmes meant

to educate communities on crime prevention.

He said the support by lawmakers on programmes involving communities was highly commendable.

"We are grateful with MP Kunene's gesture. It's another way of showing how serious with his duties. These are programmes we conduct in communities where we sharpen community police with skills meant to win the battle against crime, which

must be everyone's number one enemy.

MP Kunene has made our work easy through his contribution as we all know we don't have enough resources to cater for all the necessities in these programmes," said Msibi.

Msibi said Kunene's support indicated that he was aware that it was a good investment to invest in fighting crime.

"We need people like MP Kunene who know where to invest when we want to see crime free Eswatini," said Msibi.

Explained

Msibi explained to Shiselweni News that apart from MP Kunene's contribution, the Inkhundla Council team contributed to the success of the workshop in various ways.

"Apart from the cow donated by the MP, the Inkhundla team which includes all the Bucopho and Indvuna Yenkundla, also played their part," said Msibi.

Sergeant Ruth Dlamini, who is the coordinator of the crime prevention wing under the Nhlanguano Police Station, echoed Msibi's words saying as a department, they were grateful to MP Kunene and his Inkhundla team.

MP 'Cruiser' thankful to Premier Bakery

SIGWE Member of Parliament (MP) David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala has thanked Premier Bakery for being part of the Ndunayithini Development and Sports Festival since its inception 17 years ago.

The MP believes Premier Bakery has immensely contributed to the success of the event over the years.

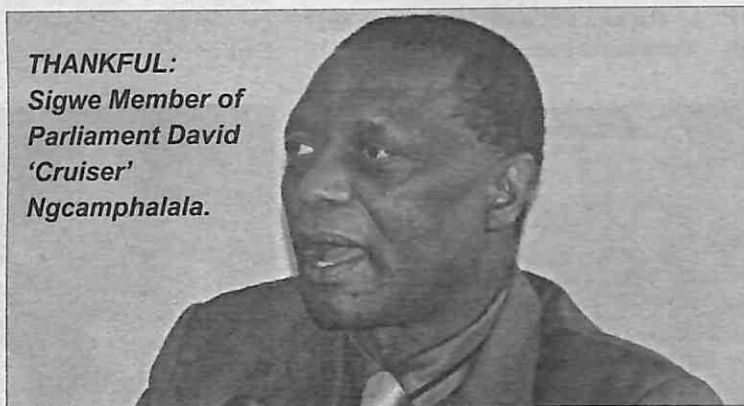
The event is attended by over 5 000 people annually.

Emazinyane Prince Sicalo and Prince Bandzile were also present in this year's event which was also graced by some members of Cabinet and other MPs from constituencies across the country and a number of other dignitaries, including captains of industries.

"We have been in partnership with Premier Bakery for a long time now.

In short, Premier Bakery is one of the major sponsors of the event. This is the company we consider as part of this

THANKFUL:
Sigwe Member of Parliament David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala.



constituency now," MP Ngcamphalala told Shiselweni News.

Ngcamphalala further thanked the other companies and organisations for supporting the initiative.

He said he was aware that each passing year, the event continues to be bigger and better.

"All this is because of the support we receive from all our friends who are our partners. The event has now become more like uniting everyone in this part of the constituency as well as others from all corners of the country," said MP Ngcamphalala, who also doubles as Minister of Tinkhundla.

Luke Commission to treat ill people of Shiselweni I

ALL sick people from areas under Shiselweni I Constituency have been invited to Galile Primary School on June 25 to receive free medical treatment, courtesy of Luke Commission.

Indvuna Yenkundla Sifiso Khumalo announced during a prayer service held on Friday at the Inkhundla that the Luke Commission would be bringing medical experts who would attend to the sick. The prayer service organised

by Member of Parliament Shiselweni I (MP) Christian Ntshangase was attended by Minister of Commerce, Manqoba Khumalo as guest of honour.

"You are invited to come in your numbers as the Luke Commission will be bringing a team of specialists. It's your chance to get free medical attention from highly qualified doctors. We urge you to also inform those who are not part of this gathering as on this day

even those with complicated ailment will be assisted," he said.

The constituency is made up of five chiefdoms.

Khumalo said anyone from these chiefdoms not feeling well should come through.

"It's a chance everyone should make use of. We want to achieve Vision 2022 as a healthy nation," said Khumalo.

MACULUVE CDs GIVE-AWAY DURING PRAYER SERVICE

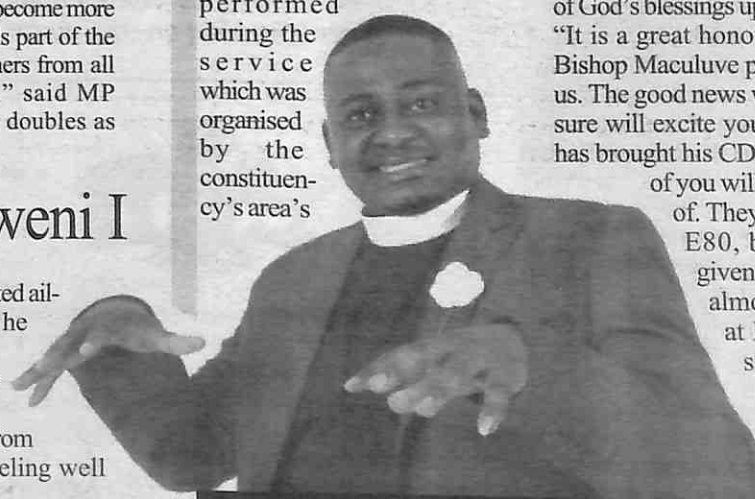
BISHOP Vusumuzi Maculuve's CDs which cost E80 each, were sold for only E20 to residents from areas under Shiselweni I Constituency on Friday during a prayer service.

The popular gospel artist, who is also a teacher by profession, performed during the service which was organised by the constituency's area's

Member of Parliament Christian Ntshangase. The guest of honour was Minister of Commerce, Manqoba Khumalo.

MP Ntshangase first thanked Maculuve for performing during the service. He said the reason the bishop has become a household name was because of God's blessings upon his life. "It is a great honour to have Bishop Maculuve perform for us. The good news which I am sure will excite you is that he has brought his CDs which all

of you will get a copy of. They are sold at E80, but he has given them to us almost for free at E20 each," said MP Ntshangase.



GENEROUS: Bishop Vusumuzi Maculuve.

Launch of schools anti-crime clubs on Wednesday

AFTER hosting schools anti-crime clubs workshop for schools around Nhlanguano last Wednesday, an official launch of the clubs is now scheduled for Wednesday.

During the workshop which took place at the Teacher's Resource Centre

in Nhlanguano, it was announced that the launch of the schools anti-crime clubs would be held at King Sobhuza II Stadium.

Sergeant Ruth Dlamini, the in-charge officer under the Nhlanguano Police Station crime prevention wing, told

the participants that they were now expected to impart what they learned during the workshop to their peers.

Teachers

"We are thankful to the teachers, in particular principals of these schools for allowing you to be part of these

programmes which are meant to assist pupils not fall into crime. You are representing your schools in this workshop," said Sergeant Dlamini.

Sergeant Dlamini said the schools should know that the crime prevention department relied on all those

who were part of the workshop to advise their colleagues about the consequences of drug abuse.

Launch

"When we launch the anti-crime clubs, it's where we will be dispatching you to assist the future generation which should see to it that we are a crime free Eswatini," Sergeant Dlamini told the gathering.



KICKING POLIO: Pupils from St. Mary's Primary School 'kicking' polio whilst health workers from polio eradication committees look on. The countries represented are Eswatini, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa. (Pics: Nokuzola Thwala)

WHO COMMENDS GOVT FOR SUCCESSFUL HEALTH CAMPAIGNS

BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mbabane

WORLD Health Organisation (WHO) Country Representative Dr. Cornelia Atsyor has commended government for successfully conducting three rounds of campaigns of polio, immunisation and deworming with more than 90 per cent national coverage in the last three years.

She was speaking at the official launch of the fourth round of the national deworming campaign to eliminate bilharzia and intestinal worms on Wednesday at Mlumati High School.

She said the high coverage would eventually translate positively towards reducing the burden of bilharzia, intestinal worms and the ultimate attainment of disease free status of the country for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) by 2020.

Progress

"I am aware of the progress made in the current campaign which started Monday. WHO appreciates the collaborative efforts from the office of the deputy prime ministers, ministries of health, education and training and tinkhundla administration and development and the United Nations. This collaboration is a good example of how several sectors, government, partners, parents and guardian, the media and pupils can work together to ensure towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal three on health and wellbeing," she said.

She thanked the nursing schools for the continued support in mobilising student nurses to support



DONATE: WHO Country Representative Dr. Cornelia Atsyor making her remarks.

the campaign. She also emphasised the fact that this medication had been used in many countries for many years.

Dr. Atsyor revealed that the medication was safe and its quality met international standards of WHO that fully supported the deworming exercise for school age children. She said deworming had lots of benefits for the child, community and the nation at large as it improved the child's mental and physical development and overall health.

"Healthy children perform better in class leading to improved educational outcomes. I therefore call upon all national stakeholders to support this mass

medicine administration campaign. We stand firmly by government and will continue to support the deworming exercise as we work towards eliminating intestinal worms and bilharzia in Eswatini. The future of our children is in our own hands. Let's join hands to eliminate these diseases in order to contribute towards the attainment of the SDGs in Eswatini," she stated.

Adding, on blood donation, Atsyor said the World Blood Donor Day has been commemorated for the past 15 years with an aim to raise awareness on the need for safe blood and its products.

It was also to recognise and thank blood donors for their life-saving gift of blood. Dr Atsyor emphasised that blood donation saved lives and is service to mankind.

"Your singular donation of blood may be a turning point in someone's life, a lifeline from near death to life, giving a second chance to live again. Your single act of donation can go a long way to give a new-born baby, a child, a mother giving birth or a father, a brother, or a sister another chance to live again," she said.

She added that blood donations would allow the Blood Bank to respond swiftly when blood is needed urgently to save lives.

"It is time to roll up our sleeves to offer our gift of love. You could be saving a friend, a relative or your own life. Think about this. As we commemorate World Blood Donor Day, let us all donate blood and encourage our relatives and friends, work colleagues to do the same," she said.

The ministry of health officially commemorated the World Blood Donor Day in Manzini Millenium Park on Saturday.

Break-in suspect's hand chopped off

BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlanguano

A suspected thief had his hand cut off, whilst attempting to break into a grocery business whose owner was inside.

It is said Agrippa Sithole arrived at around 8pm last Sunday, where he managed to force open a door of the grocery shop at Guduza area near Dzakasini.

He had used a crowbar to break the padlocks to open the door. It is said the owner of the grocery Bheki Sithole (not related to the suspect) was with a close relative inside when they heard noise from the doorway.

Sithole, it is said had to position himself strategically and armed with a bush knife.

When the suspect was inside, Bheki allegedly struck the intruder, cutting off one of his hands.

Suspect

The suspect, it is said was heard screaming, with the chopped hand hanging by a thread of a flesh, he was apprehended and handed to the police who were called on the same night.

As the suspect was bleeding profusely, he was taken to the Hlatikulu Government Hospital, where doctors realised the critical state he was in and suggested that he should be transferred to the Mbabane Government Hospital.

It is said the owner of the business could have killed the suspect but one vicious blow of the bush-knife was enough to realise that he had overpowered him and handed him to the police. Apart from the crowbar he used to break inside, also found in Agrippa's possession was a bush-knife. Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the matter stating that an enquiry file had been opened.

"A man suspected to have been trying to break into a grocery shop had his hand almost chopped off with a bush-knife and he is currently at the hospital receiving treatment," said Supt Vilakati.



TRUE: Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati.

GetBucks inject E50 000 to Shiselweni Festival

BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlanguano

GETBUCKS has announced a sponsorship of E50 000 towards the Shiselweni Annual Fun Festival slated for June 29, 2019 at the King Sobhuza II Stadium.

The event is organised by the World of Saints (WOS), an events organising company based in South Africa.

It was during the launch of the event held at the Nhlanguano Town Council boardroom, where some of the com-

panies announced how they would support the event. GetBucks announced the E50 000 sponsorship.

GetBucks which has branches around the Kingdom including in Nhlanguano was represented by Zandile Dlamini who is the acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Another company which also pledged was MTN Eswatini which was represented by Sibusiso Dladlu.

Dladlu announced that the company had agreed to assist with a sound system with the company's mobile stage. This in money terms calcu-

lates to over E35 000.

"MTN has decided to provide the stage and sound system for the festival. There are things that are being considered by the management in the other departments," said Dladlu.

Indicated

Clicks Stores was another company which indicated that it would be sponsoring the event.

Its representative Bheki Nyoni said since there would be the Miss Shiselweni contest; the company would take care of the contestants' make-up.

"The ladies who will be contesting will get free make-up from us. Clicks believes the festival is a turning point for the region in as far as fun and entertainment is concerned, hence we have also come on board."

We are looking forward to next year's event, which will perhaps line up Mr Shiselweni," said Nyoni.

The launch was also attended by Shiselweni regional Eswatini National Youth Council (ENYC) coordinator Theminkosi Hlatshwako whose department is also hands on in organising the event.

The town council was represented by Thulani Mabuza who is the town's treasurer.

Meanwhile, WOS President Collen Menzie Mojele thanked the companies which announced their commitment.

Successful

"It's not only the companies we have here today, which have declared how they are going to assist us in making the event successful.

We have those which are still finalising a few things, and will soon announce their sponsorship. We are thankful to all these companies and organisations and we are still hopeful more will come forward," said Mojele.

EPTC, SOS APPLAUDED FOR BRINGING CHANGE TO MPHINI

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mphini

PRINCE Bhelokwakhe of Mphini has applauded the SOS Children's Village and Eswatini Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC) for bringing positive change to his community.

He was speaking during the launch of a Gogo Centre that was built by EPTC at Mphini community on Thursday. The centre has free internet provided by EPTC, which is unlimited to everyone within the vicinity.

The chief said development such as the centre that was launched by the Minister of ICT Princess Sikhanyiso, who was represented by the Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati, was appreciated anywhere in the country. The chief emphasised on maintenance of the centre. This is because a lot of projects are launched at communities then deteriorate as time goes on because of maintenance issues.

He further stated that it was not the first time that SOS brought such an improvement in the community as before, 31 women received E15 000 and 150 chairs through SOS.

This was because SOS approached EPTC on the community's behalf and asked the company to rejuvenate and expand the centre.

He urged the youth and parents of the area to take advantage of the internet provided at the centre to apply for the government study loan.

"As the deadline for applying for government study loan approaches, please make use of the centre and apply online now," he said.

He explained how easy and cheap it was to apply for a government study loan online as compared to yesteryear's methods. The chief further pleaded with the people not to steal the equipment installed at the centre which included computers and sewing machines, among other things.



POSE: Prince Bhelokwakhe of Mphini area posing with Minister of Tourism Moses Vilakati, who is also Ntongozi MP, EPTC MD Petros Dlamini and representatives of other partners during the unveiling of the Mphini innovative social centre on Thursday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



SUPPORT: Some of the EPTC managers who attended the event.



IT'S OFFICIAL: Mphini Chief Prince Bhelokwakhe joined by the partners as they unveil the plaque.



GENEROUS: Dr. Mohammed Monadjem speaking on behalf of the SOS Children's Village who are partners in the project.



SIYABONGA: EPTC Managing Director Petros Dlamini addressing the gathering.



NEXT ITEM: Nqobile Magagula leading proceedings of the event.



WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL: SOS Children's Villages Eswatini Fund Development Manager Sonic Dlamini briefing the chief and his delegation about the centre.

MAY SPECIALS

Adult disposable E80. ⁰⁰	School jerseys E120. ⁰⁰	Blankets E260. ⁰⁰
Fabrics tishweshwe E13. ⁰⁰	Medal & trophies from E18. ⁰⁰	School tracksuits from E200. ⁰⁰

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
70 Nkosenhlahla Street,
Manzini
P.O. Box 69, Manzini, Swaziland

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Tel: 00268 2505 4370
Fax: 00268 2505 4250



KITAZA JIVE: EPTC Managing Director Petros Dlamini dancing with children SOS Children's Village during their rendition of an African dance. This was during the opening of the Mphini innovative social centre on Thursday.

ESWATINI INCORPORATED: 2022 & BEYOND

'MOVING FROM RHETORIC TO ACTION'

ON Thursday the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chaired by MP Phila Buthelezi, who is also Deputy Speaker, decided on a matter that has seen many government agencies failing to resolve, that of controversial officer Knowledge Ngwenya in the ministry of education.

Ngwenya, the self-important blue-eyed boy of retired Principal Secretary Pat Muir and some senior ministry officials, has caused untold damage within the teaching profession in the name of being a top and celebrated investigator of teachers' malpractices and wielded more power than his superiors.

No one within the ministry of education was prepared to give an ear or listen to anyone pointing inappropriate conduct towards their wonderful and super sleuth.

In fact, I understood him very well when he explained why he failed to assume his position in the Shiselweni region, talking about insecurity.

The insecurity he was referring to, is not that of physical protection but the knowledge that he has his bosses to cover his back. When instructed to perform a task, he knew that he would use their powers effectively to achieve whatever he wanted and would tell his suspects to jump. Many teachers have approached the newspaper with gory stories in the past, including allegations of corruption levelled against Ngwenya.

Qualifying

Personally, I have an experience of a teacher in one of the schools in the Hhohho region who suffered a stroke as a result of alleged extortion and rape but nothing ever happened to the suspect despite reporting her case to the police and the ministry of education.

The Swazi Observer's Fanyana Mabuza wrote in August 5, 2015 about the very same things that would today see Ngwenya coughing out E524 000.

Retired Principal Secretary Pat Muir recommended him for a post of assistant career guidance officer, for which Ngwenya openly came short of qualifying.

Justifying his recommendation, Muir wrote in an official minute directed to the executive secretary of the Civil Service Commission that Ngwenya, in his current position, that of clerical officer, was instrumental in the investigation of cases of the abuse of pupils by teachers and as such, the TSC and the Career Guidance department relied heavily on his expertise in bringing such cases to a fitting close.

The PS continued in his recommendation letter, dated May 21, 2014, that Ngwenya's determination and dedication to his sleuth duties had occasionally been met with resistance, especially in disciplinary hearings and Magistrate's Courts by the persons he was investigating, who would question his position, duties and responsibilities. "Therefore, this recommendation



OLD AND NEW: The ministry of education's former PS Pat Muir and current PS Dr Sibongile Mtshali.

CRY THE BELOVED COUNTRY

● Ngeke lakhe lelive so long as we are selective in the application of the law

is based on the fact that in order for him to conduct his duties without being questioned, he needed to occupy a mid-level management position."

Drafted

This was despite the fact that according to an advertisement for the position of assistant career guidance officer drafted by the ministry's legal advisor in August 26, 2014, the required person should have held a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences and or Humanities.

But Ngwenya, by his own admission, did not possess such paperwork. The candidate should also have thorough knowledge in information communication technology, possess a proven track record of the highest level of professionalism and performance while also having a minimum of two years teaching or working experience.

It was an open secret that Ngwenya did not possess almost all of these qualifications as according to papers leaked to this newspaper and was confirmed to the PAC on Thursday, he only had a Diploma in HIV and AIDS Management obtained from Boston College in 2005.

The then PS Muir made this recommendation knowing very well that the ministry did not have a position for an investigator and that he fell too short for the same promotion he was recommending this officer for.

Recommendation

The question that we must ask ourselves today; should we be satisfied with the PAC decision?

NO. I disagree! I feel more heads still need to roll before we accept the recommendation by the PAC. I know that the PAC often times works hand-in-hand with the Anti-Corruption Commission and the police as some cases would be referred to them to continue with investigations and arrest those found to be wanting.

In Ngwenya's case, if they had asked the ACC or the police, they would have been told that they have Ngwenya's file somewhere; it's just that the powers that be at the time did not want their golden boy to be touched.

PS Dr Sibongile Mtshali is clear that they do not need an investigator within the ministry, where such services would be required they would engage the police. But the

question is why wait for the PAC to tell us that?

The PS should have drawn the line the moment she assumed the position by removing the officer from government's pay system. By so doing she would have upheld Section 63 (a) and (g) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini which states on the duties of the citizen.

"The exercise and enjoyment of rights and freedoms is inseparable from the performance of duties and obligations, and accordingly, it shall be the duty of every citizen to —

(a) uphold and defend this Constitution and the law; (g) protect and preserve public property, and to combat misuse and waste of public funds and property."

The Prevention of Corruption Act Section 49 further enjoins her and other officers in the ministry to report corrupt transactions.

The section states: "(1) A person who holds a position of authority and who knows or ought reasonably to have known or suspected that another person has committed — (a) an offence under Part III; or (b) the offence of theft, fraud, extortion, forgery or uttering a forged

document involving an amount of E10 000 or more, and fails to report that knowledge or suspicion or cause that knowledge or suspicion to be reported to any police officer or investigating officer of the Anti-Corruption Commission, commits an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding five thousand Emalangeni or imprisonment not exceeding two years or to both.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1) the following persons hold a position of authority, namely (a) a principal secretary in charge of any government ministry, the head of a department or other establishment of government, or equivalent officer, or a regional administrator, or regional secretary..."

So based on the above pieces of legislation, the PAC's ruling on the matter is not sufficient and more people need to take responsibility for this negligence.

People must learn that we should not leave everything to the auditor general to do our bidding. If we are serious about fighting corruption we need to stop making the auditor general the scapegoat. People must take responsibility and stop the abuse of public resources as an when it happens. In fact, even that decision to leave everything to the AG and the PAC is not honest in that the latter is seen as a better devil than the courts of law, whose cases carry more stigma of being arrested and a criminal record.

People must be charged and face the wrath of the law if they fail to do an honest job. Maybe it is time we capacitate or appoint someone within the Human Rights and Integrity Commission to head the office of the Public Protector.

In this case, the Public Protector will not wait for the AG's report to be tabled before the PAC for a decision to be taken, but will deal with it as an when it occurs.

This will change the current culture of *kubindvwa kobonwa*. It will be another way of adding to the efforts of the 'made' toothless Anti-Corruption Commission.

Some teachers who forged their qualifications have been arrested, charged and lost their jobs. I don't believe that this matter should be treated any different, including those who participated in this thieving.

PS Dr Sibongile Mtshali is clear that they do not need an investigator within the ministry, where such services would be required they would engage the police. But the question is why wait for the PAC to tell us that?

ON THIS DAY

JUNE 17

1928 - Amelia Earhart began the flight that made her the first woman to successfully fly across the Atlantic Ocean.

1930 - The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Bill became law. It placed the highest tariff on imports to the US.

1931 - British authorities in China arrested Indochinese Communist leader Ho Chi Minh.

1932 - The US Senate defeated the bonus bill as 10 000 veterans massed around the Capitol.

1940 - The Soviet Union occupied Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

1940 - France asked Germany for terms of surrender in World War II.

1941 - WNBT-TV in New York City, NY, was granted the first construction permit to operate a commercial TV station in the U.S.

1942 - Yank, a weekly magazine for the US armed services, began publication. The term 'GI Joe' was first used in a comic strip by Dave Breger.

1942 - 'Suspense' debuted on CBS Radio.

1944 - French troops landed on the island of Elba in the Mediterranean.

1944 - The republic of Iceland was established.

1950 - Dr Richard H. Lawler performed the first kidney transplant in a 45-minute operation in Chicago, IL.

1953 - Soviet tanks fought thousands of Berlin workers that were rioting against the East German government.

1963 - The US Supreme Court banned the required reading of the Lord's prayer and Bible in public schools.

1965 - Twenty-seven B-52's hit Viet Cong outposts but lost two planes in South Vietnam.

1969 - Boris Spasky became chess champion of the world after checkmating former champion Tigran Petrosian in Moscow.

1970 - North Vietnamese troops cut the last operating rail line in Cambodia.

1982 - Former US President Richard M. Nixon was interviewed by Diane Sawyer on 'The CBS Morning News'.

1985 - Judy Norton-Taylor was photographed for 'Playboy' magazine.

1991 - The Parliament of South Africa repealed the Population Registration Act. The act had required that all South Africans are classified by race at birth.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Venus Williams
Tennis player
June 17, 1980 (39 years)



Kendrick Lamar
(Rapper)
June 17, 1987 (32 years)



WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Utsini umtsetfo

HEARSAY evidence.

55. (1) Hearsay evidence maybe admissible in proceedings brought under this Act in exceptional cases.

(2) In this section "exceptional cases" include cases where the victim—
(a) is of the age of 14 years or below at the time of the commission of the act;

(b) is a vulnerable elderly person;

(c) has been proven to be mentally impaired or suffering from psychological or psychiatric harm by a medical practitioner, social worker or a registered psychologist; or

(d) has a visual, hearing or speech impairment.

PART X: NATIONAL REGISTER FOR SEXUAL OFFENDERS

Establishment of National Register for Sex Offenders and designation of Registrar of Register.

56. (1) A National Register for Sex Offenders containing particulars of persons convicted of any sexual offence or who have been dealt with in terms of Section 165 or Section 319 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act whether committed before or after the commencement of this Act and regulations, shall be established and maintained by the minister or an officer so designated by the minister or other appropriate authority.

(2) The minister or such other appropriate authority shall designate a fit and proper person, with due regard to the experience, conscientiousness and integrity of that person, as the Registrar for the National Register for Sex Offenders.

(3) The Registrar shall exercise and perform such powers, duties and functions subject to the provisions of this Act and the regulations.

Objects of the Register.

57. The objects of the Register are to protect victims of sexual offences particularly children and persons who are physically or mentally disabled against sexual offenders by—

(a) establishing and maintaining a record of persons who have been convicted of a sexual offence, whether committed before or after the commencement of this Act and whether committed in or outside Eswatini; or

(b) establishing and maintaining a record of persons who are alleged to have committed a sexual offence, in respect of whom a court, whether before or after the commencement of this Act—

(i) in the Kingdom of Eswatini has made a finding and given a direction in terms of Section 165 or Section 319 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act; or

(ii) outside the Kingdom of Eswatini has made a finding and given a direction mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) in terms of the law of the country in question;

(c) informing an employer applying for a certificate under Section 64 whether or not the particulars of the person seeking employment from an employer are contained in the Register; and

(d) informing the relevant authorities dealing with fostering, care-giving, adoption, applying for a certi-

SODV ACT NATIONAL REGISTER FOR SEXUAL OFFENDERS

Stop Violence
Against Women

cate as specified in this Part whether or not the particulars of any applicant, as specified in Section 58, have been included in the Register.

(a) be established and maintained in the prescribed manner and format; and

(b) contain the following particulars of persons referred to in section 59.

Contents of Register.

58. The Register shall:

(a) be established and maintained in the prescribed manner and format; and

(b) contain the following particulars of persons referred to in section 59- (i) the title, actual or estimated age, full names and surname of the person, including any known alias or nickname and, where applicable, the profession or trade of that person;

(ii) the last known physical address of the person, and any other contact details, including a postal address, where applicable;

(iii) the identity number, passport number and driver's licence number of the person, where applicable;

(iv) the sexual offence in respect of which the person has been convicted, the sentence imposed, the date and place of conviction and sentence, as well as the relevant prisoner identification number, where applicable;

(v) the court in which the trial took place and the case number;

(vi) the name of the medical institution or medical practitioner of a person and details of the sexual offence allegedly committed by a person who has been dealt with in terms of section 165 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act; and

(vii) any other particulars as may be prescribed in the regulations; and (c) if the conviction and sentence took place in a foreign jurisdiction, contain as far as possible the equivalent information as is mentioned in paragraph (b), as obtained from the relevant country or any other legal source.

Persons whose names shall be included in Register and related matters.

59. (1) The particulars of the following persons shall be included in the Register:

(a) A person who in terms of this Act or any other law;

(i) has been convicted of a sexual offence;

(ii) is alleged to have committed a sexual offence in respect of whom a court, made or has made a finding

and given a direction in terms of Section 165 or 319 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act;

(iii) is serving a sentence of imprisonment or who has served a sentence of imprisonment as the result of a conviction for a sexual offence; or

(iv) has a previous conviction for a sexual offence or who has not served a sentence of imprisonment for such offence; and

(b) any person—

(i) who, in any foreign jurisdiction, has been convicted of any offence equivalent to the commission of a sexual offence;

(ii) who, in any foreign jurisdiction, has been dealt with in a manner equivalent to that contemplated in paragraph (a)(ii) or (iii) whose particulars appear on an official register in any foreign jurisdiction, pursuant to a conviction for a sexual offence or as a result of an order equivalent to that contemplated in paragraph (a)(ii), whether committed before or after the commencement of this Act.

(2) A court that has in terms of this Act or any other law:

(a) convicted a person of a sexual offence and, after sentence has been imposed by that court for such offence, in the presence of the convicted person; or

(b) made a finding and given a direction in terms of Section 165 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, that the person is by reason of mental illness or mental defect not capable of understanding the proceedings so as to make a proper defence or was, by reason of mental illness or mental defect, not criminally responsible for the act which constituted a sexual offence, in the presence of that person, — shall make an order that the particulars of the person be included in the Register.

(3) When making an order under subsection (2), the court shall explain the contents and implications of such an order, including section 68, to the convicted person.

(4) Where a court has made an order under subsection (2)(a), the Registrar of the High Court or the clerk of the relevant Magistrate's Court shall, where possible notify the employer in the prescribed manner, of such order and shall forthwith forward the order to the Registrar, together with all the particulars referred to in Section 58 of the convicted person, and the Registrar shall immediately and provisionally, in the prescribed manner,

enter the particulars of the person concerned in the Register, pending the outcome of any appeal or review and shall, after;

(a) the period for noting an appeal or taking the matter on review has expired; or

(b) the appeal or review proceedings have been concluded in the case of an appeal or review,

either enter or remove such particulars from the Register, depending on the outcome of the appeal or review or the abandonment or expiry of the noting of appeal or review.

(5) Where a court, for whatever reason, fails to make an order under subsection (2) the prosecuting authority or any person shall immediately or at any other time bring this omission to the attention of the court and the court shall make such order.

(6) The commissioner general of correctional services shall:

(a) in the prescribed manner and within three months after the commencement of this Act, forward to the Registrar the particulars referred to in Section 58 of every prisoner or former prisoner which he has on record, who, at the commencement of this Act, is serving a sentence of imprisonment or who has served a sentence of imprisonment as the result of a conviction for a sexual offence, and the Registrar shall forthwith enter those particulars in the Register; and

(b) in the prescribed manner and period, inform each serving prisoner whose particulars have been forwarded to the Registrar of the implications of the particulars so sent to the Registrar.

(7) The national commissioner of the Royal Eswatini Police Service shall, in the prescribed manner and within three months after the commencement of this Act, forward to the Registrar all the available particulars in his or her possession referred to in Section 58 of every person, who, at the commencement of this Act, has a previous conviction for a sexual offence and the Registrar shall forthwith enter those particulars in the Register.

(8) The director of health services shall:

(a) in the prescribed manner and within three months after the commencement of this Act, forward to the Registrar the particulars referred to in Section 58 of every person, who, at the commencement of this Act, is subject to a direction in terms of Section 165 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, as the result of an act which constituted a sexual offence and the Registrar shall forthwith enter those particulars in the Register; and

(b) in the prescribed manner and period, inform each person referred to in paragraph (a) whose particulars have been forwarded to the Registrar of the implications thereof.

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Are stokvels a possible solution to financial inclusion?

BY NTANDO NKAMBULE

STOKVELS have become an integral part of Africans' lives and culture.

These informal self-help savings groups stem from the communal values of Africans, which have not been fully incorporated into western discourse that informs much of the development agenda in the global South.

Stokvels are informal self-help financial groups comprising between 10 and 18 individuals, though some might have more or fewer members, depending on their nature and purpose. Like many informal activities, stokvels operate in the shadow economy and, therefore, they are not formally registered with any institution within the government system.

Nevertheless, despite being largely informal, the role of stokvels is increasingly generating a lot of interest in the financial sector, particularly when it comes to issues of accelerating financial inclusion for all in Eswatini.

In South Africa, for instance, a recent assessment by Rudzani Malaudzi found that stokvels form part of the biggest buyers in that country's economy, with an estimated R44 billion circulating among 820 000 groups consisting of over 11 million members. The recognition of stokvels as a social and economic tool or survival instrument for a majority of people who depend on them (especially low-income earners and the rural poor) is receiving more attention from financial institutions and policymakers.

In a pilot survey that assesses the features and financial inclusion capability of informal savings groups, Dr Phindile Dlamini from the University of Eswatini finds that in just 64 savings groups with 1 746 members, total savings contributed amount to well over E3 million.

Considering the fact that the number of stokvel groups in Eswatini could easily be in the thousands, there is a lot of financial and economic potential brewing in informal savings groups. However, the total monetary value of stokvels in Eswatini - and how policymakers can leverage these

Stokvel

savings groups to deepen financial inclusion - still needs assessment.

Literature states that the contribution of stokvels on financial and economic empowerment of low-income groups is far-reaching. Stokvels are an important grassroots initiative to smooth-out household consumption and to meet livelihood contingencies.

Many people use stokvels to pool their financial resources to cater for their livelihood needs such as school fees, food, building homes, to start small businesses, amongst other gainful activities.

Unplanned

In times of financial shocks, some people use stokvels as the first line of defence to mitigate and adjust to unexpected/unplanned life events.

To foster sustainable financial mobility for low-income earners, there is an ongoing debate around the formalisation or institutionalisation of stokvels as an option to provide financial services to the financially excluded.

Despite the interest to introduce stokvel-like services into formal financial markets, the 2019 Oslo Financial Inclusion Summit emphasised that informal credit markets (which includes stokvels) are inefficient and tend to exacerbate fraud and enable individuals to evade taxes.

Although this may be true, one aspect that should not be overlooked is the capacity and extent to which stokvels serve a greater purpose to support livelihoods, especially in rural communities where formal financial services are usually non-existent.

So, what can be done to enhance stokvels so that they are efficient enough to complement conven-

tional financial institutions? Instead of vilifying everything informal, the role of policy is to create a conducive environment to enhance these traditional initiatives without taking away their indigenous or fundamental function to meet people's livelihood needs.

Good financial inclusion policy should not ignore the grassroots initiatives and innovations that people engage in to overcome poverty and improve their lives. Rather, it should enhance what already works to improve access to financial services as well as ensure diversity of the financial products to serve all levels of livelihoods and lifestyles.

In essence, stokvels offer an alternative mechanism to relieve the financially excluded from their economic burdens and carve an alternative path to economic independence.

The National Financial Inclusion Strategy 2017-2022 states that 27 per cent of adults in Eswatini are still financially excluded.

This means 324 000 of the adult population have to turn to alternative informal options for their financial needs. By definition, financial inclusion encompasses four main products: savings, transaction, credit, and insurance - which can be accessed either through formal or informal channels. Note that poor people are not hopeless nor ignorant of their financial struggles. They too engage in economic activities when they gain access to money.

Stokvels are a testament that low-income earners know their problems, acknowledge their financial needs, and are experienced in the dynamics of their financial struggles.

Hence, stokvels - among other savings and borrowing instru-

ments - help them to mobilise savings and mitigate their financial issues. It is a misconception that only poor people partake in informal savings groups, people with bank accounts and reliable sources of income also participate in stokvels. By giving it the attention it deserves, the country would be en-route to improving many people's lives.

The wide provision of financial services by banks or other formal financial institutions has simply become the gold standard for financial inclusion. For sub-Saharan Africa, this view on financial inclusion is narrow as the economic realities are nothing compared to those of developed countries. What good is it to push everyone to have a bank account that will have a zero or negative balance most of the time?

Incomes

In the context of our social and economic realities, financial inclusion needs to be a greater pursuit than just making people subscribe to formal financial systems without supporting their ability to engage in productive activities to generate the necessary incomes to achieve financial freedom. Financial services need to be connected to the social systems in which people operate, it needs to be accessible and made available at an affordable cost to all individuals and their business pursuits.

In order to bring stokvel savings groups into the realm of financial inclusion discourse, it is worth developing a deeper understanding on how these groups help Emaswati save, borrow, make payments, and manage risks. Also, it should be noted that not all rural folks make use of stokvels, some use banks, some livestock, and discouraging as it may be, some do not save at all.

Eswatini needs to broaden the scope of financial inclusion, especially now that we know that the country has a large informal economy (equivalent to 37.4 per cent of the formal economy), which government must tap into to develop people's lives.

Fortunately, the Eswatini National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) lays out a plausible vision for the enhancement of financial inclusion in the country.

To contribute to the formulation of a coordinated rural national financial inclusion policy and a strategy for financial inclusion, the Eswatini Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (ESEPARC) is conducting a study on stokvels to determine the key features that can be enhanced to improve access as well as the depth of financial products to the financially excluded populace.

Wit and Wisdom

● "We came to see Jace. Is he alright?" "I don't know," Magnus said. "Does he normally just lie on the floor like that without moving?" — *Cassandra Clare*

● "Peace begins with a smile.." — *Mother Teresa*

● "Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears." — *John Lennon*

● "Death ends a life, not a relationship." — *Mitch Albom*

● "He can run faster than Severus Snape confronted with shampoo." — *J.K. Rowling*

● "You're going to come across people in your life who will say all the right words at all the right times. But in the end, it's always their actions you should judge them by. It's actions, not words, that matter." — *Nicholas Sparks*

● "Indifference and neglect often do much more damage than outright dislike." — *J.K. Rowling*

● "So, I love you because the entire universe conspired to help me find you." — *Paulo Coelho*

● "All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream." — *Edgar Allan Poe*

● "Do not read, as children do, to amuse yourself, or like the ambitious, for the purpose of instruction. No, read in order to live." — *Gustave Flaubert*

● "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." — *Margaret Mead*

● "You are, and always have been, my dream." — *Nicholas Sparks*

● "The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us." — *C.S. Lewis*

● "The only thing worse than a boy who hates you: a boy that loves you." — *Markus Zusak*

● "You are my best friend as well as my lover, and I do not know which side of you I enjoy the most. I treasure each side, just as I have treasured our life together." — *Nicholas Sparks*

● "Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation." — *Oscar Wilde*

● "Never memorise something that you can look up." — *Albert Einstein*

● "Don't think or judge, just listen." — *Sarah Dessen*

● "You cannot find peace by avoiding life." — *Michael Cunningham*

● "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." — *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.50%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	1.8%
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 / MTS

Correct as at 14 JUN 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.8110	14.8610
British Pound/SZL	18.7684	18.8318
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.2855	7.3081
Swiss France/SZL	14.9064	14.9552
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3448	1.3657
Australian Dollar/SZL	10.2181	10.2541
Canadian Dollar/SZL	11.1077	11.1418
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	16.7045	16.7609
Gold	1,353.4885	
Oil	64.72	

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Standard Bank



WE ARE SAFE: Director of Veterinary and Livestock Services, Dr. Roland Xolani Dlamini.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER OUTBREAK: ESWATINI CLEARED

BY MHLENGI MAGONGO

FOLLOWING the outbreak of African Swine fever, the government of Eswatini has taken measures to make sure that the country is not affected by it.

In an interview with this publication, Dr. Roland Xolani Dlamini the Director of Veterinary and Livestock Services said African swine fever (ASF) was a serious viral disease of pigs that can cause fever, internal bleeding and high death rates.

It is highly contagious and can spread rapidly through both direct and indirect contact with infected pigs or pig products.

He said the country had taken prevention measures and therefore the country was free from the disease. He said one of the steps taken was

that of separating of domestic pigs and wild pigs.

"Wild pigs are mainly found in nature reserves, away from farms with domestic pigs.

As a biosecurity measure, domestic pigs are kept in enclosures and are not allowed to roam free in the community. Any pigs roaming free are denied access to the formal markets.

Pigs

Movement of pigs between farms is controlled, requires a stock removal permit. Currently the Veterinary Services is working on designing and implementing an identification and traceability system" he said.

The director also said ASF could be spread directly between sick and healthy pigs. This happens through contact with the blood, tissues, secre-

tions and excretions from infected pigs. Animals that recover may become persistent carriers of the virus.

Clear

He made it clear that Eswatini does not import live pigs from ASF positive countries or zones. Also, imported pigs are from disease free compartments that test regularly for African swine fever and Classical Swine Fever amongst other diseases.

"All imported pigs undergo compulsory 30 days quarantine at the Government Quarantine station. The issuing and or use of veterinary import permits are strictly controlled" he said.

"Eswatini does not import pork and related products from countries/zones that are positive for ASF.

Importations are only allowed from slaughter houses and establishments that are located in ASF free zones and also source their slaughter stock from registered and supervised disease free compartments," he added.

Dlamini also mentioned that feeding of swill was discouraged. The fact that pigs are permanently housed prevents them from accessing food scraps accidentally. He attested that feed companies are required to implement a GMP, HACCP or any other recognized safety and quality standard.

Asked about a Contingency Plan, the director said should an outbreak occur the Veterinary Services would implement a stamping out policy in accordance to the Animal Disease Act 7/65. He added that there was no treatment or vaccine for ASF.

..... The country does not import live pigs from ASF positive countries

Eswatini records E745.5 million trade deficit in May

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE country, in the month of May, recorded a trade deficit of E747.5 million, a turnaround from a surplus of E189.1 million in the previous month.

According to the central Bank Recent Development Statistics, the deficit was informed by a significant increase in imports while exports grew at a steady rate in the month.

Exports were E2.309 billion in May, up by 4.1 per cent from the

preceding month.

The import bill in the month of May 2019 amounted to E3.057 billion reflecting a month-on-month increase of 50.6 per cent.

Invoices

The increase was influenced by a tripling in invoices for energy products in the month. Cumulative export earnings for 2019 as at May amounted to E10.793 billion, 25.7 per cent higher than the E8.583 billion of May the previous year.

The report stated that the country's major export of miscellaneous edibles posted a 13.0 per cent increase

to amount to E1.214 billion.

Proceeds from sugar and sugar confectionery products declined by 19.6 per cent in the review period, totalling E438.8 million.

Earnings

There was also a decline in export earnings from textile and textile apparel, which amounted to E252.2 million down from the E273.7 million of the previous month.

Wood and wood article exports increased by 27.8 per cent to total E139.9 million in May.

Imports of energy products which accounted for 37.8 per cent of total

imports, increased substantially in the month, growing from E323.1 million to E1.156 billion.

There was also an increase of 14.7 per cent recorded in the import of nuclear boilers, machinery and equipment which were E240.6 million in the month of May.

Bill

The import bill for vehicles amounted to E172.4 million increasing by a month-on-month 5.6 per cent. Imports of cereals were E96.9 million in May 2019, reflecting an increase of 3.2 per cent when compared to the month of April.



LAUNCH: Commissioner of Co-operatives Nonhlanhla Mnisi displaying the Hhohho Transport Multi-purpose Society's certificate of Registration, Constitution and Co-operatives legislation. (R) Mbabane East Indvuna Yenkhundla Mefika Mavuso, who was representing Member of Parliament Harries 'Madze' Bulunga, making his remarks.

FIRST TRANSPORT CO-OPERATIVE LAUNCHED

BY BAHLE GAMA

ESWATINI's first transport co-operative society was launched on Friday.

It was officially launched by Mbabane East Member of Parliament Harries 'Madze' Bulunga, who is also Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs. Bulunga was represented by Mbabane East Indvuna Yenkhundla Mefika Mavuso.

The Hhohho Transport Multi-Purpose Cooperatives Society has, however, been operational since the year 2017.

The co-operative aims to inculcate the power of saving for those in the transport sector operating within the Hhohho region, who include but are not limited to public transport operators, driving school operators, school bus owners, taxi owners and others.

"Our vision includes acquiring land to operate a tyre business, motor spares as well as a filling station. We are already in negotiations with the Municipal Council of Mbabane to give us land to operate our tyre business," said outgoing Vice Chairperson Petros Mhlanga.

Mhlanga was later elected President of the co-operative during the association's inaugural Annual General Meeting, which was held alongside the launch.

Commissioner of Co-operatives Nonhlanhla Mnisi said they were happy to launch the first transport co-operative.

"We didn't have a transport co-operative before and yet our mandate as a ministry is to have a multi-sectoral co-ops industry, so we are very excited that today we are launching one. Transport is a crucial sector in the country because we use transport as a basic need," Mnisi said.

The Commissioner further wished the co-operative success and advised the new executive not to despise their small beginnings.

"Do not be discouraged by the little membership. All co-operatives start small. It will grow if you maintain your patience and passion. Co-operatives are sustainable if you stick to your mandate. We hope other regions will also take a leaf from you," she said.

She then advised the co-operative to embrace values such as honesty, self-

responsibility, transparency and democracy. "These values are very critical for the success of co-operatives. You need to handle people's money with honesty," she said.

Mbabane East Indvuna Yenkhundla Mefika Mavuso said as a constituency they were very happy that the co-operative had been registered with the Department of Co-operatives in the ministry of commerce, industry and trade.

"This means you are a legal entity and can thus be taken to court if you misuse people's monies. Many societies have been shut down due to dishonesty but with you, it means our savings will be safe," Mavuso said.

"Our vision includes acquiring land to operate a tyre business, motor spares as well as a filling station."

Lilangeni weakened against major currencies in May

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE Lilangeni/Rand exchange rate generally weakened against major currencies in May.

Compared to the US Dollar, the Lilangeni depreciated by 2.1 per cent to average E14.43 to the US Dollar from an average of E14.13 in April.

The weakening throughout the month is mainly due to a large Rand sell-off prompted by low investor confidence towards emerging market economies following the news of renewed US-China trade war to which there was optimism that it would disappear.

This is contained in the Recent Development Statistics released by the Central Bank of Eswatini for May 2019.

The US in the period under review has already imposed tariffs on Chinese products, which puts emerging market currencies including the rand, under pressure.

While the market may have reacted positively to the May 2019 election outcome in South Africa, the dovish tone of the South African Reserve Bank and uncertainty around the delayed appoint-

ment of new Cabinet ministers in South Africa saw the rand depreciating against the US Dollar.

Against the Pound Sterling the local unit depreciated by 0.5 per cent to average E18.54 from an average of E18.45 in April.

The Rand when compared to the Euro was also weaker at E16.14, down from an average of E15.89 in April. The Lilangeni closed the month of May 2019 at E14.77 to the US Dollar, E18.63 to the Pound Sterling and E16.45 to the Euro after closing the month of April

at E14.37 to the US Dollar, E18.60 to the Pound Sterling and E16.08 to the Euro. Even though the local unit is weaker, it is set to rebound in the short-to-medium term as domestic risks which impede investor sentiments are expected to fade driven by policy reforms which are likely to reignite growth in South Africa.

The trade war tension embarked upon by the US on various economies, however, remains a major threat to the Rand/Lilangeni outlook against the major trading currencies.

... Outstanding Domestic debt at E10.6 million

THE Outstanding domestic debt stood at E10.6 billion as at the end of May, an equivalent of 16.1 per cent of GDP.

This almost remained constant when compared to the previous month. The Central Bank of Eswatini Recent Development Statistics highlighted that this suggests that there has been no net effect in the issuances during the month. The reports further noted that a total of E41.50 million was issued through private placements

in the Suppliers' bond programme. On 27 May, the bank, on behalf of government, auctioned four different tenors in plain vanilla bonds totalling E220 million.

Bids received amounted to E172.50 million resulting in a bid cover ratio of 78 per cent. Bids allotted stood at E110.50 million, indicating an allotment rate of 50.2 per cent. In the period under review, a three-year bond issued in May 2016 amounting to E200 million matured on 31 May.

Another CDP launch by Agriculture ministry

BY BAHLE GAMA

THE Ministry of Agriculture has launched another Chiefdom Development Plan (CDP) at Buseleni Chiefdom.

Launching the CDP was Principal Secretary in the ministry of agriculture who represented Minister Jabulani Mabuza. He commended the chiefdom for making the development plan a success.

The success realised during the phase of crafting the CDP implies that together we can achieve more than we possibly can as individuals. May I then commend the leadership and people of Buseleni for being able to work in harmony and present evidence based united front.

"The CDP being launched today signifies commitment and a shared vision from the people of Buseleni. One of our duties as a ministry is to support and monitor all agricultural initiatives. It is worth noting that our economy as a country is at its lowest point; and that agriculture presents the best opportunity to revive this economy. To achieve this, systematic planning is vital. This is what you have all done via the development of the CDP.

"We must applaud you for this, I am also aware that you have received a number of trainings that were geared towards empowering you with knowledge and skills. As such, you are now aware of your strengths, weakness and opportunities and threats. Again, as a ministry we will be quick to offer technical assistance wherever you need support and our experts are deployed throughout the country," he said.

He further disclosed that the Ministry of tinkhundla and administration was tasked with inculcating unity among communities located around each Inkhundla for the purposes of national development.

The ministry expects communi-

ties to develop their own plans to be consolidated at the Inkhundla level and submitted to the region and eventually national level.

"As such your CDP will go through this process and government will deliver on her part. Our ministry is contributing to this mammoth task through the ESWADE," he added.

The minister further stated that planning has always been assumed to be for white collar management, but nowadays, ordinary citizens in ordinary communities have the capacity to sit under a tree with the sole purpose of planning to determine the direction of their future, hence as the country is steering towards achieving the goals of Vision 2022, it is a prerequisite that the nation has to be organised through action plans.

"It gives me pleasure to stand before you today, in an event where the Buseleni Chiefdom marks the end of plan development and the beginning of its implementation.

"I would like to congratulate you for taking a step in the right direction. It is very critical that we all respect this CDP and be united in its implementation and respecting its provisions. It is now time to embark on ensuring that adequate resources are mobilised for implementation. You need a very active forward looking Development Committee that will be able to lead implementation and resource mobilisation.

"I have also been advised that the CDP has been crafted with financial support from the European Union and technically supported by ESWADE through the High Value Crop and Horticultural Project. I therefore, join the people of Buseleni in thanking the EU for the support of the programme and general support to the Kingdom of Eswatini, especially the agriculture sector," he said.

ESERA TO CREATE DATABASE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF 40MW

BY MHLengi MAGONGO

THE Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA) seeks to create a database of parties who may be interested in participating in the development of 40 MW of solar by 2020 and 40 MW of biomass by 2021.

The projects, which will be part of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy recently released Short-Term Generation Expansion Plan, will be designed to reduce the country's dependence on power imports from South African utility Eskom.

The authority has begun the procurement process for 40MW of PV capacity. The projects, which will be assigned by 2020, will also include 40MW of biomass. ESERA has also begun the process of procuring new generating capacity from independent power producers, with

the support of the ministry of natural resources and energy.

"Due to the constraints faced by Eskom and the expected significant tariff increases from Eskom, the reliance by Eswatini on electricity imports from South Africa is no longer secured," the ESERA said in the document.

Eswatini issued its first utility-scale solar tender in June. It aims to increase the share of renewables in the country's electricity mix to 50 per cent by 2030.

The current installed capacity of Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC), is only around 60 MW, which is enough to cover just 10 per cent of the kingdom's electricity demand. The vast majority of the electricity the small country consumes comes from Mozambique and South Africa via the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

Over E200 000 made in attorneys' auctions

BY BAHLE GAMA

OVER E220 000 was collected during an auction held at the Mbabane Magistrate's Court parking lot on Friday.

The auction was held by two different law firms, namely S.V Mdladla and Associates and Makhosi Vilakati Attorneys. Conducting the auction on behalf of Mdladla Attorneys was Mbabane Deputy Sheriff David Magagula who sold two items at a reserve price of E210 000.

The items included a black Volvo for

ITEM	AMOUNT	Vehicle	Amount
Office desk	E4 000	Black Volvo	E60 000
Office printer	E600	White Isuzu truck	E150 000
Office table	E1 000		
Office chairs	E500 – E700 each		
Office couch	E2 000		
Cables	E100		

E60 000 and an Isuzu truck that was sold for E150 000. Both were sold at their reserve prices.

Sell

Meanwhile, Deputy Sheriff Xolani Mkhonta managed to sell a number of office furniture items for Vilakati totalling to about E20 000.

The auctioned furniture was attached from a company identified as Alpha Innovative Solution.

These included office chairs, desks and cabinets.

Both auctions did not require any registration fee and viewing was done on the day.



PRINT: This Samsung printer went under the hammer for E600. (Pics: Bahle Gama)



WASH: Some house appliances were part of the auction and this washing machine was bid for at E850. (R) **COMFORT:** These office chairs were sold at a minimum price of E500 each.



SOLD: This Isuzu truck was sold for E150 000.

New alkaline water beverage hits store shelves

BY SIMON SHABANGU

HEALTH conscious consumers and the retail sector will now be able to stock the healthy alkaline water which is now available in some of the stores locally.

The product is brought into the country by Rockefeller Investments, which is a company that trades in the country and South African retail industry.

The company's Chief Executive Officer Nathi Sambo confirmed the news.

He explained alkaline water is less acidic than regular water. This means that it is rich in alkalising compounds, including calcium, silica, potassium, magnesium and bicarbonate.

He said the water has several health benefits on the body if consumed regularly. He added that alkaline water is quite popular in the health industry as people are eager to access it, which is what his company is trying to achieve.

"Currently, alkaline water can be found in some Spar outlets around the country as well as several restaurants and food outlets. Our goal is to ensure that we achieve as much geographical coverage as possible so that the consumers can get it, and enjoy the health benefits this brand is known for," said Sambo.

Asked on the difference between their product and other

CONFIRMED:
Rockefeller Investments
Chief Executive Officer
Nathi Sambo.



competing products in the market, Sambo stated that the health benefits contained in their product are incomparable.

Her said what is crucial to their company is ensuring that the public access the water at affordable prices, adding that their service to clients and to the end-consumer is of high standards.

"As a company, we want to enable the people of Eswatini to easily access alkaline water. Ours is to ensure that our products are available and affordable so that we can all tap into its health benefits," he added.

He also stated that interest in the product from local businesses is high and expressed confidence that alkaline water will soon find its way onto many shop shelves.

Consumed

He also said that their product is mainly consumed by the health conscious such as the active youth, young professionals and senior citizens. He encouraged more people to adopt healthy lifestyles and consider using alkaline water.

Sambo further stated that he is eager to have local and aspiring entrepreneurs benefit from the sale of the water.

However, he stated that this is a programme that will be rolled out during the course of the year.

To them, their company, growth and sustainability is important, but growth along with people is an even a bigger target, thus the company's key strategies are highly focussed on people development and shared opportunities.

The alkaline water can be found at most Super

HEALTH BENEFITS OF ALKALINE WATER

Alkaline ionised water is used for drinking and cooking, and provides users with several important health benefits:

- ALKALIZING:** restores pH balance by reducing acidity levels in the body
- ANTIOXIDANT:** helps to neutralise free radicals that can cause cellular and DNA damage
- SUPER-HYDRATING:** smaller water cluster size allows water to penetrate cells more easily
- MINERAL RICH:** contains higher concentrations of alkaline minerals such as calcium, magnesium, and potassium which are vital to human health
- OXYGEN RICH:** increases the amount of dissolved oxygen in the blood
- DETOXIFYING:** eliminates mucus build-up on colon walls, thus improving the body's ability to absorb important nutrients
- CLEANSING:** contributes to flushing out acidic waste and toxins that have accumulated in the body over time
- ENERGISING:** negatively charged hydroxyl ions contribute to increased energy, mental clarity, and overall alertness
- WEIGHT CONTROL:** reduces the body's need for fatty tissues which protect vital organs from acidity by storing acidic waste in less critical parts of the body
- CLEAN WATER:** pre-filtration cartridge inside the ionizer removes chlorine and other common pollutants present in tap water
- REMOVES PESTICIDES:** strong alkaline water with a pH over 10.5 helps to remove pesticides from fresh fruits and vegetables

Spar outlets, Café Amora at Woodlands, all Fedies Food services canteens and Bakers Delight in Manzini.

Thanked

Sambo thanked local business owners for their enthusiasm towards including alkaline water as part of the products on offer, and further encouraged other businesses to follow suit, as this product is highly sought around the country.

Sambo also stated that their social media pages would soon be launched along with other exciting activities that will not only please their customers but would help make the journey towards a healthy lifestyle relatively easy and more importantly, enjoyable.



Focus on World News

Global News

US POLICY TOWARD IRAN IS ALL STICK AND NO CARROT

● A war between Iran and the US would pit the mighty American military machine against a much smaller but highly mobile array of Iranian forces and allies spread around the Middle East.

ABU DHABI - The motorcycle zipped past our taxi as we headed to Tyre in southern Lebanon, veering off the road onto a dirt track leading up into the hills.

The passenger on the back of the motorcycle had what appeared to be long tubes, concealed by cloth, strapped to his back.

I couldn't stop and ask who they were or what those tubes were, but they were probably Hezbollah fighters moving rockets or other weapons to the south.

For weeks in July 2006 Israeli jets bombed Beirut's southern suburbs, and other towns and villages in Lebanon's south, trying to knock the Iranian-backed group out of action. They failed.

From our camera position south of Tyre, we watched daily as vol-

ley after volley of Katyusha rockets roared out of the banana groves toward Israel. Frequent Israeli air strikes didn't appear to have any impact on the men launching the rockets.

Iran provided -- and continues to provide -- training, weaponry and equipment to Hezbollah.

As the US and Iran rush perilously close to a violent confrontation, the example of Hezbollah's 34-day war with Israel comes to mind. A war between Iran and the US would pit the mighty American military machine against a much smaller but highly mobile array of Iranian forces and allies spread around the Middle East.

Regardless of the details behind Thursday's attacks on two tankers

in the Gulf of Oman, a confrontation between Iran and the United States became ever more likely after the Trump administration unilaterally pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal last year, brought on by ultra-Iran hawks Mike Pompeo as Secretary of State and John Bolton as National Security Advisor, and then began to tighten the screws on Iran with ever more punishing economic sanctions.

US policy toward Iran now is maximum sticks, no carrots.

Iran is very different to Saddam's Iraq

Unlike Saddam Hussein's Iraq in 2003, however, Iran has plenty of sticks at its disposal.

In 2003 Iraq was a shadow of its former self. I recall driving to

Baghdad two years before the war and being stopped at an Iraqi Army checkpoint in the desert. The gaunt, weary troops didn't ask for our papers. They asked for food and water. By 2003 Iraq was weak and isolated. In his hour of need, no one came to Saddam's aid.

Iran is different. It has armed and trained Hezbollah, perhaps one of the most effective fighting forces in the Middle East. It has backed the Houthis in Yemen, who have managed to fight the US-backed and armed Saudi and Emirati armies to a standstill. An array of militias in Iraq receive support from Iran.

Plus, Tehran has had close ties with Syria going back to the 1979 revolution. Iranian troops and advisers helped, along with Russia and Hezbollah, to keep Bashar al-Assad



WAR: United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

in power.

Iran has plenty of IOUs it can call in.

Its friends have already made it clear they won't stand idly by if Iran is attacked. On May 31, Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah told a rally "a war on Iran will not remain within the boundaries of Iran. A war on Iran will inflame the entire region, and American forces and American interests will be destroyed."

CNN

Notre Dame celebrates 1st Mass since devastating April fire

PARIS - The archbishop wore a hard-hat helmet, burnt wood debris was still visible and only about 30 people were let inside, but Notre Dame Cathedral on Saturday held its first Mass since the devastating April 15th fire that ravaged its roof and topped its masterpiece spire.

Exactly two months after the blaze engulfed the landmark Gothic building in the French capital, the service was celebrated by Paris Archbishop Michel Aupetit in a chapel behind the choir, a place confirmed by construction experts as safe.

French Culture Minister Franck Riester said this week the cathe-



dral remains in a "fragile" state, especially its vaulted ceiling, which is still at risk of collapsing.

For security reasons, only about

30 people — mainly priests, canons and church employees — were admitted inside the cathedral for the service, while Aupetit and oth-

ers wore construction worker's helmets. Some of the workers rebuilding the church were also invited.

Other worshippers could watch the Mass live on a Catholic TV station. The video showed some burnt wood still in the church but a famous statue of the Virgin and Child appeared intact behind wooden construction planks.

The annual Dedication Mass commemorated the cathedral's consecration as a place of worship.

"This cathedral is a place of worship, it is its very own and unique purpose," Aupetit said.

One French priest called the service "a true happiness, full of hope."

AP

'Sea of black' Hong Kong protesters demand leader step down

HONG KONG - Hundreds of thousands of people clogged the streets in central Hong Kong on Sunday dressed in black to demand the city's leader step down, a day after she suspended an extradition bill in a dramatic retreat following the most violent protests in decades.

The massive rally saw some protesters carry white carnation flowers, while others held banners saying, "Do not shoot, we are HongKonger," as they sought to avoid a repeat of the violence that rocked the financial centre on Wednesday when police fired rubber bullets and tear gas.

Reuters

BRIEFS

Over 40% lawmakers facing charges

NEW DELHI - India's recent national election delivered a historic victory to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist party, but also exposed the influence of money, power and questionable morality on the world's largest democracy.

Nearly 43 per cent of the new members of the lower house of Parliament that convenes today for the first time since the election won despite facing criminal charges.

More than a quarter of those relate to rape, murder or attempted murder, according to a report by the civic group Association of Democratic Reforms.

AP

UK Tories warned not to crown Johnson

LONDON - Candidates seeking to become Britain's next prime minister are warning that the Conservative Party needs a real contest, rather than a coronation for front-runner Boris Johnson.

Johnson, a former foreign secretary, has a big lead after the first round of voting by Tory lawmakers. On Sunday he received the backing of Esther McVey, one of the candidates eliminated from the race last week.

Six contenders remain, with Johnson by far the favourite. Lawmakers are set to narrow the field this week in a series of elimination votes, with the final two names put to a vote of Conservative members nationwide. AP

'Times Russia report is 'virtual treason'

NEW YORK - US President Donald Trump on Saturday accused The New York Times of "a virtual act of treason," after it reported the US is stepping up digital incursions into Russia's electric power grid.

Current and former government officials have described the classified deployment of American computer code inside Russia's power grid and other targets, the Times reported.

The action is intended partly as a warning but also to leave the US poised to conduct cyberstrikes in the event of a major conflict between the US and Russia, the newspaper said.

AFP

Erdogan sees S-400s delivery starting in July

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said he expected Russian S-400 missile defense systems to start arriving in Turkey in the first half of July, broadcaster NTV reported on Sunday, a development set to fuel tensions with NATO ally Washington.

The S-400s are not compatible with NATO's systems and have been a growing source of discord between Turkey and the United States in recent months. "We discussed the S-400 subject with Russia. Indeed the S-400 issue is settled," Erdogan was cited as telling reporters on his plane returning from a visit to Tajikistan, where he attended a summit and met Russian President Vladimir Putin. Reuters

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

ANC MEN AFRAID - BATHABILE DLAMINI

JOHANNESBURG - ANC Women's League (ANCWL) President Bathabile Dlamini on Saturday took a swipe at the men in the governing party, saying they were afraid of bringing in youth because they fear losing their positions.

The former social development minister was speaking at the launch of the ANC's exhibition of almost a dozen June 16 activists, including the only woman - Nelson Mandela Children's Fund Chief Executive Sibongile Mkhabela - at Constitutional Hill in Joburg ahead of Youth Day.

"They are looking after their positions, so when they look at young women they think that they are going to lose their positions," Dlamini said.



AFRAID: ANC Women's League (ANCWL) President Bathabile Dlamini claims ANC men are afraid of losing their positions in the party.

In contrast, she said, the ANCWL was not afraid of bringing young women into the organisation because others are afraid.

"We are not just sitting, we are rising to the

occasion and we are still going to rise to the occasion," Dlamini said.

She said there was a trend to blame women for sexism.

NYDA calls for economic inclusion as youth mark 1976 students massacre

JOHANNESBURG - The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) says while the country was able to secure freedom through the works of the youth of 1976, today's young people are yet to reap the fruits of their labour.

The comments come as South African marks 43 years since young people protested in Soweto against Afrikaans being used as a primary medium of instruction in schools.

Several commemorative events are being held to commemorate the day.

Gauteng Premier David Makhura will be at Morris Isaacson High School in Jabavu while the da will start the day in Phefeni.

The NYDA's Sifiso Mtsweni says, "I think one thing we all agree about as young people is that we want education and skills development. But most importantly, we want economic development.

"We've seen over the last few years with the Fees Must Fall Movement putting the spotlight on the issues of education and we've seen young people organising themselves to want to achieve this goal."

EWN

Opposition wants 'urgent action' from Ramaphosa at SONA

CAPE TOWN - President Cyril Ramaphosa is under pressure to provide detailed plans in his State of the Nation Address on Thursday to fix the country, an ailing economy and struggling state-owned entities.

Opposition parties said on Saturday the honeymoon for Ramaphosa was over and he needs to ignite growth in the economy and create jobs.

The Cabinet held its lekgotla in the week where it discussed the state of the economy, infrastructure upgrade, jobs and investments.

The lekgotla comes after the economy contracted by 3.2 per cent in the first quarter of the year, and ratings agencies warned the government to get things right.

Ramaphosa has set aside R400 billion for infrastructure upgrades. SOEs have come under fire with two chief executives resigning in a few weeks of one another.

Eskom's Phakamani Hadebe quit a few weeks ago and was followed by Vuyani Jarana at SAA.

Economists and investors have warned that Eskom is the biggest risk to the economy with a debt of more than R420 billion. SAA needs R21.7bn to continue operating until



2021, and its board said it would break even in two years time.

The SABC needs a bailout of R6.8bn for it to operate. Statistics South Africa also released figures recently that unemployment had increased from 27.1 per cent in the first quarter to 27.6 per cent.

Ramaphosa has promised to raise \$100bn (R1.4 trillion) investments in the next five years.

The ACDP, IFP and UDM said on Saturday this was an opportunity for Ramaphosa to get things right because the country was in a crisis.

Steve Swart of the ACDP said most of the issues that need to come from the SONA are the state of the economy and the high debt levels.

"On SONA, most of the issues relate to the economy and our GDP (gross domestic product) contrac-

tion by 3.2 per cent and that is of most concern to us and the fiscal sustainability of our debt," said Swart.

The debt was approaching 60 per cent of the GDP. Swart said Ramaphosa must deal with the parlous state of SOEs. He said the president must deal with those who are implicated in state capture.

"We want urgent action on those implicated in state capture and the money stolen must be returned," he said.

The IFP's Mkhuleko Hlengwa said they want Ramaphosa to ramp up growth in the economy, create jobs and stabilise SOEs.

"As we indicated when the president was elected, that when he does right, we will support him. SONA requires tangible action on job creation and economic growth

due to sluggish growth," said Hlengwa.

UDM leader Bantu Holomisa said he did not expect anything new from the SONA.

He said Ramaphosa has been saying the same things since he took over last year.

He said the issue of the SOEs was not new and this was caused by the ANC's cadre deployment policy and political interference.

"The issue of SOEs is not new because we deployed cadres, some of whom have no clue. As long as you allow the political head to usurp the powers of CEOs and heads of departments, we will continue to swim in this chaos," said Holomisa.

He said "every document you read" points to political interference by former leaders of the ANC in the entities. *Sunday Independent*

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

"Those people find it easy to defend men who do wrong things but find it correct to always touch and speak about wrong things done by women and also things that are done in the name of the organisation," Dlamini said, adding that it was important to understand that most ANC-aligned organisations were led by men.

According to Dlamini, most of the time women fought very hard to defend things that were done by men. She said it was what men want to see women doing on a daily basis.

Dlamini also cautioned young South Africans to fight for the country or face a bleak future.

"If young people do not fight hard towards changing this country, they will have a very sad future."

"This is not the time to sit down and say we have everything, this is the time to continuously demand what we demanded from the formation of the ANC," she said.

She said she hoped the exhibition would be taken to all provinces and be given prominence for young people to understand what Hector Pieterse died for. On June 16, 1976, Pieterse, 13, was among scores of unarmed pupils killed for resisting being taught in Afrikaans. Dlamini was axed from President Cyril Ramaphosa's Cabinet last month and resigned as an ANC MP this week. She was appointed minister in the presidency responsible for women in February last year by Ramaphosa after his predecessor Jacob Zuma was recalled by the ANC.

ANC Johannesburg Regional Chairperson Geoff Makhubu praised the ANCWL's young women's desk, which he described for stepping into the void left by the chaos in the ANC Youth League.

"The absence of the ANCYL has really been mitigated by the presence of the young women's desk," he said. *Sunday Independent*

ANC welcomes five new MPs to be sworn in

CAPE TOWN - The African National Congress in Parliament will welcome five new MPs when they are sworn in as members to fill vacancies in the National Assembly next week, ANC Chief whip Pemmy Majodina said on Saturday.

The vacancies arose after the recent resignations of former energy minister Jeff Radebe, former home affairs minister Siyabonga Cwele, former minister for women in the presidency Bathabile Dlamini, former tourism minister Derek Hanekom, and former labour minister Mildred Oliphant, she said in a statement.

The five new MPs were Alexandra Beukes, Kebby Maphatsoe, Zanele Nkomo, Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen, and Matthew Wolmarans.

"The ANC in Parliament welcomes these new members and we have full confidence that they will serve the people of South Africa with



absolute distinction.

The swearing-in ceremony will take place on tomorrow, at [3pm] in Parliament.

"We also extend our gratitude to the comrades who resigned from Parliament for their diligent service to the ANC and to the people of South Africa."

Future

"We look forward to working with them in the future as they have indicated their willingness to continue serving the ANC and the country in other capacities. We wish them well," Majodina said.

ANA

Jackson Mthembu to lead government propaganda department

PRETORIA - Newly-appointed Minister in the Presidency Jackson Mthembu will be responsible for government propaganda, a function previously the responsibility of the ministry of communications.

This after President Cyril Ramaphosa on Friday announced several changes in the functions of departments, in line with the reconfiguration that he effected when he announced his executive last month. The reconfiguration led to the folding of five departments, which have been merged with others.

According to Ramaphosa, the ministry of communications, headed by Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, will relinquish the Government Communication and Information System (GSIC), which will now be housed at Mthembu's office.

Mthembu will also be responsible for Brand SA and the Media Development and Diversity Agency.

As part of the reconfigured departments, Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Patricia

de Lille will also assume added responsibilities that were not a function of the ministry under her predecessors.

De Lille, over and above the previous mandate of the department, will be responsible for "coordinating responsibility for all public infrastructure development".

The statement by the president said that the reconfigured departments were meant to "strengthen accountability".

Ramaphosa also clarified which deputy minister will be responsible for which function in departments with two deputy ministers. At the department of agriculture, land reform and rural development, deputy minister Mcebisi Skwatsha will be responsible for land reform while Sdumo Dlamini will be in charge of rural development.

Deputy minister Pam Tshwete will look after human settlements, while David Mahlobo has been tasked with water and sanitation at the department of human settlements, water and sanitation.

Times Live

Concerns over government's attempt to 'plunder private savings'

JOHANNESBURG - The Institute of Race Relations (IRR) has raised concerns over what it calls government's attempt to plunder South Africans' private savings.

The institute accuses government of planning to seize private pension funds to plug spending gaps.

The IRR is reacting to a statement by Trade and Industry Minister Ebrahim Patel that retirement funds play a role in the country's development.

The institute says government simply doesn't have enough money.

"They'll say you are legally mandated to buy assets and we are going to give you the list of assets you can buy into."

"They can say you have to buy into Eskom, you have to buy into SAA, you have to buy into SABC," said Gabriel Crouse from the Institute of Race Relations.

eNCA

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Focus on Africa News

Continental News

MADAGASCAR PRESIDENT ASSURED OF WINNING MAJORITY SEATS IN PARLY

ANTANANARIVO - Malagasy President Andry Rajoelina is assured of winning the majority of seats in the next National Assembly, according to the full results published Saturday by the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI).

Projections made by political parties on the basis of these results attribute 84 of the 151 seats of deputies to the Rajoelina-led coalition, compared to only 16 to his unfortunate presidential opponent's party, Marc Ravalomanana.

The other 51 seats were won by candidates for the independent parties. Malagasy voters largely avoided the ballot box during the legislative elections on 28 May, with a turnout rate of less than a third of registered voters (31 per cent). "The results proclaimed assure



ASSURED: Malagasy President Andry Rajoelina.

us not only an absolute majority but also a fairly stable majority," Pierre Houlde Ramaholimasy, the head of the president's political affairs department, told AFP.

Disappointing

"This is such a disappointing result," Fidèle Razara Pierre, one

of the defeated candidates of Ravalomanana's movement, conceded to AFP, "with 16 seats, we are even lower than the previous legislative elections where we obtained some" 21.

Five months ago, Andry Rajoelina won the second round of the pres-

idential election in front of Mr. Ravalomanana after a very tense campaign. The second had accused the first of fraud but had finally acknowledged his victory, which was denied by the courts.

This absolute parliamentary majority gives the President the free rein to carry out the reforms promised in this very poor country in the Indian Ocean.

"The most important thing is that the president of the republic will be able to work in complete peace during his term of office," Pierre Houlde Ramaholimasy was pleased to say.

In the absence of a stable majority, the mandate of Rajoelina's predecessor, Hery Rajaonarimampianina, had been shaken by numerous political crises that ended up being fatal to him. *Africa News*

Sudan's Bashir to appear in court on graft charge - Prosecutor

KHARTOUM - Ousted Sudanese leader Omar al-Bashir is to appear in court next week to face charges of corruption and illegal possession of foreign currency, the country's acting prosecutor general announced Saturday.

The announcement came more than two months after the military overthrew Bashir following mass nationwide protests against his iron-fisted rule.

Bashir "will appear in court next week following charges of corruption and possessing foreign currency", Al-Waleed Sayyed Ahmed told reporters, without specifying the day.

On Thursday, an unnamed official quoted by the official SUNA news agency said Bashir was facing charges including "possessing foreign funds, acquiring suspected and illegal wealth, and ordering the (state of) emergency". *AFP*

Zim's local 'Dollar' should be allowed to depreciate further - Mnangagwa

HARARE - In his first live radio interview, President Emmerson Mnangagwa said Zimbabwe's local 'dollar' should be allowed to depreciate further from its current rate of around 1:6 with the US dollar, to make the country's exports competitive.

Mnangagwa said the RTGS dollar is still the strongest currency in the region, a claim that will anger struggling Zimbabwean workers, who have seen their purchasing power massively reduced in recent months.

Yesterday unions in the energy sector gave notice their members plan to go on strike soon; they say workers are no longer earning a living wage.

In a wide-ranging discussion with Capital, Mnangagwa spoke of his desire to leave a legacy as a reformer.

He also spoke of his dismay at rising prices but said his government won't be imposing price controls. *EWN*

20 jihadists 'neutralised' in French-Malian counter-terrorism operation

AKABAR - A joint operation by the Malian army and the French anti-jihadist force Barkhane, underway in north-eastern Mali, has resulted in the "neutralisation" of some 20 jihadists, the Malian Armed Forces (FAMA) announced Saturday evening.

"About 20 terrorists neutralised in #Ménaka. The #FAMA and #Barkhane are conducting a joint operation in the locality of Akabar, in the Ménaka sector. This operation made it possible to neutralize about twenty terrorists," the Malian army reported on

Twitter, without further details.

A jihadist group that calls itself the "Islamic State in the Great Sahara" (EIGS) is mainly active in this region of Ménaka and across the border with Niger.

In particular, he claimed responsibility for the October 2017 attack on Tongo Tongo in Niger. This ambush cost the lives of four American and four Nigerian soldiers.

Northern Mali had fallen in March-April 2012 under the control of jihadist groups, largely dispersed by a military intervention launched in January 2013 at the



initiative of France. This intervention continues with Operation Barkhane, which mobilises some 4 500 soldiers in the Sahel.

But entire areas of Mali are beyond the control of Malian, French and UN forces, despite

the signing in 2015 of a peace agreement intended to definitively isolate jihadists.

Since 2015, violence has spread from the North to the centre, and sometimes even to the South. *Africa News*

BRIEFS

Islamic State confirms killings

MAIDUGURI - Islamic State's West African branch claimed responsibility for an attack on a Nigerian army base in northeastern Borno state and said its fighters had killed 20 soldiers. The assault, which raised questions about government claims to have almost defeated the insurgents, took place in the town of Kareto on Wednesday. The barracks were burnt and a tank destroyed, Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA) said in a statement published on the SITE Intelligence website.

Security sources had said earlier that the base, home to the from the Nigerian Army's 158th Battalion and 130 km from the state capital Maiduguri, had been overrun and the commander killed. *EWN*

9 civilians killed in revenge attack

MOGADISHU - Nine civilians were executed by a local militia in war-torn Somalia after the killing of a policeman by the Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab, police said Saturday. The revenge attack on Friday just outside Galkayo - one of the most developed cities in the centre of the country - targeted the Rahanweyn clan, several of whose members are suspected of being Shabaab fighters.

"This was a horrible incident, a gruesome killing against nine unarmed innocent civilians in southern Galkayo. All of the civilians belong to one clan and the gunmen shot them dead in one location a few minutes after suspected Shabaab gunmen killed" a policeman, Mohamed Abdirahman, a local police official said. *AFP*

Bomb kills several police officers

NAIROBI - At least eight Kenyan police officers have died after their car hit a roadside bomb near the Somali border.

Eleven people were in the car when it hit the device in east Wajir county. The fate of the others is unclear.

No-one has admitted planting the explosives. Unnamed officials told AFP news agency that the police had been pursuing suspected al-Shabaab Islamist militants fighting Somalia's government and its backers, including Kenya. The al-Qaeda-linked group has been trying to overthrow the Somali government for years. *BBC*

Tanzania 'in danger' following Ebola cases

DODOMA - Tanzania's health minister issued an Ebola 'alert' yesterday after the disease, which has killed over 1 400 people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, appeared in their shared neighbour, Uganda.

"I want to alert the public that there is the threat of an Ebola epidemic in our country," Ummu Mwalimu tweeted days after officials confirmed that members of a family who had travelled to the DRC had died in western Uganda. The minister said the alert was necessary given the frequent interactions between Tanzanian and Ugandan people "via the official borders or by other, unofficial channels." *The Citizen*

ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEWS | STAR SIGNS | CELEBRITY WATCH | CARTOONS

LISWATI THANDO ON NEFLIX SERIES

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

ANOTHER Liswati, Thando Mzamo after Amanda Du-point would be appearing on the big screens as he was cast on a Netflix Series; Queen Sono.

This comes after Thando was featured on South African soapie; Rhythm City. Mzamo would be acting alongside South Africa's Pearl Thusi and Vusi Dabula.

According to Mzamo, they started shooting yesterday.

He said he felt excited and honoured to be part of the series as it was the first South African Netflix Series.

"The series is produced by Kagiso Lediga and I am casted alongside Pearl Thusi and Vusi Dabula (Kumkani). I am cast as a SADF soldier.

"For me this has always

... To cast alongside Pearl Thusi and Vusi Dabula

been my dream from childhood. I had always dreamt of having to be an international actor and be featured in the silver screens alongside A-listers," said the

elated upcoming star.

He stated that the support he had receive from his loved ones was overwhelming and he was grateful for it.

He said being the second Liswati to be featured in a Netflix series had been a blessing and he was not taking it for granted as he would have to show the talent Swazi's have through his work.

"For the longest time Swazi's were not as involved in such things.

Happy

I am happy that the country was doing extremely well when it comes to the entertainment world.

"Being featured in such a series came as a shock to me.

This is an opportunity to showcase the talent that Emaswati have with regards to anything entertainment," he said.

He further encouraged Emaswati to always grab opportunities as they come no matter how small they seemed.

Netflix is the world's leading internet entertainment service with over 148 million paid memberships in over 190 countries enjoying TV series, documentaries and feature films across a wide variety of genres and languages.

EXCITED: Thando Mzamo who has been cast on South African Netflix Series, Queen Sono.

Popzin album launch date confirmed

BY DELISA THWALA

THE new youngster on the block Popzin has confirmed the official date of his album launch.

The launch is going to take place on July 20 at Sibane Hotel.

The singer is going to launch his album which titled 'Imphendvulo'. The much awaited album launch will see a few Eswatini artists come out and support the singer.

Speaking to the singers' manager Kenneth Tsabedze, he said they were definitely looking forward to the album launch.

Successful

"With the current boosts and hype we are receiving from people, it is definitely going to be a successful event and a beautiful day" said Tsabedze.

The launch will also see the popular 'Amapiano' Deejays who have collaborated with the singer performing.

It has also been said that Member of Parliament for Manzini North Marcford Sibandze has confirmed his attendance.

Tickets to the show will be available for purchase at selected stores on Tuesday.

chase at selected stores on Tuesday.

VIP tickets will be selling for E300 and a general ticket will be going for E200 but early birds and sold at discounted at early birds E250 for VIP and general at E150.

VVIP tickets are limited and selling for E650.

"I want everyone to come and see my beautiful work on the 20th. I promise to give it my all on stage and I cannot wait to finally launch my album," said the singer.

Popzin has been in and out of the country performing and promoting his music.

His song 'Umyango' has been receiving airplay on international radio stations

like Gwalagwala FM and playing on Trace

Africa TV and Channel

O. It has also been getting thousands of views on YouTube.



LAUNCH: Popzin.

BY DELISA THWALA

ESWATINI Golden Boy Sandz has collaborated with the legendary Tsepo Tsola.

This was confirmed by the singer during an interview with the Entertainment Desk yesterday.

He said for some time now he had been in the studio with the legendary singer cooking a different kind of music with him.

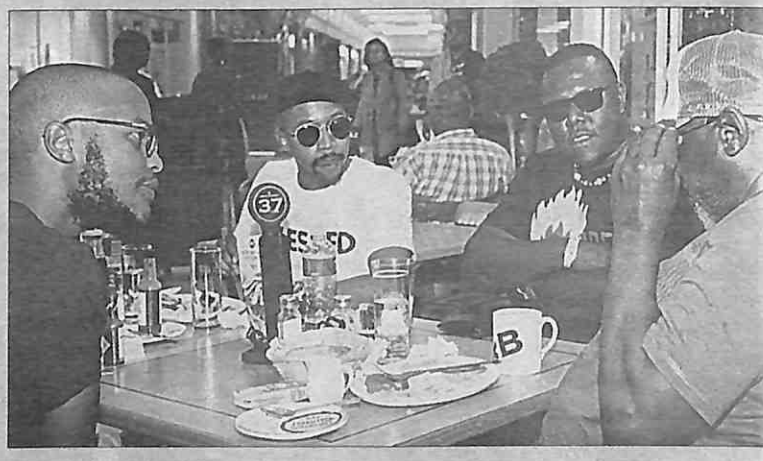
"Yes I was in studio with Tsepo and it's a dream to work with him. It was honestly such a goose bum experience to work with him, and also experience the village pope," said the award winning artist. He said he could not wait to finally give his fans a listen to what he has been working on as it was a new sound altogether.

"I cannot wait for my new music to come out and have people try it out as it is a new thing I'm cooking once again and I hope once again the world is ready," he elaborated during the interview.

SANDZ COLLABORATES WITH TSHEPO TSHOLA



COLLABORATES: Eswatini golden boy Sandz, SA legend Tsepo Tsola and Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini.



He said he was hoping to work on more tracks but that would be judged by the response on this track.

"With this track, we are kick starting a project with Tsola and I cannot wait for it to begin," said Matsebula.

Tsepo Tsola was currently in the country for the 13th edition of MTN BUSHFIRE, where he gave splen-

did performances and took his fans on time travel as he indulged them with his old time favourite hits.

PLATINUM CONCEPTS LAUNCHES DENZEL IN GLITTERY AFFAIR

BY DELISA THWALA

DENZEL Smith is officially signed under Platinum Concepts.

It was a double celebration at Sibane Hotel on Friday as musician Smith successfully launched his debut single title 'Number One' and he was also welcomed to Platinum Concepts under the directorship of Khulekani B Mamba.

The intimate glittery affair saw a number of artists such as Amanda Mo, Zwile Bhembe, KrTC, S Cubed and comedian Mdura and SWAMA President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini supporting their fellow artist.

The man of the moment gave beautiful covers of 'Jealous', and the popular 'Thobile' before giving the crowd what they had been waiting for; the hit 'Number One'.

The vocally colourful song saw everyone singing along instantly and that is when singer Amanda Mo took to



SING WITH ME: Amanda Mo joined Denzel Smith during his performance. This was during the singer's single launch held at Sibane Hotel on Friday. (Courtesy picture)

the stage and joined the singer.

Smith also shared with the crowd that his album would come out soon and if all goes well, it might be out by

the end of the month.

He clarified though that he cannot share much as the project was underway but definitely coming.

Speaking after the event during an interview, Denzel said he was happy about the song and how the audience responded to his rendition.

"I'm so happy about today and I'm grateful to everyone who attended and received it beautifully. I hope this is the start of something amazing for my career," said the elated Smith.

The event was also launching Smith as an official member of Platinum Concepts.

Platinum Concepts Director Khulekani Mamba said they saw it fitting to officially make Smith part of their brand.

"The reason we launched him is because we have seen that he is now ready for the world and the carefully selected guest for this launch proved to us that he is indeed ready," said Mamba.

He added that Smith is talented and they have been working with him for a long time.

Platinum Concepts is an all in one events and entertainment company, with different programmes and services to offer.

It operates stage, sound, lighting hire, marketing, concept development, events management, and consultancy as well as talent management.

The company basically offers a one-stop shop for clients, which leaves them with inclusive solutions and a very splendid service deliverance.



DANCING: Takie Ndou dances as he performs.



MAN OF GOD: Jesus Calls Worship Centre Manzini branch senior pastor Reverend Zakhele Malaza says his part.

TAKIE NDOU THRILLS JC BRETHREN

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

SOUTH African gospel sensation Takie Ndou elated Jesus Calls Worship Centre congregants at Mavuso Trade Centre on Friday evening.

The singer mounted the stage with hit songs such as 'Babe ngisite,' which got the crowd's attention immediately the singer started singing it. The singer also rendered 'Ngiyabonga', 'He can do anything,' to mention a few. The singer said he was happy to be back in the kingdom as this was his third time in the country. "I would like to thank the church for inviting me as this was my first official invite from a church in Eswatini and I hope there will be many more of such," said the artist. The singer also said he loved coming to Eswatini because of the warm reception he always receives.

ENJOYING: Some of the congregants dance in front of the stage.

LOVE: This couple enjoyed doing it together during the worship session.



HANDS UP: This man was taken by the music from Ndou.



IN WORSHIP: A section of the audience taken by Takie's delivery.



BABE NGISITE: These ladies could not help but dance when Takie Ndou belted out popular tunes.

SOLANI'S FRIDAY HANGOUT A HIT

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

SOLANI'S Shisanyama was packed with fun lovers on Friday evening for the 'Friday Hangout,' as they danced to music dished by a number of DJs who were lined up.

Spinners for the night included the likes of South Africa based, DJ X-Ray, Solani's resident DJs Rhythmic Soul, M'Eugie, Ayacity, Yung Yas, Dope Deep and Culolami.

As he had promised, DJ X-Ray delivered as people danced from the beginning of his set until the end.

Interviewed after his set, he said he was happy with the way revellers embraced his music.

He said it was his first time to play at Solani's and couldn't wait to be booked again.

X-Ray stated that although he was born in the kingdom, he has been away for a long time and was happy to visit not only to perform but also have fun with his friends.

"I am excited to be in the country. I first want to extend a thank you to the Solani's organising team for seeing it fit to book me.

"I also want to thank the people who came as one could tell everyone was having the time of their lives.

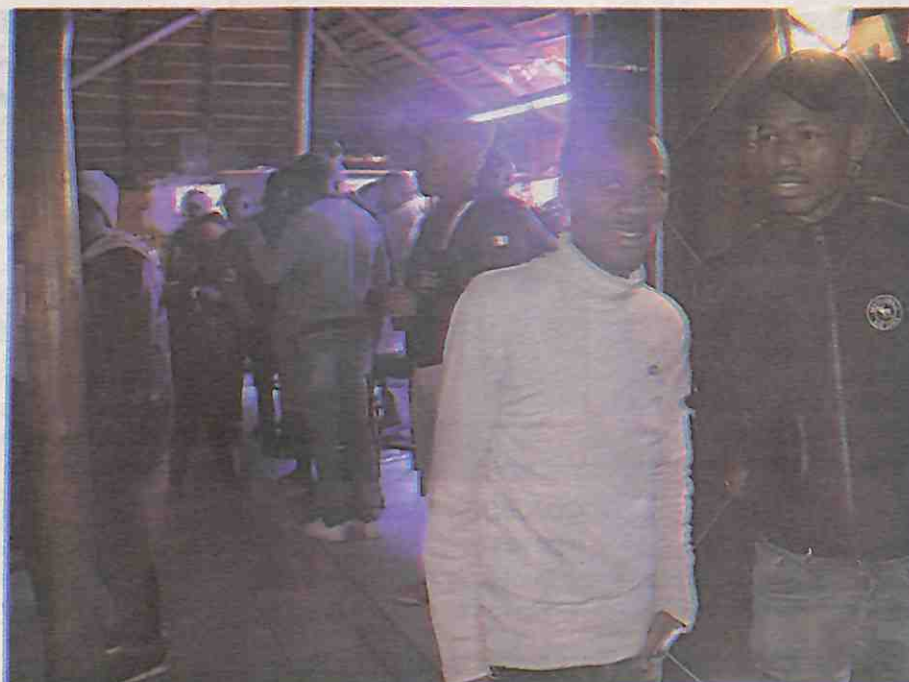
I cannot wait for my next booking," he said. The crowd's favourites were surprise acts from MC TK alongside Sgitha who played house music.



DJ OF THE NIGHT: Guest DJ X-Ray delivered a splendid set, keeping the crowd on the dancefloor from the beginning of the set until the end during the Friday hangout at Solani's Shisanyama. (Pics:Setsabile Nkambule)



VOSHO: A lady enjoying herself during TK and Sgitha's set.



CHEESE: Sgitha and a friend posing for a picture.



THE CROWD'S FAV: MC TK and Sgitha warmed up the place with house music.



CULOLAMI: DJ Culolami was also a hit with the crowd.



RESIDENT DJ: Ayacity was one of the entertainers that delighted revellers.



PACKED: The biting cold did not stop revellers from having a great time.



FUN TIME: Fabrice enjoying himself at the show.



DJ: This entertainer dishing out great music.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

'She's made me the happiest man on Earth'

DURBAN - Gospel star Dumi Mkokstad tied the knot to his girlfriend Ziphokenkosi Mthembu in an intimate ceremony last week-end.

The usually private singer gave fans a glimpse of the special day by sharing snaps on Instagram. He also couldn't stop gushing about his wife. "He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord. Proverbs 18:22 NIV what shall I render to the Lord, for He has done so very much for me. I have committed my Love and my Life to one woman. Ziphokenkosi



HAPPY: Dumi Mkokstad and wife Ziphokenkosi Mthembu.

Mthembu has made me the happiest man on earth right now. *Times Live*

Cassper Nyovest says he's confident, not arrogant

SANDTON - Cassper Nyovest has come out to clear the air, saying his confidence is mostly confused with "arrogance", and he ain't arrogant at all.

Speaking recently on MTV's Yo Raps, Cassper told Scoop Makhathini that he knew his confidence rubbed people up the wrong way because they confused it with arrogance. "People think I'm arrogant, I am not. When I say I'm the biggest rapper on the continent (that's because) I am the biggest rapper on the continent," Cassper said. The rapper has been accused of being a show-off, arrogant and narcissistic, particularly since he's had the money to



CONFIDENT: Cassper Nyovest.

back up his talk. But Cassper shared his view on the matter. *Times Live*

Kim takes her criminal justice reform project to the White House

HOLLYWOOD - Kim Kardashian-West visited US President Donald Trump at the White House on Thursday to speak about a criminal justice reform project called Second Chance.

She addressed the media and politicians about the project, explaining how her journey into prisoner reform began. "I really had no connection to anybody on the inside. My heart just completely opened up and I wanted to do more."

Kardashian-West is studying law and said she began focusing on prisoners' re-entry into society.

Trump said she was one of the most successful people in the entertainment business and that she'd soon



PERSISTANT: Kim Kardashian.

be one of the most successful in law. Kardashian-West said only after prison visits did she understand how difficult it was for prisoners to lead a normal life after they are released. *News 24*

'Not with her for fame or money'

HOLLYWOOD - Wendy Williams' new guy is sick and tired of people thinking he's hanging with her in hopes of landing a sugar mama, because he insists he's not about that life.

Sources close to Marc Tomblin tell TMZ, he doesn't care at all about fame and he's not the type of guy who'd let a woman take care of him financially. We're told the only reason he's kicking it with Wendy is because they enjoy each other's company.

Sources say Marc's been getting a lot of flak from people who are sus-



FRIENDS: Wendy Williams and Marc Tomblin.

picious of his motives, so he's been blocking them, along with anyone who reaches out to him to talk crap about Wendy. *TMZ*

'Radio stations don't hire qualified people anymore'

AUCKLAND PARK - While it has mostly been actors who have voiced concerns about their industry being taken over by "slay queens" and "twelebs", it appears the concern is universal. Chymamusique took to Twitter to express his worry.

The musician replied to the popular "O Jawa keng?" tweet to say that, lately, radio stations didn't seem to hire qualified people and that from where he was standing it was social media following, influence and connection that got people jobs.



CONCERNED: Chymamusique.

"Radio stations don't really hire people who have qualifications anymore. *Times Live*

Noxolo Dlamini puts TV allure on hold for theatre

CAPE TOWN - After launching her name with hit musical *Sarafina!* in 2017, actress and musician Noxolo Dlamini is not rushing to launch her TV and film career.

Unlike her peers who will die to land a role in local soaps and dramas, Dlamini wants to build her theatre profile first. The sultry actress shot to fame when she landed the coveted role of Sarafina in Mbongeni Ngema's remake hit musical.

The role was made famous by legendary actress Leleti Khumalo, and it really launched Dlamini's career because the whole industry started to take note of her tal-



PATIENT: Noxolo Dlamini.

ent. Her convincing portrayal of Sarafina saw her land lucrative roles in *The Lion King*, where she played the role of Nala. The 25-year-old toured the world with the Disney production. *Sowetan Live*

Robin kicks off Father's Day weekend with newborn

LAS VEGAS - Robin Thicke's been in the baby-making mood these past couple years -- and now, he's in the baby-taking mood, as in taking cute pics with his children for Father's Day weekend.

The singer was out in Malibu Friday with his baby mama, April Love Geary, their two babies and his nine-year-old son, Julian, whom he shares with ex Paula Patton. The family of five hit up the beach together, where they got an impromptu photo-op in with the kiddos in the sand, each parent taking turns on camera and lap duty.

A perfect way to ring in the holiday weekend, if you ask us, especially considering how adorable



FAMILY: Robin Thicke with his family.

their latest additions are. And, just check out how happy Robin looks as a new dad (yet again). The guy's absolutely beaming, at age 42, no less. *TMZ*

Chris estate locked in dispute over daughter's college tuition

NEW YORK - Vicky's lawyer, Marty Singer, tells TMZ, "We are shocked that Lilly filed a claim in probate court since for over two years Vicky, with no legal obligation to do so, paid all of Chris' remaining child support despite it being questionable Vicky even owed same, as well as 80 per cent of the required educational expenses for Lilly, including a request by Lilly to pay college tuition this semester when she failed to disclose she had dropped out."

Chris Cornell has been gone for more than two years, yet a new dispute has erupted over his ex-wife, their daughter and his widow. *TMZ*



SETTLEMENTS: Bryan Singer.

Chris and his ex-wife, Susan Silver, struck a deal when they divorced back in 2004 that he'd pay their daughter Lilly's college expenses. *TMZ*

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST



TODAY



ON A MISSION: Qaphela.

Qaphela hatches a plan to exact his revenge. Mkabayi realises that she's not completely free.



TODAY



SHATTERED: Lungi.

A brother's confession drives a sister to life threatening heights. Lalage is faced with the dilemma of forgiving her cheating husband. Morongwa comes clean about a secret.



TODAY

Gugu and Imani's relationship seems to be headed for a downfall. A new member in Gizara's family causes discord. Sundani is losing her grip on her Tenda



DISCORD: Gizara.



TODAY

Bash incriminates himself on camera, Puleng kicks Cuba out, Jafta convinces Jamaica to bridge the water meter.



EVIDENCE: Bash.

Those girls searching for handsome guys, do you have money to maintain us?



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

You may have some trouble communicating today, Capricorn. It's as though something is distorting your perception. Don't be surprised if once evening comes you feel like forgetting about everything and traveling to the other side of the world. Tomorrow you will see clearly again. Without a doubt, there are adventures in store for you!



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

You are radiant and glowing with happiness today, Aquarius! This is a refreshing change after the gloom of the past few weeks. Apparently, the decisions you made worked out for the best. Or even better, perhaps you're in love? In any case, it will be even easier than usual for you to communicate with others and share your joy. Let the good times roll!



Pisces February 19 – March 20

Your goal for today is to enchant your mate. There's no reason not to try. Indeed, it's an excellent day for love. But don't exaggerate your seductive wiles, Pisces. Since the day's aspects tend to distort your perception of things, you may be deceived by what you see in the mirror. Be careful about what you do and how you do it!



Aries March 21 – April 19

You're in splendid shape today, Aries! Did a fairy godmother brandish a magic wand to dispel all the little difficulties of the past few weeks? Enjoy this moment of relief from worries. As for your love life, some exciting opportunities may arise. Be on the lookout for them. Whatever you do, don't let them pass you by!



Taurus April 20 – May 20

It's certainly clear that you have faith in your actions, Taurus! You feel no fear or doubt as you progress toward your goals at a fast clip, cruising along on calm seas under clear skies. This new atmosphere is likely the product of your renewed commitment. Reward yourself for your accomplishments, but you should wait a few days before launching an all-out celebration.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

This is a moment to start being creative and stop worrying that you don't have talent, Gemini. Who's to say what "talent" is? In the romance department, the love of your life might be right under your nose. Try lifting your eyes from the romance novels and look around. The perfect mate could be any number of



people in your daily life. You just have to open your eyes.

Cancer June 22 – July 22

You may be a bit unclear about your professional direction today, Cancer. Your motivation has disappeared without warning. What happened? It may be that you need to become involved in projects that have more universal resonance. Projects that concern only your interests or that are of narrow scope no longer hold your attention.



Leo July 23 – August 22

You could be seeing mirages at the moment, Leo, most notably in the environment around you. You may have the impression that people are lying to you or that they're hiding something from you. Or it may be that you're the one who lies about certain things or hides what you do. Why are you making it all so complicated? Don't be afraid to express your feelings.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

Hold on to your wallet, Virgo, because you may have some strange (though noble) impulses to give away your money or spend a large amount on something useless. You should think about spending your money in a better way or not at all. Why not consider donating some of your time rather than money to those in need?



Libra September 23 – October 23

Today isn't a good day to sign contracts or make any substantial purchases, Libra. Go to the grocery store, by all means, but buy hamburger, not tenderloin. Keep your money at home and safeguard your reserves. Don't negotiate about anything. No matter how good the offer sounds or how compelling the deal, walk away.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

Are you certain you can't modify your current situation, Scorpio? Are you a prisoner of a lifestyle that isn't of your own making or is a throwback to the past? People have been asking you to take on too many responsibilities and this is weighing you down. Don't be afraid to distance yourself from these situations. Learn to say no.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

The forecast for you is excellent, Sagittarius. You can rely on today's aspects to restore your self-confidence, which has been sorely tried during the past few days. The charismatic seducer in you can swagger forth, certain of conquest. However, don't go too far.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES

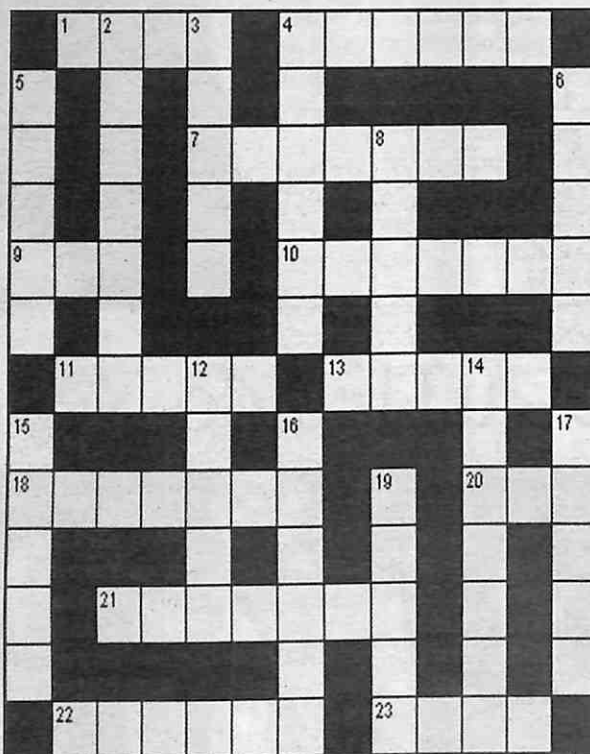


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PUZZLE CHOICE

THEMED CROSSWORD



Down

2. Male chicken (7)
3. Water bird (5)
4. Small white whale (6)
5. Carnivorous fish (5)
6. Dromedary (5)
8. Herbivorous quadruped (5)
12. South American cud-chewing animal (5)
14. Burrowing animals (7)
15. Slow moving arboreal mammal (5)
16. Snakes (6)
17. Type of bird in 3 Down (5)
19. Shaggy-maned bovid (5)

Across

1. Corvine bird (4)
4. Breed of hound (6)
7. Intelligent aquatic creature (7)
9. Rodent (3)
10. Tallest living quadruped (7)
11. Food for baleen whales (5)
13. Striped equine (5)
18. Larged spotted feline (7)
20. Nocturnal mammal (3)
21. Musteline mammals (7)
22. Tusked marine mammal (6)
23. Bird structure (4)



A good husband

Husband brings the child home from kindergarten and asks his wife, "He's been crying the whole way home."

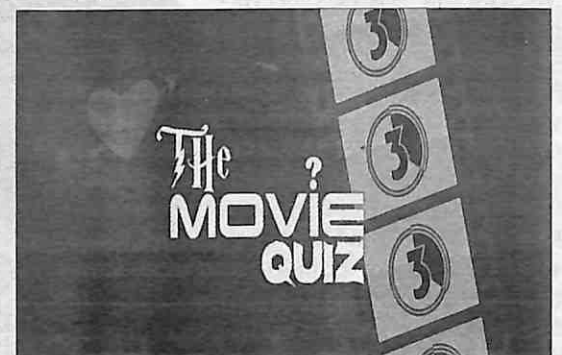
Isn't he sick or something?" "No," replies the wife, "he was just trying to tell you he isn't our Frankie."

Did You Know

1. Donald duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
2. The chance of you dying on the way to get lottery tickets is actually greater than your chance

- of winning.
3. Chrophobia is the fear of fun.
4. The toothpaste "Colgate" in Spanish translates to "go hang yourself"

MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Friday's Quiz

1. In 2005 both Steven Spielberg and Peter Jackson revisited classic sci-fi stories for the major movies; what were

the two films?
Answer:
War of the Worlds (Spielberg) and King Kong (Jackson)

Today's Movie Quiz

1. If Sharon Stone betrayed an amnesiac Arnold Schwarzenegger in Paul Verhoeven's 1990 version, who betrayed in 2012 version under Len Wiseman's direction?

Answer:
A. Kate Beckinsale played Collin Farrell's false wife in 2012 version of Total Recall
B. Jennifer Lopez played Collin's wife



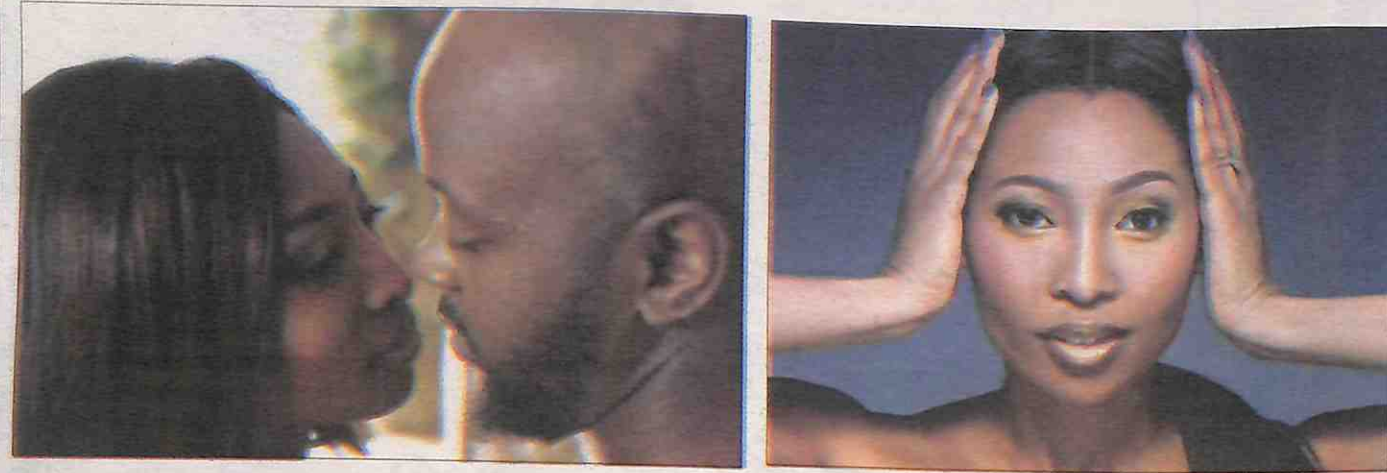
Deon Meyer's Trackers coming to M-Net

MULTICHOICE'S M-Net partners with Cinemax and ZDF for the biggest original drama co-production in African television history – The six-part adaptation of Deon Meyer's *Trackers*.

The television adaptation of internationally acclaimed author Deon Meyer's crime novel *Trackers* marks the beginning of a new era in high-end African storytelling. Pan-African television network M-Net and two global broadcasting giants are joining forces to take this uniquely South African political thriller to the world. First, as announced in December 2018, M-Net sealed a groundbreaking collaboration deal with Germany's public broadcaster ZDF. Now, M-Net can confirm that *Trackers* is also being co-produced by Cinemax, which will also distribute the drama series worldwide beyond M-Net and ZDF's geographical broadcasting footprint.

"The trailblazing and massively exciting co-production of *Trackers* illustrates M-Net's vision and commitment to shine the spotlight on the African film and television industry and provide fresh, proudly African narratives to our viewers as well as global audiences," says MultiChoice CEO of General Entertainment, Yolisa Pahle. "It is also taking our longstanding relationship with Cinemax to the next level, allowing local and international talent to combine their world-class story-telling and production skills."

While M-Net is already the home of Cinemax and its sister network HBO, allowing viewers to enjoy showstoppers like *Game of Thrones*, *Big Little Lies*, *Westworld* and many more, HBO, Cinemax and M-Net also launched an innovative Producers Apprenticeship programme last year when the Cinemax series *Warrior*, coming to M-Net in July, was filmed in South Africa. Some other Cinemax originals screened on M-Net include *Banshee*, *The Knick* and *Strike Back*. "Cinemax is delighted to partner with M-Net and ZDF in bringing Deon Meyer's unforgettable characters and storytelling—all so richly rooted in the people and spectacular geography of South Africa—to screens around the world," says Len Amato, President, HBO Films, Miniseries, and Cinemax. "Trackers is an unprecedented scripted television venture and MultiChoice and M-Net are proud to chart out new territory with all the game-changing players involved in this co-production," Pahle concludes.



WITCHFUL THINKING, AYANDA - THE HERD

HOW Ayanda became a witch without joining the forum.

Ayanda will do anything to get Muzi to put a ring on it! In her efforts to become the new Mrs Mthethwa she has become a witch. She has tried everything to win Muzi's eternal commitment, going from determined to desperate. We take a look at how far Ayanda has come from just another teacher in love to a forerunning witch.

Her first taste of blood

From the beginning, the other witches knew that Ayanda was desperately in love with Muzi and eager to move their relationship to the next level. They were not sure how far she would be willing to go, but when she killed an animal and harvested its heart for them, they knew she could be willing to go far enough.

Mama, I killed a man

We were never ready for Ayanda to kill a person. Can you believe it still was not enough? The chief witch is desperate for the heart of a baby without a stitch of hair, so an old man's heart would not do the trick.

I'll make my own potion

Ayanda is doing the most just to get a love potion from the witches. So after a few attempts at trying to secure the muthi, she gave up and tried to concoct her own one. It all went pear-shaped when Muzi could not stomach her mixture and spit it out. So we'll never know if it would have worked or not.

Will you marry me, Muzi?

Women are doing it for themselves in a number of ways, including being the first to say "I love you" and "Will you marry me".

Ayanda considered putting away the daggers and potion for an honest commitment, but her proposal was rejected. Muzi seems like the type of man who would rather do the asking himself.

Will Smanga and Ayanda's plan work? Stay tuned to #TheHerdMzansi every Sunday at 20:00!



Khethile Khethile - uThando Nes'thembu

EVERYTHING we loved about Mseleku and MaCele's forever-love vows to each other.

The best part of a wedding is not just the fashion, food, dancing and gorgeous décor; it's about two people coming together to declare their undying love for each other. You'd think after nearly twenty years together, MaCele and Mseleku's vows may be run of the mill – but there is still so much spark, love and eternal commitment between the two.

We take another look at the special vows MaCele and Mseleku shared at their traditional wedding:

MaCele

So beautiful were MaCele's vows to Mseleku that her husband was taken aback by the lovely words she spoke. She called him a lion, she said all the women throw them-



selves at him but they can never take her place in his heart.

As if that didn't excite her husband enough, she then went on to tell him that he has been an honourable husband to her and there is no reason for her to ever doubt that. SWOON!

Mseleku's vows

Mseleku's vows were spoken from

a man in love. He called MaCele his friend and proclaimed before all and sundry at the wedding that he loved her. He said some men have had their wives leave them for a number of reasons but she has stood beside him.

The best part of his words about their union however, was when he stated clearly that he and MaCele

would be together until their dying day. He said heaven and earth will pass away but MaCele would always remain a Mseleku wife until they both returned to the Mseleku ancestors. We stan their everlasting love!

Want to see more of Mseleku and MaCele's love story? Stay tuned to #uThandoNes'thembu every Thursday at 20:00!



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1. NOTICES

General Notices
Legal Notices
Church Notices
Announcements
Change of Surname
Sales & Foreclosure
General Items
Auctions

2. BUSINESS SERVICES

Special Services
Business Opportunities
Restaurant, Catering & Office
Equipment
Garage sale
Other Business Items
Maintenance & Construction
Motoring and Transport

3. JOBS or VACANCIES

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Medical & Natural Healing
Tuition & Courses

5. HEALTH & BEAUTY

6. PETS & PET ACCESSORIES

Pets & Adoptions
Cats & Kittens
Dogs & Puppies
Birds & Poultry
Fish & Aquarium
Other Pet & Accessories

7. ELECTRONICS

TV's, DVD Players, Decoders &
Satellites
Household Appliances
Music Equipment, Amplifiers,
Equalizers & Speakers
Mobile Devices, Smart Phones
& Tablets
Computers, Laptops, Cameras
& Optics
Games, Gaming Consoles &
Software

8. HOUSEHOLD

Domestic
Clothing
Baby and Kids
Furniture
Hobbies, Model Toys,
Handcraft
Wanted

10. BUILDING, GARDENING & DIY

Woodworking
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Garden Furniture & Appliances
Other Gardening

11. FARMING EQUIPMENT & SPARES

Car Spares or Parts
Bike Spares
Truck, Bus and Trailer Spares
Stripping for Spares
Farming Equipment &
Machinery
Livestock
Other Farming

12. LEISURE, SPORT & EVENTS

Fitness
Tennis & squash
Watersport
Karate, Boxing & Judo
Angling & Cycling
Other Sport
Caravans, Campers and Trailers
Leisure, Community and
Events
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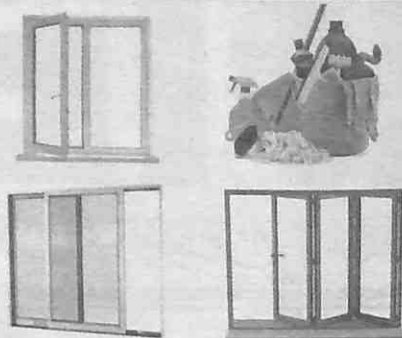
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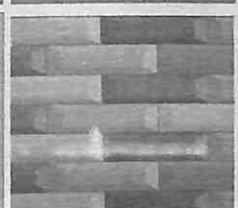
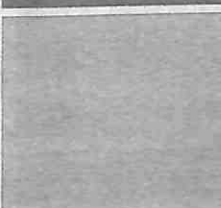
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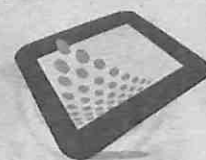
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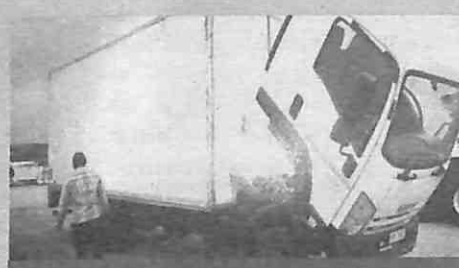
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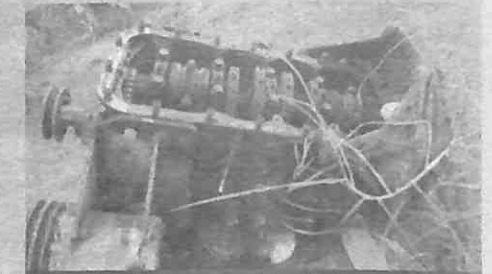
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- Access to shopping centres- An ideal area should have shops nearby for your convenience
- Schools- if you looking for a family home and have children who have started to attend school, it is best to look for an area with schools nearby. Nothing is more frustrating than having to travel over 60kilometres just to drop off your child at kindergarten
- Public transportation- even if you have a car it is wise to consider both modes of transport.

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Paul Pogba puts Juventus, Madrid on red alert

TOKYO - Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba suggested on Sunday that he could be open to a move away from the Premier League side, telling reporters in Tokyo that now 'could be a good time to have a new challenge somewhere else'.

The Frenchman has been linked with a move to Real Madrid to work with coach Zinedine Zidane, or with a return to his former club Juventus. Pogba's time at Manchester United has coincided with some insipid performances on the pitch and organisational turmoil at the club.

"Like you said, there is a lot of talking and a lot of thinking as well," Pogba, 26, told reporters in Tokyo.

"For me I have been for three years in Manchester and have been doing great; some good moments and some bad moments, like everybody. Like everywhere else. *Daily Mail*



ARSENAL 'OUT OF RACE TO SIGN £30M CARRASCO'

LONDON - Arsenal are reportedly out of the race to sign Dalian Yifang's Yannick Carrasco.

Gunnars manager Unai Emery has just £45m to rebuild his squad this sum-

mer after his side missed out on securing Champions League football last season.

Arsenal were keen on acquiring the Belgian winger's services back in January but now their pursuit appears to be over with Carrasco priced at £30million, according to The Sun.

Signing Carrasco would leave Emery with just £15m to further bolster his squad and as a result the 25-year-

old is reportedly set to move to another side in Europe.

"The whole world knows that I want to return to Europe," Carrasco said, as reported by The Mirror last week. "Now, it depends on the president and I hope he finds a solution."

Carrasco joined Dalian Yifang from Atletico Madrid last year and he scored seven goals and provided two assists in 10 appearances last campaign.

Daily Mail

LYON'S TANGUY NDOMBELE HAILS SPURS

LONDON - Lyon midfielder Tanguy Ndombele has hailed Tottenham after the two clubs opened talks over a possible transfer.

Sportmail reported last week

that Spurs have initiated negotiations with the Ligue 1 club over a potential club record deal for the 22-year-old but the clubs remain apart on valuation.

Ndombele, valued at £70mil-

lion by Lyon, has now shown his admiration for Mauricio Pochettino's side.

"Yes, it's true that Tottenham is a great team, it's a big club," he told French outlet Telefoot.

Daily Mail

Frank Lampard agrees to take over at Chelsea

LONDON - Frank Lampard 'will take over at Chelsea in the coming days after being assured of at least two years in the hot-seat at Stamford Bridge'.

Maurizio Sarri is on the verge of leaving Chelsea for Juventus, and Lampard is set to replace him at the club where he plied his trade as a player for 13 years. And the Derby boss has been given a major assurance, with The Times reporting that Roman Abramovich called him personally last week to tell him he would have at least two transfer windows to demonstrate his worth.

Given that Chelsea are currently serving a two-window transfer ban, that would mean Lampard will definitely stay for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons. The Blues will need to pay a substantial compensation package to Derby to get Lampard, and will use the money they receive from their own compensation package from Juventus.

It has been claimed this week that Derby - in a desperate bid to keep their manager after falling short of a place in the Premier League - have offered Lampard a new deal, but he is unlikely to rebuff the advances of his old club.

Chelsea are keen to bring in Lampard, knowing that he is a hugely popular choice with a fan-base who were frustrated last season by Sarri's management despite winning the Europa League and finishing in the top four of the Premier League.

Daily Mail

Torreira is AC Milan's top transfer target

LONDON - AC Milan have reportedly made Arsenal's Lucas Torreira their top transfer target this summer and are considering offering Franck Kessie in part-exchange.

Torreira moved to the Emirates Stadium only 12 months ago in a £26million move from Sampdoria and has admitted that adapting to life in England has been a struggle.

The Uruguayan's former boss at Sampdoria, Marco Giampaolo, is set to become the new Milan manager and has reportedly made Torreira his top target.

According to Italian newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport, Milan have contacted Torreira's agent to discuss the possibility of a quick return to Italy.

Milan would have to pay around £40m for the midfielder but,

according to Tuttosport, could offer 22-year-old Ivorian Kessie as part of the deal.

Alternatively, Kessie could be sold to another club to raise funds to land Torreira.

The decision will be made in part by two club legends appointed into roles at the San Siro just this week. Zvonimir Boban was appointed the club's chief football officer while Paolo Maldini has become technical director.

Milan are boosted in their pursuit of Torreira by the fact his girlfriend, Vittoria Repetto, who hails from Genoa, isn't happy in London and would like to return to her homeland.

And this desire to move was reflected by Torreira in comments when asked last week what he enjoys most about England.

He said: "I don't know if there

are many things that I enjoy. I think it was better in Italy. England is a totally different world, a very large country.

"The language barrier has cost me, to be able to relate with my peers and with the people. It's very difficult when you can't have dialogue. And so is the climate. You go out in the morning and it is cloudy, you arrive late to your home and it is cloudy.

"It is strange a little bit, the sun, the more of us that we are here and we are accustomed to having always or almost always the sun. But as the years pass, I'm going to be adapting."

However, Milan could offer Torreira an escape route this summer and with Kessie keen to test himself in the Premier League, a deal could be struck.

Daily Mail

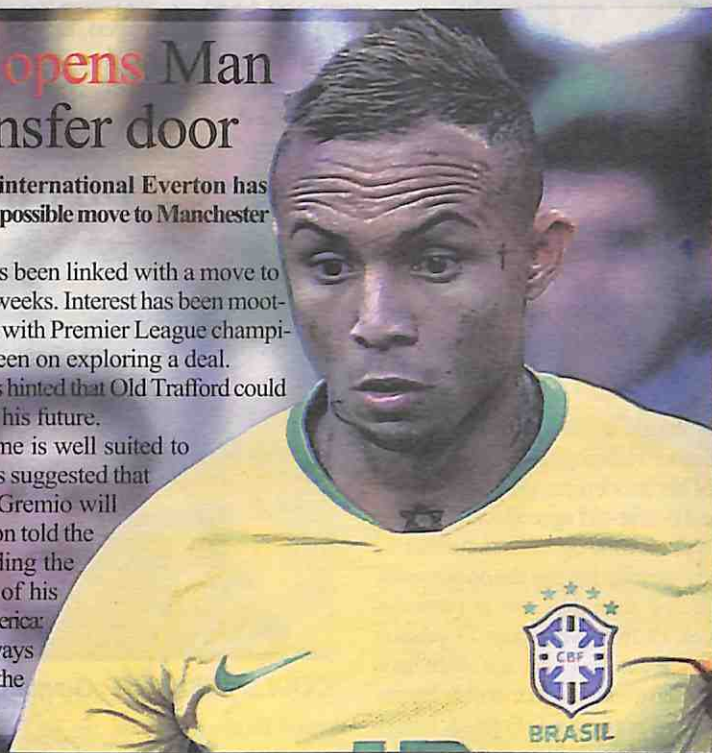
Everton opens Man Utd transfer door

LONDON - Brazil international Everton has opened the door for a possible move to Manchester United to be made.

The 23-year-old has been linked with a move to England over recent weeks. Interest has been mooted from Manchester, with Premier League champions City said to be keen on exploring a deal.

Everton, though, has hinted that Old Trafford could be a landing spot for his future.

He believes his game is well suited to life in Europe and has suggested that a switch away from Gremio will soon be made. Everton told the Daily Mail after finding the target in the colours of his country at the Copa America: "I'm a player that's always trying to get on top of the opposition. *GOAL*



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MESSI 'BITTER' AS...

COLOMBIA STUN ARGENTINA



BITTER: Lionel Messi.

SALVADOR - Lionel Messi said his team was feeling bitter after Argentina lost their opening Copa America match 2-0 to Colombia despite dominating the second half.

Goals from Roger Martinez and Duvan Zapata in the final 20 minutes gave Colombia their first tournament victory over Argentina in 20 years as Messi's hopes of finally landing a major international tournament after losing in four finals suffered a serious blow.

"We leave here feeling bitter," said Messi following the Group B clash in Salvador. "In the second half we had our chances."

One of the best of those fell to the 31-year-old Barcelona icon but he headed wide after Colombia's goalkeeper David Ospina got down quickly to push out a header from center-back Nicolas Otamendi.

But although Argentina dominated possession and created more chances in the second period, they rarely caused Ospina any serious concerns.

"We didn't want to start this way,

obviously, but now we have to lift our heads and keep going," said the five-time Ballon d'Or winner, who lined up in an enviable forward trio with Manchester City's Sergio Aguero and Angel Di Maria of Paris Saint-Germain.

"In the first half we retreated a little and were holding on, but in the second we really opened up," said Messi, the Argentina captain.

"Whenever you lose it's hard for us, we usually take it badly. Now we have to think about Paraguay."

Argentina can still make the knockout stages with games against Paraguay and guests Qatar, the Asian champions, to come.

Midfielder Leandro Paredes, who forced a diving save out of Ospina with one long range strike and sent a second whistling past the post, was pleased with the second half performance.

"We created a lot but unfortunately they scored in our best period," he said.

Colombia were the better side in a goalless first half but scored twice against the run of play in the second period, with both goals coming from substitutes. **AFP**

GABADINHO PLAYS DOWN CHIEFS RUMOURS

JOHANNESBURG - Malawi international Gabadinho Mhango insists he used the COSAFA Cup to prepare for next season and refuses to talk about his future at Bidvest Wits.

Mhango at the beginning of the tournament revealed his hopes of regaining his place at the Students and is grateful for the platform he had to showcase himself in Durban.

"I'm grateful to have been part of this tournament, I needed game-time since I was struggling last season, which is part of football. I needed this to do my best," he said.

Mhango did not want to com-

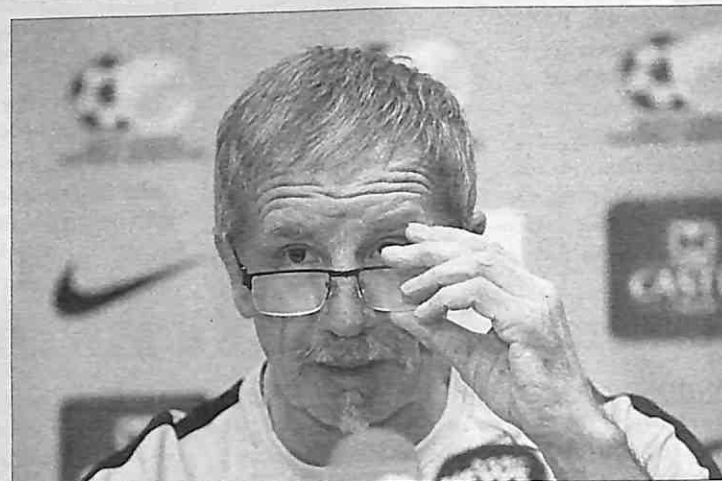
ment on his future with Wits amid links to Kaizer Chiefs.

"I don't have any idea about Chiefs, because that's not my job, my agent will work on anything relating to my future," he said. "I'm a Wits player for now."

The attacking midfielder was one of the best players in the tournament but still believes it is not up to him to play regularly in Gavin Hunt's side.

"It's all up to the coach to play me, I'm ready for anything next season," he added. "I'm happy with what I've done here and it was a great tournament for me. Let's hope it will work in my favour."

Kick Off



SATISFIED: Bafana Bafana coach Stuart Baxter.

Buffon considers taking year off after rejecting PSG offer

TURIN - Gianluigi Buffon could spend a year out of football after turning down Paris Saint-Germain's lucrative offer of a second season because he did not want to watch from the bench.

Italy legend Buffon parted ways with the Ligue 1 champions following the end of his maiden campaign in France.

The 41-year-old agreed with the club not to pursue the option of a further 12 months despite having the opportunity to take up an extension at Parc des Princes. Buffon, who spent 17 years at Serie A giants Juventus, has since been linked with a return to former club Parma, while Primeira Liga side Porto are reportedly considering him as a potential replacement for Iker Casillas.

But the World Cup winner's interest in pursuing coaching or a possible direc-



COULD MISS OUT: Gianluigi Buffon.

tor of football role means he is in no rush to decide on the next move.

"PSG told me five months ago that I would be the second goalkeeper next season," Buffon told Corriere dello

Sport. "I had plenty of time to think about it and I came to the conclusion that this was not for me, so I gave up a lot of money and a one-year option."

Team Talk

Wits set to decide Mncwango's future

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits CEO Jose Ferreira refused to commit himself when asked about out-of-favour striker Thobani Mncwango's future at the club.

Mncwango, who joined the Clever Boys in January 2018, has made just five appearances in all competitions so far.

It seems Wits could be looking to offload the player during the transfer window after securing the signature of Ajax Cape Town striker Prince Nxumalo in January. They will also be welcoming back Mxolisi Macuphu from his loan spell at SuperSport United.

"Thobani is part of the squad for

now," Ferreira told KickOff.com. "Ja look we'll see, we'll see now when we restart. We are restarting on the 22nd of June."

Ferreira was asked if they were impressed by the contribution the player has made to the team since he arrived in Braamfontein from Polokwane City.

Strugglers

"No look I mean he's part of the squad but he hasn't played... but let's see what happens on the 22nd," he said. The 31-year-old will not be short of offers and it is believed last season's strugglers Maritzburg United are very keen to have him on board.

Kick Off



FUTURE IN THE BALANCE: Thobani Mncwango.

Players put their hands up - Baxter

DUBAI - Bafana Bafana coach Stuart Baxter says there are a few players who put their hands up for starting berths ahead of the Africa Cup of Nations.

Bafana played to a goalless draw with Ghana in a practice match in Dubai on Saturday afternoon, and Baxter was satisfied with the result and the fact that players put up their hands to start the team's opening AFCON qualifier against Ivory Coast.

Baxter had two starting line-ups for the clash against the Black Stars and everybody got a chance to feature.

"It was our first game and because

of that we played everybody in the squad. To draw 0-0 with the Black Stars when we've rotated the whole team is not bad. So as an exercise, yes you'd like to win, but I think we achieved what we wanted to achieve," Baxter said.

Asked if he has an idea of his starting line-up, Baxter said: "I'm looking at that tonight and I'm saying there are some players who put their hands up and some players maybe weakened their case. Who I thought that was won't go in the media."

"I thought the players that you think would be in the starting line-up did quite well." **Kick Off**

Two signings confirmed, Moon next for Maritzburg deal?

DURBAN - A former Kaizer Chiefs striker is linked with a move to Maritzburg United as the KwaZulu-Natal club is reinforcing the squad for the new season, after surviving relegation through the play-offs.

Following his exit from Chiefs, after the Soweto giants confirmed in May that they will not be exercising the option to extend Ryan Moon's contract when it expires on 30 June, the Pietermaritzburg-born player has been linked with a return to the Team of Choice.

It was from the Pietermaritzburg-based club that Moon earned his

big move to Chiefs in 2016, under the club's former coach Steve Komphela. Following the departure of Ivorian striker Yannick Zakri from Maritzburg, the club's head coach Eric Tinkler will want to add firepower to the team's striking department, with indications from sources in the know that Moon is one of the players targeted.

So far, the Team of Choice has signed Judas Mosemedi on a permanent deal from Cape Town City to boost the team's attacking options for the upcoming season.

Soccer Laduma

VOVOVO UNDER-17 DENT BULL'S TITLE HOPES

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

Mbabane Highlanders.....(1)1
Vovovo.....(0)1

SOCCKER—MOTSHANE-based outfit Vovovo dented Mbabane Highlanders title hopes in the Esibayeni Lodge Under-17 League.

The two junior sides played to a 1-1 draw in a match played at Old Trade Sports Ground yesterday. Mbabane Highlanders juniors came to the game with the hope of catching-up on Mbabane Swallows and Green Mamba at the top.

However, mother luck was not on their side as they settled for a draw after missing a number of

scoring opportunities.

Both sides launched some serious attacks in the opening minutes of the game and it was Mbabane Highlanders juniors, who created better scoring opportunities.

Hitting

It came as no surprise when striker Ronaldo Shongwe scored a beautiful goal from outside the edge of the box in the fourth minute.

Vovovo FC player Thando Mkhwanazi saw his hard shot hitting the woodwork in the 27th minute with Mbabane Highlanders goalkeeper Mfundo

Gama well beaten between the goal posts.

The game went for break with the capital city boys leading 1-0.

The second half saw Vovovo up the tempo in search for an equaliser.

Fruitless

Siyabonga Dlamini's hard shot was parried to a fruitless corner kick in the 50 minutes.

Nine minutes later, Tsetla's young boys found an equaliser and it was none other than Junior Masuku, who capitalised from a rebound inside the box.

After the goal, Vovovo contin-

ued to create more goal scoring opportunities but could not utilise them until the referee blew his last whistle.

Mbabane Highlanders will face sworn rivals Mbabane Swallows in their last game.

THE TEAMS:

HIGHLANDERS - Mfundo Gama, Phiwa Mkhonta, Thando Mkhwanazi, Sakhile Mvubu, Mziyanda Dlamini, Banele Mhlanga, Mancoba Dlamini, Sisoniso Ndzimandze, Msimisi Malindzisa, Ronaldo Shongwe, Mlandvo Nyamane

Vovovo FC - Bandzile Dlamini, Sicelo Magagula, Seko Mabuza, Sakhile Kune-ne, Samkelo Msibi, Samkelo Shabangu, Junior Masuku, Jonas Nkambule, Siyabonga Dlamini, Mbongiseni Dlamini, Nduduzo Maseko

AUGUSTA WINS SECOND LOL TITLE

BY JONGILE XUBA

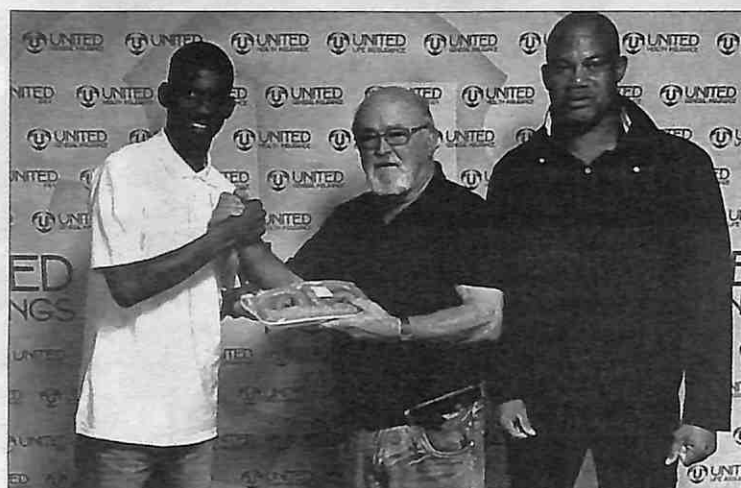
GOLF - AUGUSTA Quintela claimed his second United Health Insurance Leg of Lamb (LOL) title in this year's edition during the tournament played at Manzini Club on Friday.

Over 26 golfers took part in the tournament and Quintela played a good round of golf, which saw him finish on 23 points to claim his second LOL title.

The runner-up was Zama Kunene, who finished on 20 points, while LOL captain Wakie Lawrence finished third with 18 points.

Finished

Eerfaan Dada finished fourth with 17 points on the count back, while Dumisani Hlatshwayo finished fifth



with 17 points, also rounding up the top finishers.

LOL captain Wakie Lawrence thanked United Holdings for sponsoring the competition, urging more

golfers to join them in the newly refurbished golf course.

The United Health Insurance Leg of Lamb Golf competition is a weekly tournament played at the Manzini

UNITED HEALTH INSURANCE LEG OF LAMB RESULTS:

1. Augusta Quintela 23 points
2. Zama Kunene 20 points
3. Wakie Lawrence 18 points
4. Eerfaan Dada 17 points c/b
5. Dumisani Hlatshwayo 17 points

WINNER: United Health Insurance representative Mcolisi Dlamini shakes hands with Augusta Quintela joined by LOL captain Wakie Lawrence after Quintela won the Leg of Lamb golf tournament at Manzini Golf Club on Friday. (Pic: Jongile Xuba)

Golf Club every Friday afternoon where the top finishers get to take home juicy meat prizes.

MSSA looking for help

BY JONGILE XUBA

SPORTS - MBULUNGWANE Schools Sports Association (MSSA) is looking for sponsorship as they approach the final stages of the annual ball games competition.

This was revealed by MSSA Chairman Gcobani 'Skillz' Gule, who said they were nearing the closing stages of the competition and due to financial constraints; they were unable to secure funding for this year's competition like the previous edition.

"We are trying to get sponsorship for this year's games since our last sponsor has moved to greener pastures. We have approached some corporate companies and Members of Parliament from Ngudzeni and Sandleni constituencies, namely MP Big-boy Mamba and MP Derrick

Masuku to help us. We have also approached NGO's like CHAPS for possibly building a partnership as we focus on school children," he said.

Gule added that the competition, which featured soccer and netball games had been going well so far and that they would be holding the finals for the competition this Friday.

Secure

He urged any interested parties to contact him on +268 7634 8072 in order for them to secure prizes for the winners on the day.

"This year's final will be on Friday at Etjendlovu Sports Ground in Mbulungwane. I would like to urge all the stakeholders to help make the occasion a special one for the children. Last year's winners received medals, trophies and new kits, so we would like to do the same this year," he said.

Correctional I chasing Malkerns in ESRIC Darts League

BY JONGILE XUBA

DARTS - CORRECTIONAL I are hot on the heels of Eswatini Royal Insurance Corporation (ESRIC) Darts League log Leaders Malkerns Darts Club after winning all their matches over the weekend.

The games were played at Correctional Gymnasium in Matsapha on Saturday. Correctional needed to win to ensure they are in the title race.

Correctional first beat RSSC 16-8 before brushing aside Umjovo 16-7. Log leaders Malkerns Darts Club were their usual ruthless selves as beat Smesh n Bonz 16-4.

Dominant

Ubombo Sugar were next on the firing line as they lost 8-15 to Malkerns.

Other results saw Scaras continue to search for their first points of the season as they lost 3-20 to Umlilo and 5-18 to REPS. Eco water also put in a dominant display, beating ESRIC 20-

ESRIC E100 000 DARTS LEAGUE RESULTS:

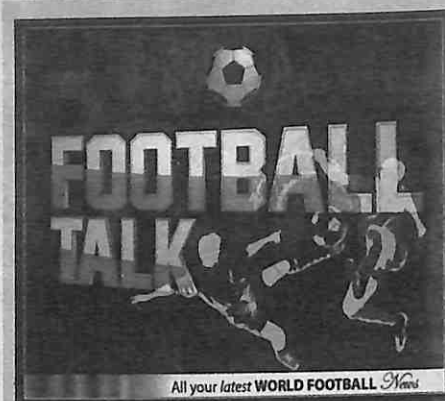
Ubombo Sugar	15-8	Remnants
RSSC	8-16	Correctional I
Mbabane CC	19-5	Smesh n Bonz
Kilowatts B	13-0	ESRIC
Umlilo	21-3	Umjovo
Umlilo	20-3	Scaras
Smesh n Bonz	4-19	Malkerns Darts
Correctional I	16-7	Umjovo
Ubombo Sugar	15-9	Eco-water
Malkerns Darts	15-8	Ubombo Sugar
Kilowatts A	17-7	Mbabane CC
Eco-water	13-0	Railway
REPS	18-5	Scaras
Eco-water	13-0	ESRIC
RSSC	14-10	Kilowatts B

HIGHLIGHTS - 180'S

- 1x Elvis Shongwe - Remnants
- 1x Sibiso Mngomelulu - RSSC
- 1x Zakhele Dube - Kilowatts A

0 while Kilowatts B thrashed ESRIC a 13-0.

The league is reaching the business end of the campaign and it will be up to teams to push on as they try stop the run away leaders Malkerns Darts Club.



● Liverpool and Egypt forward Mohamed Salah, 27, has rejected a £150m move away with both Real Madrid and Juventus lining up offers. (Mirror)

● Manchester United and France midfielder Paul Pogba, 26, is ready to go on strike in order to force through a move to Real Madrid. (ABC - in Spanish)



● United are interested in signing West Ham and France Under-21 defender Issa Diop and are willing to pay £45m and offer a player for the 22-year-old. (Sky Sports)

● Brazil forward Gabriel Jesus, 22, says it is 'out of the question' that he and Argentina forward Sergio Aguero, 31, will leave Manchester City this summer. (Mail)

● Leicester and England defender Harry Maguire, 26, agreed with the club's late owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha he could leave this summer. (Mirror)

● Juventus are ready to swoop for Tottenham's England wing-back Kieran Trippier, 28, in a £45m deal. (Times - subscription required)



● Belgium striker Christian Benteke, 28, wants to stay at Crystal Palace despite being linked with a move to China. (Standard)

● AC Milan may offer Ivory Coast midfielder Franck Kessie, 22, to Arsenal in exchange for Uruguay midfielder Lucas Torreira, 23. (Gazzetta dello Sport - in Italian)

● Chelsea and France midfielder Tiemoue Bakayoko, 24, says he wants one day to play for Paris St-Germain. (L'Equipe - in French)

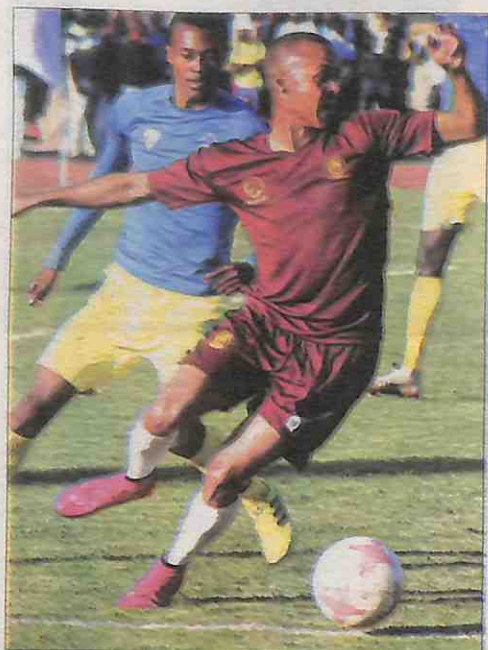
● Everton forward Richarlison, 22, has told Brazil team-mate and Ajax striker David Neres, 22, to join him at Goodison Park. (Liverpool Echo)



● West Ham have had a £29m bid for Uruguay striker Maxi Gomez, 22, accepted by Celta Vigo. (Sky Sports)

● Gremio and Brazil forward Everton, 23, believes his playing style means he could 'fit in' at Manchester United. (Mail)

BIBLE SOCIETY CUP 2019



CHECK MY NUMBER: Manzini Wanderers' Juries Gama dribbling Manzini Sundowns' Sibahle Sukati during the Bible Society Cup final at Mavuso Sports Centre on Saturday. Wanderers won 5-0. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



MOVE: Wanderers guest player Leon Manyisa attempts to go past his opponent.



CONGRATS: Wanderers celebrating their fifth goal scored by Leon Manyisa.



EISH: Wanderers' Mensah Johnson winning the ball from Sundowns' Phumlani Dlamini.



LITSI LIBHAYIBHELLI: Manzini Wanderers supporters preaching the Word of God to these two police officers.

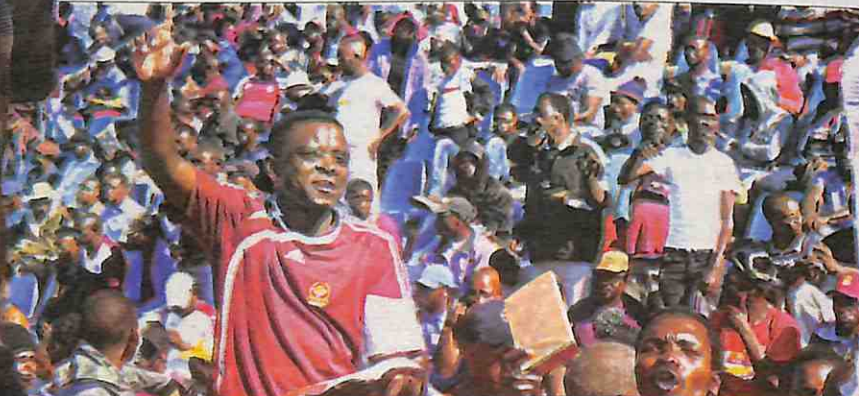
ANGISALI: This lady did not miss the games.



DULA WESELI: Wanderers supporters in song.



FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME: A Manzini Wanderers fan carrying a Bible.



UTSI UMBHALO: A Wanderers fan preaching the Word of God.

LOL: Comedian Gedlembane entertaining the crowd.

MAHHALA HHAI! Comedian Gedlembane having fun with Wanderers coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati.

IN FULL SPRINT: A Wanderers fan celebrating the team's second goal against Pirates while carrying a can of beer.

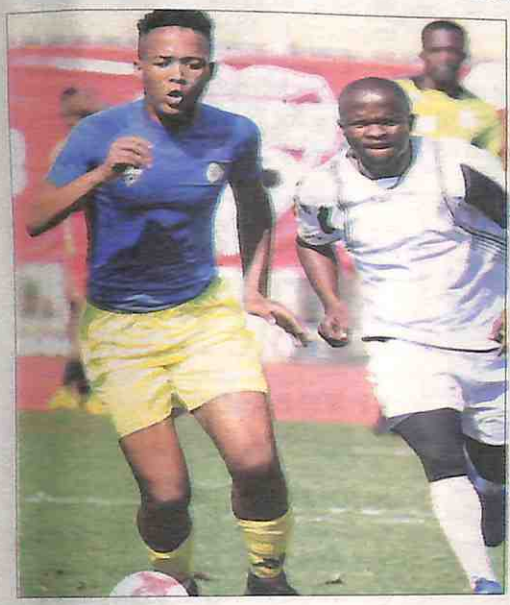
BIBLE SOCIETY CUP 2019



WE ARE CHAMPS: Bible Society Cup champions Manzini Wanderers lifting the trophy after beating Manzini Sundowns 5-0 in final.



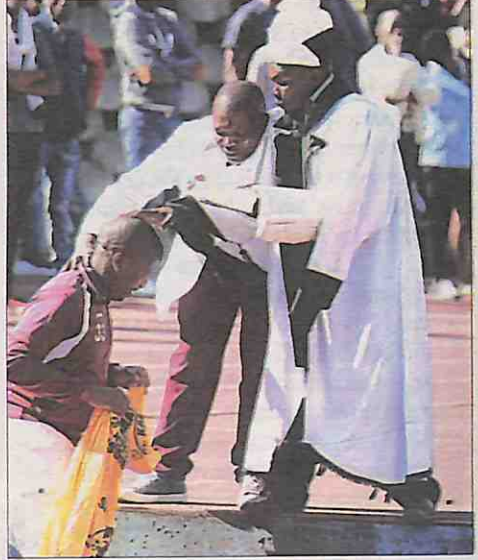
TOGETHER: Some of the best dressed soccer fans savouring the moment.



CATCH ME IF YOU CAN: Manzini Sundowns' Banele Ndzabandzaba being pursued by Mbabane Highlanders' Phumlani Ngwenya in the second semi-finals of the tournament.



GOOD TO SEE YOU: Minister of Sports Harries 'Madze' Bulunga shaking hands with Milton Dlamini at Manzini Sundowns technical bench.



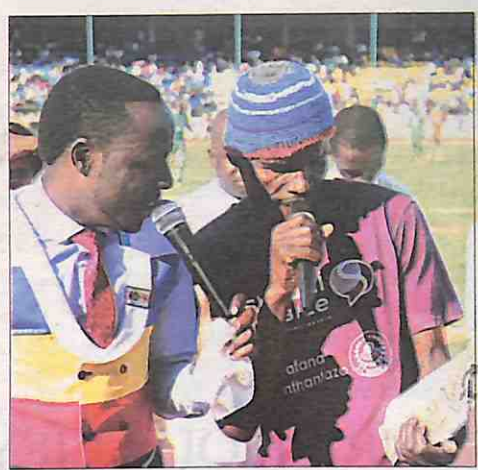
UMBHABHATISO: Bheki Gama and Silevu Bhembe having fun with another soccer fan.



I ALSO OWN A BIBLE: Mbabane Swallows supporter Linda 'Sithawula' Tsela also carried his Bible.



AT STAKE: The trophy being paraded before kick-off of the final between Wanderers and Sundowns.



ME TOO: Manzini Wanderers supporter Sidumo Ngwenya also had an opportunity to say one or two words from the Bible while being monitored by 'Gawuzela'.



KADZE KWASA ULIDZABUDZABULA: Mbabane Highlanders fan Silevu Bhembe with Mduzuzi Nezinceku Zamagawugawu lead singer MP Mduzuzi Simelane while sharing a verse at Mavuso.



TOO OLD: Moneni Pirates fan Bheki Malinga displaying his Bible.



Proteas earn first win

THE Proteas registered their first win against Afghanistan who languish at the bottom of the standings.

The Faf du Plessis-led Proteas won the game by nine wickets. It looks as though South Africa might have a chance in the next run rate as some teams, for example Sri Lanka, have been losing by large margins. Despite the fact that South Africa got off to an expected start with three losses, they could also turn things around as the boys have said they know their place in this World Cup and were prepared for the remaining four games to make it in the play-offs.

It definitely does not look good for Afghanistan who have lost four games now having been crushed by the defending champions, Sri Lanka and log table-toppers New Zealand.

Celebrations

Afghanistan were not too far off as they scored 125 runs but South Africa wanted it more. Imran Tahir was a diamond as he picked wickets in middle overs and managed to also entertain the crowd with his lone-man celebrations. He was definitely a handful for Afghanistan and his four for 29 even won him the Man of the Match award. Chris Morris also helped get South Africa back on track as he looked as he was getting more comfortable on the field. He even took the last wicket for his side and amassed three for 13. Not forgetting the amazing Andile Phehlukwayo who was also on fire, bagging two for 18 to keep the fires, burning for the Proteas.

South Africa now have three points, inclusive of their shared point, in their washed off game last week and sit at position seven in the log standings and coming for West Indies who sit on position five. Afghanistan, on the other hand, sit on position 10 with not even a single point and worse, no apparent way out.

CAF COMING IN 2020 FOR CLUB LICENCING INSPECTION

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – CONFEDERATION of African Football (CAF) representatives will be in the country next year to physically evaluate progress made by the country on club licencing.

This was revealed by the Eswatini Football Association (EFA)'s Chief Executive Officer, Frederick Mngomezulu during the association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Sibane Hotel yesterday. Mngomezulu said there was need for local clubs to pay special attention to this aspect, especially with CAF's visit imminent.

"We sat with the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) Board of Governors during their retreat and talked about this issue. There are some areas where we are making very slow



INSPECTION: EFA Chief Executive Officer Frederick Mngomezulu.

progress and this does not present us in good light," he said. The CEO made an example that in terms of infrastructure, which requires clubs

to have their own training facilities and stadiums where they host their matches, currently the country stood at 58 per cent. "Where we have

CLUB LICENCING COMPLIANCE SO FAR

Pillar	Compliance (clubs)	Percentage
Infrastructure	8	58%
Administration	7	50%
Finance	2	15%
Legal	9	65%
Sporting	10	72%

had a serious headache is with finance. For instance, we asked the clubs in the Premier League to present us with their budgets and only two complied. When it comes to administration, which requires clubs to have fully operational offices, we currently stand at 50 per cent," he said. Mngomezulu urged teams, especially those in the Premier League, to make sure they comply with the club licencing requirements in time for CAF's physical evaluation visit.

2019-20 REGISTRATION OPENS ON JULY 8TH

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – REGISTRATION for the 2019-20 season is set to open on the 8th of July and close on the 20th of September.

The dates were confirmed by Eswatini Football Association (EFA)'s Chief Executive Officer, Frederick Mngomezulu yesterday. He urged teams to register players on time because the aim is to ensure that all competitions start at the same time in August, be it regional or those under the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE).

"We want to avoid clashes with national team activities when some competitions have to be stopped for prolonged periods due to the engagement of the national team. The idea is to finish the season in May 2020," he said.

The earliest competition in terms of elite league football is expected



REGISTER: EFA Head offices.

to be the Eswatini Telecom Charity Cup at the end of next month, followed by the Eswatini International Trade Fair in August, the start of the MTN league, and then the Ingwenyama

Cup. Regional leagues normally start at around September, and the new registration requirements might present a big challenge if all the regions will comply.

SUNRISE QUALIFY FOR SUPER LEAGUE

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER – SUNRISE FC have qualified for the Swazi Trac Super League after beating Junior Stars 3-2 during play-offs games played at Prince of Wales Ground yesterday.

They now have 12 points, which means they have already qualified in their group.

The Hhohho Southern Zone play-offs entered their fourth round yesterday and Sunrise made no mistake in making it four wins in a row to book their place in the Super League next season.

A strong first half performance by Sunrise gave them the edge until the final 15 minutes of the match when Junior Stars came to life, pulling two goals to set up a nervy finish for the Lobamba based side. Other results



saw Corporation All Stars beat Majotini 3-1 while Green Sea beat Real United 1-0.

Slot

The results mean that only two spots are left in the Southern Zone as Sunrise have taken the first available slot. It will now come down to the final day of group matches this Sunday where Junior Stars, Real United, Corporation

and Green Sea will battle it out for the remaining spots with all four teams on six points.

Meanwhile, the Northern Zone will promote two teams and on Saturday Troupe FC beat City Stars 2-1 whilst Mhlathane won their match of the qualifiers when they beat Mahlabatsini Professionals 4-1. Stone Breakers and Seven Stars played out to a 0-0 draw,

HHOHHO REGIONAL SUPER LEAGUE PLAYOFF RESULTS

Southern Zone			
Sunrise	3-2	Junior Stars	
Corporation	3-1	Majotini	
Green Sea	1-0	Real United	
Northern Zone			
Mhlathane	4-1	M Professionals	
City Stars	1-2	Troupe FC	
Stone Breakers	0-0	Seven Stars	

leaving the Northern Zone race very much open. Troupe are top of the group with six points followed by Stone Breakers on five points as City Stars occupy third spot on four points. Seven Stars are fourth also with four points as Mahlabatsini Professionals and Mhlathane both sit on three points in fifth and sixth, respectively.

'Madze', 'Cruiser' laud Bible Society

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER – MINISTER of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga, together with Minister of Tinkhundla Administration and Development David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala have praised the Bible Society of Eswatini for sponsoring local football.

Speaking on Saturday at Mavuso Sports Centre, 'Madze' said the turnout was impressive and thanked the supporters who came in their numbers to support the Bible Society initiative.

"I would like to thank Bible Society of Eswatini for sponsoring local football. No one anticipated that such a large number of people would show up. Credit goes to the Bible Society for such an initiative," said the former national team coach player.

Grown

Bulunga also thanked the Manzini Regional Administrator Chief Gija for gracing the occasion.

Minister David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala echoed Bulunga's words by saying that the Bible Society Cup had grown in leaps and bounds. He noted that Bible Society of Eswatini was now competing with the other major sponsors.

"It was a big event and as early as 8am the stadium was already filled to capacity. You can tell that the Bible Society Cup is now popular and competing with the major sponsors in local football," he said.

Ngcamphalala also commended the conduct of the teams' supporters, who came to watch the one-day tournament.

EFA's net worth at E46.5 m

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – THE Eswatini Football Association (EFA) had a net worth of E46.5 million as of the end of its 2017-2018 financial year.

This is contained in a financial report delivered during the association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Sibane Hotel in Ezulwini yesterday.

A large chunk of this is determined by the number of non-current assets currently in the possession of the EFA, which include Sigwaca

House in Mbabane, Lobamba Technical Centre, and Nhlanguano Technical Centre.

As of the end of 2018, non-current assets stood at E40 983 173 of the EFA's purse, while current assets, which include trade and other receivables plus cash and cash equivalents, stood at E5 564 652.

Expected

The EFA's value is expected to increase as of the current financial year as a number of projects are expected to mushroom under the EFA's FIFA Forward Programme, including the technical centre at Ka-Langa, and others at Mkhuzweni

and Manzini, which are also expected to be commissioned soon.

EFA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Frederick Mngomezulu revealed to affiliates at the AGM that the Ka-Langa Technical Centre, including the artificial pitch that goes with it, were very close to completion.

Remains

"The structure is already complete at Ka-Langa. We already have running water and electricity, and what remains is the planting of grass and a few final complementary things that need to be done before operations can begin," he said.

The CEO further stated that Mkhuzweni Technical Centre, also under the FIFA Forward Programme, would be commissioned before the end of this year.

Commissioned

"The documentation is already with FIFA, and we expect the project to be commissioned within the last quarter of 2019," he said.

He added that Manzini shall follow after Mkhuzweni, adding that the planning phase had already begun as they had identified the site. "We have a very impressive structure at Ka-Langa and shall use it as a benchmark for the rest of the projects under the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) Forward Programme," he said.

E500 000 BOOST FOR CAF BOUND TEAMS

STORIES BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – THE two local CAF envoys Green Mamba and Young Buffaloes will receive E500 000 from the Eswatini Football Association for their continental missions.

The two teams will be representing the country in the 2019 CAF interclub competition where Green Mamba will be competing in the CAF Champions League while Buffaloes will be campaigning in the CAF Confederation Cup.

The news was confirmed by the EFA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Frederick Mngomezulu during the organisation's Annual General Assembly held at the Sibane Hotel yesterday.

Activeness

"We will assist clubs local clubs who will be representing the country in the CAF clubs competition. Each team will get a once-off financial injection of E500 000 for their respective assignment. There will be no extra money given to these



BIG FAMILY: Eswatini Football Association (EFA) executive members led by President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa posing after the Special Annual Meeting held at Sibane Hotel yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

teams beyond that despite their activeness in their respective competitions," he said.

Correctional Services side Green

Mamba sealed their continental ticket by winning the 2018/19 MTN Premier League crown while Buffaloes ensured their return to the CAF

Confederation Cup by winning the 2019 EswatiniBank Cup for the third time in a row.

E1.2 million for regional associations

SOCCER – THE four regional associations will receive E1.2 million to share among themselves from the Eswatini Football Association.

The associations have already received a portion of the money which they used for their administrative costs.

This was revealed by the EFA President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa in his speech during the organisation's Special General Assembly.

"The EFA has exclusively decided to create a budgetary line from the FIFA Forward Programme as a grant to its member associations.

"This establishment will assure

that members, even as and when they implement their activities, there is a minimum grant upon which their business can be projected on an annual basis.

Depending

"The first figure has been placed at E1.2 million which will be distributed in varying amounts, depend-

ing on the nature of business, to the various members of the Football Association.

"This will be received in two equal parts in February and in August every year," he said.

Mthethwa further announced that the four regional associations would now have their general secretaries, otherwise known as chief executive officers employed on fulltime basis.

"The executive committee will this forthcoming year operationalise the professional employment of fulltime general secretary on contract for the Regional Football Associations," he said.

The longest serving EFA President also announced that they would now provide an insurance life cover for executive members.

Tight schedule for Sihlangu

SOCCER – THE senior national team Sihlangu Semnikati will have a busy 2019.

The nation's pride is expected to compete in the 2021 AFCON Qualifiers and 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in September.

The upcoming schedule for the Kostadin Papic men was announced by the EFA Secretary Frederick Mngomezulu. "The senior national team is expected to compete in qualifiers later this year for the AFCON 2021 and 2026 FIFA World Cup. The draw for the two competitions will be done in July. We might need more money for the team if they manage to reach the third round of the CHAN Qualifiers around November," he said.

Mngomezulu further announced that they were also working on securing a technical sponsor for Sihlangu before the upcoming

CHAN second round qualifier against Angola next month.

"We are working around the clock to have a technical sponsor that will also provide replica kits for the team before our next match against Angola.

Package

"We are still in talks with several companies, who have shown interest in sponsoring the national team. We will look for a package that will come with an affordable prize for the replica jerseys to benefit the nation," he said.

Swiss company Macron recently provided a kit for Sihlangu during the recent 2019 COSAFA Cup held in Durban, South Africa.

Mngomezulu further mentioned that the registration for domestic competitions will open on July 8 until September 20.



A ROUND OF APPLAUSE: Delegates clapping hands appreciating the president's speech.

Ka-Langa Stadium to be opened in November

SOCCER – THE country's stadium shortage will soon be alleviated after the opening of the Ka-Langa Stadium in Siteki.

The new stadium, which is part of the FIFA Goal Project, is expected to be ready for usage in November.

This was revealed by EFA Chief Executive Officer Frederick Mngomezulu yesterday.

"The Ka-Langa Stadium will be operating later this year around November as the project is nearing completion. We are still expecting a team of FIFA European experts to arrive in the country to install the artificial turf at the stadium.

"The stadium has several important features such as dressing rooms and offices to be utilised by the Lubombo Regional Football Association (LRFA)," he said.



WORLD CUP WOMEN

Sweden	5-1	Thailand
USA	3-0	Chile

FIXTURES

WORLD CUP WOMEN

Korea Republic	vs	Norway	9pm
Nigeria	vs	France	9pm

WORLD CUP WOMEN

China	vs	Spain	6pm
South Africa	vs	Germany	6pm

OVER E72 000 MADE IN BIBLE SOCIETY CUP

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER – THE 2019 Bible Society Cup was a huge success as over E72 000 was collected from the selling of SiSwati Bibles.

The one-day tournament saw a large number of spectators turning up to watch the games. Manzini Wanderers were the eventual winners after beating Manzini Sundowns in the finals. A SiSwati Bible was the entry fee and it cost E60. The tournament that started in 2017 with two teams saw the addition of two clubs this year. These are Mbabane Highlanders and Moneni Pirates. Bible Society Business and Finance Manager, Dumile Fakudze was short of words about the positive response received from the members of the public. She said this year's sales increased by 60 per cent compared to last year. "We thank the public for the positive response. We have seen a 60 per cent increase when compared to the previous years. All I can say is that today (Saturday) we sold approximately 600 SiSwati Bibles. The overall number of Bibles we sold since last month is about 1 200," she said.

Holy Book

Fakudze, however, said the main objective of the tournament was all about winning lost souls. Bible Society board member and Life Restoration Pastor C.T Mavimbela said the event was a success and noted that the tournament was growing in leaps and bounds.

"We are so happy about the attendance as the stadium was packed to capacity. The behaviour of supporters needs to be appreciated as there were no scenes of violence reported. This shows that the spectators respect the Holy Book," he said. Mavimbela also said the aim of the tournament was to bring people together in the name of God. He said they were hoping members of the public would read their Bibles and meditate about the Word of God. Divine Healing Ministries' Pastor Sikhumbuzo Shongwe said the attendance was phenomenal. He said it showed that Emaswati were drawing closer to God.

"We hope Emaswati would read the Holy Book as **Joshua 1; 8** says," he said.

Shongwe added that football was not for canal-minded people only but part of life so Christians must not shy away from participating in the sport.

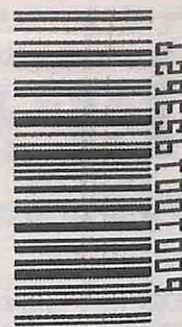
We thank the public for the positive response. We have seen a 60 per cent increment as compared to the previous years

SPORTS

IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE ARE YOUR CHURCH

BSEVER

Monday June 17, 2019



COME AGAIN: Eswatini Football Association (EFA) President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa with Vice President Peter Magagula during the organisation's Annual General Meeting held at Sibane Hotel yesterday. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

EFA IN E8.4M DEFICIT

STORIES BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – THE fall in government's allocation drove the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) into a deficit of about E8.5 million.

Financial statements released by the EFA for the 2018 financial year show that the association's finances from a surplus of about E2.5 mil-

lion at the end of 2017, to a shortfall of about E8.5 million, was recorded at the end of 2018. EFA's Chief Executive Officer, Frederick Mngomezulu stated this during the EFA's AGM at Sibane Hotel yesterday. He said they had projected to receive at least E10 million from government but ended up getting less than E5 million. He pointed out that as a result of their anticipation of a bigger share, they committed all the national teams

in international assignments only to find out that they would actually be getting far less.

"We ended up using the monies we carried over from the previous financial year to finance some of our activities.

This explains the huge deficit reflected in our finances, but our position is not as bad as the figures reflect," he said. The CEO added that they expect stability for between now and next year as they

are well aware of monies that would come into the association's coffers.

He said they also expect stable changes from other grants, like those from FIFA and CAF. "We expect our financial reporting to be comparable for the next financial reporting because of that reason," he said. The EFA has budgeted to receive at least E5 million from government for 2019 and 2020.

EFA TO DISPOSE OF E0.8 MILLION SAFA BUS

SOCCER – THE Eswatini Football Association (EFA)'s executive committee has taken a decision to dispose of the E0.8 million worth bus donated to it by the South African Football Association (SAFA) after the 2010 World Cup.

The bus had literally become the association's feet over the last nine years, but EFA's Chief Executive Officer, Frederick Mngomezulu indicated that costs for its maintenance had been unbearable.

The EFA used the bus to transport the various squads for training sessions and attending international matches. Mngomezulu explained that the over E900 000 incurred by the association over the past financial year on motor vehicle maintenance and repairs incorporated huge costs for servicing the bus in neighbouring South Africa.

"The association has agreed to

dispose of two vehicles in total to moderate the costs of maintenance," he said. A member of the Eswatini Football Coaches Association (EFCA), asked what plans the EFA had to ensure that they secured other vehicles to replace those being disposed because it was near impossible to run football, let alone any organisation, without vehicles.

Mngomezulu acknowledged that replacing the said vehicles was a top priority for the EFA, but in the

meantime, they would continue to lease vehicles to meet their day-to-day requirements for running their offices. A member of the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) enquired what the reasons were for the effect of the disposal of the said assets not to appear in the budget for 2019 and 2020. The CEO said the reason for that was because the decision to dispose of the assets was taken after the budget had been drafted.