

ESWATINI Observer

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18, 2019

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WENA WAPHAKATHI: His Majesty King Mswati III joined by throngs of Libutfo in dance during the burning of the log at Ludzidzini Cattle Byre yesterday. The regiments are expected to start weeding the Royal fields at Sihlabeni today. (Pic: Umbutfo Maphepheni)



Sandile Dlamini's parting shot to FSRA...

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BY DELISA THWALA
Mbabane

I AM TAKING 2ND WIFE - BISHOP MACULUVE

BISHOP Vusumuzi Maculuve, who doubles up as a gospel artist and a bishop, has confirmed to the newspaper that indeed he will be marrying a second wife.

He stated that his decision to do so is culturally inspired and is legal.

Bishop Maculuve corrected the view that he had sent a delegation to ask for his fiancée's hand in marriage, but stated that they had gone to Ludzidelu to introduce him to her (Shongwe) family.

He said he also introduced her to the Maculuve family.

Bishop Maculuve said his fiancée is a 26 year-old University of Eswatini student who is also a member of his group. The bishop and gospel artist said he was still not at liberty to divulge more details about his situation other than just to confirm the news of the upcoming marriage.

"There are still issues we are discussing with my in-laws both from my first wife, LaLukhele and Shongwe family, my children, the church and my gospel group. When ready to divulge the details I will do so when the time is appropriate," Bishop Maculuve said. The bishop is not new to print media

headlines, claiming such no longer bothers him, as he decided to focus on his life.

Last year he was traditionally initiated (*butseka*) and given the name 'Hlakakhele'. He was further ordained as a Bishop by All Nations Church in Zion Arch-Bishop Bheki Lukhele.

Before this there were many other cases that saw the gospel artist and pastor hogging the headlines for the wrong reasons.

Comment

When contacted for comment, Bishop and President of Conference of Churches Steven Masilela said that if this was true it was pure abomination and unheard of.

"I do not want to be misquoted but I browsed through this in the newspaper and if this is true, it is not done when you are a leader of a church no matter what the rules, this is totally unheard of I swear," said the Masilela.

He further stated that: "When married in church and the wedding is white

you are not to take a second wife, but these days you may never know what a person does? They can be married under civil rites but when signing, sign under law and customs."

Quizzed

Bishop Masilela in addition said that people should adhere and respect the Word of God at all times and no matter the cost and they should not change it to suit their needs especially when one is a prophet of the word.

When the public was quizzed on the matter, some people they said they were not really shocked as they knew something like this was coming therefore they were not raising eyebrows.

"What would year 2019 be without a 'Maculuve drama' this man always manages to rock the country with a scandal so this

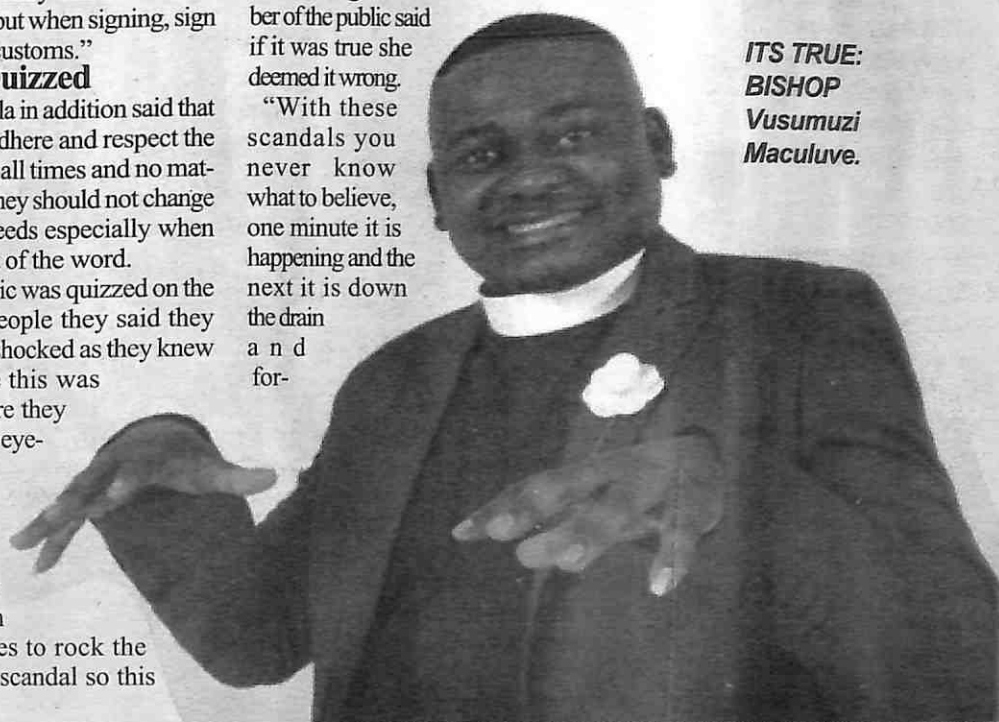
does not bother us anymore," said Mphumuzi Zwane.

Another general member of the public said if it was true she deemed it wrong.

"With these scandals you never know what to believe, one minute it is happening and the next it is down the drain and for-

gotten, we do not know what to believe anymore," exclaimed Phephile Nkambule.

**ITS TRUE:
BISHOP
Vusumuzi
Maculuve.**



Stefanutti Stocks awarded E423m interchange tender

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI
Mbabane

...they beat Inyatsi which had offered a E401 million bid

THE ministry of public works and transport has awarded Stefanutti Stocks, a E423 million Manzini Golf Course Interchange tender.

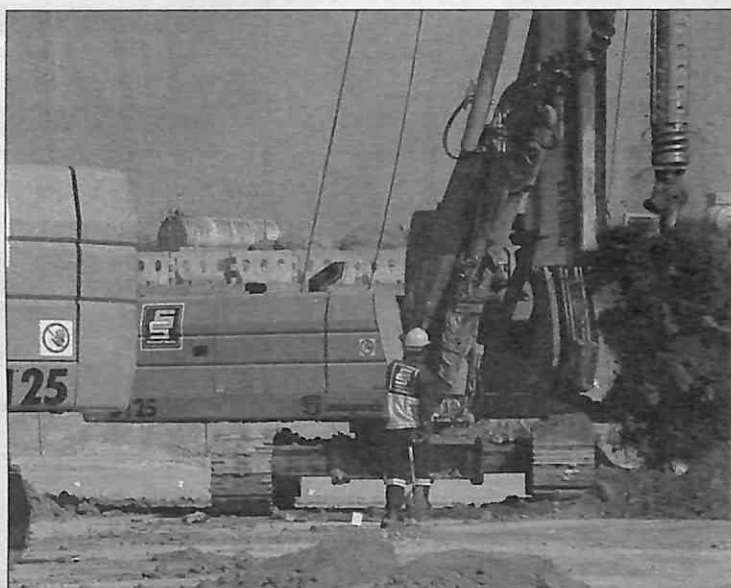
The construction of the interchange bridge is financed by the African Development Bank. This is according to the announcement made yesterday by Ministry of Public Works Principal Secretary Khangeziwe Mabuza.

The actual cost of the project which is expected to take 18 months is E423 731 680.17 and construction is expected to start in March 30, 2020.

They won the tender ahead of Eswatini company, Inyatsi Construction Limited, which had offered to construct the interchange for E22 million less than the quoted figure by Stefanutti Stocks price. Inyatsi Construction tendered a bid for E401 675 703.76 for the project.

Stefanutti is expected to construct a 600 metre dual carriageway of the main road, 10 slip roads of a total of 3.6 km, nine box culvert with numerous minor culverts and associated drainage channels and kerbs.

It will also construct two reinforced



TENDER: Stefanutti Stocks heavy plant.

concrete bridges with other ancillary and complementary structures.

The company is also expected to install road furniture including streetlights and make provision for utilities and services including ICT ducting as well as safety structures such as overhead bridges.

Stefanutti Stocks beat two other companies.

The other companies that bid for the tender were WBHO/ AG Thomas JV, Raubex Construction.

WBHO/AG Thomas JV was rejected because it was the least evaluated bidder, Raubex Construction on the other hand was rejected for technical responsiveness which was said to have not been substantial.

"Bidder did not provide forms for

some equipment as per the requirements. Four key personnel did not meet similar work experience requirement and two of the four had no relevant experience on their proposed positions. Bidder did not meet specific requirements," reads the announcement by the PS.

Inyatsi Construction on the other hand, is said to have been rejected because it was not commercial and technically responsive.

Requirements

"Bidder altered, omitted and substituted conditions in the letter of bid and requirements which was a violation of the Instructions To Bidders (ITB). The bid had material deviation and reservations. Not all pages of the bid entries were signed or initialled by the person signing the bid as per the ITB," reads the announcement in part.

The PS further stated that the company submitted an incomplete bid in that it did not submit forms for contract price adjustment which it highlighted that it was applicable for its bid while it was a requirement as per the ITB.

"Bidder mentioned that the bid did not incorporate in the respective pay item in the Bill of Quantities, the production of working drawings as per the requirement in the Bid Technical Specification and it was none respon-

siveness to the bid and a deviation," further reads the announcement.

The PS added that the company failed to meet the requirement of specific experience for three similar projects within the last five years as required, instead she said Inyatsi submitted only one completed project.

An expert in the construction industry said the reasons for not considering the Inyatsi tender were not substantive that their bid would not be considered in full to the extent of evaluating the price.

A footnote in the PS statement stated that any bidder who wishes to ascertain the grounds, on which its bid was not selected, should request an explanation from the Executing Agency.

In any event, the bank reserves the right to review any complaint of a bidder at any time following the award, the statement read.

Meanwhile, a South Korean company, Chiel Engineering Company Ltd in Joint Venture with Dongsung Engineering Company Ltd have been awarded a tender to be supervising engineers for the above project. Their bid was the lowest of two others from companies from India and German at US Dollars 1.646 000. They scored 93.5 points, whilst the others scored 84.25 and 80.45 points respectively.

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SANDILE'S PARTING SHOT TO FSRA:

STORIES BY NOMALUNCELO PHIRI
Ezulwini

'PURSUE PSPF PROBE'

THE outgoing Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) Chief Executive Officer Sandile 'Chief' Dlamini has bowed out in typical style, by instructing his former charges to revive the ill-fated probe into the Public Service Pension Fund (PSPF).

Speaking at his farewell function held at the Royal Villas yesterday, Dlamini left well-wishers in no doubt about his feelings about the task ahead for the staff he leaves behind at the authority, telling them that they would have failed in their duties if they did not reinstate the probe into PSPF that he was stopped from pursuing last year. Dlamini took the moment to remind the audience, which included Finance Minister Neal Rijkenberg, Central Bank Governor Majozi Sithole and Supreme Court Judge Senzangakhona Dlamini, that there was political interference that stopped him from his mission to



HANDSHAKE: Outgoing FSRA CEO Sandile 'Chief' Dlamini shakes hands with the FSRA Board Chairman Stephen Simelane as he hands over a gift during Dlamini's farewell function held at the Royal Villas yesterday. (Pic: Mduzuzi Mngomezulu)

probe the PSPF. However, now that he has retired, he left the baton with his staff to carry on from where he left off. In fact, Dlamini

went as far as suggesting that if the FSRA failed to do this, then the authority should be closed and made a department under the Central Bank. "If you fail this (pursuing the PSPF probe), you will be collapsed," he warned.

However, he advised the FSRA staff members to be cautious when dealing with

Public Service Pension Fund, as it has the biggest revenue collection in the country. Dlamini said they must be careful and pay attention to every element.

"This requires not only the strengthening of balance sheets but also the changes in behaviour and in the culture of the authority. You should aim for a fundamental shift in the overall mindset on how to meet the needs of our society," he said. Not only did Dlamini stun the audience with the tough talk of what should happen now that he has left the position of CEO, he went further to warn FSRA to make sure they kept a close eye on the PSPF and four other entities; SwaziMed, Eswatini National Provident Fund, the Eswatini Royal Insurance Corporation and the SACCOS.

Enough

As if that was not enough, Dlamini then made further startling remarks by alleging that the country's labour organisations were captured by 'clever executives' who offered them freebies to

watch jazz shows in Cape Town and football at the Soccer City. Taking to the podium to make his remarks, 'Chief', as he is popularly known, made it clear that he was in no mood for the niceties, stating that the event was and should not be about him, but should be about the work of the FSRA and what they had achieved in the 12 years of existence. He raised his concerns about the level of corruption in this country, warning that Eswatini were too nice and as a result were watching as the country was being destroyed by corruption. Dlamini retired from the FSRA at the end of November, and yesterday's event was meant to be a farewell function to celebrate the work that he has done for the authority since taking over the helm. Bukhosi Dlamini, who spoke on behalf of the FSRA staff said they had first-hand experience and appreciation of a great leader in Dlamini, stating that he had mixed feelings of formally bidding farewell to Dlamini.

Milestone

He, however acknowledged Dlamini's success in that taking over leadership of the FSRA 12 years ago marked a milestone for the authority as he was second Liswati to take up the position. "His departure will not be felt by the authority alone but other stakeholders. We were lucky to have worked under the leadership of Dlamini and words may not be enough to express how much we are going to miss him," he said. Central Bank of Eswatini Governor Majozi Sithole said he worked a lot with Dlamini, stating that they will remember him for dedication and commitment in fostering the interest of all stakeholders in the non-bank financial services industry.

Describing the remarkable work done by 'Chief', the governor said Sandile took deliberate steps in transforming the non-banking services sec-

tor in a manner that ensures its resilience and stability against adverse effects which have previously engulfed the global economy. Meanwhile, Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg said the success of the financial service sector would depend on the consistent application of supervisory reforms that help to deal with changes in the financial services environment in order to create certainty and confidence in the financial system. Rijkenberg stated that the ministry of finance highly appreciated the technical support given to the authority by the IMF.

"I have been advised that a lot has been done in terms of reviewing the existing financial services laws in order to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory framework," he said. He further emphasised on the importance of cooperation from all stakeholders and that such amendments should not be viewed as an infringement, however as a collaborative effort towards enhancing the resilience of our financial system. "Even while the economy is facing tough times, we still believe that living standards can still rise as government remains committed to its National Development Strategy Goal of ensuring that Eswatini is in the top 10 per cent of the medium human development group countries on sustainable economic development," he said. Furthermore, the minister said they were encouraging the better implementation of good corporate governance by the leadership of financial institutions and in a manner that prioritised accountability and better decision making. On the same note, Rijkenberg congratulated Dlamini for leaving a legacy that was defined by the level of achievements the non-bank financial services sector had attained to date. "We will miss you in all the endeavours you so dearly held to your heart as a committed citizen and bearer of the ministry's vision," he said.



PROBE: Public Service Pension Fund offices.

'I fought against corruption at all costs'

SANDILE Dlamini stated that he played his part in fighting against corruption while at FSRA, saying it was easy to deal with corruption.

He said ever since the establish-

ment of the authority back in 2006, he had never hired staff members on his own, however they used the recruitment agency, KPMG to recruit staff. "Corruption is a major bottleneck to achieving the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDG) and a global concern. People often feel that they are at the mercy of corruption and think that it is just a 'way of life'.

"However, every society, sector and citizen can take action and benefit from getting united against cor-

ruption. Leaders should play a huge role in strengthening accountability and developing innovative solutions to prevent and curb corruption," he said.

Emphasising on Dlamini's loyalty as a leader, Central Bank of Eswatini (CBE) Governor Majozi

Sithole described Dlamini as someone who could not stop talking about corruption and further stating that a lot had happened while working with Dlamini.

He said they had guided each other in coming up with working strategies.

HOME AFFAIRS CONDEMNS BANGLADESHI KILLING

STORIES BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

THE ministry of home affairs has strongly condemned the weekend Asian gang war, which resulted in the murder of Yusuf Miah.

Following reports that some Bangladeshi nationals have been involved in a gang war, where one of them was killed, the ministry has made it clear that this was not acceptable because these nationals were breaking the laws of the kingdom.

The ministry's Communications Officer, Mlandvo Dlamini said as a ministry they were the ones respon-

sible for the granting of citizenship to deserving individuals after some thorough processes had been followed.

He said it was disappointing to learn that there were some foreigners who came all the way from their own countries to be involved in such behaviours.

Wars

However, Dlamini mentioned that so far there had been no formal reports that they received as a ministry.

He said the wars that involved Bangladeshi nationals and other violent incidents that have happened involving Asian nationals need the attention of the police.

Dlamini said as a ministry, they tried

by all means not to grant citizenships to undeserving people. He said before granting permits and other paperwork to foreign nationals, they first considered the safety of the nation.

"We are very disappointed to realise that some nationals are not following laws of the country. This is not acceptable at all, and there is no country in the world that takes it lightly when its immigration laws are violated," Dlamini added.

He went on to say that every foreign nationals including locals were expected to obey the laws laid down by the country's Constitution, and it was a punishable offence to violate any of these laws.

Offenders will be deported - Ministry

THE ministry of home affairs has come out clear to state that all those Asians to be found guilty of the gang wars will be deported back to their home countries.

This was revealed by the ministry's Communications Officer Mlandvo Dlamini. He said the country would not tolerate such behaviour and offenders will be shown the door. Dlamini said it was not what the country expected from foreigners, more especially if they were here for businesses.

He said there was no way businesses could prosper if the was vio-

lence. He said peace and security were put at stake due to such acts.

"As a ministry, what we can say is that if there is someone who is found guilty, that person will be deported back to their home countries," he said.

However, Dlamini said it would be hard to easily deport them because of the current financial woes the country was facing. On another note, Dlamini said the ministry would continue to make sure that people from other countries were screened to determine if they deserved to be granted citizenships.

INCWALA BURNING OF THE LOG



BAYETHE: Ingwenyama leads regiments while dancing to one of the Incwala songs during the burning of the log at Ludzidzini Cattle Byre yesterday. (Pics: Umbutfo Maphepheni)



LOMANGCEVEZA: Her Majesty the Indlovukazi dances during the event.



SIGODLO: Emakhosikati with other members of the Royal family dance.

PUBLIC NOTICE

DELAYED PRINTING OF MEMBERS' 2019 STATEMENTS

It is with regret that the Fund notifies its members and employers that due to circumstances beyond the Fund's control, we shall not be able to distribute the members' 2019 statements this calendar year. It is anticipated that they shall be available by **30th April 2020**.

The inconvenience is greatly regretted.

By Management



ON FIRE: Scenes during the burning of the log.



PRESENT: Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini (far right) with other warriors at the event.



IN SONG: Part of the present libutfo singing.



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TROUBLED COP COMMITS SUICIDE AT POLICE CAMP

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

AFTER battling with personal problems, a Manzini-based police officer ended up committing suicide the police camp.

Sandile 'Nyosi' Dlamini of Mhlatane in Mankayane was found by his superiors reeling in pain while in his house at Zakhele Police Camp yesterday morning after supposedly ingesting lethal pills. He is said to have been rushed to the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial (RFM) Hospital, where he died while undergoing treatment. Information gathered from those close to Dlamini claimed that he had been under a lot of stress lately. Signs of this are said



DECEASED: The deceased police officer Sandile 'Nyosi' Dlamini.

to have been evident in his conduct, both in and outside the work environ-

ment. Nyosi, as he was widely known by those close to him, was employed under the traffic department. For some time, Dlamini is said to have frequently absconded work and would be seen around Manzini in a drunken stupor.

Although it was obvious that he had problems, most of his colleagues said they were not sure of what exactly was troubling him because he never opened up to them. A day before the incident, sources said he was seen around Manzini drinking like a fish, a thing that he was lately fond of doing presumably in an effort to drown his sorrows.

This behaviour is said to have been the deceased's new norm, as he would sometimes not report for work, but would be seen imbibing. "It seemed like he had given up on life. He would

miss work and would only seem better when drinking alcohol," a source who was close to Dlamini said, as he remembered his colleague's rash behaviour. Sources further claimed that yesterday morning, Dlamini was supposed to report for duty but he did not show up. Worried, his superiors from the Manzini Police Station are said to have gone to check up on him and upon seeing his car parked outside his quarters, Dlamini's bosses reportedly had hopes that they would find him home.

Indeed, they found the outside door unlocked and he was there, only that he was not in good health, as he was heard groaning from his bedroom.

The superiors are said to have found him on the floor and they rushed him to hospital, where he puked several

times before he became unconscious.

When sought for comment, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the death of the police officer. However, she said she could not divulge much about the matter as investigations on what exactly caused his death were underway. "We still haven't informed his family, so I cannot say anything more for now," she said.

“

A day before the incident, sources said he was seen around Manzini drinking like a fish, a thing that he was lately fond of doing presumably in an effort to drown his sorrows.

STD. 5 RESULTS TO BE RELEASED AFTER XMAS

BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO
Mbabane

RESULTS for the Eswatini Primary Certificate (EPC) candidates might be released after the Christmas holidays, it has been gathered.

This was disclosed by the Exams Council of Eswatini Registrar Dr. Edmund Mazibuko in an interview with Eswatini Observer yesterday.

Candidates who sat for the examinations should hold their breath for now, according to Mazibuko as the final lap of marking for the Grade VII scripts had not yet been completed. The registrar hinted that the marking was still ongoing, although a small part of the scripts was expected to be

marked yesterday by the last group of markers. Mazibuko did, however confirm that they had long finished marking the Form Five scripts and said they normally started marking these before they could move on to the EPC papers.

The registrar could not confirm when the results would be released, but assured that people can expect Form Five results to be released next year as done in previous years.

Judging from the time that they have finished the marking process, this indicates that the JC results will be out by the end of December 2019, the registrar noted.

He advised parents to continue counselling their children to accept poor performances in the event they failed the exams.

Passports crisis: Home Affairs can't keep up with demand

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

THOUSANDS of Emaswati intending to travel outside of the country might need to look for alternative places of interest in the country as the ministry of home affairs is unable to keep up with the demands for travelling documents.

Since two weeks ago when the ministry announced that travelling documents of all sizes were available, throngs of Emaswati rushed and applied for them, only to be disappointed. Due to the high number of people applying for this precious and vital document, more specially around this time of the year there has been an obvious delay of their issuing. Normally, the application process for a travelling document is from one day to five working days. However, due to the high

demand the process takes up to two weeks. Yesterday, throngs of Emaswati had their patience tested while waiting for their passports to be issued at home affairs offices in Mbabane. Some of the people who were at the offices mentioned that they had applied for travelling documents about a week ago but they had not received them. The furious members of the public were throwing unpalatable words to staffers at the ministry, who tried their best to explain why their passports had not been issued within a week. The ministry's offices were fully packed as some of the services were carried outside to ease the congestion. Some of the officers were outside issuing the readily available travelling documents. The officers were even bold enough to tell members of the public that they were not going to obtain travelling document the same day. "If you applied today just go home and come back maybe next

week Monday," said the officers. Some of the applicants expressed their disappointment, as some of them mentioned that they came from as far as Siteki with the hope of getting their travelling documents on the same day. One the applicant, Reginald Mngometulu from Lubulini said she applied at Matata but opted to fetch the passport from Mbabane. However, she was disappointed after finding the queues and discovering that there are people who had waited much longer than her. Meanwhile, Ministry of Home Affairs Communications Officer Mlandvo Dlamini pleaded with the public to exercise patience. Dlamini said the ministry was doing everything it could to ensure that every Liswati was issued with a travelling document. He added that people should not panic as they will not have to cancel any plans as the ministry had come up with alternative ways to beat the backlog.

Staff working on weekends to address backlog

THE ministry's mouthpiece Mlandvo Dlamini has said employees were working extra hours to attend to the thousands of passport applications.

"Our workers after close of business remain behind to ensure that they speed

up the application process," he said.

He said over the weekend, some of the officers were processing the applications. Worth noting, Dlamini said the reason there was a backlog was after the announcement of the availability of travelling doc-

uments where people came out in their members.

He explained that the applications processed by at the headquarters were not only from Mbabane, but from the regional and sub-region offices. He emphasised on the ministry's dedication to offer flawless services to the nation.

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LIQUOR NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licensing Board will hold its sitting to hear the following applications at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Conference Room on the **07 JANUARY 2020** starting at **09.30am**.

REGION MANZINI

1. MGM HOLDINGS, P. O. Box 1764 MANZINI GRANT of a WINE AND MALT Liquor Licence situated at PLOT 22 FARM 125 SOOFIE COMPLEX known as GENERATIONS WINE & MALT.

Any person who wishes to lodge an objection to the above-mentioned application may do so with the Secretary of the Liquor Licensing Board in writing, sending a copy to the applicant by registered mail to reach him/her at least ten days before the sitting of the Board.

**SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD
P.O. BOX 451
MBABANE**

RN173360

3 teenagers arrested for robbery, firearm

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

THREE teenagers yesterday appeared before the Magistrate's Court where they faced charges of robbery and being in possession of a firearm and live rounds of ammunition.

The accused persons, who are all aged 19 years, are namely; Ntokozo Magagula, Mancoba Sibandze and Thandokuhle Shongwe. They were arrested in Siteki after they allegedly committed a robbery at KaMartin area, near Lonhlupeko.

The accused persons were said to have acted jointly and robbed Celiwe Simelane of her items valued at E2 600. They are said

to have brandished a pistol and threatened to shoot at the complainant if she resisted to the taking of the items.

On the second count, the accused persons are charged for contravening Section 11 of the Arms and Ammunition Act 24 of 1964.

They were said to have possessed a 9mm pistol while not being holders of a valid permit. The accused persons face a similar charge on the last count, in that they possessed four live rounds of ammunition without being holders of a permit.

During their appearance before Acting Magistrate Cebile Ngwenya, each of the accused persons elected to conduct their own defence after they were informed of their right to legal

representation. They were remanded into custody and ordered to return to court on December 27 pending the setting of a date of trial. Meanwhile, in the same court, Mthimbane Monies Maziya (40) of Maphungwane faced a charge of attempted murder. This was after he allegedly stabbed a woman with a knife several times in the body, inflicting her with serious injuries. The woman, Futhi Maziya was admitted to the Good Shepherd Hospital after the incident. An application for bail filed by the accused was opposed by the Crown. He was advised to file his application at the High Court. In the meantime, the matter was postponed and ordered to return to court tomorrow.



MANZINI NEWS

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MANZINI NEWS

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANZINI an ISO 9001:2015 Certified Municipality

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SHARE WITH THE NEEDY, BE SAFE, ENJOY THIS FESTIVE - MANZINI MAYOR

"AS the Mayor of the vibrant and fast developing City of Manzini I am deeply honoured by the level of trust that residents of Manzini have accorded us as Council to lead the municipality during the current year.

We are further humbled by the support that, as a Municipality, we have received from a cross section of our valued stakeholders ever since we assumed the challenging office of Council. As a municipality we have been encouraged by your attendance of development meetings, constructive criticism, suggestions and solution-based inputs during our various stakeholder engagements for which inspired us to work even harder towards fulfillment of our mandate. May I also extend profound appreciation to the country's leadership, His Majesty's Government, development partners and other Council key stakeholders for their continued support and guidance in working towards improving the lives of the people of Manzini. I would also like to recognise and appreciate the cooperation and sense of commitment that has been exhibited by the management and employees of Council ever since we came into office. Despite limited resources, they have worked hard to demonstrate the concept of doing more with fewer resources in a practical

sense and ensured that the citizens and visitors of the city continue enjoying quality services. For that I am grateful. As a Municipality we remain focused on the achievement of our vision; that of being a vibrant African city that innovatively provides quality service and economic opportunities to its stakeholders. Guided by the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), we are confident to report that we are on the right trajectory to fulfilling a number of our planned commitments. At this stage we can afford to look back and point at a number of projects that we have been able to achieve, even though most of them are still at a work-in-progress stage.

Great strides have been made towards Local Economic Development; with focus being on youth economic empowerment, informal business sector capacity building and partnerships with the formal business sector.

The Municipality has also made significant progress in the implementation of its organisational turnaround strategy whose objective is to ensure improved service delivery to our stakeholders, employee capacity building and sustainability of the organisation. We trust that stakeholders will soon experience and enjoy the fruits of this exercise.

In an endeavour to ensure delivery of quality services to our stakeholders, the organisation has continued with the implementation of its Safety, Health, Environment, Risk and Quality (SHERQ) programme; with more emphasis being on quality management. As a result we have been able to uphold our ISO 9001:2015 certification. During the period under review, we have also successfully intro-

duced a night response service and positive stakeholder reviews on the programme. Stakeholders are encouraged to continue making use of our 24/7 Call Centre to access this service and to give feedback on service delivery. In the face of an unfavourable economic situation, a number of cost reduction strategies have been introduced and continue to be implemented. These will enable us to achieve more with less. As part of a drive to introduce waste separation at source for recycling purposes, the Municipality is already at an advanced stage towards the establishment of a buy back centre for use by residents.

This will help minimise the waste volume that finds itself at the municipal controlled dumpsite whilst also ensuring that citizens earn some income out of waste generated in their households. We are also at an advanced stage towards the much anticipated review of the current Town Planning Scheme.

The idea is to ensure that we have a Town Planning Scheme that is relevant to our needs and user-friendly. Working together with our partners, we have also continued to make a significant impact in the area of HIV and AIDS management through our various interventions including prevention, voluntary testing and counselling, treatment and roll-out of child care services in our eight social centres. I am also happy to report that we have been able to invest in fleet replacement; which action will enhance service delivery. This includes the acquisition of a new vacuum tanker, skip truck, refuse truck and a road marking machine.

We have also procured and installed a new incinerator for the disposal of hazardous waste. We are also making frantic efforts towards rehabilitation of a number of roads in the city centre as well as construction of the Bosco bridge; which will connect the Springle road with the Southern Distributor road.

We trust that construction of the bridge will bring the much desired relief amongst our stakeholders in terms of congestion as it opens a new inlet/outlet into and out of the city centre.

Great effort is also being made towards the completion and operationalisation of the Autism Respite Centre; which will provide a relief to parents and guardians of persons with autism

in our city. With the few highlights narrated above, one can confidently state that we are on course to achieving our vision. I would like to appeal for more support and collaboration from our stakeholders. With these few words I would like to take this opportunity to wish all citizens of Manzini and all our stakeholders a happy, refreshing festive season and a safe crossover to the New Year. May God Almighty be with us all", Her Lordship the Mayoress of the City of Manzini, Councillor Jabu Shiba.

PLEASE RESPECT THE CITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

"The city has a number of rules and regulations, most of which I am certain you already know. Please do cooperate with Council over the festive season and refrain from contravening them. By so doing you will be contributing to attainment of a peaceful and well refreshing festive season. No matter how tempting it may be, please refrain from making noise; be it at home, liquor establishment or church. By all means, also avoid littering in our city; not only at the city centre but the townships as well.

With the hordes of visitors that we are expecting in our city over the holiday season we cannot afford to create memories of a filthy Municipality. You are also requested to ensure that you treat our visitors well. Where necessary, please do give them the assistance they may need. The business sector is also encouraged to cooperate with Council during this season. By all means let us ensure the health and safety of our customers in the aspect of the products we sell".

ENSURE SAFETY OF YOUR PROPERTY WHILE AWAY

"Most residents of our city will be travelling during this time leaving their properties unguarded. Studies have shown that the greatest asset any suburb can have is community partnerships and participation.

Where the community knows their neighbour there is a lot that the community can do together as even the trust levels are enhanced. We encourage residents to get to know their neighbours better and even exchange contacts.

This is so that the neighbour can keep an eye on your property while you are away and even be in a position to tell when there is something amiss going on at your property and contact the police for assistance. But where the neighbour has no idea that you are not around and that during that time who is at your place, it

becomes very difficult to assist when there are intruders. We do believe we can do much better in this area and begin to develop and maintain our African values and ties which were at some stage the envy of other nations. Ensure your property is safe while you are away this festive season. The Royal Eswatini Police Service is always willing to assist with advice".

LET'S GIVE TO THE LESS PRIVILEGED THIS FESTIVE

"Community development and support has continued to be Council's focus area. Those of our society who are disadvantaged have continued to be a centerpiece of our community development and social justice drives. From the limited resources, Council has been able to give something to the less privileged of our community. And with the festive season upon us, the need to do so is even higher as everyone of us will need to feel loved and cared for during this time of the year.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the corporate citizens who have already extended a hand in this regard.

However, we still invite more companies to consider giving something to this sector of our society given the extent of the need.

A very large component of the disadvantaged sector of our society consists of children. Children are our future and they deserve the best start in life than what we are witnessing. Council is committed to ensuring that its programmes support children at all levels as that is where our future leaders will come from".

PLEASE DO PAY YOUR RATES

"It is common knowledge that the survival of the Municipality depends on all property owners observing their legal obligation of paying property tax. If you have property in Manzini you are therefore reminded to pay your due rates.

The Municipality has a wide variety of rates payment options including Mobile Money, Debit Order payment, Electronic Funds Transfer, debit or credit card swiping at the Rates Hall and cash at the Rates Hall.

Please make use of them this festive. If you are unable to settle the entire bill all at once, the Finance Department is happy to assist you with arrangements for installment payment. Please make it a point that you do pay your rates. May also take this opportunity to thank all the property owners who make it a point that they do pay their rates against all odds.

This is extremely appreciated and may the Almighty God bless them and their families".

INDLOVUKAZI SHOWERS SULUTANE FOLK WITH GIFTS



FOR YOU: The Minister of Health Lizzy Nkosi who represented Her Majesty the Queen at Solutane, with Dr. Gcinile Buthelezi. (Pics: Nokuzola Thwala)

STORIES BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mbabane

SULUTANE residents received an early Christmas present when Her Majesty the Indlovukazi presented them with gifts.

The event took place at Solutane Spirit of Christ Ministries (SOC) recently. It was also coupled with the ministry of health's outreach programme in the Lubombo region for world health coverage.

Her Majesty was represented by the Minister of Health Lizzy Nkosi. She presented 90 disposable nappies and 60 blankets to residents of the area. The minister when making the presentation relayed the Queen Mother's message saying the items were for the benefit of orphaned and vulnerable children.

"Her Majesty the Indlovukazi has sent me to present these items so that children from destitute families could be taken care of. I hope that these will go a long way in assisting the beneficiaries, as a ministry we have noted the health challenges that you face here," said the minister.

Adding, Nkosi expressed her joy and appreciation at seeing children immunised and Rural Health Motivators (RHMs) hard at work assisting locals during the event.



Solutane residents need a clinic

SULUTANE residents have decried the lack of a health facility in the area.

They appreciated Her Majesty's kind gesture though, stating that it came at a time when it was needed the most. "We really needed this kind of help and greatly appreciate Her Majesty for the kind gesture, may God bless her with long life," said Phumlile Sankwane.

Sanele Tsabedze one of the elderly residents concurred with Sankwane saying they travelled long distances to seek medical help as they either use the Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) camp or the closest clinic at Emanyaveni which is about 10km away from Solutane.

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175/65R14	E630.00	9.00R20	E2200.00
205/40R17	E600.00		
750R16	E1600.00		
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MATSAPHA
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Physical Address: King Sobhuza avenue Opposite Brewery Matsapha Next to S&B Restaurant.

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BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

THE MTN Mobile Money short-term loan product is ready to be launched for the benefit of the entire Mobile Money base of about 670 000 people this week.

The product was piloted in June this year with selected users, and was started with a revolving fund of E3 million which has grown by about 726 per cent.

As of last week, the MoMo loan pool was sitting at E21.8 million. The pilot of this product started with a revolving fund of E3 million and has registered massive growth as the fund now stands at E21.8 million in barely six months.

MTN Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lumphondvo confirmed that Mobile Money loans were now ready for the market which meaning every active Mobile Money user should be able to access a short-term loan linked to their use of the platform.

"The most exciting aspect is that from the pilot of this product, over 50 per cent of our

ALL MTN MOBILE MONEY USERS TO QUALIFY FOR LOANS



Send Mobile Money Now

valued MTN MoMo customers voluntarily pay back the money advanced of the agreed timeline," he said.

Lumphondvo further said this was important because customers would be eligible to come back for another

short-term loan when they need it.

One of the primary objectives of MTN Mobile Money is to improve financial inclusion by making it possible for people from all walks of

life, to have access to a payment system. The issuance of MoMo loans is the latest addition of many MTN MoMo products.

Mobile Money loan allows customers to have access to short-term finance of not more than E200. Through this finance, customers can meet personal emergencies like fuel shortage, buying electricity units, for instance.

Currently, there are over 20 services which may be settled through the Mobile Money platform without making withdrawals.

MTN MoMo loans have shown a great potential to grow. About two

months after the start of the pilot, over E2.5 million had been issued in loans while 84 per cent of the loans issued were repaid. By the first week of September, about 100 000 loans with a total value of E8.2 million had been issued. Lumphondvo further encouraged MTN MoMo customers to exercise caution as the festive season has begun. "While MTN MoMo is safe, our valued customers are advised not to share their PIN with anyone. We also discourage our customers from sending money to strangers, with the hope of securing a job, or any other kind of favour," he concluded.

Girl (19) stabs man for calling her a prostitute

BY BONCIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

A 19-year-old girl stabbed a 33-year-old man for calling her a prostitute.

Setsabile Stewart of Mabovini in Mankayane appeared before Senior Magistrate Sindisiwe Zwane yesterday charged with assault with intent to cause bodily harm.

This followed that the teenager stabbed one Sicelo Nkambule twice in the chest and once on the arm. The incident happened at Dondelani Bar in Mankayane.

When narrating the events that led to his injury, Nkambule told the court that he was enjoying some alcoholic beverages with his two friends at the bar when he and Setsabile started arguing.

Degrading

When the argument got heated, Nkambule told the court that he ended up accusing Setsabile of selling her body to men. After uttering the degrading statement, Nkambule and his friends are said to have decided to leave the drinking place.

However, while Nkambule and his friends walked away from Setsabile and company, the teen girl is said to have grabbed a knife from her brother and stabbed Nkambule in the chest and arm and left him for dead. The bartender is said to have rescued Nkambule by ferrying him to Mankayane Government Hospital, where he was admitted overnight.

The 33-year-old man told the court that as a result of the injury on his arm, he is no longer able to carry heavy things, and he was still on medication.

Even so, Nkambule admitted that he provoked the teenage girl by labelling her a prostitute.

Meanwhile, when mitigating for a lenient sentence, Setsabile appealed to the court to consider that Nkambule instigated the offence by provoking her.

She also mentioned that she had a one-year-old child who depended on her. "I regret what I did. I'm also a high school dropout," she said.

She was sentenced to three years imprisonment with an option of E5 000 fine.

TIBIYO TAKA NGWANE

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A NATION IN PROGRESS

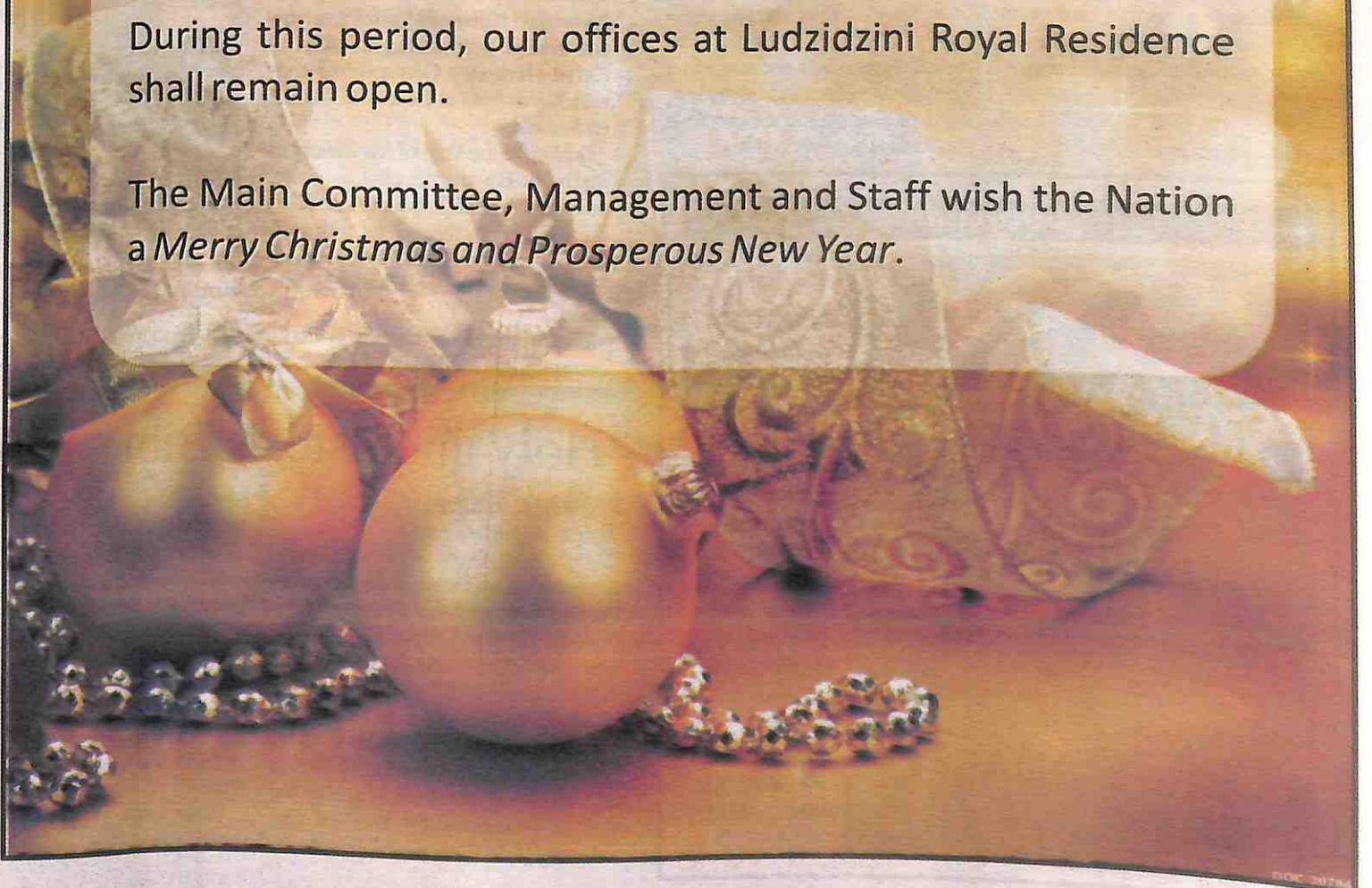


OFFICE CLOSURE

Tibiyo Taka Ngwane informs its business associates, stakeholders and the general public that its offices shall be closed for the festive period, from **Wednesday 18th December 2019**, and shall re-open on **Monday 6th January 2020**.

During this period, our offices at Ludzidzini Royal Residence shall remain open.

The Main Committee, Management and Staff wish the Nation a *Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year*.



Eswatini's Judiciary lacks independence - SALC report

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

THE Judiciary of the country has come under scrutiny once again for its alleged lack of independence.

The report from Southern African Litigation Centre (SALC) further states that this dates back to 2017, where the Human Rights Committee expressed its concern about reports of political interference in the Judiciary by the Executive arm of government.

The committee recommends that Eswatini takes measures such as implementing specific constitutional guarantees to protect judges and prosecutors from any form of political interference or pressure.

The first issue cited is the way

judges are appointed in the country. The report states that they act to please a certain body not the law.

It further states that the system of allocating of cases has also undermined the Judiciary dependence in a context where the practice is for the Chief Justice to take full control of the process, eroding the powers of the registrar known to be responsible for case allocation.

The lack of judicial independence as perceived by the public resulted in low levels of public confidence in the judicial system.

It is submitted that this situation erodes the functions of the judiciary as seen by the wider public as an effective or accessible instrument to obtain justice and reinforces the notion that the court is incapable of enforcing the Constitution and the law, added the report.

Eswatini subscribes to dual legal system - report

ESWATINI has been under scrutiny for the use of dual law.

The Southern African Litigation Centre Report on Human Right of Eswatini states that the country subscribes to a dual legal system, where customary norms exist alongside positive law.

Part of the report states that the customary norms have been used to explain disregard for human rights standards under the banner that certain Siswati customs do not correlate with enforceable human rights standards.

The report further states that this assertion has been used by government to avoid legislative action needed to align domestic laws with recommendations made by human rights monitoring mechanisms.

For instance Section 252(2) of the Constitution states that, 'Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the principles of Siswati customary law are hereby recognised, adopted and shall be applied and enforced as part of the law of

Eswatini.'

However, section 252(3) states that "The provisions of subsection (2) do not apply in respect of any custom that is to the extent that it is, inconsistent with a provision of the Constitution or a statute, or repugnant to natural justice or morality or general principles of humanity."

The report outlines that these two provisions represent the clash between the rights enshrined in the Constitution and customary laws.

The Constitution is reiterated as the supreme law of Eswatini in Section 252(3) and thus appears to overrule customary law and custom where that law is repugnant to the rights in the Constitution.

However, traditional law and custom can be perceived by the common law courts as operating outside of their jurisdiction and there is still some doubt about whether traditional matters can be successfully challenged in the common law courts, the report states.

GENTLEMAN



TRUE GENTLEMAN: The meaning of a true gentleman was displayed here when the young man assisted the lady to tie her shoes while they were doing some errands in the capital city yesterday.
(Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

LAW WILL TAKE ITS COURSE ON E150 000 FRAUDSTERS - METROPOLITAN CHURCH

STORIES BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

THE Board of Directors of Metropolitan Evangelical Church International have vowed that the law will take its course on those involved in the E150 000 embezzled funds.

This was disclosed by the board during the church's extra-ordinary general meeting held at Ekhwezi Mission on Saturday.

Chairman of the Board Mhlonipheni Khumalo said the issue of the money had been a thorny issue and needs to be dealt with.

The E150 000 was lost through unclear payments that were made to some individuals which the current Board of directors claims is not aware of.

Khumalo said in the history of the church, there had never been any pastor or any individual who had helped themselves with the church's funds. He stated that there was no way the Board can fold arms and watch the church's money being misused by individuals.

"Even the founder of the church, Mkhulu Kaiser Fakudze once mentioned that he has never taken the church's money illegally and it is surprising how someone is able to sign out cheques to individuals, whose services rendered are not known to the church," Khumalo said.

He did, however mention that the church had corrective measures for wrong-doers and that only applies if that person is willing to cooperate with



UNITY: Mhlonipheni Khumalo, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of MECI speaking during the church's Extra-Ordinary General Meeting held at Ekhwezi Mission.
(Pics: Bongumusa Simelane)

them so that he can be corrected without involving the law. He said if that person was not cooperative, then the law will take its course.

"The church has some structures put in place to help those who find themselves on the wrong side of the law and it all depends on how cooperative that person is," he said.

Adding, Khumalo urged the Metropolitan Church to guard against all sorts of evil that sought to divide the church. He said it was painful to see a big church like the Metropolitan going through such a feud. He mentioned that for the church to continue growing from strength to strength there needed to be more prayers to seek

God's guidance in everything.

"It is true that the church is going through such a situation, but we hope this will be soon over and as a church, we pray that God gives us the strength and guidance we need," he added.

On another note, Khumalo clearly stated that as the substantive Board of directors they were not after firing pastors as it was understood by some members of the church, but they were there to oversee the operations of the church as per the church's manifesto.

He said there was no way they could fire pastors willy-nilly as it had been suggested. Khumalo said as a board they were there to make sure there was peace, stability and unity in the church.

Rev Kaiser's memories relived as video played

METROPOLITAN Evangelical Church International's late leader Reverend Kaiser Fakudze's memories were re-lived during the church's Extra-Ordinary General Meeting, which was held at Ekhwezi Mission on Saturday.

During the meeting, which was organised by the Board of directors, the church members were taken back to Fakudze's life and this was through the video that was played, where Fakudze was appointing Solomon Nhlengetfwa as his successor.

The Metropolitan church, which is currently in a feud over its leadership



IN WORSHIP: A section of the congregation sings before the end of the meeting.

had its extra-ordinary meeting to discuss the way forward and to try to sort

out some of the issues that were engulfing the church.

'Holy thief' steals Bible, gets bail fixed at E7 000

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A man in serious need of divine intervention was arrested for stealing a Siswati version of the holy Bible, amongst other items from a car at LaMgabhi over the past weekend.

Zakhele Mamba (30) of Buka area has since been granted bail fixed at E7 000, after breaking into the car and stole over E15 000 worth of valuables belonging to Sipho Magagula. The accused person is said to have committed the offence

on October 27, 2019 at LaMgabhi, where he is said to have broken into Magagula's Honda Civic sedan and stole the items and according to the charge sheet, he was charged for contravening the Theft of Motor Vehicle Act. Amongst Magagula's valuables, he is said to have also stolen a Willard car battery valued at E1 150, a spare wheel valued at E450, Duplo ink and master roll valued at E7 500 plus two books, including the Siswati Bible.

When making his appearance before court, Mamba was remanded back into

custody until December 24, 2019 pending his trial date set for March 6, 2020.

According to the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, (CPE) an accused person found to have stolen items, has his bail set at half the value of the total amount of items stolen.

Following his remand, Mamba filed an application for bail before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati and his application was successful as he was granted bail fixed at E7 000. However, by the time this report was compiled yesterday afternoon, he had not paid the bail amount.

Khumalo defends video authenticity

MHLONIPHENI Khumalo, Board Chairperson of the Metropolitan Evangelical Church International, has defended the authenticity of the video footage where the church's founder Reverend Kaiser Fakudze was appointing Solomon Nhlengetfwa as his successor.

Khumalo said there was no way the video could have been tampered with as per claims of some members of the church, who say the video was produced at Limkokwing University.

He said if it was possible for him to come up with a fake video of the late founder, then what was stopping the others from making their

own video to counter what was contained in his video. "According to my knowledge, there is no way I could have faked the whole video and it surprises me that even the people who were there when Fakudze was appointing Nhlengetfwa say it is fake," Khumalo explained.

there was no way the video could have been tampered with as per claims of some members of the church



PRAYER TIME: Solomon Nhlengetfwa being prayed for by senior pastors of the church during the meeting.

Church still has faith in Khumalo-led Board

MOST of the church members of the MECI are still banking their hopes on the Khumalo-led Board.

The church members still have faith that the church under the leadership of Mhlonipheni Khumalo can turn the corner and overcome all the factional challenges it was facing. One of the church members, who was interviewed, made it clear that the dispute has affected them very much and there was a point where they thought of not attending the church at all but they decided against that.

The member who wanted to remain anonymous said they believed the church was heading for a new start and everything would be back to

normal.

Eunice Gumede from Mahangeni branch said they are happy with the leadership and they have faith in them in restoring the church's integrity.

"We have been observing this dispute and what I can say is that it is God who always wins at the end," she said.

Lincoln Myeni from Lubulini branch said it was clear to everyone that Solomon Nhlengetfwa was the rightful leader of the church and called upon the leadership to act with faith in sorting this issue.

He said the church was fully behind the leadership and hoped that all decisions the Board would take will be inspired by the Holy Spirit.



KNOW YOUR STATUS: Posters with messages encouraging people to test and know their status. This was where MSF had provided testing services where about 80 people responded. This was during World AIDS Day at Magubheleni hosted by MSF in collaboration with World Vision Eswatini. (Pic: Nokuzola Thwala)

Over 80 take HIV test at Magubheleni

STORIES BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Magubheleni

OVER 80 people tested for HIV at Magubheleni sports ground during a sensitisation gathering on health issues.

The 80 people accessed routine HIV testing and HIV self-testing kits during the community health-day event, which was planned in collaboration with the community leadership and supported by World Vision Eswatini.

This was revealed by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) Eswatini Head of

Mission Dr. Bernhard Kerschberger. He said the idea behind the event was to commemorate World AIDS Day through sensitising the community, emphasising on this year's theme titled 'communities making the difference'.

Dr. Kerschberger said the activities included HIV testing, providing HIV self-testing kits, health education on HIV prevention through consistent and correct condom use, as well as regular sexually transmitted infections (STI) screening. He said many community members were engaged in discussions on safe health choices and the role communities could play in supporting peo-

ple living with HIV and prevention. The community members were encouraged not to discriminate or stigmatise people living with HIV.

"Community approach is one of our main focus, we will definitely have more events like this, seeing the year is almost coming to the end, we will have such events next year. Normally, we choose remote places to educate people on healthcare," he said.

Present during the event were staff members from both institutions, the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS), the community leadership and rural health motivators (*bagcugcuteli*).

Stakeholders appreciated

MAGUBHELENI Bucopho Thokozani Malinga appreciated all the stakeholders who were involved in the success of this event.

He also appreciated the soccer tournament that was organised for the day, stating that it was easier to mobilise the youth and educate them through these initiatives.

"The youth is the future of this country, educating them and having awareness programmes that will involve them is great. They will grow up to make decisions from an informed perspective. We really appreciate MSF and World Vision," he said.

The soccer tournament which involved 11 teams.

The winners being Cwacwa Stars who home a trophy and soccer balls, while the runners up got medals.

IN NUMBERS



FIRST COME FIRST SERVE: Hundreds of government employees cram the entrance to the Bunye Betfu Buhle Betfu Cooperative offices to forward their children's school loan requests yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Bangladeshi national makes court appearance

BY STARSKY MKHONTA
Nhlanguano

ONE of the two Bangladeshi nationals arrested in connection with the skirmish which unfolded on Sunday at the Lidlelantfongeni Flats in Nhlanguano, where a life was lost made his first court appearance yesterday before Magistrate Chazile Thwala.

The suspect, Lifon Bobary (35), is facing attempted murder charges for his alleged involvement in the bloody war involving Asians, where oth-

ers were injured and one brutally stabbed to death. The murdered Asian has been identified as Yusuf Miah, who owned clothing shops in Nhlanguano. Bobary was remanded into custody and his second remand hearing is on December 31, 2019. Before remanded, he is said to have first recorded a confession statement. "The accused is charged with the offence of attempted murder in that (or about) the 15th December 2019 did unlawfully assault one Islam Thondoul with a knife on his back several times with the intent to kill the said Islam Thondoul and thus commit the offence of attempted murder," reads the charge sheet. It is believed that once the other suspect, iden-

tified as Milon Bobary recovers; he is to be hauled before court. He is presently admitted to the Hlatikulu Government Hospital under the watchful eyes of police officers.

No clear explanation has been given as to what caused the fight at the flats, where most of the Bangladeshis operating businesses around Nhlanguano and elsewhere in the region are tenants, but claims are that this was sparked by a misunderstanding on the elections of a committee to head the Bangladesh Community living in the kingdom. There are also disturbing reports that those behind the formation of the Bangladeshi community are some of well-known Asian nation-



SUSPECT: Lifon Bobary upon arrival in court.

als operating businesses somewhere around the two cities, Mbabane and Manzini. They are accused of sponsoring this Mafia style war between two camps of Asian nationals living in the country.

Couple with disabilities defies odds, ties the knot

BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO
Mbabane

IT was love at first sight for a disabled couple, whose marriage wishes were frustrated by family members, who have finally exchanged their vows and are now husband and wife.

The couple defied all odds and officially wedded on Sunday at the Swedish Free Church in Ezulwini.

The newlyweds Nonjabuliso Motsa and Muntu Nkambule, who both have mild physical disabilities, met in 2013 whilst both enrolled at the Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Centre.

Motsa was pursuing a course in sewing whilst the groom, Nkambule was enrolled under the leather and sewing department.

Their relationship was not approved by both families and relatives at the time. It was only in 2017 that Nkambule decided he wanted to marry his lover.

According to Motsa's mother Busisiwe, the journey of uniting the two hasn't been a bed of roses.

"It was in 2017 when the groom came to ask for Motsa's hand in marriage. I was shocked and as a family, considering their disabilities, were worried and at that time I didn't know if people with disabilities could marry," she said.

According to the bride's mother, they have been to a lot of offices leading to the wedding preparations. She also admitted that they had been in and out of police stations after the couple pressed charges against them (families) several times for frustrating their relationship.



NEWLYWEDS: Ncamiso Nkambule and Nonjabuliso Nkambule react while tying the knot at the Ezulwini Swedish Free Church on Sunday. (Pics: Khetsiwe Khumalo)



"We were more concerned about their well-being, so we tried by all means to stop this wedding, but in the end failed and accepted it," said the bride's mother.

Busisiwe said because the couple was adamant in getting married, they finally gave in this year, and started preparing for the wedding after the bride came back from the Special Olympics in Dubai, where she got position three in a 50m race.

The newlyweds were finally united in a colourful event. The bride's family thanked the police, couple's doctors, bride's coaches and teachers from Ekwetsembeni, social workers, lawyers, friends and family members who attended the event.

As per Eswatini tradition, the new wife was drnt to her in-laws at Nkhaba. "I am so happy the wedding was a success and it was beautiful," said the blushing bride.



COUPLE: The groom Muntu Nkambule, bride Nonjabuliso Nkambule and her mom Busisiwe Sibanyoni pose after the wedding.



SUPPORTED: The bride and groom pose for pictures with their bridal party after the wedding ceremony.

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UNESWA, LILAMA'S MoU TO BENEFIT HEALTH SECTOR

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI
Manzini

THE Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between UNESWA and Lilima Consortium will help strengthen the medical sector, where a medical school will be established at the University of Eswatini.

The aim of medical school is for the university to produce its own medical doctors, rather than being admitted into the institution.

Speaking during the signing ceremony was Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Justice Thwala, who stated that the partnership would undoubtedly contribute to the recently launched country's Strategic Road map, a government's initiative aimed at turning around the country's economy.

"The Chancellor His Majesty, commanded that the university should undergo transformation through commercialisation and networks like these that will help the institution to be financially self-reliant and thus reduce its complete reliance on government for its upkeep," he said.

He stated that the signing was about constructing the blocks towards that envisioned transformation. He further added that the signing of the MoU was one landmark partnership, in that it came at a time, where for the past few years,



DONE DEAL: Lilima Consortium's Dr Anna Mokgokong and Vice Chancellor of UNESWA Profssor Justice Thwala signing the MoU.

the institution had witnessed several students' unrest due to shortage of accommodation and also a loud call for a national medical university, which has been made several times by stakeholders.

Thwala stated that the objective of the MoU was to collaborate and work together to develop strategic areas of cooperation that will allow UNESWA to produce pre-medicine students to be accepted at the medical school to be established. He added that the aim in the collaboration was to work together to secure the building of students' accommodation for the current and future students.

"The Consortium aims at providing a

lasting solution to UNESWA on student accommodation that will include but not limited to securing accommodation, which will include amongst others laundry services to name a few," he added.

Thwala stated that as a university, they strongly believed that they would be able to enrol students under the proposed pre-medicine programme, adding that they were grateful to the partnership between Lilima Consortium and the university.

Speaking during the same function on behalf of Lilima was visionary Dr Anna Mokgokong, who stated that education

Pigg's Peak stokvels ration food parcels at police station

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

STOKVELS around Pigg's Peak have resolved to ration their festive food parcels at the local police station in a bid to avoid criminals.

This comes after the Pigg's Peak police recorded a crime-free food sharing scheme weekend beginning last Friday. Police said the anti-crime unit was responsible for educating members of the public to use the police station for safety reasons.

The Pigg's Peak police under the anti-crime unit have spent hours engaging residents and various schemes in Pigg's Peak on how to remain safe from crime this festive season. The police first approached major schemes like the Pigg's Peak market scheme that involves vendors, as well as the Pigg's Peak Bus rank scheme that involves various

was something that was close to her heart. She mentioned that over the years she had noticed that Eswatini did not have its own medical university like those in the Republic of South Africa.

Mokgokong assured that immediately after the festive season, they would regroup and draw a workplan that would assist them in ensur-

public transport operators. They told the scheme members to make use of the police station to divide their recently purchased food parcels in a safe and monitored environment.

After rationing, the scheme members can safely transport the goods to their various homes.

The police mentioned that criminals were always on the lookout for victims, hence it made sense for the schemes to approach the station, adding that all police stations in the kingdom of Eswatini belonged to members of the public hence residents in every town should make use of the various stations to their benefit. Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the arrangement.

She advised that scheme members should approach police stations to divide and then transport their food parcels to various homesteads in safety.

ing that the medical practice was up and running.

"Eswatini needs this project, because not having our very own doctors is pulling us backwards as a country," she said.

She noted that health-care workers were being poached the world over, hence the need for the people of Eswatini to trade with the



PRESS STATEMENT

GOVERNMENT TRACTOR HIRE PROGRAME SERVICE DISRUPTION

The National Maize Corporation (NMC) regrettably announces the disruption of services under the Government Tractor Hire program.

NMC is tirelessly working towards addressing this challenge in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Corporation is aware of the negative ripple effects that this disruption may cause, however, the challenge is beyond NMC's control.

We apologise to farmers, the farming community, the general public and stakeholders for the inconvenience that may arise as a result.

We remain committed to giving the best, most efficient services possible.

BY NMC MANAGEMENT

DOC:2106



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INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES

1. Tenders are hereby invited from suitably qualified service providers for the provision of the listed services.
2. Tender documents may be purchased from **Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) Offices, Mbabane** (Accounts Department) as from 13th December 2019 for a non-refundable fee of E500.00 per set. The method of payment shall be cash.
3. Completed Tender Documents shall be delivered in a sealed envelope to:
The Secretary of the Tender Board
Public Service Pensions Fund
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Mbabane
Not later than **12 noon Eswatini time on the 20th January 2020** at which time the tenders will be opened in public.
4. The following tenders are invited:
 - i. **PROPOSAL FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF A BOARDROOM AUDIO SYSTEM;**
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 - iii. **TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF ACTUARIAL SERVICES.**

For enquiries please contact The Secretary of the Tender Committee on 24119000.

NORTHERN HHOHHO NEWS

...With

Sizwe Dlamini

Pigg's Peak Office

Kai Kai Building opposite Shoprite,
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New Buhleni cop shop to be Northern Hhohho headquarters

POLICE in the Northern Hhohho region believe that the new Buhleni Police Station, once opened will become the new chief administrative police station for the entire region.

Currently, the old and dilapidated Pigg's Peak Police Station is referred to by police as the chief administrative police station for the region, overseeing police posts such as Ngonini, Horo and Buhleni.

Larger

Speaking to this publication yesterday, police who preferred to remain anonymous said the new Buhleni police station once complete would be much larger than the Pigg's Peak police station.

"Currently, we can all see that the Buhleni police station will be far larger in size than Pigg's Peak police sta-



BIGGER: The new Buhleni police station is much larger than the Pigg's Peak police station. (Pic: Sizwe Dlamini)

tion. "We believe that the Buhleni police station will resume the status of the Northern Hhohho headquarters because it will have the manpower and resources which our various superiors have spoken about in

the various media in the past. Our superiors have said the new police station will feature many First World technologies, coupled with First World features, taking police work to First World status. Furthermore, the new station will contain holding cells to confine suspects from Buhleni and surroundings not Pigg's Peak like in the past," said the source.

Slowed down

The police added, however that the opening date for the new Buhleni police station had not been set yet.

"The new police station is in its final stages of construction, but due to unknown reasons, construction of the structure seems to have slowed down. "Initially, we all thought that the new station would become operational in late December 2019. However, that is no longer the case, hence we are looking at an early 2020 opening," added the source. When reached for comment, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said the new Buhleni police station would be operational as from a date that is yet to be announced.

SA man arrested for dagga en route to inyanga

A South African national who had gone to consult a traditional healer at Mhlangatane was arrested for dagga possession.

France Dephani and his co-accused Kwanele Simelane were both arrested near Nyakatfo while travelling in a red Honda Civic yesterday.

Inside the aforementioned vehicle, police found 1.6 kilogrammes of dagga hidden under the passenger seat, resulting in the arrest.

Appearing at the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court yesterday, both Dephani and Simelane pleaded guilty to the charge of dagga possession. First to speak was Simelane, who said he had purchased the dagga to resell as he was unemployed.

"I am an unemployed father of four children. I make a living by making bricks and selling them around Mhlangatane. I had purchased the dagga to sell around my area during the festive season," he said.

Dephani, on the other hand said he was visiting Eswatini. "I came to Eswatini to see a traditional healer near Mhlangatane. I have a few personal and spiritual problems that need special attention. "I am not the owner of the dagga. I was the driver but I did not know that the car had dagga hidden under the passenger seat. I am a father of five children and I work in Mozambique," he said.

After hearing both submissions, Pigg's Peak Magistrate Sakhele Hlophe sentenced both individuals to one year each in a correctional facility or alternatively, to pay a fine of E2000.

Man found closing car windows, arrested for DD

AN intoxicated Senzo Dlamini was fined E1 000 after he was arrested while closing car windows seated in the driver's seat of a parked vehicle.

Dlamini was arrested at Buhleni on Sunday evening.

At the time of the arrest, police found Dlamini seated inside a parked Toyota sedan, closing the driver's side windows.

The police then proceeded to arrest Dlamini, who was found to have a blood content of 1.06ml of alcohol for every 1000 ml of blood a breathalyser reading, which is way above the legal limit.

After the arrest Dlamini appeared in the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court, where he tried to mitigate

after his arrest. "I was arrested for helping the driver of the car. What happened was the driver of the Toyota, who is my friend had parked the car on the road side for an unknown reason. I was very intoxicated while in the passenger seat and I ended up sleeping. I awoke to find the driver gone, but his window was open so I climbed out of the passenger seat and into the driver's seat where I started to close the open window. During this time, the Buhleni police came and arrested me as the driver of the car but that is not true," he said. Dlamini added that at the time of his arrest, he explained his situation to the police who just ignored him." I tried to speak to the police but they



assumed that I was the driver of the sedan, hence I am standing here before this courtroom. Currently, I am unemployed and I make a living by doing piece jobs," he added. Pigg's Peak Magistrate Sakhele

Hlophe sentenced Dlamini to five months in a correctional facility if he failed to pay the E500 fine for his transgressions.

Asian man assaulted for impregnating brother's wife leaves Pigg's Peak

THE Pakistani businessman who was heavily assaulted by his relatives for impregnating his elder brother's wife has relocated from Pigg's Peak.

The assault victim Muri Patel was assaulted by his elder brother Ali Patel and two others at Glen Township on November 3rd.

According to well-placed sources, both siblings lived and worked together in Johannesburg, South Africa since 2012.

However, in early 2018 when elder brother Ali visited Pakistan for two months, he returned to find

that his Asian wife had been impregnated by his younger brother and business partner Muri.

The pregnancy led to the birth of a son, however after the birth Muri then fled South Africa and settled in Pigg's Peak, where he worked with his fellow countrymen in a grocery shop.

During this time, the angry Ali located his brother in Pigg's Peak and assaulted him for not paying child support.

After the assault, Ali was arrested by Pigg's Peak police and fined E2000 by Senior Pigg's Peak

Magistrate Siphosini Dlamini on November 4.

Speaking to this publication yesterday, police said the whole scandal led to Muri relocating back to South Africa.

"Following events of those months, we are very sad to report that Muri left Pigg's Peak Town two weeks ago. We had asked his flat mates and business partners about his location, as we wanted to follow up on his case but they said he had since relocated to another place that they don't know. All we can say is we hope he is safe as he and

his brother have a troubled past," they said.

The police added that the siblings had deep hate for each other following the incident.

"The elder brother, Ali who committed that assault subjected all his three children to DNA tests because he believed his younger brother may have fathered another child with his wife. Also, the assaulted brother Muri reported the assault to his relatives in Pakistan. All we as police can say now is this relationship between these two brothers seems destroyed," they added.

CUSTOMER LANDS IN HOSPITAL AFTER BUYING SANDWICH

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

IN what was supposed to be a delicious breakfast bought in one of the biggest supermarkets in the country, landed a man in hospital.

The unfortunate incident happened last week Monday when the man Gcinumuzi Dlamini bought a sandwich in one of the busiest supermarkets in Mbabane.

According to Dlamini, he noticed that the egg had some black residue after a few bites. Speaking in an interview with Eswatini Observer, Dlamini said he took back the sandwich to the outlet and filed a complaint.

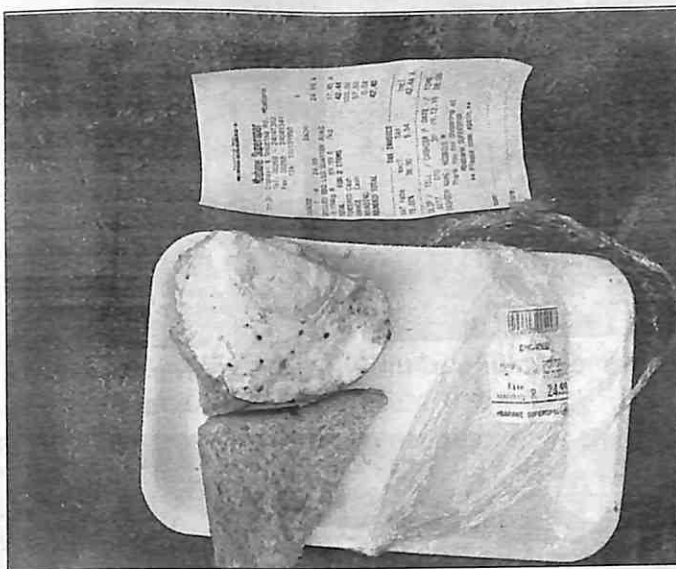
Dlamini claimed he was treated badly by the supermarket manager when he laid the complaint.

"Instead of prioritising health they were quick to say they will refund me," he said.

Dlamini said he was disappointed about the way they handled the matter.

The customer said he was worried not only for himself but the nation at large. He said this was

● Mbabane Municipality condemns shops selling rotten food



because the residue could have contained harmful substances.

Fearing for his life because he had already eaten part of it, and the treatment he received from the store, he reported the matter to Mbabane Municipality soon after leaving the store.

He further went to the hospital where he alleged they discovered a bug in his system which was supposedly caused by the residue.

At the time of the report he was awaiting his refund from the food outlet for the E700 hospital bill he had claimed after being attended

to by doctors.

Mbabane Municipal Council Assistant Information Public Relations Officer Siphesihle Nkwanyana confirmed that the matter was reported at the municipality.

She said when they took the sandwich for laboratory tests, it was discovered that it was indeed rotten.

The lab tests discovered that the food was prepared in a dirty frying pan, or in oil that had been used several times and over burnt.

Nkwanyana said this does not make the practice right meaning using oils over and over may cause food poisoning even when it had not yet expired.

"It is unhygienic and unhealthy for public consumption," she said.

She added that after receiving the news health inspectors sprang into action and went to the shop the same day the issue was reported.

She said they condemned the health practice by the store. They admitted that it was their fault.

Nkwanyana added that inspections of food outlets are conducted on monthly basis depending on the category of the food premises.

She further stated non-comply-

City Council cautions consumers

MEMBERS of the public are cautioned to be on the lookout for any defects on food items and carefully consider the following details before buying food, according to Nkwanyana.

She urged the public not to buy food that has lapsed its expiry date, and with tampered seals. "Do not buy unlabelled foods, rusted or leaking food cans as well as those that are dented, bulged or blown food cans," she said.

Nkwanyana said people must ensure that the person serving the food is clean, in full light coloured overalls (protective clothing) with head covered to prevent hair from dropping into food.

She stated that if people are not sure about the safety of a food product then they should not buy it.

The public is further encouraged to look for grading cards displayed before making a purchase.

She said food outlets Graded A and B were safe to buy from, whereas C means be cautious and D poses a risk to the public.

ing food premises are served with notices to rectify the short comings. In cases where expired or unsafe food is found in shops, the food is seized and disposed at the landfill. Nkwanyana has reminded residents and the general public to stay away from unsafe food substances this festive season.

Girl goes missing on way home from church, found

BY DELISA THWALA
Mbabane

A girl who went missing while on her way home from church has been found by her family at Madonsa.

Ntombi Zulu could not be located for four days prompting her family to appeal to social media users in finding her.

Confirming the news of the girl being found

was her uncle who had God to thank after finding her in one of the houses around Madonsa.

"Thank God we found her unharmed and safe, she must have gone missing while on her way home from church" said her

uncle. They were later informed by community members that they might have seen her walking around and investigations carried out resulted in her being found in one of the houses within the area. According to a community member Siphwe Dlamini, they saw her passing by and since they knew she was mentally challenged, they subsequently alerted her family.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said all missing persons should be reported to the police.

"Thank God we found her unharmed and safe, she must have gone missing while on her way home from church"

Disabled man injured by cops after assaulting rival

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Magistrate's Court

A man with a disability on his left arm is alleged to have been injured by police officers on Friday.

Relating his traumatic experience to the court, Zwelithini Thomo explained that he had a long-standing feud with Bheki Maseko, who worked as a shopkeeper at Nkhamba.

"My feud with Maseko has been long-standing since last year and he even told me I should never set foot anywhere near his shop. That day, I decided to confront him and our argument got heated," Thomo said.

He informed the court that Maseko's colleague called the police, who asked them to sort out their differences but opted to ask for a protection order against Maseko.

Forced

Thomo stated that the police officers then turned against him after he had called his brothers for help, and forced him into a police van. "I did not understand why they were now taking me into custody, as we had agreed that Maseko and I needed to sort out our differences. I have a disability on my left arm yet the police forcefully held me by the arm forcing me into the van and I got injured in the process and as I speak, I have not received medical

attention since my arrest on Friday," he added.

Thomo was arrested and charged with assault common, in that he was said to have threatened to hack Maseko with a bush knife. He was also said to have resisted arrest by police officers.

Rights

Upon hearing this, Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati reminded police officers that Thomo still had rights even though he was a suspect.

"Officers, why has Thomo still not received medical attention since his arrest? Yes, he is a suspect but he has rights. What if something were to happen to him behind bars, or if his injuries were fatal? The

court cannot stand by and watch a man's rights being abused in such a manner," the judicial officer warned.

The police officer who brought Thomo to court responded by stating that the arresting officer was not present in court, as he was attending Incwala Ceremony.

After finding him guilty as per his own plea, the court warned Thomo to avoid confrontation with Maseko. The court sentenced Thomo to serve five months in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E500 on both counts.

His sentence was wholly suspended for a period of one year after Thomo explained that he was unemployed and survives through his sister's disability grant.

Suspect rapist beaten up by mob during citizen arrest

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

RESIDENTS of Siteki on Sunday apprehended a man suspected to be responsible for a string of rape cases.

For the past weeks, residents have been flocking to the police station to report rape incidents which were said to have happened in different parts of the town.

Information gathered was that the complainants would give a similar description of the suspect whose mondu operandi was to threaten

his victims with a knife, ordering them to comply with his demands. The rape incidents have been the talk of the town over the past week.

One of the victims who related her experience to this reporter said she was mugged by the suspect while on her way home from work but was lucky to slip lose from the grip of the man after screaming for help just after 17:00 hours.

The suspect is said to have tried his luck on another victim on Sunday, as he attacked a woman who was on her way from church. The man is said to have attempted to drag the woman into a nearby bush with the

intention to rape her.

According to sources who witnessed the subsequent assault of the man, the victim's spouse responded promptly to her screams. The suspect was seen dashing away from the scene, prompting more residents to pursue him.

The mob of residents who were armed with sticks and other weapons eventually caught up with the suspect rapist near the Central Transport Administration (CTA) offices. The residents beat the suspect and made him confess to his shenanigans. He is said to have confessed to have attempted to rob the woman, and

not to raping her.

When reached for comment, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Phindile Vilakati confirmed the arrest of a suspect rapist.

"It's true, a 39-year-old man was arrested in connection with a series of rape cases which have been taking place around Siteki," she said. Vilakati said so far, the man has been linked to five cases of rape.

She lauded community members for assisting the police in the arrest of the man who has been in the list of most wanted criminals. The suspect is expected to make his remand appearance before the Magistrate's Court.

INCWALA MAIN DAY 2019



BAYETHE: His Majesty King Mswati III inspects the regiments on arrival for the dancing of the Incwala Ceremony on the main day on Sunday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



ARRIVES: His Majesty inspecting the guard of honour upon arrival for the ceremony.



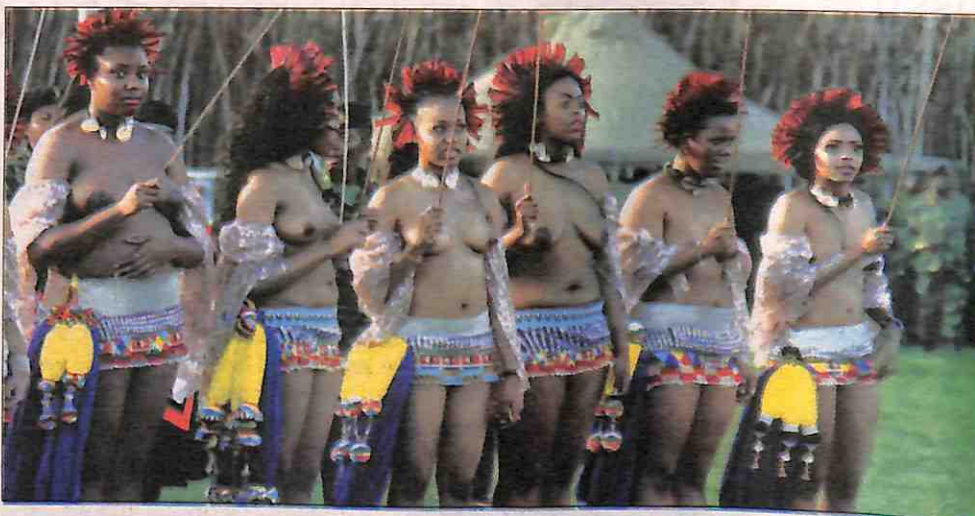
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LACWEBETELAKO: Emazinyane Sicalo and Mavela with Danile Toro, African Alliance Partner S'thofeni 'Nhlonhlayenkanyeti' Ginindza and other regiments inside the Inkanyeti Sihonco.



SINGING: Emazinyane in song and dance at the Incwala ceremony.

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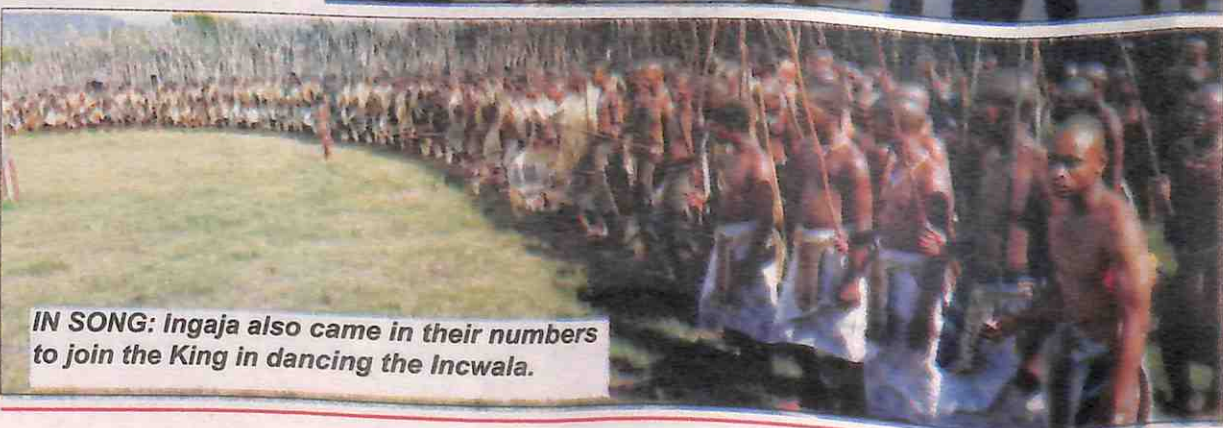
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DOC:20963

KODAK MOMENT: Diplomats pictured with Cabinet Ministers David Ngcamphalala, Harries 'Madze' Bulunga and Sonnyboy Zwane who is a member of the Land Management Board.



IN SONG: Ingaja also came in their numbers to join the King in dancing the Incwala.

What's in Your Mind

info@observer.org.sz

Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

TO ALL THE GIRLS I'VE LOVED BEFORE!



IT'S not like she had the body, face and lips of Angelina Jolie! Neither did she have the curves of Kim Kardashian, Boity or the stubborn African hair-do of Zozibini Tunzi!

But she was beautiful all the same. The most beautiful girl on earth -10 times prettier than Julia Roberts! She was my first love, if you may!

She was of medium height, a yellow bone, a descendant of the German. What was most striking about her was her long hair horse-tail-blackish reaching the waist! Natural Peruvian hair!

Beauty aside, she had a brain sharp as a razor and her eyes could zoom into the future! Hence, today I dedicate this 'song' to her and to all the 'girls' I've loved before!

EDITH GROENING

That's my girl, Edith Groening, my grandmother from the side of my mother! She 'adopted' me as her son and growing up in a way I thought she was my mom and I thought my mom was my aunty!

Ms Edith's biggest gift to me was a deep seated understanding of God and prayer! The other 'girls' who propelled the engine in me were; Mary Kunene, Clementine Mazibuko and Gogo Masondo!

RIP! All these girls have departed from the face of the earth but left me with the big name called JESUS CHRIST! The name captured my imagination, I wished I could edit the script so that it omitted the tragedy of Golgotha! With the name JESUS, I felt I was the greatest of the world!

ABJECT POVERTY

I was born and raised in abject poverty, in the stick and mud location of Fairview! A better part of my primary school I walked barefooted and wore tattered uniform.

Summers were worse as the rain would wash away what we called home! All my high school life I was amongst those chased away for not paying school fees!

Oh! I know what poverty does to the soul of man, resentment, rebellion, self-doubt, anger, insecurity, self-pity, hate, rage, blame game, only the poor men feel it!

STRONG LOVE

But in the midst of grinding poverty, I was

... It's unbelievable what God can do to a son of a peasant! He is God! The God of the poor, the oppressed and depressed! Now I believe that whom God blesses no one can curse! It's not like the weapons won't be formed against you, they will, BUT THEY WILL NOT PROSPER!

the happiest kid, because I was surrounded by love as deep as the ocean!

Poverty propelled me to be street-smart, thus for five consecutive years I was Father Christmas at a top furniture shop in Manzini!

I was also a dancer, poet, actor, etc, making little bucks to survive! In fact, I don't remember running short of cash all my youth!

MARY KUNENE

My mother, Mary Kunene, was very emphatic on education; that it gives you the edge! She went on to teach at college and also did office administration!

She was a hustler and organic intellectual who could find her way to the only tiny shop in a crowded area! She hustled for her children, four of us, with all three of my siblings dead, to have the best in life!

AUNTY CLEMENTINE

To aunty Clementine, I was par excellence and could not be faulted! Even at a tender age she had an intuition that I would occupy an important position in society!

And when I became Cabinet minister she said, 'I knew it. In the family she was the glue that connected everyone, a shoulder to cry on, someone to run to when going through a storm!'

PHILANTHROPY

The big girl, Edith, a staunch Catholic had charity in her DNA, to the level where we had so many aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, etc, who lived with us, ate with us, without any contribution! The old Africa!

As fate would have it, charity rubbed off to her children, Mary, my mother and Clementine, my aunty! But it took a whole chunk of me because when God blessed me with bucks, I indiscriminately flushed them in the deep hole of disorganised social enterprise!

But I had graduated from the best school, Philanthropy University College! Good God! My granny would give a leg to a stranger and eat the crumbs in the name of charity!

TOUGH TALK

As an abundantly gifted student in History and English, I was a kid who asked tough questions from my grandmother! I had so many, like why Mandela was in Robben Island!

She warned me not to talk about that 'terrorist', NEVER! Because that man, 'was killing Whites.' You have to understand my grandmother within the context of the time!

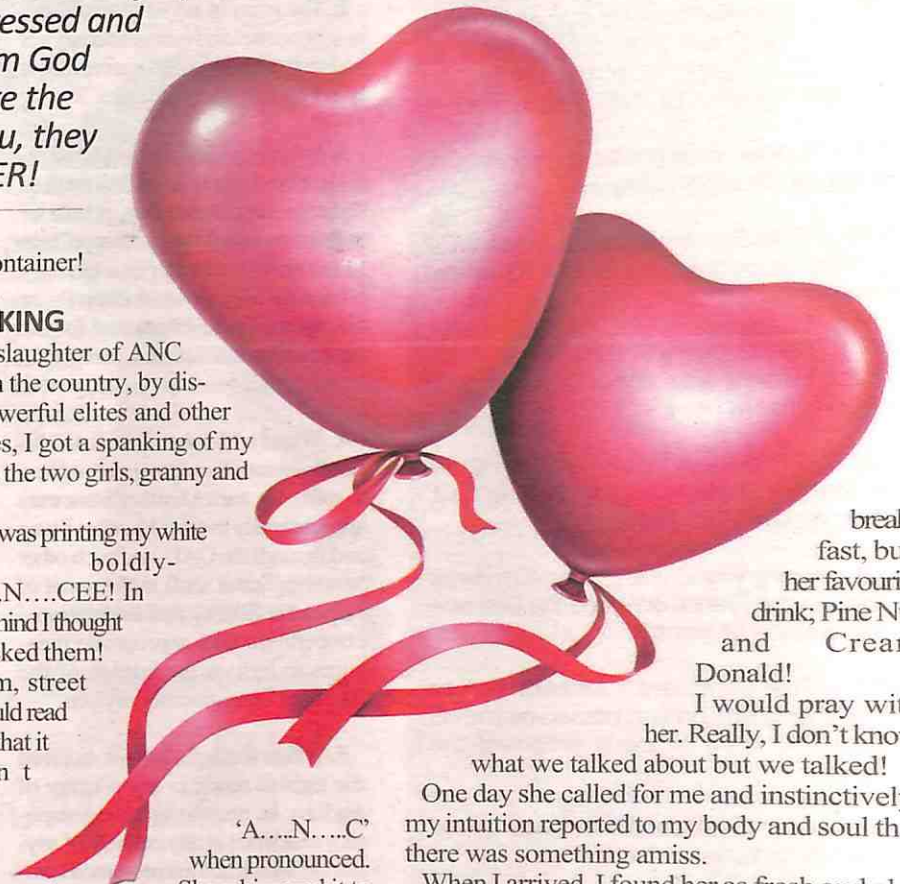
She was indoctrinated by apartheid's doomed doctrines! Its propaganda machine had brainwashed her she could not see beyond the lid

of the container!

SPANKING

In the slaughter of ANC cadres in the country, by disloyal powerful elites and other comrades, I got a spanking of my life from the two girls, granny and mom!

My sin was printing my white T-shirt boldly- 'EYI.....N.....CEE! In my little mind I thought I had tricked them! My mom, street smart-could read through that it meant



'A.....N.....C' when pronounced. She whispered it to my granny and all

hell broke loose, you would think I had robbed a bakery! "You want to let all of us killed.....these are animals." I was spanked in the butt and I swore never to repeat the 'satanic' act.

FATAL ATTRACTION

But I was always attracted to the dangerous 'terrorists!' It was adventurous, with no dull moment amongst them! I must have been 15 or 16, spending more time with ANC and PAC cadres!

These guys used to give us political education daily and it helped me in my History and English lessons at school! The two girls; granny and mom, were mad at me for mixing with the 'wrong crowds.' They even warned me Jesus didn't approve my fascination!

And there was this strong rumour (lies) that I would go to exile with the cadres, yet it was just a teenage infatuation!

Over time it waned off and I became preoccupied by a need to change my destitute background, a test I passed with flying colours!

LAST BREATH

One fateful Sunday I was called to rush home! I found old girl, Edith lying in bed motionless! She was waiting for me! Our eyes locked, she smiled, tried to say something but no words came out! She coughed her last breath right in front of me! She was gone, gone forever!

GOGO MASONDO

She might have been in her late 70s or mid 80s! She loved me to pieces and I earned the love! I would go to her house, clean, make

breakfast, buy her favourite drink; Pine Nut and Cream Donald!

I would pray with her. Really, I don't know

what we talked about but we talked!

One day she called for me and instinctively, my intuition reported to my body and soul that there was something amiss.

When I arrived, I found her as fresh and eloquent as ever! With her frail hand, she took my right hand, kissed it for what seemed like a lifetime and said she wanted to bless me! She prayed! And prayed!

She murmured something like I would be great, my name would be in light, even when I walk in the shadow of death I must fear no evil and I would have showers of blessings....blah...blah...blah!

BLESSINGS

I guess I was 19! As she talked, there were flashbacks of the dilapidated poverty-stricken ghetto I called home!

In my mind, I was like, can this really happen? Because poverty seemed like eternity and a naturalised project for us!

Three weeks later, she died peacefully in her sleep! Perhaps, her blessings still follow me! In just a month I have travelled and been welcomed as a VVIP in two continents and 10 countries, others twice!

THE GOD OF THE POOR

In fact, I am writing this on the plane somewhere to South East Africa, where a red carpet treatment awaits me! It's unbelievable what God can do to a son of a peasant! He is God! The God of the poor, the oppressed and depressed!

Now I believe that whom God blesses no one can curse! It's not like the weapons won't be formed against you, they will, BUT THEY WILL NOT PROSPER! And as the sun goes down on 2019, I am dedicating this song to all the 'girls' I've loved before; Gogo Groening, Mary Kunene, Clementine Mazibuko and Gogo Masondo; You go girls!

ON THIS DAY

...DECEMBER 18

1787 - New Jersey became the third state to ratify the US Constitution.

1796 - The "Monitor," of Baltimore, MD, was published as the first Sunday newspaper.

1862 - The first orthopedic hospital was organized in New York City. It was called the Hospital for Ruptured and Crippled.

1865 - US Secretary of State William Seward issued a statement verifying the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution. The amendment abolished slavery with the declaration: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

1898 - A new automobile speed record was set at 39 mph (63 kph).

1903 - The Panama Canal Zone was acquired 'in perpetuity' by the US for an annual rent.

1912 - The discovery of the Piltdown Man in East Sussex was announced. It was proved to be a hoax in 1953.

1915 - US President Wilson, widowed the year before, married Edith Bolling Galt at her Washington home.

1916 - During World War I, after 10 months of fighting the French defeated the Germans in the Battle of Verdun.

1917 - The Eighteenth Amendment to the US Constitution was passed by the US Senate and then officially proposed the states.

1935 - A \$1 silver certificate was issued for the first time in the US

1936 - Su-Lin, the first giant panda to come to the U.S. from China, arrived in San Francisco, CA. The bear was sold to the Brookfield Zoo for \$8,750.

1940 - Adolf Hitler signed a secret directive ordering preparations for a Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. Operation "Barbarossa" was launched in June 1941.

1944 - The US Supreme Court upheld the wartime relocation of Japanese-Americans, but also stated that undeniably loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry could not be detained.

1950 - NATO foreign ministers approved plans to defend Western Europe, including the use of nuclear weapons, if necessary.

1953 - WPTZ, in Philadelphia, PA, presented a Felso commercial, it was the first color telecast seen on a local station.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Christina Aguilera
(POP SINGER) -
DECEMBER 18,
1980(39 years old)



Brad Pitt(TV
ACTOR) -
DECEMBER 18,
1963 (56 years old)



WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Utsini umtsetfo

REFUGEES ACT 2017

ARTICLE 2

1. Member States of the OAU shall use their best endeavours consistent with their respective legislations to receive refugees and to secure the settlement of those refugees who, for well-founded reasons, are unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin or nationality.

2. The grant of asylum to refugees is a peaceful and humanitarian act and shall not be regarded as an unfriendly act by any Member State.

3. No person shall be subjected by a Member State to measures such as rejection at the frontier, return or expulsion, which would compel him to return to or remain in a territory where his life, physical integrity or liberty would be threatened for the reasons set out in Article 1, paragraphs 1 and 2.

4. Where a Member State finds difficulty in continuing to grant asylum to refugees, such Member State may appeal directly to other Member States and through the OAU, and such other Member States shall in the spirit of African solidarity and international cooperation take appropriate measures to lighten the burden of the Member State granting asylum.

5. Where a refugee has not received the right to reside in any country of asylum, he may be granted temporary residence in any country of asylum in which he first presented himself as a refugee pending arrangement for his resettlement in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

6. For reasons of security, countries of asylum shall, as far as possible, settle refugees at a reasonable distance from the frontier of their country of origin.

ARTICLE 3

Prohibition of Subversive Activities

1. Every refugee has duties to the country in which he finds himself, which require in particular that he conforms with its laws and regulations as well as with measures taken for the maintenance of public order. He shall also abstain from any subversive activities against any Member State of the OAU.

2. Signatory States undertake to prohibit refugees residing in their respective territories from attacking any State Member of the OAU, by any activity likely to cause tension between Member States, and in particular by use of arms, through the press, or by radio.

ARTICLE 4

Non-Discrimination

Member States undertake to apply the provisions of this Convention to all refugees without discrimination as to race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions.

ASYLUM

ARTICLE 5

Voluntary Repatriation

1. The essentially voluntary character of repatriation shall be respected in all cases and no refugee shall be repatriated against his will.

2. The country of asylum, in collaboration with the country of origin, shall make adequate arrangements for the safe return of refugees who request repatriation.

3. The country of origin, on receiving back refugees, shall facilitate their resettlement and grant them the full rights and privileges of nationals of the country, and subject them to the same obligations.

4. Refugees who voluntarily return to their country shall in no way be penalized for having left it for any of the reasons giving rise to refugee situations.

Whenever necessary, an appeal shall be made through national information media and through the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU, inviting refugees to return home and giving assurance that the new circumstances prevailing in their country of origin will enable them to return without risk and to take up a normal and peaceful life without fear of being disturbed or punished, and that the text of such appeal should be given to refugees and clearly explained to them by their country of asylum.

5. Refugees who freely decide to return to their homeland, as a result of such assurances or on their own initiative, shall be given every possible assistance by the country of asylum, the country of origin, voluntary agencies and international and inter-governmental organizations, to facilitate their return.

ARTICLE 6

Travel Documents

1. Subject to Article III, Member States shall issue to refugees lawfully staying in their territories travel documents in accordance with the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Schedule and Annex thereto, for the purpose of travel outside their territory, unless compelling reasons of national security or public order otherwise require. Member States may issue such a travel document to any other refugee in their territory.

2. Where an African country of second asylum accepts a refugee from a country of first asylum, the country of first asylum may be dispensed from issuing a document with a return clause.

3. Travel documents issued to refugees under previous international agreements by States Parties thereto shall be recognized and treated by Member States in the same way as if they had been issued to refugees pursuant to this Article.

ARTICLE 7

Co-operation of the National Authorities with the Organization of African Unity

In order to enable the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to make reports to the competent organs of the Organization of African Unity, Member States undertake to provide the Secretariat in the appropriate form with information and statistical data requested concerning:

- (a) the condition of refugees;
- (b) the implementation of this Convention, and
- (c) laws, regulations and decrees which are, or may hereafter be, in force relating to refugees.

ARTICLE 8

Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. Member States shall co-operate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

2. The present Convention shall be the effective regional complement in Africa of the 1951 United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees.

ARTICLE 9

Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute between States signatories to this Convention relating to its interpretation or application, which cannot be settled by other means, shall be referred to the Commission for Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration of the Organization of African Unity, at the request of any one of the Parties to the dispute.

ARTICLE 10

Signature and Ratification

1. This Convention is open for signature and accession by all Member States of the Organization of African Unity and shall be ratified by signatory States in accordance with their respective constitutional processes. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

2. The original instrument, done if possible in African languages, and in English and French, all texts being equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

3. Any independent African State, Member of the Organization of African Unity, may at any time notify the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity of its accession to this Convention.

ARTICLE 11

Entry into force

This Convention shall come into force upon deposit of instruments of ratification by one third of the Member States of the Organization of African Unity.

ARTICLE 12

Amendment

This Convention may be amended or revised if any member State makes a written request to the Administrative Secretary-General to that effect, provided however that the proposed amendment shall not be submitted to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for consideration until all Member States have been duly notified of it and a period of one year has elapsed. Such an amendment shall not be effective unless approved by at least two thirds of the Member States Parties to the present Convention.

ARTICLE 13

Denunciation

1. Any Member State Party to this Convention may denounce its provisions by a written notification to the Administrative Secretary-General.

2. At the end of one year from the date of such notification, if not withdrawn, the Convention shall cease to apply with respect to the denouncing State.

ARTICLE 14

Upon entry into force of this Convention, the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU shall register it with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

ARTICLE 15

Notifications by the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity

The Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity shall inform all Members of the Organization: (a) of signatures, ratifications and accessions in accordance with Article X; (b) of entry into force, in accordance with Article XI; (c) of requests for amendments submitted under the terms of Article XII; (d) of denunciations, in accordance with Article XIII.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE, the Heads of African State and Government, have signed this Convention.
DONE in the City of Addis Ababa this 10th day of September 1969.

POLITICS

MOST OF THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS ARE DOWN TO 'OLD MEN NOT GETTING OUT OF THE WAY' - OBAMA

BY HARRIET SINCLAIR

FORMER President Barack Obama has said a lot of the world's problems come from leaders not knowing when it's time to step down, suggesting there are a lot of 'old men, not getting out of the way.'

The former commander-in-chief made the comment during a private event on leadership in Singapore, the BBC reported, during which he also discussed the benefits of women being in positions of power.

"Now women, I just want you to know; you are not perfect, but what I can say pretty indisputably is that you're better than us men," Obama said, according to the BBC.

"I'm absolutely confident that for two years if every nation on earth was run by women, you would see a significant improvement across the board on just about everything...living standards and out-

comes." He added that: "If you look at the world and look at the problems it's usually old people, usually old men, not getting out of the way. It is important for political leaders to try and remind themselves that you are there to do a job, but you are not there for life, you are not there in order to prop up your own sense of self importance or your own power."

It is not the first time that Obama has said there should be more women leaders, with a recently released book detailing the relationship between Obama and his former vice president, Joe Biden suggesting that Obama was keen to pass the baton along to a woman.

"Joe, despite his many virtues, was just another white guy, one in a long line of American presidents—hardly the symbol of the tectonic change that Obama hoped would mark his place in the history books," wrote Steven Levingson in the book Barack and Joe:



PROBLEMS:
Former President Barack Obama.

The Making of an Extraordinary Partnership, instead observing that Obama had hoped his successor would be his colleague, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. "Barack had placed his bet on Hillary, the one he believed would confirm his revolutionary stamp on America's political culture—the first black president passing the baton to the first woman president," the book added. Despite Obama maintaining what

appeared to be a close relationship with Biden throughout his time as president and beyond, he has refused to endorse Biden's bid on several occasions. However, most recently, Biden has suggested that he would prefer Obama not to endorse him in order to maintain a level playing field in the Democratic race.

Newsweek has contacted former President Obama for comment. *Newsweek*

BOOK review

BIG BEND PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK REVIEWS

BY BONGANI MKHONTHA

Managing change

BY MARK HUGHES

A Critical Perspective explores how and why change occurs in organisations and how the change process can be managed effectively.

Complete with an appendix featuring twenty popular change management techniques, it is an ideal core textbook for change modules on HR and business degree programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

It offers a critical perspective, challenging the main assumptions and ensuring that the complexity of the subject is understood and

appreciated.

This fully updated 2nd edition of *Managing Change: A Critical Perspective* includes new chapters on perspectives, power and politics, ethics, agents and agency, HRM and evaluation.

Its revised structure reflects strategic, group and individual change, and a revised final chapter evaluates the practice and theory of change management.

Online supporting resources include annotated weblinks for students, an instructor's manual complete with commentary on questions and cases in the book and lecture slides and additional case studies for tutors.

CYBERSECURITY: THE ESSENTIAL BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

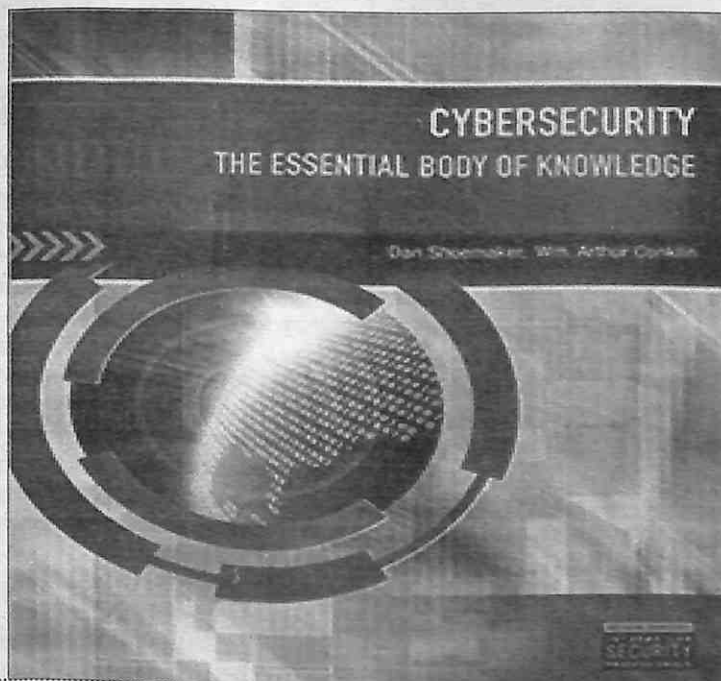
THIS book provides a comprehensive, trustworthy framework of practices for assuring information security.

This book is organized to help readers understand how the various roles and functions within cybersecurity practice can be combined and leveraged to produce a secure organization. In this unique book, concepts are not presented as stagnant theory; instead, the content is interwoven in a real world adventure story that runs throughout.

In the story, a fictional company experiences numerous pitfalls of

cyber security and the reader is immersed in the everyday practice of securing the company through various characters' efforts. This approach grabs learners' attention and assists them in visualizing the application of the content to real-world issues that they will face in their professional life.

Derived from the Department of Homeland Security's Essential Body of Knowledge (EBK) for IT Security, this book is an indispensable resource dedicated to understanding the framework, roles, and competencies involved with information security.



● With courage you can stay with something long enough to succeed at it.
- Earl Nightingale

● People of mediocre ability sometimes achieve outstanding success because they don't know when to quit. Most men succeed because they are determined to.
- George Allen

● Most people have no idea of the giant capacity we can immediately command when we focus all of our resources on mastering a single area of our lives.
- Anthony Robbins

● Experience shows that success is due less to ability than to zeal. The winner is he who gives himself to his work - body and soul.
- Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton

● Sometimes you just have to take the leap, and build your wings on the way down.
- Kobi Yamada

● Success often comes to those who have the aptitude to see way down the road.
- Laine Burns

● Abolish fear and you can accomplish anything you wish.
- Dr. C.E. Welch

● It's easy to have faith in yourself when you're a winner, when you're number one. What you've got to have is faith in yourself when you're not a winner.
- Vince Lombardi

● Most people never run far enough on their first wind to find out if they've got a second. Give your dreams all you've got and you'll be amazed at the energy that comes out of you.
- William James

● The height of your accomplishments will equal the depth of your convictions.
- William F. Scholavino

● We are continually faced by great opportunities brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems. We cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of the shore. Success is always to be found on the other side of fear. The secret to productive goal setting is establishing clearly defined goals, writing them down and then focusing on them several times a day with words and emotions as if we've already achieved them.
- Denis Waitley

● Life's greatest accomplishments are those that at first seem impossible. I never worked a day in my life. It was all fun!
- Thomas Edison

● You must have long term goals to keep you from being frustrated by short term failures.
- Charles C. Noble

● One step at a time is enough for me. Impatience is simply a way of beating yourself up.
- Susan Jeffers

● One person with a belief is equal to 99 who have only interests.
- John Stuart Mill

● Begin difficult things while they are easy. Do great things while they are small. The difficult things of the world must once have been easy. The great things must once have been small. A thousand mile journey begins with one step. Start today. Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground.
- Theodore Roosevelt

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate 10%

First National Bank

Inflation Rate 1.6%

Central Statistical Office

Mortgage Rate 10%

Swaziland Building Society

Bank Rate 6.5%

Central Bank

Petrol (u) E13.65 per litre

Replacement E13.70 per litre

Diesel E13.65 per litre

Paraffin E9.15 per litre

Engen Garage

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 17 Dec 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.3515	14.4015
British Pound / SZL	19.0645	19.1309
Japanese Yen / SZL	7.6083	7.6334
Swiss France / SZL	14.6041	14.6490
Botswana Pula / SZL	1.3332	1.3494
Australian Dollar / SZL	9.8523	9.8880
Canadian Dollar / SZL	10.9029	11.9375
Mozambique Meticals / SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro / SZL	15.9976	16.0533
Gold	1,477.1100	
Oil	69.88	

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Standard Bank

FNB loans over E480 000 to 10 entrepreneurs

...bank promises to use its relationships where possible to connect entrepreneurs

BY BAHLE GAMA

The First National Bank of Eswatini has loaned E483 700 to 10 entrepreneurs countrywide.

This came about after the beneficiaries underwent training under the Khutsala Employment Activation Programme (KEAP) and Catalyze.

The cheque handover took place at the Hilton Garden Inn yesterday morning.

Initially the entrepreneurs were 15 in total but after the training, only 10 were eligible for the loan.

Making his remarks, FNB CEO Dennis Mbingo said they had very broad levels of participation and engagement from the nation.

"Starting with the hundreds of qualifying conversations that ended up being well over a thousand, to the different targeted engagement sessions to filter individuals who were ready, to the deep bench we had of judges, and right to the basic technology deployed to engage candidates, this process has been exemplary in its quality and seriousness of intent," he said.

He further stated that whilst he was pleased to recognise that two thirds of the applicants were male and that the gap slightly closed when it came to the Top 30, the need to encourage female participation in such types of programmes was evident.

"The diversity of sectors and specialist areas is also very encouraging. We have somehow achieved one of our objectives to have this spread reasonably across sectors where Emaswati can make a basic difference.

The half a million Emalangeni disbursed in the first round will be followed up by another allotment shortly, and one would encourage other upstarts and young businesses to test themselves against the rigour built into this process," he said. Mbingo also congratulated their partners at Catalyze for committing to the programme and being very professional about it.

He said it was important to FNB and the FNB Foundation that the awardees not only get help in terms of funding, but also access to meaningful mentorship and support for the year that they shall be under their wing. Catalyze is well placed to support FNB in that journey.

"It will also be critical that the bank use its relationships wherever possible to connect these entrepreneurs to more experienced players who are willing to mentor these teams, and where possible to grant opportunities to supply FNB whenever the opportunities arise. Africa's help is in Africa's hands. We would like to encourage the winners here to use opportunities to collaborate, should those opportunities arise," he said.

He also mentioned that part of why they have battled to create truly large enterprises as a nation was the strong intent to own every corner of a business, even where additional hands and expertise were obviously needed.

"We often define our legacies based on the land, physical assets, bricks and mortar we live

Name	Business Name	Amount
Lindizwe SL Dlamini	Quantum Leap	E50 000
Colisile Tekhaya Dlamini	Baphikeleli cotton farmers	E50 000
Mbuso Kingdom MKS Mdluli	Magnific Pigs	E50 000
Nomsa Mamba	Lepru Timbers	E50 000
Mancoba Hlatshwako	Sani farms	E50 000
Zandile N Mathunjwa	Zaza Embroidery	E50 000
Ntombizethu N Nkosi	Queen Rabbit	E43 750
Mmeli Hlanze	Antidote Music	E50 000
Lungelo Mfundo Ozorne Dube	Architectural Manoeuvres	E50 000
Mateke Magagula	CeeMa Designs	E39 950
TOTAL		E483 700



LOANED: The top 10 posing for a group photo during the FNB top 10 KEAPers announcement. (Pics: Bahle Gama)

Interviews with beneficiaries

1. Lindizwe Dlamini (28)

My company is responsible for the manufacturing and retailing of adult diapers and I am currently a medical doctor pursuing my doctoral degree at the University of Cape Town. The whole purpose of the E50 000 loan I asked for is basically for marketing, so in the context of Eswatini a lot of people need this product. The whole idea with marketing this product is that we have an approach of marketing it aggressively in order for people to be accustomed to its existing in the market. There is a lot of taboo associated with being unable to use the toilet as oneself. Our whole idea with marketing is to normalise or sensitise this product and this is where

behind to those who will claim that inheritance, and often forget about creating a protected cash flow stream that can survive several generations. Please do look for whatever help you may need throughout your entrepreneurial journey. You'll never be too cool or too experienced to learn.

And finally, I hope you will use Catalyze's experience and FNB's expectations to protect your young enterprises from the famous black tax phenomenon. Help out where you can but explain to your beloved *kutsi ebhange lemali igadwe kutsi ibuye. Ningadli inhlanyelo bekunene. Siyawube silimele sonkhe*," he added.

CONGATS: One of the judges congratulates Queen Rabbit owner Ntombizethu Nkosi.

the loan comes in hand.

2. Lungelo Dube (30)

We are a creative and technology company. We basically seek solutions on how to make people and improve their lives creatively. The E50 000 loan will be used as inventory and 30 per cent of it will be used in marketing our products, just to inform people and educate them on the benefits of having our type of technology in their homes making their lives easier. Through hard work we hope to see our product making impact in the energy conservation and sustainability of Eswatini as well as make Eswatini a smart country.



'FSRA, CBE ADVANCE IN AUTOMATING ESE'

STORIES BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

MINISTER of Finance Neal Rijkenberg says the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) in conjunction with the Central Bank of Eswatini (CBE) have made remarkable progress in the automation of the Eswatini Stock Exchange.

The minister was speaking during the farewell function of former FSRA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sandile Dlamini held at Royal Villas yesterday.

He said the Stock Exchange was an open platform for entities to raise the much-needed capital to boost their operations.

"The FSRA together with the CBE are key strategic agencies that help shape the future of the financial services industry landscape in the country," he said.



HANDSHAKE: Outgoing FSRA CEO Sandile 'Chief' Dlamini shakes hands with the FSRA Board Chairman Stephen Simelane as he hands over a gift during his farewell function held at the Royal Villas yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

He further stated that Dlamini had made a remarkable impact in the transformation of the non-bank financial services industry in the country.

As government, he said they were grateful for the milestones he had achieved during his tenure as CEO.

"I applaud Dlamini for his personal drive and attention to this task."



CONGRATULATIONS: The outgoing FSRA CEO being congratulated by Appeals Court Judge Chief Senzangakhona and Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg.

"The regulation and supervision of the financial sector has never been as crucial as the threat of another global financial crisis becoming imminent."

"It is no longer enough for regulators to play catch-up with the continuously evolving financial sector but to work tirelessly to anticipate and implement risk-based supervision measures that minimise exposure of our society to the worsening global financial environment," he said.

Mentioned

Rijkenberg further mentioned that considering where the industry was prior to 2007 when the office of the Registrar of Insurance and Retirement Funds was established, followed by the enactment of the FSRA Act in 2010, which now provides for the oversight of the entire non-bank financial services sector, the industry's reform journey was a story that articulated the ministry's mission statement of promoting macro-economic stability in Eswatini, formulating and implementing fiscal and financial policies that optimise economic growth.

On behalf of the ministry and government, Rijkenberg thanked Dlamini and the entire FSRA team for dedicating themselves to see the vision of government being accomplished.

The minister also appreciated the collaboration, support and participation of all stakeholders, especially the regulated entities and other supporting structures of government that continue to contribute towards the reform of the financial system in the country.

THE Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) has affiliated to international standards.

This is according to FSRA Board Chairman Stephen Simelane, while bidding farewell to their long time serving Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sandile Dlamini.

Simelane said FSRA had set bodies such as the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, International Organisation of Pension Supervisors, International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), Committee of Insurance, Securities and

...FSRA affiliates to international standards

Non-banking (CISNA) and the SADC regional body of regulators among others.

Achievement

He said another achievement that could be attributed to Dlamini's stewardship was the enforcement of the 30 per cent mandatory local investment regulation for insurers and retirement funds.

"First, the (Retirement Fund) RIRF office and later the FSRA office resolutely enforced that at least 30 per cent of all assets from insurance and retirement funds are invested within the kingdom to develop the local economy."

"The FSRA under Dlamini's leadership enforced the investment regulations and ensured that all

entities supervised by the FSRA complied with the investment regulations," he said.

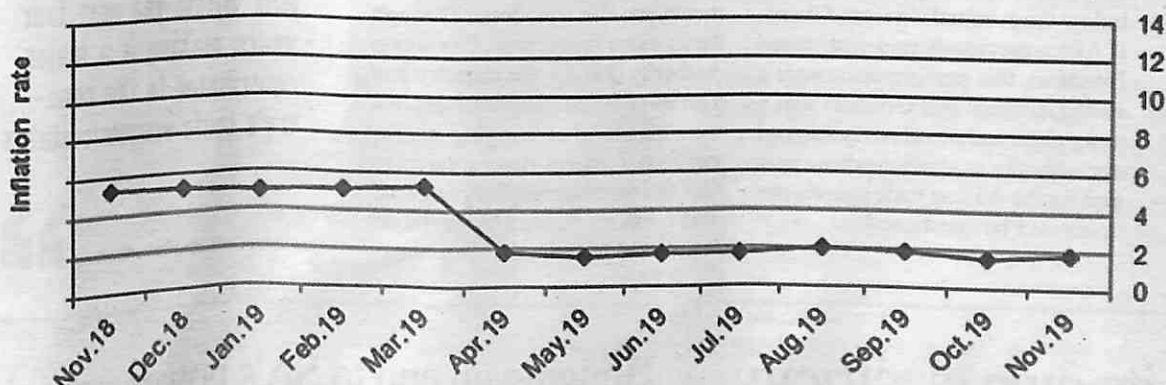
Simelane stated that the country was very fortunate to have Dlamini as CEO of the FSRA in that he laid a solid foundation in the regulation and supervision of the non-bank financial services sector. He further described Dlamini as some-

one who was never hesitant to throw the book at non-compliant entities.

"To him transgression is transgression, corrective measures must be applied irrespective of who the perpetrator is."

Moreover, the chairman said Dlamini sought to improve collaboration between FSRA and the CBE by signing a series of MOUs ranging from information sharing to provision of technical assistance to FSRA by CBE.

Inflation rates from November 2018 to November 2019



Headline inflation at 1.8 per cent

BY BAHLE GAMA

THE headline inflation for the country in November 2019 compared with November 2018 is 1.8 per cent.

This is the annual percent change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in November 2019 compared with November 2018.

This is according to the Central Office (CSO) Consumer Price Index report.

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November report, which states that the annual rate is 0.2 index points higher than the corresponding annual rate of 1.6 per cent observed in October.

The report also mentions that the month on month inflation rate (i.e. the percentage change in the CPI in November compared with that of October) is 0.3 per cent.

The higher headline inflation was due to increasing annual rates of change reflected in November in the price indices

for transport, which increased from 0.2 per cent in October to 1.7 per cent in November. Operation of personal transport equipment (mainly fuels and lubricants) contributed to the higher index in this category.

Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics increased from 4.4 per cent in October to 4.9 per cent in November. Alcoholic beverages, such as wine and spirits, mainly contributed to the increased index in this category.

What a E100 note can buy Liswati

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

WITH the ever-increasing inflation rate and the recently announced public transport and bread fees hike, it seems a E100 note in Eswatini can now only get the citizen breakfast.

The Eswatini Observer took onto one of the popular supermarkets in the capital city and shopped a regular breakfast, inclusive of a half dozen of eggs, bread, milk, teabags, cooking oil, margarine, slices of cheese and a copy of the Eswatini Observer.

The 12 slices of cheese cost E23.99, 1 litre Umcege milk cost E13.99, 40 teabags costs E27.99, white bread costs E10.95, half a dozen eggs cost E14.99 and then a Sunday copy of the Eswatini Observer cost E7, and together these items costs E98.60, which can be rounded up to E100.

Interviewed inside the supermarket, one consumer Temalangi Dlamini revealed that she had four



dependants, three of them being less on children and once grandchild and said times were only getting tougher for her, especially because her salary hadn't moved an inch since her lastborn (now 4 years) came to life.

"The issue of inflation is really one that is going to kill us. You journalists should be ready to write about suicides and all amongst us parents because just as you see, a E100 note can only just buy breakfast, now imagine some of us with four dependants looking at you to come back home and put food on the plate. It's really hard times and one can only hope that our children are seeing the struggle and are working hard at school," she said.



COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & TRADE ESWATINI

A good year for Trade, Investment in Eswatini!

WE are left with only two weeks before we wrap up the year 2019.

To say this was one of our busiest years would be an understatement; thanks to the capable leadership of our Minister, Senator Manqoba Khumalo and his management team under Principal Secretary Siboniso Nkambule.

When Minister Khumalo took over in November last year, he literally hit the ground running; setting up back-to-back meetings aimed at familiarising himself with the operations of the ministry. He not only met various stakeholders but

also had a one on one with all staff members in their various offices. Thereafter, he met the management team of the ministry where he unpacked his three-dimensional vision for the next five years.

The vision was clear; under his leadership, the ministry would ensure that we make Eswatini an export-driven economy, a Centre of Business Excellence and a globally-competitive nation. Various activities were highlighted under this vision; which included engaging stakeholders in the Diaspora to come and share their insight on how we could improve the business environment in

Eswatini as well as courting potential investors while developing local Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Ultimately, this led to the coining of the slogan 'Eswatini Is Open for Business', which was approved at Cabinet level.

Below are some of the highlights of the year 2019:

ESWATINI BIDS TO HOST AfCFTA SECRETARIAT

Bidding to host the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was perhaps the biggest highlight of the year. That is because Eswatini had previously never taken a challenge this big; where we competed with the rest of Africa for hosting an office of the African Union.

Therefore, this bid will remain in history as one of Eswatini's historic moves; what with the country daring to compete against economic powerhouses such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Madagascar and Senegal. What would a little Kingdom like Eswatini achieve when facing such giants? To the naysayer, this was nothing but an ambitious move on Eswatini's part.

But, who would have known, Eswatini actually performed much better than expectations; taking the number three spot in this coveted competition; only 0.25 points lower than runner-ups Kenya and 2.5 points below the eventual winners, Ghana. If Africa previously underestimated Eswatini, this performance sent a strong message that Eswatini was a major player and we ultimately stamped our authority as a nation whose passion for the African trade agenda can never ever be questioned.

ESWATINI HOSTS AETRADE GROUP REGIONAL OFFICES

While the Kingdom could not bring home the AfCFTA Bid, we managed to catch another big fish; the regional offices of the African Electronic Trade (AeTrade) Group. This after the Kingdom bid to host the southern African regional offices earlier in the year. Eswatini did not only win this bid; but also launched the project during an impressive event held at Mandulo Grand Hall in October this year. The project was launched by His Majesty King Mswati III and was attended by representatives of various African Heads of State, diplomats and officials from regional economic communities such as the African Union Commission, COMESA, SADC and others.

The AeTrade Group will bring an estimated 4 000 jobs within the next four years; making it a major contributor to the country's socio-economic status. It is an enabler of the AfCFTA; and comes with direct and indirect benefits for the Kingdom of Eswatini through job creation and development of MSMEs in the Information Technology space.

OVER 7 000 JOBS CREATED FROM FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS

On the investment side, Eswatini made great strides to attract investments into the Kingdom. Through the Eswatini Investments Promotion Authority (EIPA), the ministry had a series of investment seminars that were all aimed at bringing investments into Eswatini. Among the countries that were successfully engaged were Germany, Taiwan, Mozambique, France and Mauritania.

Subsequent to these seminars, the Kingdom announced investments to the value of E1.3bn from Kellogg's and Johnsson Workwear, among other multinational companies. The two organisations will bring a combined 2 300 jobs. Other investments were from Care First, Taiwan Avocado, RME Bullion and AvaPharm. Air Liquide, a French company, and Clockwork Giant Clothing both announced expansions. These investments were over and above those launched by the minister earlier in the year, such as Kingsgate Clothing and EuroSwazi Investments in Buhleni as well as Casa De Vino wine plant in Matsapha.

Towards the end of the year, Eswatini also announced new investments from TRIOMF Fertiliser Company and Artemis Pharmaceuticals. Also, the Kingdom, through the relevant ministries, was able to sign Memorandums of Understanding with other potential investors in the area of energy, mining and aviation.

With all these investments and more in the pipeline, it is clear that indeed Eswatini Is Open for Business.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

For more information about the ministry of commerce, industry and trade, please drop an email to our Communication Officer Thabile Mdluli at jehovaunani@gmail.com or call 2404 3201/2/3.

You can also visit our offices at the Inter-Ministerial Building, Mbabane.



GOOD LEADERSHIP: Senator Manqoba Khumalo.

The AeTrade Group will bring an estimated 4 000 jobs within the next four years; making it a major contributor to the country's socio-economic status

Mining sector wants to generate its own electricity

JOHANNESBURG – The mining industry has called for the government to intervene urgently to enable greater private electricity generation for own use, as Eskom's power cuts have severely affected production.

Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan and Mineral Resources Minister Gwede Mantashe briefed the Cabinet on Friday to discuss proposals to stabilise the electricity supply.

Early last week, President Cyril Ramaphosa said Eskom had requested the government to consider some proposals such as self-generation and floating generators to alleviate pressure on the national grid. "They also proposed

that we should look at self-generation to help relieve the pressure on the system as a whole," Ramaphosa said.

Last week, the mining industry was forced to scale back production and suspend underground operations after Eskom ramped up load shedding from Stage four to Stage six, cutting 6'000MW of electricity from the national grid.

The power outages also contributed to the mining industry's 2.9% percent loss year-on-year in October as output fell for a third month in a row, throwing the sector's contribution to the economy further into a tailspin. The Minerals Council said the situation was desperate. The council demanded urgent action

by Mantashe to enable the rapid establishment of self-generation facilities to supplement Eskom's constrained capacity, and open the way for further generation by independent power producers. Minerals Council Chief Executive Roger Baxter said Stage six load shedding basically meant that mines were confined to "essential demand", as Stage six alone requires a 20% per cent demand curtailment. "The impact of Stage six and Stage four load shedding is devastating for the mining sector, as most mining companies will not only lose their week's production, but that this affects the viability of many of these mines," Baxter said. **Business Report**

Bringing an end to SA's power struggle

CAPE TOWN – South Africa remains one of the best mining jurisdictions in the world with more than \$2.5 trillion (R36.2 trillion) mineral wealth still in situ.

This is according to Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe, who told delegates at the Africa Down Under event earlier this year that as things stood no country could match South Africa in terms of mineral diversity offerings. Data from Statistics SA shows that South Africa's mining industry is one of the key economic sectors in the country, contributing about 7.5% per cent to gross domestic product (GDP), 30% per cent of export earnings, and more than

450'000 direct jobs. However, all this is in vain if there is no power to run these mines. For mines to operate, there needs to be access to power and it needs to be reliable.

Power outages in recent times have risked production levels and in turn thousands of jobs as well as put pressure on the country's ailing economy. A potential solution has been for mines to generate their power. This has its advantages and disadvantages. In some cases, private power generation has worked well when regulations allow for mines to build their power plants and also supply to local communities. **Business Report**

Focus on World News

Global News

TRUMP ACCUSED OF CRIMINAL BRIBERY

WASHINGTON - A contingent of Democratic House members from Republican-leaning districts announced one by one Monday that after weeks of extraordinary pressure they have decided to vote to impeach President Donald Trump, as the House hurtles toward historic action later this week.

Monday's announcements dealt a blow to Trump and his allies, who had been encouraging Democrats to defect to bolster their depiction of impeachment as a crusade by extremist liberals.

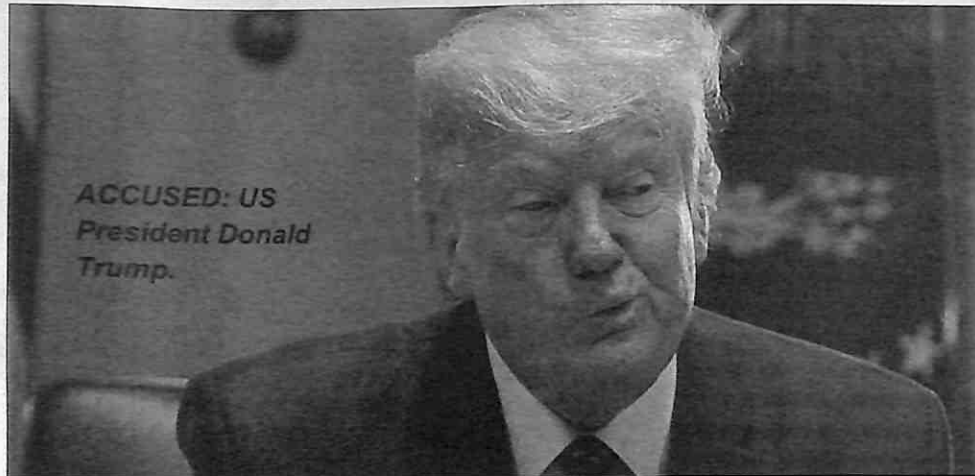
Mounted

The White House had mounted an all-out effort to pressure the centrists, many of whom faced a blitz of anti-impeachment ads and are risking significant political damage.

These Democrats characterised their choices as acts of conscience.

"The president's actions violate his oath of office, endanger our national security and betray

...in report on impeachment articles



the public trust," said Rep. Abigail Spanberger, D-Va, a freshman who represents a Richmond-

area district that voted for Trump in 2016. *The Washington Post*



COMPLAINT: The Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City.

'Mormon Church misled members on \$100bn investment fund'

WASHINGTON - A former investment manager alleges in a whistleblower complaint to the Internal Revenue Service that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has amassed about \$100 billion in accounts intended for charitable purposes, according to a copy of the complaint obtained by *The Washington Post*.

The confidential document, received by the IRS on Nov. 21, accuses church leaders of misleading members - and possibly breaching federal tax rules - by stockpiling their surplus donations instead of using them for charitable works. It also accuses church leaders of using the tax-exempt donations to prop up a pair of businesses.

A spokesman for the church did not respond to detailed questions from *The Post* about the complaint. "The Church does not provide information about specific transactions or financial decisions," spokesman Eric Hawkins said in a statement.

The complaint provides a window into the closely held finances of one of the nation's most visible religious organisations, based in Salt Lake City. It details a church fortune far exceeding past estimates and encompassing stocks, bonds and cash.

The complaint was filed by David Nielsen, a 41-year-old Mormon who worked until September as a senior portfolio manager at the church's investment division, a company named Ensign Peak Advisors that is based near the church's headquarters.

Nonprofit organisations, including religious groups, are exempted in the United States from paying taxes on their income. Ensign is registered with authorities as a supporting organisation and integrated auxiliary of the Mormon Church. *The Washington Post*

'Women could solve many of the world's problems'

NEW YORK - Former US president Barack Obama has again highlighted the need for change around female leaders, saying women aren't perfect, but are "indisputably better" than men.

BBC reported that he was speaking at a private leadership event in Singapore on Monday when he made the comments.

He told the audience that many of the world's problems had been caused by older men.

CBS reported Obama as saying that if women were in office, there would be "significant improvements across the board".

The Mercury in Australia reported Obama as saying political leaders needed to remind themselves they were there to get a job done.

Reuters



NEED FOR CHANGE: Former US president Barack Obama.

49 journalists murdered in 2019

LONDON - 49 journalists were killed across the world in 2019, *Reporters Without Borders* said yesterday, the lowest death toll in 16 years.

The "historically low" number mostly died covering conflicts in Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan, the Paris-based watchdog said, which warned that "journalism remains a dangerous profession".

Some 80 journalists a year have lost their lives on average over the last two decades, said the organisation, which is known by its French initials RSF.

But its head Christophe Deloire warned that the number of journalists murdered in countries supposedly at peace was still alarmingly high, with 10 dying in Mexico alone.

"Latin America, with a total of 14 reporters killed across the continent, has become as dead-

ly as the Middle East," he added.

While he said that the fall in the number of fatalities in conflict zones was something to celebrate, "more and more journalists are being assassinated for their work in democratic countries, which is a real challenge to democracy."

Journalists

While fewer journalists are dying, more are ending up behind bars, according to RSF.

Some 389 were locked up in 2019, up 12 per cent on last year.

Nearly half were imprisoned in three countries - China, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which was blamed for the gruesome murder of columnist Jamal Khashoggi at its embassy in Istanbul last year.

"China, which has intensified its repression of the (mostly Muslim) Uighur minority, alone holds a third of the journalists locked up in the world," RSF said.

Meanwhile, 57 journalists are being held hostage across the globe, mostly in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Ukraine.

"There has been no notable freeing of hostages this year despite major developments in Syria," the RSF said, which has led it to fear for the worst for many of those abducted.

AFP

BRIEFS

Ex-Trump campaign official to be sentenced

WASHINGTON - Former Trump campaign official Rick Gates, who was charged in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, will learn how much his extensive cooperation with the Justice Department has paid off when he is sentenced in Washington's federal court. Neither his lawyers nor federal prosecutors are seeking prison time for Gates, who pleaded guilty in February 2018 to charges relating to lucrative political consulting work he did in Ukraine. The Justice Department says Gates provided "extraordinary assistance" in multiple investigations and that prosecutors will not oppose his request for probation. *AFP*

China's Xi gives leader 'unwavering support'

CHINA - Chinese President Xi Jinping told beleaguered Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam on Monday that she had Beijing's "unwavering support" after another huge pro-democracy rally earlier this month and her government's thrashing at recent local elections. The city has been upended by six months of massive pro-democracy protests that have seen violent battles between police and hardcore demonstrators, as well as regular transport disruption. *AFP*



Extradites 'butcher' of Argentine dictatorship

PARIS - An Argentine ex-police officer linked to the murder of hundreds of people during the country's "dirty war" was on a plane to Buenos Aires on Monday, after France extradited him to face trial over the disappearance of a student.

Mario Sandoval was arrested last Wednesday at his home near Paris, after French authorities gave the final go-ahead for his extradition, ending an eight-year legal battle. The 66-year-old who had been living in France since 1985 and obtained French citizenship with few aware of his full identity, was sent back on a plane that left Paris around midnight on Sunday. *AFP*

Brothers jailed for meat grinder bomb plot

AUSTRALIA - Two brothers were handed lengthy jail terms in Australia yesterday for plotting to bring down a Sydney to Abu Dhabi flight with a bomb carried in a meat grinder by their unwitting brother. Australian-Lebanese brothers Khaled and Mahmoud Khayat were convicted of terrorism offences for trying to bomb an Etihad Airways passenger jet in July 2017 under instructions from the Islamic State group. Khaled was sentenced to 40 years with a minimum of 30 years without parole, while Mahmoud received 36 years' jail time and ordered to serve at least 27.

AFP

Focus on Africa News

Continental News

WIFE CHARGED FOR TRYING TO KILL ZIM'S CHIWENGA

HARARE - Mary Mubaiwa, the estranged wife of Zimbabwe's vice-president Constantino Chiwenga, has been charged with attempted murder of the former military general.

The murder attempt apparently took place when he was in hospital in SA.

Mubaiwa spent the weekend in police custody over graft charges involving about US\$1m and forgery of a marriage certificate.

On Monday, she made an initial appearance at the Harare Magistrate's Court where her lawyer, Beatrice Mletwa, told of how Mubaiwa was arrested on Saturday evening while taking a bath at their home in Borrowdale, the richest square mile in Zimbabwe.

The new attempted murder charges surfaced on Monday morning.

According to the State, on June 22 this year Chiwenga was airlifted to Pretoria - but instead of going to hospital, he was booked in and given medicine at the Sheraton Hotel, where he stayed for a day. It is alleged Mubaiwa was determined

for Chiwenga not to go to hospital, but his security detail moved in swiftly and he was admitted at a Netcare hospital the following day.

Chiwenga spent weeks at the medical facility, where he was given an intravenous drip so that fluids, medication and blood products could be administered.

His condition improved, but he was still only able to move around with assistance. On July 8, it is alleged that around 8pm, Mubaiwa went to the hospital and told her estranged husband's security to give them privacy. It was then that, according to the state, she 'unlawfully removed the

medical intravenous giving set as well as the central venous catheter'. It is alleged that Chiwenga started bleeding profusely, and that Mubaiwa tried to kidnap him. She was stopped, but as hospital staff tried to re-insert the intravenous line and the catheter and resuscitate Chiwenga, she allegedly made her escape.

Independent sources told TimesLIVE that this was the last time that Mubaiwa would have access to her husband, who, a few days later, would be airlifted to China where he recovered fully.

AFP



VICTIM: Zimbabwe's Vice-President Constantino Chiwenga.

Report accuses Malawi police of extra-judicial killings

LONGWE - Malawian police have carried out extrajudicial killings in a systematic campaign against hardcore criminals dubbed 'operation elimination', according to a report released by a civil rights group.

The report was released on Friday in Blantyre, the commercial capital of the poor southeast African country, by the Centre for Human Rights Education, Advice and Assistance (CHREAA). The group's Deputy Director Kondi Chijoka said Sunday the report had been handed to the country's ombudsman Martha Chikwanda for urgent action, but said she had not yet received a copy. The findings of the research are quite alarming to us," Chijoka said.

FP

Appointed ministers plagiarise gratitude message, busted

UGANDA - On Saturday evening, President Museveni made unexpected changes to his cabinet of over 70 Ministers.

Seven Ministers were dropped from the cabinet, some maintained their positions, while others were moved to different ministries.

Several Ministers have since celebrated their appointments and transfers in different ways. Notable among those is Raphael Magyezi who was appointed Minister for Local Government, replacing Adolf Mwesigye. Magyezi celebrated his win with family members, according to a viral video which showed

him dancing to Big Trill's Parte after parte.

But then, on Twitter, the story is that of plagiarism. Three ministers tweeted the same gratitude message, making slight changes to it.

According to the time lapse, Frank Tumwebaze who was moved from the Ministry of ICT to Gender, Labour and Social Affairs, seems to be the originator of the message.

For surviving the axe, he took to his Twitter to congratulate his colleagues who had retained their positions, those re-deployed and the newly appointed.

The Monitor

Zambia approves cannabis exports to boost economy

LUSAKA - Zambia has legalised the production and export of cannabis for economic and medicinal purposes, the government's chief spokeswoman said on Monday, becoming the latest country to shift its position on the drug to give its finances a boost.

The approval for the export of cannabis was granted at a special cabinet meeting on December 4, spokeswoman Dora Siliya said in a statement. It was not clear from the statement if the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes in Zambia had been legalised.

The southern African country joins a host of nations that have legalised, or are considering legalising cannabis to some degree, as attitudes towards the drug slowly change and investments in its medical benefits grow.

Zambia's motivation is rooted in a hefty fiscal deficit and growing debt burden. Growth in external debt to US\$10.5 billion at the end of 2018 from US\$8.74 billion a year earlier has raised fears the country is head-

ed for a debt crisis.

Zambia cut its 2019 growth forecast in September because bad weather had hit crop production and electricity generation while the International Monetary Fund has said growth is likely to remain subdued over the medium term.

Zambian opposition Green Party President Peter Sinkamba, who has been advocating the export of cannabis since 2013, said the move could earn Zambia up to US\$36 billion annually.

"Depending on how properly this is done, this could just change the face of Zambia's economy," Sinkamba told Reuters. "This could be a blessing or a curse, like diamonds and gold, depending on the policy direction."

Siliya said the government had directed the ministry of health to coordinate the issuance of the necessary licences while a technical committee made up of ministers from a range of departments would come up with guidelines. Reuters

SA reiterates call for lifting of sanctions against Zimbabwe

JOHANNESBURG - National Assembly Speaker Thandi Modise has reiterated South Africa's stand on the lifting of targeted economic sanctions against Zimbabwe.

In October, National Council of Provinces Chairperson Amos Masondo tabled a motion at the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Pan African Parliament (PAP), held in Midrand, urging members of the PAP to demand the immediate lifting of the economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe.

Calling

At the 46th Plenary Assembly Session of the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum, Josefina Perpétua Pitra Diakite - an MP from Angola, tabled a motion calling for the lifting of the economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe.

Supporting Diakite's motion, Modise said: "We stand as South Africa to say to our brothers, our sisters, our neighbours - in fact our family,

because we have intermarried, that your pain is our pain. Without South Africa standing up and joining up with other neighbours, the economic progress of the region will be retarded. The issues of child mortality, of hunger, will continue to besiege the region."

Concerned

In her motion, Diakite said Angola was deeply concerned that these "economic sanctions had negatively affected people's livelihoods, economic development and access to health, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable population, including young girls, women, children, the disabled and the elderly people."

"The economic sanctions are a violation of the human, economic and social rights of the people of Zimbabwe and have a negative impact on the government's efforts to leverage the economy and boost the living standards of the Zimbabwean people."

Political Bureau

BRIEFS

Time back on the map

JOHANNESBURG - Zimbabweans in South Africa have been encouraged to be part of the Thrive Homecoming initiative taking place in Zimbabwe in 2020. ZimThrive recently launched key events that will take place throughout April next year. The month-long initiative, homecoming, will hold events in Harare, Victoria Falls, Nyanga, Kariba, and other strategic locations, from April 30. The month-long initiative is a strategic effort to get Zimbabweans back home, not only to contribute to the country's development, but also to celebrate 40 years of independence. AFP

Al-Shabaab militant killed in US airstrike

BERLIN - The US Africa Command (AFRICOM) said it killed a member of Islamist terrorist group al-Shabaab in an airstrike in Somalia's south on Monday. AFRICOM said that the strike, carried out in coordination with the Somali government, killed one terrorist near Dujuma, some 350 kilometres south-west of the capital Mogadishu. "We currently assess no civilians were injured or killed as a result of this airstrike," a statement by the command said. "The removal of al-Shabaab terrorists increases the security of the Somali people as these terrorists indiscriminately attack and extort innocent civilians and destabilize the elected government." DPA

Nigeria has a mental health problem

NIGERIA - On the outside, the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital Yaba seems tranquil. But on the inside of this century-old facility - one of only a half-dozen psychiatric centres in Lagos, and the only one run by the federal government of Nigeria - tensions are running high. At the outpatient clinic, the crowd of people waiting to consult with doctors is so thick that it spills into the hallway. The workload is so overwhelming that Dr Dapo Adegaju, a psychiatrist rushing to attend to an agitated patient, has slept in the hospital for the past two nights. In the emergency ward, a patient named Jide languishes in a queue where he has been waiting since 7am. AFP

AFC Invests US\$150m in Eritrean Colluli Potash Project

ERITREA - Africa Finance Corporation ('AFC' or the 'Corporation'), the leading infrastructure solutions provider in Africa, announces a US\$150 million strategic investment in Danakali Limited ('Danakali' or the 'Company'). The funds will be used for the development and construction of the Colluli Potash Project ('Colluli' or the 'Project') located in the Danakali region of Eritrea. The Project is a late-stage, large, long-life and low-cost sulphate of potash ('SOP') deposit, with estimated reserves of 1.254 Billion tonnes of potassium bearing salts. Colluli is planning to make a 52% potassium oxide product. All Africa

Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

Ramaphosa hailed for freeing Abathembu king, Cekeshe

JOHANNESBURG - As Fees Must Fall activist Kanya Cekeshe and Abathembu King (Buyelekhaya) Dalindyebo prepare to leave prison and head home, the government has vowed that the perpetrators of heinous crimes against the country's women and children will not realise freedom any time soon.

On Monday, the EFF was among the parties that lauded the decision by President Cyril Ramaphosa to grant a handful of prisoners, including Cekeshe and King Dalindyebo, presidential pardons.

According to EFF leader Julius Malema, he had been informed by Ramaphosa on Sunday of Cekeshe's impending parole.

"I got excited when the president told me Cekeshe

would be going home. I got excited when he told me that King Dalindyebo would be going home. I got more excited when he told me that he would be releasing them with other prisoners, but that those prisoners arrested for rape, domestic violence, for killing women and those types of related crimes, would not be released," Malema said.

He added: "When the president spoke about Khaya Cekeshe, he said this young man that the EFF has been campaigning (to have) released, would be released." Malema pointed out that Ramaphosa had been the first to inform the EFF about Cekeshe, because the red berets had been leading the campaign for his release. Meanwhile, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services

Ronald Lamola on Monday explained that Cekeshe qualified for immediate parole. He announced this in Pretoria - minutes after Ramaphosa announced his decision to grant a special remission of sentence to certain categories of prisoners in a Reconciliation Day speech in Bergville, KwaZulu-Natal. Ramaphosa was adamant that those convicted for sexual offences and other violent crimes did not qualify for remission. Lamola told the media that 14 647 inmates were eligible for the special remission. Reacting, King Dalindyebo's spokesperson, Prince Mthunzi Ngonyana, said they were happy about his imminent release, but expressed concern about the parole conditions.

News24



FREE: King Buyelekhaya Dalindyebo.

'WE ARE A GREAT PEOPLE'

JOHANNESBURG - SA cannot truly reconcile if it doesn't acknowledge and address its turbulent, often violent, history.

This is according to President Cyril Ramaphosa, who was speaking at a Day of Reconciliation event in Bergville, KwaZulu-Natal, on Monday.

While he said that there were many historic problems which continued to manifest today - particularly around race-based land ownership patterns - the country was better off than it was at the start of democracy in 1994.

"Today is a day of celebration; a celebration of the triumph of reconciliation over retribution, of goodwill over animosity, and of fellowship over hatred. As a people we have overcome a bitter past and stand here today to proclaim ourselves as proud South Africans, black and white.

"Because being able to have the strength and the commitment to resolve the bitterness of the past is clearly a mark of a great people," he said.

He said the country's ability to overcome its differences was a testament to its greatness.

"We have done what many other coun-

...but we need to address land issue urgently

tries have not been able to do: to overcome our differences and to chart a way to the future.

"Many people around the world thought and felt that our problems that emanated from colonialism and apartheid oppression were intractable. And they thought that SA would descend into a civil war, or a racial war, that would never end. But we've been able to surprise the whole world by resolving our problems.

"So we are a great people, because a great people are those that have the resolve, and the commitment to resolve, their own problems that emanate from the past - and we have done that," he said.

However, Ramaphosa was adamant that the country's ongoing land ownership problems needed to be addressed for reconciliation to be truly realised.

"On this Day of Reconciliation, all of us as South Africans are called upon to reflect on where we have come from, on the injustices that the majority of

our people have suffered, but also the injustices that they continue to suffer.

Times Live



GREAT PEOPLE: SA President Cyril Ramaphosa.

'It's impossible to give Cape refugees emergency shelter'

CAPE TOWN - Refugees staying in the Central Methodist Church and surrounding areas were given a reprieve from an eviction threat after Judge Kate Savage decided to postpone their eviction case to next month.

The case was already postponed on December 9, when the judge gave the involved parties a chance to meet and find a solution, which didn't happen. The City of Cape Town, which brought the interdict to the High Court on that date, wants an order to stop refugees breaking health and safety by-laws. This includes urinating and defecating on the street, washing clothes and cooking in the square. The City also maintains that the protesters represent a threat and intimidation to its officials and also to tourists, locals and business.

During Friday's court appearance there was a disagreement between Home Affairs and the City about providing an emergency shelter for the refugees. Senior counsel for Home Affairs, advocate Seth Nthai, said that the department can't conduct their role



THREATENS: Refugees staying in the Central Methodist Church and surrounding areas were given a reprieve from an eviction threat.

to verify refugees' documentation in the circumstances and poor conditions they are living in at the moment in the church.

According to news website GroundUp, the Home Affairs advocate exposed results of a preliminary investigation conducted by the department that said there were about 500 people occupying the area, 100 of whom have expired asylum permits,

80 were undocumented and 68 claimed to have lost their documentation.

"The City's advocate, Adiel Nacerodien, argued that the refugees don't require emergency shelter since they have homes to go to. At the same time, he told the court that the negotiations Tuesday (December 10) are at a deadlock," according to the website. *Cape Argus*

Malema slams EFF structures' failures

JOHANNESBURG - EFF leader Julius Malema slammed some of the party's structures for failing to capitalise on the ANC's internal problems to increase voter support of the red berets.

He said the party was losing support at the hands of the ANC in some regions due to ineffective campaigning.

Malema was delivering the closing address at the EFF's second national people's assembly (NPA) at NASREC, south of Joburg, where the party elected new leadership.

Malema was re-elected unopposed together with his deputy Floyd Shivambu, EFF Head of Security Marshal Dlamini while EFF MP Veronica Mente was elected chairperson, EFF MP Ompile Maotwe was elected treasurer -general and Poppy Mailola deputy secretary-general. He singled out the Ekurhuleni metro, where he warned that leaders would be removed from positions if they failed to work the ground and recover the gains made by the EFF in the 2016 local elections.

"In Ekurhuleni, the ANC took the



SLAMS: EFF leader Julius Malema.

votes from us in 2019 and we even lost the wards we won in 2016. It means you are sleeping there.

"If you know what is good for you, from tomorrow you will do the right thing go and regain the votes of the EFF," he said.

As Malema urged the EFF's new leadership to help grow the party's support, he vowed to join forces with other left formations to oppose President Cyril Ramaphosa's administration over its running of the country.

Political Bureau

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ESWATINI
Observer

ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEWS | STAR SIGNS | CELEBRITY WATCH | CARTOONS



CLARIFIES: Swazi Jive Director Sakhile Nkambule.

Public conned using Hipnotik name

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

THE public should be wary as there is a fraudster on the loose who is conning them about an upcoming Hipnotik festival at Emfuleni Lifestyle this weekend.

Swazi Jive Director Sakhile Nkambule has come out to clear the air over the fraudulent tickets sales.

It has also been reported that anonymous people claim to be selling the tickets at a fee of E800 while mentioning that the event would be taking place at Emfuleni Lifestyle.

According to Nkambule, he did not know anything about these fraudsters but got suspicious when he got mes-

sages from his fans demanding a line-up.

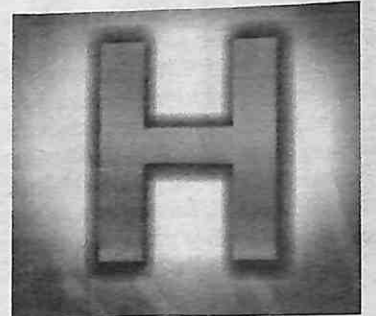
He confirmed that Swazi Jive had nothing to do with it and would have announced it on their social media platforms if there was any ticket sale.

"Tickets that were available officially were early bird tickets online and via our merchants in stores.

What has been happening recently are just people claiming to be promoters or agents selling tickets.

If there is any information about me or any Swazi Jive service and product, I will be sure to let my fans know through my social platforms, like I have been doing," he said.

Emfuleni Lifestyle Director Daladi Dlamini stated that there was no such



event in their venue.

He advised people to try and find out from relevant people before taking out their money to pay for tickets that they were not sure if they were legit.

"For every event being held here, we try to promote it as much as we can. It's December and a lot of people are trying to scam the public.

We would like to extend our apologies to all those who have already bought the dubious tickets," he said.

'Host events before or after Baganu Fest'

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

RESPECT the Baganu Festival dates.

With the Baganu Festival scheduled for early next year, Eswatini Tourism Authority CEO Linda Nxumalo has urged event organisers to stage their festivals before or after the Baganu ceremony so that they would have more people attending their shows and to be able to grab more tourists to their events.

She stated that for big ceremonies, tourists usually came in big numbers, which helped in boosting the economy of the country.

"We are all aware that a large number of tourists would be visiting the country for the Baganu festival which will be held in February. I would like to urge event organisers to grab this event as an opportunity by hosting their shows just before or after the festival to help in increasing the number of days the tourists will stay in the country."

She further said next year the country should expect an increased number of tourists, who will be attending the Baganu Festival and that they had observed that there were tourists who had already shown interest for attending the ceremony.

"We have upscaled our game by creating vibrant and robust marketing strategies," she said.

Nxumalo mentioned that as ETA, they were proud and humbled by the recent world tourism ratings, as they would continue working hard in ensuring that the country remained one of the best travel destinations in the world.

She added that they had sensitised international tourists about the cultural calendar of the kingdom.



WARNS:
Eswatini
Tourism
Authority
CEO Linda
Nxumalo.

Megasound guarantees tight security at Mega Lounge

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

THE Megasound Entertainment Stable promises tight security and safety for their patrons at their new Mega Lounge.

Following the gun-shots that were fired at the recently opened lounge on Saturday, Mega Sound co-founder DJ Zulu D has promised their fans that such behaviour would not be experienced again. He said they had fixed the problem that led to the Royal Eswatini Police Service coming to close down the venue.

Zulu mentioned that whenever they would be hosting an event at the lounge, they would extend their closing hours for fun-lovers to have more fun.

"We promise that our supporters and fans will be safe all the time, we will make sure we submit a letter to the police for them to be aware of the show and agree on the times we will be opened," Zulu said. This came about after rowdy Sidwashini holi-



ASSURES: Mega Sound
co-founder DJ Zulu D.

gans tried to gain access into the lounge without paying. A gunshot fired by Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) helped clear the chaos at the gate. The residents after failing to gain free entry into the lounge, resorted to throwing bottles and stones into the venue and the police quickly dispersed them. The violent incident

happened at around 2am after Durban-based DJ Junior DeRocka took to the stage.

Adding on, Zulu D acknowledged everyone who came to support their official opening last weekend. He also added that he appreciated the people who had been supporting their stable since it was formed.

Eswatini rappers unite for new project

BY ANDILE DLAMINI

TWO of Eswatini's renowned rappers St Pyramid and The Souldier Within have collaborated on a new project set to drop in the new year.

The artists have teamed up to form what they call 'The Insane Asylum'.

Both artists are recognised pioneers in the local industry, with Souldier Within featured in famous compositions by big names like 'Siyinqaba (The Mixtape and Album)' and 'Psycholution (Psyktic

Revolution, Thought 4 Thursday Mixtape).

On the other hand St Pyramid is a member of the 'Council Of The Elders' and is also recognised from the circles of Gospel Hip Hop Crew P 1.7, working with the likes of Calibre, Skeel and X.O. the Apostle. He also appears in the Solid Elementz EP (End of a Decade), which was launched in early 2019 with Omar Ze Great, The Weatherman, Nathan Ebed, and the now collaborative partner (Souldier Within).

The record is being produced locally at the Walking Microphone Studios, and is published and distributed by DJ Scratch Tuesday (who is also their man-

ager, in Pimville, Soweto) online and in other avenues. The first single being launched from the project this December is known as '1. 2. 3,' produced by international beat maker Vic Grimes and is already available on music platforms such as soundcloud.com and audiomack.

"For Original Hip Hop Heads, this is your kind of vibe, with raps, boombap beats, thought-provoking metaphors with the intention to address social ills and stir in values through music, as the two display undisputable skills in their craft which they are famously known for," said Sandile Mamba, who is one of the artists.

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

SOLANI'S Shisanyama has partnered with **Ciroc** brand for the crossover party.

This was confirmed by Solani's Shisanyama Entertainment Manager Thandukwazi Hadebe yesterday.

Headliners and supporting acts of the The **Ciroc** Africa wave crossover will be released in due course.

Solani's partners with **Ciroc** for Crossover party

Hadebe added that **Ciroc** would be bringing a hot line-up and fireworks for display on New Year's Eve.

Solani's Shisanyama is syn-



onymous with bringing some of the continent's biggest artists to the people. Namely heavy weights such as **Black Coffee**, AKA

and **Cassper Nyovest**, to name a few. **Ciroc** Africa is known for its ambassadors which are hip hop's king **Mufasa Cassper Nyovest** and **Thando Thabooty** who are known to be the hottest in the game. Just last month, Solani's brought

Black Motion as they headlined **Culolam's** Birthday celebration. It was not their first time performing at the Solani's stage.

Further details of the event will be shared to this publication as they transpire.

PHATHWAKAHLE ENDS 2019 WITH NEW ALBUM

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

GOSPEL singer Phathwakahle will be releasing her seventh album titled '*Jesu Uzayephetha Nansi Indaba*' next week Tuesday.

According to the singer, she wanted to release an album that would not only be uplifting, but motivational. "We are releasing the single '*Nisiphetekahle*' because it is relevant since it's the festive season.

We are saying make 2020 a year dedicated to Praise and thanking God, and God will make it his business to take care of your needs. I believe people will be blessed by this praise song," she said.

She further stated that the album consists of songs such as '*Uyalalelwa*', *Worship*, '*Siphethe*' '*S'vuthevuthe*' (*Sekonakele* sequel) and '*Alivumi*' to name a few.

"The quality of production, message and artistry is amazing. That is why we tried to engage the best producers both locally and in South Africa just to ensure that people got the best from this album. The producers of the album are **Gcina Mabuza**, **Jabu**

"We have also worked with local producers such **Sabelo Sthungo**, **Sicelo Dlamini**, **Muzi Masina** and **Ziyawa Kazitha**."

Nkabinde; a producer of **Rebecca Malope**. "We have also worked with local producers such **Sabelo Sthungo**, **Sicelo Dlamini**, **Muzi Masina** and **Ziyawa Kazitha**. They have done a wonderful job in some of the songs such as '*Nisiphetekahle* and '*Ayalalelwa*,'" she said.



ALL SET: **SwaziBoy PRO** Ur Gal Zee.

All white New Year's Eve party tickets finally out

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

TICKETS to the first annual All White New Year's Eve party are out.

It is worth noting that there are limited tickets to this event as it is said it will be the most exclusive party to attend.

This was confirmed by **SwaziBoy Entertainment PRO** 'Ur Gal Zee', she said the tickets will be available from tomorrow at all **Spur** outlets countrywide. General tickets cost **E200** each.

'Ur Gal Zee' said that because this was a lifestyle event which would start at 3pm, their fans should look out for a poster which will have the full details.

"We are also working with local designers to showcase their skills. We urge the public to use them for their All White designs. It's a very posh, stylish and exclusive event so people should definitely look the part.

These designers include; **Monte Couture** by **Mbali Kunene**, **EMC** studio and **Markswag** by **Shiggy**, **Emelye** and **Theresa Mbewe**, **Mama ka Tessa** by **Slydee Dlamini**, **Mookelwear** by **Mukelwe Twala** and designs by **Sli Dlamini**," Zee shared.

Tickets come in different packages such as the **VIP Diamond Blue** which has 10 seats costing **E10 000**.

This package comes with 10 **VVIP** tickets, finger foods, two **Moet Nectore** champagne bottles, two **Sky Vodka** bottles, two **Bulldog Gin** bottles, 24 bottles of **Still water** bottles, six **Cranberry** juice cans, 24 cans of **Red Bull**.

The **Eight Seater VIP** package dubbed **Saphire Blue** costs **E5 700** and it includes finger foods, a bottle of **Moet**, **Bulldog Gin**, **Sky vodka**, 12 bottles **still water**, four bottles **Cranberry** juice and 12 **red bulls**. **Tanzanite Blue Six Seater** package **VIP** costs **E4 700** with six **VIP** tickets, finger foods, a bottle of **Moet Nector**, **Skyvodka**, **Bulldog Gin**, **ix still water** bottles.

A **Bronze Four Seater** package costs **E3 000** coming with four general tickets, a **Moet Nector** champagne, a **SkyVodka**, a **Bulldog Gin**, four **still water**, four **Red Bull** and **Cranberry** juice.

Illa Penboy hits back at 'haters'

BY ANDILE DLAMINI

DAYS after being dragged on social media for the hairstyle he wore at the **MTN SWAMA Awards (SWAMA)**, rapper **Illa Penboy** has released a song titled '*Death of the Haters*'.

The song features **MTN** spotlight contestant **Mvelo**.

"At the beginning of my career, I was affected because I thought I needed validation to be okay with who I am and I used to get depressed when I saw negative posts about me. Now I don't care about what people say, I'm all about developing myself and winning. I don't care about being liked, I demand respect," said the rapper.



Furthermore, Illa mentioned that a lot of people were hated for their success yet expected to be loved by everyone and thus get depressed when others critic them.

Woney

"This song says 'you're not money, don't expect to be loved by everyone and you're not death. You won't be hated by everyone,'" said Illa.

Speaking to **Mvelo**, he said she collaborated on the song because

she looked up to Illa as a musician.

"I feel like it's a genius song because of the message. My mother used to tell me every time that not everyone will like me. I also feel like everyone should be okay with not being loved by everyone, but focus on those who do. Also everyone can relate to the message," said **Mvelo**.





BIG GUNS: Red Note Africa Chief Disruptor Khetsiwe Dlamini all smiles with Chef Kabza with his assistant Chef Benev and Thapelo during the second edition of the Sunday Culinary Experience held at Mac Atini guest house in Mbabane Dalriach last Sunday.
(Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)



SELFIE WITH CHEF: Ziyanda Sikhondze and Banele Gamedze captured taking a selfie with Chef Kabza.

#SundayCulinaryExperience

RED NOTE

does it again!

STORIES BY AYANDA DLAMINI

NOTHING will ever stop Red Note Africa from serving foodies with fine dining through its Sunday Culinary Experience.

Held at one of the Eswatini hidden gems Mac Atini guest house situated in Mbabane Dalriach, the edition of the Sunday Culinary Experience saw a number of foodies in their stylish garbs indulging in a five-course meal prepared by the much-admired Chef Kabza. In between the courses, the chef would interact with the foodies and take pictures while they indulge. Meals of the day were firstly; roaming starter which was cream cheese tartlets topped with smoked trout, vegan target with sautéed wild mushroom.

The second course was a butternut cappuccino with pumpkin seeds, rocket and cream cheese with beetroot taco and avocado salsa.

The third course which was the main of the day was pan seared duck breast with red wine due, seasonal vegetables and roots puree. The fourth course served on the day was the pallet cleanser which came as cold red pepper soup. The desert of the day was a destruct pavlova with a trio jam, ice cream and edible flowers. Red Note Africa's Chief Disruptor Khetsiwe Dlamini said she was overwhelmed by the support received from

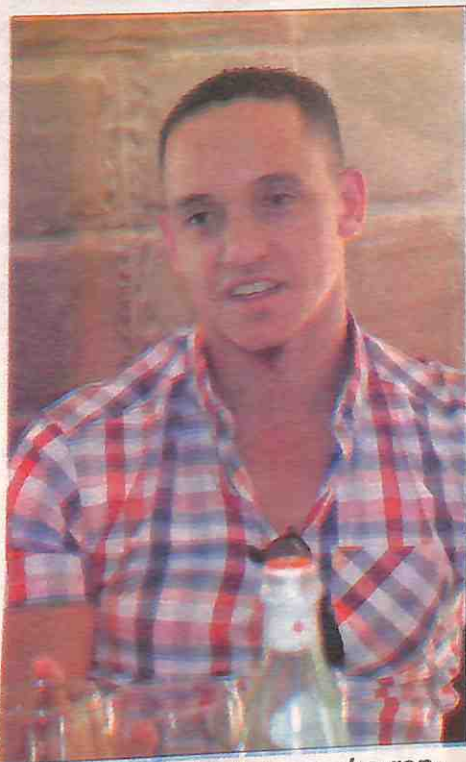
the guests and foodies that booked seats to the event.

For the second edition of Sunday Culinary Experience guests not only came out dressed to the nines but mingled and networked over the good food and unlimited drinks such as wine choices to Stella Artois courtesies of Eswatini Beverages.

It is worth noting that Chef Benev who is mentored by Chef Kabza the headliner of the series said he wanted to open classes for aspiring young chefs in the country. He said he was inspired by Eswatini ambience and the love he received from the foodies.



ENJOYS: Dietician Cece Nsibandze enjoying her dessert.



GENT: Ricky Halloway who represented Standard Bank.



MMM: Likengkeng Jonasi enjoys her meal prepared on the day.



HAPPINESS: Ziyanda Sikiti, Thembeke and 'Leendor M' pose for the lenses.



SNACK: Savoury Duck breast ready to be served.



INTERACTS: Chef Kabza interacts with the foodies.



PREPARES: Chef Kabza prepares the dessert.

AFRICA

- Chef Kabza Serves scrumptious five course meal to foodies
- Chef Benev wants to open classes for young aspiring chefs locally
- A different and incomparable set-up from the first edition



THANK YOU: Standard Bank representatives pose with Chef Kabza after the delicious meals.

Standard Bank happy with Red Note Africa partnership

AS one of the Red Note Africa partners, Standard Bank is happy with its partnership with the new baby in the industry for hosting a prestigious fine dining for foodies.

It was reported that 90 per cent of the foodies purchased their tickets through Instant Money receiving a

E100 discount.

This was disclosed by the entity's representative Ricky Halloway at the affair.

Experience

Notable faces spotted at the culinary experience were personalities such as Lindokuhle 'Leendor M'

Mthupha, Thembeke 'TBK' Ndlangamandla, Banele Gamedze, Nqosh Sacolo, Temaswati Dlamini, Noncedo Dlamini, Ziyanda Sikiti and Standard Bank representatives.

The next Sunday Culinary Experience is expected to be held in March next year.

MEALS FOR THE DAY



STARTER: Roaming starter which was cream cheese tartlets topped with smoked trout, vegan target with sautéed wild mushroom.



MEAL: The third course which was the main of the day was pan seared duck breast with red wine due, seasonal vegetables and roots puree.



DESERT: The desert of the day was a destruct pavlova with a trio jam, ice cream and edible flowers.

What people had to say

TEMASWATI DLAMINI

It was my first time here and I had the best time ever, the conversations, happy people, and beautiful vibes. I enjoyed the food and the unique dining venue made everything enjoyable and magical.

LINDOKUHLLE 'LEENDOR M' MTHUPHA

This is a beautiful and refreshing concept. Something I never knew we needed until we had it. Delicious food, amazing company and conversations. A lovely afternoon overall and such a perfect way to wrap up the year. Huge

congratulations to Red Note Africa and Thank you Standard Bank for #MakingTheMove and partnering with Red Note Africa.

LUCIA DLAMINI

This is beautiful. I'm looking forward to attending the next one. We need something like this in Eswatini. Big ups to the Red Note Africa team.

THEMBEKA 'TBK' NDLANGAMANDLA

Chief Disruptor Khetsiwe Dlamini and her awesome Red Note Africa team, in partnership with Standard Bank

had us over for this Sunday lunch. Fine dining is somewhat of a foreign concept to me but I absolutely enjoyed every single thing about this experience.

The amazing chef Kabza had us wanting more of every course. I loved his breakdown of each dish, amazing how the dishes have simple ingredients but look and taste divine. A shout out to the chefs assistants, the awesome Chef Benev and Thabang.

I hear the next installment will be just as amazing if not better, we are ready.



GIRL POWER: Red Note Africa Chief Disruptor Khetsiwe Dlamini makes her remarks at the affair.



TASTE: Thembeke 'TBK' tastes one of the meals of the day.



YUMMY: Nqosh Sacolo indulges in dessert.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

LONDON: Toni-Ann Singh from Jamaica is the 69th Miss world.

Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh was crowned on Saturday and said she wanted to use her title to work for "sustainable change" for women and their children.

Asked about the value of beauty contests in today's world of MeToo# and the drive for equality and respect for women, the 23-year-old graduate of Florida State University said beauty for her was the least important aspect of her achievement.

"I want to make a change that's sustainable. So if we're talking women... it needs to be something that will make sure that their children and their children's children have a different value of life," an overjoyed Singh told reporters after winning the title in London.

Singh did not specify what kind of change she had in mind.

Celebrate

"It's OK to celebrate things like beauty and attributes like strength and those things. But this is so much more," she said as she hugged her proud parents, Jahrine and Bradshaw.

Describing herself as a "changed woman" after the experience of taking part in the Miss World competition, Singh added: "There's no way I could chalk it up to just being about beauty, because that's the last on the list, honestly."

Singh, who sang a version of the late singer Whitney Houston's "I have nothing" in the competition, received her crown from last year's winner, Vanessa Ponce of Mexico.

Jamaicans attending the event hailed Singh's win as a triumph also for their Caribbean island

JAMAICA'S TONI-ANN SINGH CROWNED MISS WORLD 2019



nation. "The fact that Miss World is won by a black person is very, very significant to us because it represents a lot in terms of our culture, in terms

of how far the world has moved on," said audience member Christine McDermott, who lives in London. (Sowetan Live)

Kanye West, Jay-Z's Tidal beef settled

HOLLYWOOD - Kanye West and Jay-Z's friendly greeting at Diddy's 50th is no surprise to people close to them -- turns out they've squashed their legal feud, and have already gotten back to making money, together.

You'll recall, both members of the "Watch the Throne" duo lawyered up in 2017 when Ye split from Tidal, Jay's streaming service. Kanye said he was owed \$3.5 mil, and their professional relationship was on ice.

Cut to Saturday night at Diddy's crib, where they smiled, shook hands and seemed totally cool with each other, because they are. Sources connected to both moguls tell us they quietly reached an agreement in the Tidal lawsuit earlier this year.

We're told both men are satisfied with the outcome and they're moving forward.

Case in point, when Kanye put on his first opera, "Nebuchadnezzar," last month at the Hollywood Bowl, it streamed exclusively on Tidal. We're told there will be future collabs for Ye and Tidal, too.

Of course, they've had an up and down relationship -- putting it mildly -- for years, even before the Tidal lawsuit. Kanye was famously upset that Beyonce and Jay-Z didn't attend his wedding to Kim Kardashian -- and went off on him during a 20-minute rant onstage in 2016.

Seven months later, Jay dropped his "4:44" album, and the track, "Kill Jay-Z" featured lyrics clearly firing back at Ye for that rant.

Although people were surprised to see their "reunion" at Diddy's party, our sources say Jay and Kanye have crossed paths from time to time in the last year, and have been totally cordial with each other. Diddy's event was just the most public meeting.

We're told they've put the legal wranglings behind



them, and money's no longer an issue between them -- after all, they've both got mountains of it. While their biz beef is buried, and they've repaired their fractured personal relationship, don't expect "Watch the Throne 2" anytime soon.

Ye's promised he's only doing the Lord's music from here on, so, if it does ever happen, guess we'd just be watching a different throne.

(TMZ)

NQOBILE KHUMALO ON BLACK TAX

PRETORIA: Scandal! actress Nqobile Khumalo believes conversations around black tax are "uncomfortable" because people have a hard time sharing.

The star, who plays the role of journalist Hlengiwe Twala on the popular e.tv soapie, won the Best African Actress award at the New Vision International Film Festival (NVIFF) in Amsterdam, Netherlands earlier this year for her part in a storyline about black tax. In the storyline, Hlengiwe is under enormous stress

to take care of her mother, sister and sister's two children. Feeling the pressure, she takes on a huge loan that affects her personal and work life.

Sharing

Nqobile told TshisaLIVE that at the heart of black tax was the idea of sharing, which can be difficult.

"I believe that we need each other, all of us.

Whether there is enough money in the house or not. But the reason why the black tax debate is uncomfortable is because we have a hard time sharing. It is not a popular idea.

"I think people are afraid of inequality because deep down they have the fear that if they allow equality or

campaign for it, they will always get the short end of the stick."

She said the most tragic part of black tax was the resentment which it sometimes caused.

"It is not fair, it is not how it is supposed to be but because of our history as a nation, it is a reality.

Sorry

I believe that everyone has a sad story but feeling sorry for yourself is not the way to move forward.

"We need to come up with ideas that help the collective, otherwise it is just going to grow resentment and estrangement between family members, which I feel is the most tragic thing that has come out of black tax." (TMZ)

DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



Watch Samson on Isibaya tonight



Samson's plan to reconcile Mandla and Bongani explodes in his face. Leo and Thokozani get hijacked. Bhukumuzi avoids going home because of Black Tax.



Kgothalo confronts Lungi about the stunt she pulled. Sechaba upsets the miners with his latest news. Sibiya feigns sickness to get out of going to work.



Is Mpho capable of keeping Vho-Masindi's secret? Imani has a warning for her cousin Gugu. Vhangani resorts to underhanded methods to get to the truth.



Mazwi deliberately sets his nephew up to further his own agenda. Cosmo is disappointed when his crush leaves. Tau hits on a lead. Could this be the breakthrough they need?



Harriet consolidates her empire. Zodwa and Brutus plan to go after Mmabatho.



Khathaza's nightly projects continue but he may have a stalker himself. Gabisile cannot help but caution Qhabanga about his liberal ways with his son.



To plant a false trail, Chumani reveals a less damaging truth. The ice starts to thaw between warring colleagues. Kgosi and Kabza's plan is thwarted but Kgosi realises all is not lost.



MEME OF THE DAY

May the money that people think I have reflect on my account .. Amen



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Point your aggressiveness in the right direction today. That shouldn't be too hard since you know and understand the meaning of a job well done and what's required to get things accomplished. You're anxious to get the ball rolling on certain projects. You've done the organisation and planning. Trust that you know exactly how to proceed.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

Today isn't a day to lounge around. There's a very important practical matter that must be dealt with before you can engage in any lighthearted activities. The night's events will be fun and rewarding as long as you complete the duties of the day, leaving your mind free of obligations.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

Try to keep your emotions in check today. It's possible that you could become extremely angry and do some damage to yourself and others around you. It's important to maintain certain modesty and humility at all times. You'll build good character that earns the respect of others, including your superiors.



Aries March 21 – April 19

Yes, it's your turn now. Perhaps you've been waiting for something, but the timing hasn't been right. Perhaps there has been a mental or physical roadblock in the way. Wait no longer. The time is here. Step up and say your peace. Don't make excuses and don't hold back. The more you contribute, the more richly you'll be rewarded.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

Today is a terrific day for you. You're able to accomplish a lot during the day, leaving the night open for excitement with others. Once you take care of the necessary things, feel free to grab a big helping of fun. You've earned the right to break loose and party. There's confidence in your step, so strut your stuff.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

Promote balance and harmony today by letting off a bit of steam before you try to engage with others and their dramas. Secure yourself in a stable environment where you can vent your concerns, punch pillows, or jog around the block. Once you get that out, you'll have a fresh, new attitude with which to participate in the adventures of the day.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

There's aggressiveness to you today, but this feeling can be useful to you and what you have going on. There's a practical force helping you stay grounded and realistic about certain issues. Don't make promises that you know you can't keep. Don't be the salesman who promises the world and then fails to deliver anything.



Leo July 23 – August 22

There's aggressiveness to you today, but this feeling can be useful to you and what you have going on. There's a practical force helping you stay grounded and realistic about certain issues. Don't make promises that you know you can't keep. Don't be the salesman who promises the world and then fails to deliver anything.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

Don't hold back today. You're the right person for the job in about every situation you encounter. You'll have the instincts required to move on a project, see what needs to be done, gather the resources, and get the ball rolling. There's an aggressiveness to you that's urging you to make a grand conquest, paving the way for a huge celebration of feast and fun.



Libra September 23 – October 23

You should try to hold your tongue today. Although you think you have all the answers, you might not have taken all the pieces of the puzzle into account. There is an emotional aggression to the day that may have a strong effect on everyone, especially you. Consider being more of a listener than a talker.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

Don't be surprised if you feel like you're being poked with a stick today, as something urges you to get moving. There's an aggressive energy moving about and making demands on everyone. You should think about how your skills and perceptive nature can be best used to help do things efficiently and effectively.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

Pull yourself together, and figure out what it is your heart desires. There's an aggressive force tugging at your heartstrings today. Unless you have it firmly in your mind what it is you want and feel, you'll be easily pulled off track. Stay grounded and you should be OK.



BABY BLUES



BLONDIE



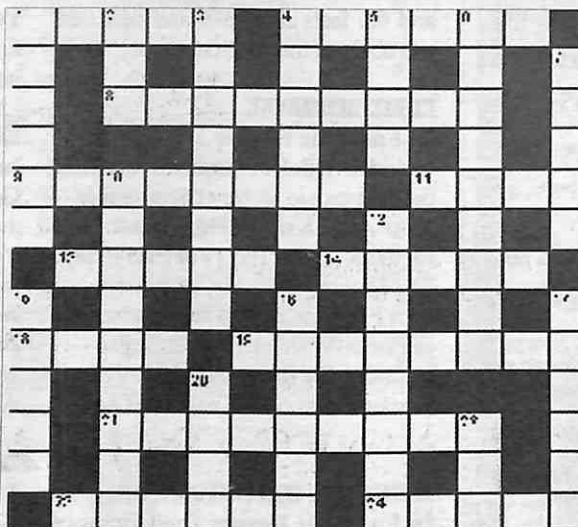
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PUZZLE CHOICE

CRYPTIC 19

Can you fit the words from the list correctly into the grid?



DOWN

1. Canyon derived from something distant but within sight (6)
2. Insect in coffee bean tin (3)
3. Trim rose for unsettled wilder weather (8)
4. Endless talk about an athletic competition (6)
5. Musical ring? (4)
6. Contest a mention of concealed evidence (9)
7. Travels by horse in safari desert (5)
10. Musical group or chest rash spotted (9)
12. Poker stake, slow pace, sounds kind of dear (8)
15. Gibbon escapes, skeleton found (5)
16. Scam pushed in university grounds (6)
17. Stick to some salad here (6)
20. Discovered ideal sound, in addition (4)
22. Mineral reveals period of geological time (3)

ACROSS

1. Replace blood group of furry animals with male chromosome for a period of time (5)
4. Young woman made a meal of the discussion (6)
8. Various sunhats do for many (9)
9. Very large chicken or mouse discovered (8)
11. Produced a drama demo inside (4)
13. Found how contract editor behaved (5)
14. Annoyance arising from Martian germ (5)
18. Portent uncovered by some nerd (4)
19. Possessing skill, dealt ten in a whirl (8)
21. Make a call then elope excitedly (9)
23. Used to seize recital onstage, essentially (6)
24. Wipe out hidden camera sequence (5)

LOL Laughing Out Loud

BLIND DATE

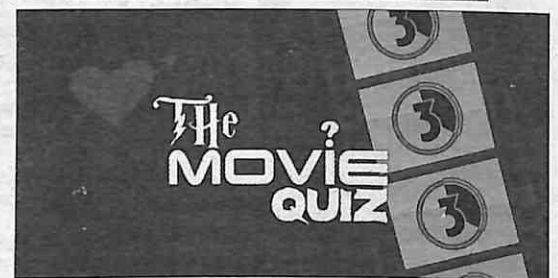
HOW was your blind date?" a college student asked her roommate. "Terrible!" the room-mate answered. "He showed up in his 1932 Rolls

Royce." "Wow! That's a very expensive car. What's so bad about that?" "He was the original owner."

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Bubbles keep your bath water warmer longer.
2. Scientists have found evidence of take-out restaurants in the remains of Pompeii.
3. Peter Durand patented the tin can in 1810.
4. There are 71 streets in Atlanta with "Peachtree" in their name.

MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Yesterday's Quiz

1. Who Voiced Donkey on Shrek? A. Eddie Murphy

ANSWER:

Today's Movie Quiz

1. Which actor who died in August 2014 said "You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it." Answers: A. Robin Williams B. Ben Affleck



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NEWS

KING'S SPEECH



'SIMON, NICOLE GO HEAD-TO-HEAD ON THE X FACTOR'

IT's girls vs boys as Simon and Nicole go head-to-head on The X Factor: The Band.

This weekend, M-Net brings viewers a brand new instalment of the popular X-Factor franchise, titled The X Factor: The Band. The spin-off series follows up-and-coming girl and boy bands who compete to be crowned Britain's new pop sensation, with Simon Cowell and Nicole Scherzinger returning as judges.

No other music show in the world has such an enviable track record of creating globally successful bands including One Direction, Little Mix, and Fifth Harmony. In total, acts discovered by The X Factor have sold more than 400 million records globally to date. Now with The X Factor: The Band, the show is bidding to create the next big girl or

boy band, in just a matter of weeks!

Simon and Nicole's expertise when it comes to successful pop groups is second to none – with Simon famously guiding the careers of a host of world-beating groups during his illustrious career and Nicole first finding fame in globally successful girl group Pussycat Dolls, who have just reunited after a decade apart.

The pair will be joined by a host of music industry stars – including artists Leona Lewis and Ella Eyre as well as super-producer Naughty Boy. The nation's favourite host Dermot O'Leary also returns to oversee proceedings – and give his legendary hugs to those auditioning.

The X Factor: The Band goes back to basics in the music business, starting with hopefuls auditioning in Simon's

office at Sony HQ in London where they try out in front of the music mogul and Nicole, as well as a panel of advisers who include Naughty Boy – who has worked with stars including Beyoncé; multi-platinum selling song-writer Carla Williams and Grammy-winning producers Lil' Eddie and Fred Ball.

Those who make it through this stage then face the next big challenge – arena auditions in front of thousands in Birmingham. Simon and Nicole are joined for this stage by guest judge Leona Lewis, who returns to the show she won in 2006 albeit more than 30 million record sales later!

The judges will also again be joined by the music industry experts, who – as well as Carla, Naughty, Eddie and Fred also include Ella Eyre, who won a Brit award with Rudimental in 2014



for single Waiting All Night.

It will be here that both the boy and girl band will be created by the judges – before the two groups go head-to-head in a live final to battle to win the prize of a life-changing and coveted record contract.

Dermot says he can't wait for viewers to see The X Factor: The Band. He said: "Simon and the show have discovered some of the biggest pop groups in recent music history, One Direction, Fifth Harmony, Little Mix – they're all stars and have sold millions of records."

In previous years, you've seen the judges put individual singers in a group – usually with their decision making and reasoning off camera, but this time people will get to see the process take place. The judges will select girls and boys to form new bands just like they did with One Direction and Little Mix and then both will go head to head to be crowned the winning group with a live arena finale in Birmingham.

Watch The X Factor: The Band every Friday and Saturday at 19:00 on M-Net channel 101.

Nominations Announced for the 26th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards

Nominees for the 26th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards® have been announced. LOS ANGELES – Nominees for the 26th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards® for outstanding individual, cast and ensemble performances in film and television of 2019, as well as the nominees for outstanding action performances by film and television stunt ensembles, were announced this morning at the Pacific Design Center's SilverScreen Theater in West Hollywood.

THE MOTION PICTURE NOMINEES ARE:

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role
CHRISTIAN BALE / Ken Miles – "FORD v FERRARI"
LEONARDO DICAPRIO / Rick Dalton – "ONCE UPON A TIME... IN HOLLYWOOD"
ADAM DRIVER / Charlie Barber – "MARRIAGE STORY"
TARON EGERTON / Elton John – "ROCKETMAN"
JOAQUIN PHOENIX / Arthur Fleck – "JOKER"

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role
CYNTHIA ERIVO / Harriet/Minty – "HARRIET"
SCARLETT JOHANSSON / Nicole Barber – "MARRIAGE STORY"
LUPITA NYONG'O / Adelaide Wilson/Red – "US"
CHARLIZE THERON / Megyn Kelly – "BOMBSHELL"
RENEE ZELLWEGER / Judy Garland – "JUDY"

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role
JAMIE FOXX / Walter McMillian – "JUST MERCY"
TOM HANKS / Fred Rogers – "A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD"
AL PACINO / Jimmy Hoffa – "THE IRISHMAN"
JOE PESCI / Russell Bufalino – "THE IRISHMAN"
BRAD PITT / Cliff Booth – "ONCE UPON A TIME... IN HOLLYWOOD"

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role
LAURA DERN / Nora Fanshaw – "MARRIAGE STORY"
SCARLETT JOHANSSON / Rosie – "JOJO RABBIT"
NICOLE KIDMAN / Gretchen Carlson – "BOMBSHELL"
JENNIFER LOPEZ / Ramona – "HUSTLERS"
MARGOT ROBBIE / Kayla Pospisil – "BOMBSHELL"

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Television Movie or Limited Series

PATRICIA ARQUETTE / Dee Dee Blanchard – "THE ACT"
TONI COLLETTE / Det. Grace Rasmussen – "UNBELIEVABLE"
JOEY KING / Gypsy Rose Blanchard – "THE ACT"
EMILY WATSON / Ulana Khomyuk – "CHERNOBYL"
MICHELLE WILLIAMS / Gwen Verdon – "FOSSE/VERDON"

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Drama Series
STERLING K. BROWN / Randall Pearson – "THIS IS US"
STEVE CARELL / Mitch Kessler – "THE MORNING SHOW"
BILLY CRUDUP / Corey Ellison – "THE MORNING SHOW"
PETER DINKLAGE / Tyrion Lannister – "GAME OF THRONES"
DAVID HARBOUR / Jim Hopper – "STRANGER THINGS"

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Drama Series
JENNIFER ANISTON / Alex Levy – "THE MORNING SHOW"
HELENA BONHAM CARTER / Princess Margaret – "THE CROWN"
OLIVIA COLMAN / Queen Elizabeth II – "THE CROWN"
JODIE COMER / Milarene – "KILLING EVE"
ELISABETH MOSS / Offred/June – "THE HANDMAID'S TALE"

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Comedy Series
ALAN ARKIN / Norman Newlander – "THE KOMINSKY METHOD"
MICHAEL DOUGLAS / Sandy Kominsky – "THE KOMINSKY METHOD"
BILL HADER / Barry – "BARRY"
ANDREW SCOTT / The Priest – "FLEABAG"
TONY SHALHOUB / Abe Weissman – "THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL"

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series
CHRISTINA APPLEGATE / Jen Harding – "DEAD TO ME"
ALEX BORSTEIN / Susie Myerson – "THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL"
RACHEL BROSNAN / Midge Maisel – "THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL"
CATHERINE O'HARA / Moira Rose – "SCHITT'S CREEK"
PHOEBE WALLER-BRIDGE / Fleabag – "FLEABAG"



The Fantastic Cast of Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald

LEARN about the cast of the first Fantastic Beasts' sequel.

The beasts are back for magic and mayhem in the second Fantastic Beasts film, subtitled The Crimes of Grindelwald, your Sunday night movie this weekend on M-Net. Of course, you'll recognise most of the cast if you watched the first movie, but where have you spotted them before? We take a look at a few films and fun facts about past and new cast members of this magical sequel.

EDDIE REDMAYNE

In Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald: He reprises his role from the first movie, as Newt Scamander.

You Also Know Him From: Les Misérables, The Theory of Everything, The Danish Girl

Fun Fact: He went to the same school as Prince William, Eton College. In 2020: He'll star alongside Joseph Gordon-Levitt in The Trial of the Chicago 7.

KATHERINE WATERSTON

In Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald: She reprises her role from the first movie, as Tina Goldstein.

You Also Know Her From: Inherent Vice, Alien: Covenant, Logan Lucky

Fun Fact: The actress was born in London, but raised in Connecticut, U.S.A.

In 2020: She'll star in the drama series, The Third Day.

DAN FOGLER

In Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald: He reprises his role from the first movie, as Jacob Kowalski.

You Also Know Him From: The Goldbergs, Secrets and Lies, The Walking Dead

Fun Fact: In 2005, he won a Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical.

In 2020: He'll star in the drama The Argument.

ALISON SUDOL

In Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald: She reprises her role from the first movie, as Queenie Goldstein.

You Also Know Her From: Transparent

Fun Fact: She is also a singer and songwriter.

EZRA MILLER

In Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald: He reprises his role from the first movie, as Credence Barebone.

You Also Know Him From: We Need to Talk About Kevin, Suicide Squad, Justice League

Fun Fact: He trained as an opera singer. In future: He'll reprise his role as Barry Allen in a stand-alone Flash movie.

ZOE KRAVITZ

In Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald: She reprises her role from the first movie, as Leta Lestrange.

You Also Know Her From: X-Men: First Class, Divergent, Mad Max: Fury Road, Big Little Lies

Fun Fact: She is part of a band called Lolawolf.

In 2020: She'll star in the TV adaptation of High Fidelity, a book by Nick Hornby which was adapted into a movie in 2000 and starred her mother, Lisa Bonet.

CALLUM TURNER

In Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald: He plays the role of Theseus Scamander, Newt's older brother.

You Also Know Him From: The Borgias, War & Peace

Fun Fact: He is dating the very awesome Vanessa Kirby.

In 2020: He'll appear as Frank Churchill in a new film adaptation of Jane Austen's Emma.

CLAUDIA KIM

In Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald: She plays the role of Nagini.

You Also Know Her From: Avengers: Age of Ultron, The Dark Tower

Fun Fact: She was born in Seoul, South Korea.

JOHNNY DEPP

In Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald: He reprises his role, a cameo in the first movie, as Gellert Grindelwald.

You Also Know Him From: A Nightmare on Elm Street, Edward Scissorhands, Ed Wood, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, Pirates of the Caribbean, Finding Neverland, Black Mass, Murder on the Orient Express

Fun Fact: He's in a band called Hollywood Vampires.

In 2020: He'll star in the biopic Minamata.

Jude Law

In Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald: He plays a young Albus Dumbledore.

You Also Know Him From: Gattaca, The Talented Mr. Ripley, Cold Mountain, Sherlock Holmes

Fun Fact: His parents run a theatre company in France.

In 2020: He'll appear in The Third Day with his Fantastic Beasts' co-star Katherine Waterston.

Watch this fantastic cast in Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald, your Sunday night movie

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TERMS & CONDITIONS

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ESTATE NO. EM 224/2018

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 51 (2) of the Administration of Estates Act No. 28/1902 that the First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account will lie open for inspection at the office of the Master of the High Court of Swaziland, Mbabane branch first floor Miller's Mansion for a period of **Twenty One (21) days** from the date of publication of this notice.

Any person objecting to the account may lodge his or her objection in writing with the executor and with the Master of the High Court at any time before expiry of the said period.

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ESTATE LATE:

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'THEY HAVE MESSI, BUT WE HAVE OUR WEAPONS'

MADRID - Zinedine Zidane was in a bullish mood ahead of Real Madrid's trip to Barcelona for the Clasico, as he insisted his side have 'weapons' to dismantle their rivals.

Tonight's match was initially scheduled to take place at the end of October but it fell foul to political demonstrations in Barcelona at the time.

Now the game is set to go ahead and although he admitted the threat of Barcelona's star man, Zidane was confident his team have what it takes to win the clash.

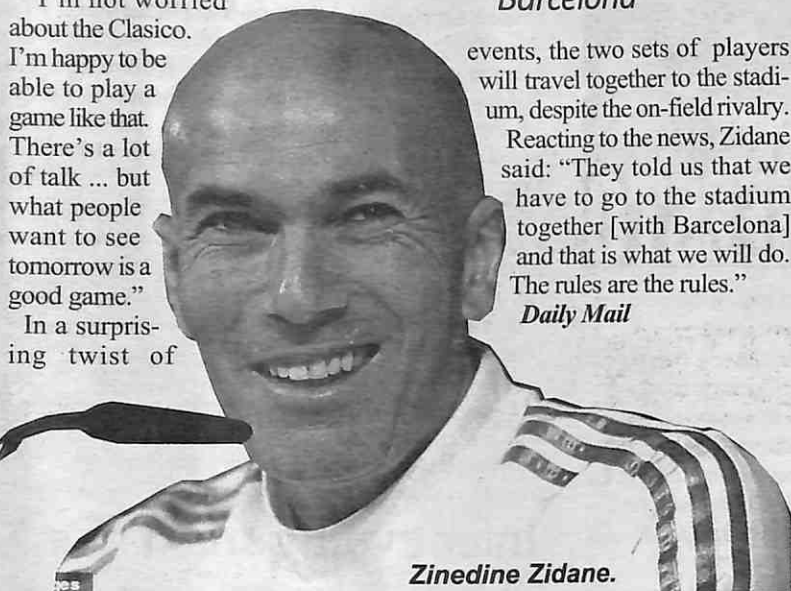
"We know that we face a great team and that they have Messi, but we also have our weapons," he said in his pre-match press conference. "Going to the Clasico together is something ... different. I remember when I was a player. You live for this kind of

matches.

"I'm not worried about the Clasico. I'm happy to be able to play a game like that.

There's a lot of talk ... but what people want to see tomorrow is a good game."

In a surprising twist of



Zinedine Zidane.

...Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane in a bullish mood ahead of El Clasico as he talks up his players before rescheduled trip to Barcelona

events, the two sets of players will travel together to the stadium, despite the on-field rivalry.

Reacting to the news, Zidane said: "They told us that we have to go to the stadium together [with Barcelona] and that is what we will do. The rules are the rules."

Daily Mail

England to focus on themselves, not SA cricket

JOHANNESBURG - England will place a major emphasis on scoring big in the first innings when they tackle a disjointed Proteas team in four Tests starting on Boxing Day.

While that sounds like an obvious thing for England head coach Chris Silverwood to focus on, turning words into deeds as far as that aspect of their play is concerned has been very hard for England to do in 2019.

They have only gone past 400 once this year, and that was in their last Test match against New Zealand on a slow, flat track in Hamilton where Joe Root's 226 was one of five centuries scored.

In fact England have been bowled out for less than a hundred more times than

they have topped 400 this year - three occasions, including once by Ireland. In any other period the Proteas would be licking their chops at the prospect of playing this England team, but then again South African cricket and the national team appears totally dysfunctional at the moment.

Not that Silverwood or the English squad are worrying themselves over the Proteas. Silverwood diplomatically shouldered arms yesterday when asked to comment on the state of South African cricket.

Instead the 44-year-old former medium pacer offered the standard, "we want to focus on ourselves," response. And in truth there is a lot for England, especially their batsmen, to focus on in the next

week ahead of the first Test.

"We restructured the batting line-up a bit and we are looking at new ways of doing things," said Silverwood at Willowmoore Park in Benoni, where England completed training ahead of a two-day match against a local invitation side.

"It's not reinventing the wheel by a long shot, but New Zealand was a good learning curve for us."

In New Zealand, Silverwood, who took over from Australian Trevor Bayliss after the Ashes, made a strong push for his batsmen to be more patient. They were, but New Zealand's batsmen were more stoic and as a result the Kiwis snuck a 1-0 win in a two-match Test series. *The Star*

ANCELOTTI ARRIVES IN LONDON AHEAD OF EVERTON MOVE

LONDON - Carlo Ancelotti is closing in on the Everton job after arriving in London to continue talks with the club's hierarchy.

Marco Silva was sacked as manager on December 5, with Duncan Ferguson taking interim charge of the last two matches, but now the Toffees are close to appointing a permanent successor in the form of Ancelotti.

It will be a huge coup for Everton, with the Italian having only just left Napoli following problems with the club's ownership.

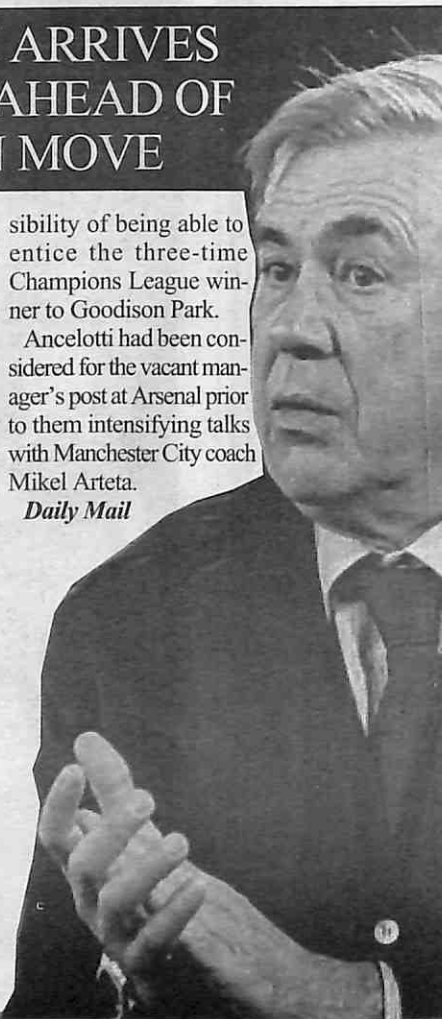
Ancelotti arrived in London on Tuesday morning, and is set to continue negotiations with Everton chiefs in the coming hours.

Owner Farhad Moshiri has taken the opportunity of speaking to the 60-year-old and is excited at the pos-

sibility of being able to entice the three-time Champions League winner to Goodison Park.

Ancelotti had been considered for the vacant manager's post at Arsenal prior to them intensifying talks with Manchester City coach Mikel Arteta.

Daily Mail



Two goals in added time lift Lazio into title race

MILAN - Lazio scored twice in added time to win 2-1 in Cagliari in Serie A on Monday for an eighth straight victory.

In a battle between the teams that started the weekend third and fourth, Lazio were beaten after 90 minutes.

Giovanni Simeone had opened the scoring for Cagliari in the ninth minute with a superb volley from the left.

Lazio grew more dangerous as the match progressed but the Sardinians held on until the second minute of added time when Luis Alberto volleyed in from the edge of the box. In the dying seconds of the seventh minute of additional time Felipe Caicedo headed the winner.

The victory left Lazio three points behind leaders Inter Milan and second-place Juventus.

Lazio has built a four-point cushion over rivals Roma while Cagliari slip to fifth, a further three points back, after their first loss since the second week of the season. *AFP*

GOLDEN BOY



AWARD: Joao Felix (right) poses with the Golden Boy award along with his agent Jorge Mendes (left).

Felix receives Golden Boy award

TURIN - Atletico Madrid striker Joao Felix received the prestigious Golden Boy award on Monday after winning the accolade last month.

Felix, who joined Atletico from Benfica in a £113 million move last summer, fended off competition from high-profile prospects such as Jadon Sancho, Kai Havertz and Erling Braut Haaland to win the prestigious prize. The Portugal international, 20, was joined by his agent Jorge Mendes, as he collected the award in Turin. Last season Felix scored 20 goals in 43 games for

Benfica and also featured in Portugal's Nations League success. So far he has mustered four goals in 17 appearances for Atletico. Matthijs De Ligt, Ansu Fati and Phil Foden were also in contention for the award, but

De Ligt won the previous edition of the award, while past winners include Lionel Messi, Wayne Rooney, Cesc Fabregas and Kylian Mbappe.

Felix will, however, be looking to avoid emulating former Manchester United midfielder Anderson, who won the award in 2008 but failed to live up to his early potential.

Daily Mail

EIGHT SPRINGBOKS COMMIT TO WP RUGBY

CAPE TOWN - World Cup-winning captain Siya Kolisi is one of eight Springboks who have signed contract extensions with Western Province Rugby and will play for the Stormers in 2020 and beyond.

World Rugby Player of the Year Pieter-Steph du Toit, Steven Kitshoff, Bongi Mbonambi, Scarra Ntubeni, Frans Malherbe, Damian Willemse and Dillyn Leyds have all joined Kolisi and a host of other talented players in committing to the Stormers until 2021.

These Springboks will form the core of a competitive Stormers squad going forward, along with the likes of Junior Springbok captains Salmaan Moerat and Ernst van Rhyn, who have also signed extensions.

Props Kwenzo Blose, Leon Lyons and Neethling Fouche, locks JD Schickerling and Chris van Zyl, loose forwards Juarno Augustus, Ben-Jason Dixon, Johan du Toit and Nama Xaba and backs Sergeal Petersen, Edwill van der Merwe, Dan du Plessis, Jean-Luc du Plessis and Sihle Njezula have all signed new contracts with Western Province Rugby. These extensions

further strengthen the Stormers' playing stocks, with players such as

Springboks Herschel Jantjies and Wilco Louw still under current contracts, along with players such as Cobus Wiese, Jaco Coetzee and Ruhan Nel.

Stormers head coach John Dobson said that he is looking forward to building a competitive squad around these key signings.

"Players like Siya Kolisi, Pieter-Steph du Toit, Steven Kitshoff, Bongi Mbonambi, Scarra Ntubeni, Dillyn Leyds, Damian Willemse and Frans Malherbe are part of the fabric of Stormers rugby, so it is fantastic to know that they will all be around to add value to our team environment in the next two years," Dobson told the Stormers' official website.

"We know what these players offer on and off the field, the challenge now is to get the most out of their considerable talents."

Kolisi said that by keeping the core of the squad together, the Stormers have a great opportunity to achieve something special next season.

AFP





ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



KANE EMBRACING OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM MOURINHO

LONDON - Tottenham Hotspur forward Harry Kane insists he has embraced the chance to learn from Jose Mourinho despite his huge respect for predecessor Mauricio Pochettino.

Spurs registered their fourth win in five Premier League games under Mourinho at Wolves on Sunday after sacking Pochettino last month.

Kane said the two managers work in different ways, but the England skipper hopes to benefit from life under Mourinho.

"Obviously you guys know I got on very well with Poch and I respect Poch very, very, very much," Kane said after Jan Vertonghen's late winner at Molineux.

"But Mourinho's got his own style, his own way of doing things. For me, it is about learning that way."

"Obviously my top level career has only been with one manager, so for me it's good to experience new things, see how different managers work."

"Mourinho's one of the highest level managers in our sport, so I can only learn from him."

Kane said it was difficult to pinpoint the impact former Real Madrid, Chelsea, Manchester United and Inter Milan boss Mourinho had had on the squad since his arrival in November.

"It's hard to say," Kane said. "These results we weren't picking up earlier in the season for one reason or another. Little things went our way towards the end."

"Whenever a new manager comes in, everyone's ready, wants to work, wants to impress."

"But it's important over this month, a busy period, and in January that we carry it on. It's not just for an early period."

"We've been feeling good. We've scored goals in pretty much every game we've played with the new manager in charge so if we can get it right, grind out results like that throughout the season we'll be OK." *Teamtalk*

Inter eyeing move for Matic

MANCHESTER - Inter Milan are reportedly in the hunt to sign Manchester United midfielder Nemanja Matic in the January transfer window.

Inter boss Antonio Conte is in the hunt for a new midfielder after losing a number of key players to injury in recent weeks.

Stefano Sensi, Nicolo Barella and Roberto Gagliardini are all facing time on the treatment table and Conte is keen to bring in reinforcements at the first opportunity.

That will be when the transfer window re-opens next month,

and reports are rife suggesting that Matic is being lined up as a new signing.

The Nerazzurri do not have a great deal of cash to spend on new players, and the fact that Matic should be available for a decent price makes him an attractive option.

Out

The Serbian is out of contract at the end of the season and with there being no sign of him penning a new one, he will be able to leave for a free in the summer. However, a fee could be agreed to get the deal done in

January and Conte is keen to get the deal over the line.

The Inter boss knows him well from his time in England, and at the age of 31, he still has some of his best years ahead of him.

Matic has slipped out of favour at United, making just three Premier League appearances this season and he could jump at the chance of a fresh start at the San Siro. Inter are joint top of Serie A with Juventus, but their title hopes could be hit during the remainder of the season if Conte is unable to bolster his ranks in the window.

TeamTalk Media

Sane back in training after injury



MANCHESTER - Leroy Sane made progress in his recovery from long-term injury as he returned to Manchester City's first-team training on Monday.

Germany international Sane has been sidelined since suffering knee ligament damage during the first half of City's Community Shield triumph over Liverpool in August, meaning he has not made a competitive appearance for the club since last season's FA Cup final victory over Watford.

The 23-year-old's fitness issues started what has been an injury-ravaged campaign for the Citizens, with defender Aymeric Laporte also suffering a serious knee problem, while the likes of John Stones, Sergio Aguero, Oleksandr Zinchenko, David Silva, Rodri and Gabriel Jesus have all spent time or are currently on the treatment table.

However, the news does now appear to be more positive on the injury front, with Sane taking to social media on Monday to confirm his return to train-

ing. City boss Pep Guardiola has previously stated that he expected Sane to return to competitive action in the new year and that timescale would appear to fit, provided the former Schalke player does not suffer any setbacks.

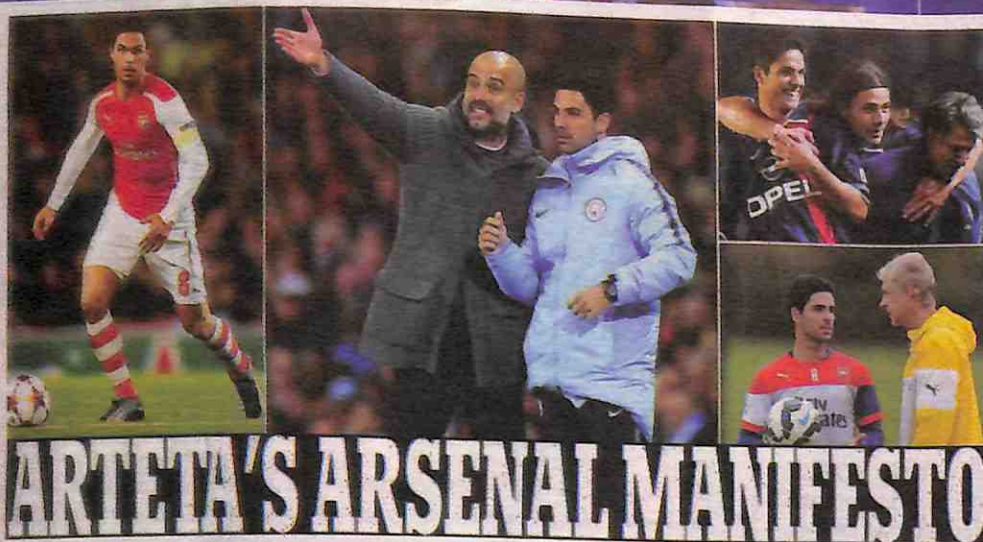
Sane was heavily linked with a move to Bayern Munich during the summer before his injury appeared to scupper any potential transfer.

The Bavarians could now renew their interest in the winger, with his return to action seemingly imminent.

City will want to keep hold of the 2017-18 PFA Young Player of the Year, who has scored 25 goals and provided 28 assists in just 89 Premier League appearances since arriving at the Etihad Stadium in 2016.

Sane's return could also prove timely for City, who are looking to close the gap on league leaders Liverpool, while they are also set to face Real Madrid in the knockout stages of the Champions League early next year.

TeamTalk Media



ARTETA'S ARSENAL MANIFESTO

LONDON - A revealing interview while he was still a player at Arsenal has shed light on how the Gunners could look if Mikel Arteta takes charge this week.

Sportsmail reported on Monday that the Manchester City assistant manager is on the brink of being appointed as Unai Emery's successor having held talks with Arsenal chief Josh Kroenke.

Arteta has no previous experience as a first-team manager but having worked closely with Arsene Wenger and Pep Guardiola, the 37-year-old has accrued plenty of knowledge

of how he wants any team of his to play.

He was interviewed to be Wenger's successor before Emery arrived but Arsenal eventually made the call to go for experience and plucked for Unai Emery.

"My philosophy will be clear. I will have everyone 120 per cent committed, that's the first thing," he told Arsenal's club website five years ago.

"If not, you don't play for me. When it's time to work it's time to work, and when it's time to have fun then I'm the first one to do it, but that commitment is vital. Then I

want the football to be expressive, entertaining.

"I cannot have a concept of football where everything is based on the opposition. We have to dictate the game, we have to be the ones taking the initiative, and we have to entertain the people coming to watch us."

"I'm 100 per cent convinced of those things, and I think I could do it."

Arteta spent five years as a player at Arsenal and has been heavily influenced by Wenger, who he praises for his determination to stick to his philosophy. *Daily Mail*



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MIDDENDORP MAKES PSL HISTORY

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp has made history in the PSL after bagging three successive ABSA Premiership monthly awards.

As earlier suspected, it has now been confirmed that Middendorp bagged a hattrick of ABSA Premiership Coach of the Month awards – a feat achieved for the first time since the inception of the monthly awards.

The German led Chiefs to three wins in three, including a huge

Soweto Derby victory over rivals Orlando Pirates, over the course of last month.

The results have seen Amakhosi maintain their 10-point lead over their rivals, as they head into the final game of 2019.

Meanwhile, SuperSport United's Siphso Mbule was named Player of the Month for November.

Some of the judges included Farouk Khan, Simphiwe Dlodlu and Phumudzo Manenzhe, amongst others.



MADE HISTORY: Siphso Mbule of SuperSport United and Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp are the PSL Player and Coach of the month respectively.

Jali now understands Sundowns are not about 'Instagram, flashy cars'

JOHANNESBURG - Former Bafana Bafana midfield hardman Andile Jali has finally settled in at Mamelodi Sundowns some 18 months after returning from Belgium to join the club, says his coach Pitso Mosimane.

The 29-year-old is keeping the likes of Rivaldo Coetzee and Tiyani Mabunda out of starting line-up as he has finally cemented a place alongside Hlompho Kekana in the club's engine room and Mosimane has hailed a change in attitude.

"He was not in a good condition physically, let's be honest," Downs' coach said of Jali's failure to crack the team after arriving from five seasons at Oostende in the Belgian top-



UNDERSTAND: Andile Jali, Hlompho Kekana and Tiyani Mabunda during the Mamelodi Sundowns media open day at Chloorkop.

flight. "He has shed weight; I think he has shed five or six kilos and he is looking after his diet. I see him

watching what he is eating."

Mosimane said Jali was now coming into his own after the realisation

that there would be no free rides at Sundowns, even if he had played in European football.

"He knows, he's a big boy, man. He knows where he belongs. This guy played overseas and he won the triple with Orlando Pirates. "He changed his mindset, he changed everything and decide to pay football. So now he is playing football."

Jali had grabbed headlines for the wrong reasons previously with allegations of domestic violence and drinking, including a night in jail one year ago.

"We helped him a lot. I was very close to him, he went through a lot" Mosimane said.

Sowetan Live



Former Swallows employee takes club to court

JOHANNESBURG - Former Moroka Swallows midfielder Andries Mpondo has reportedly taken the club to court for money owed to him and other former employees.

According to the Sunday Sun, Mpondo took legal action against the club for not paying him his salary while working as a development coach before the club was liquidated. The Sunday newspaper reports that money owed by the club to eight former club employees amounts to over R2 million.

"We were provided with documents that show the final liquidation of Moroka Swallows Football Club was done on 20 November 2018," read court documents as reported by the Sunday Sun. "In September, I approached Trevor Ramodike to find out how far the liquidation was as we weren't getting feedback. We wanted to know who was going to pay us, but he didn't give us a straight answer."

"To this day, we haven't received any funds from the club or liquidators. During 2014 the Chairman of Moroka Swallows Football Club, Leon Prins, called us to a meeting to inform us the club was facing financial problems and there may be some pay cuts and retrenchments." *Citizen*

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Moloi urges Pirates fans to give Zinnbauer a chance

JOHANNESBURG - Former Orlando Pirates fan-favourite Teboho Moloi is convinced that new Bucs coach Josef Zinnbauer can be a success at the club.

Zinnbauer is an unknown quantity in South Africa and his appointment

received a luke-warm reception from the Pirates faithful, who remain skeptical about the German's ability to turn things around.

However, Moloi has voiced his support for the new boss and reminded people of the unknown foreign coach-

es who have been successful in South Africa in the past. "You know I hear a lot of people complaining about the new guy you know and we all know the chairperson would never bring or appoint somebody whom he thinks will never bring changes," Moloi told

FarPost. "In 1973 when Pirates had a clean sweep we had a coach called Tony Sanderson and a lot of people didn't know anything about him but he ended up winning everything that was on offer. "In 1992 the chairperson brought in Geoff Hudson and we

know what he did for us and that was the turning point of Orlando Pirates starting to beat Kaizer Chiefs. "We should just support the guy and give him a chance. I mean, even Kaizer Chiefs brought in Jeff Butler. Who knew anything about Jeff Butler? But he did wonders for Chiefs."

Zinnbauer's charges will host Black Leopards in an Absa Premiership clash on Saturday. *TeamTalk Media*



EGYPTIANS IN QATAR READY FOR SALAH-MANIA

DOHA - Qatar's large Egyptian community is clamouring to welcome their country's "icon" Mohamed Salah as Liverpool kick off their Club World Cup campaign.

But a regional diplomatic crisis has frustrated travel plans for fans based in Egypt and complicated the desire of expats in Doha to celebrate their country's best-known player.

The Egyptian diaspora in Qatar number around 300 000, according to official statistics, out of a total population of 2.75 million.

For many years, Qatari authorities sought out skilled Egyptian

migrants to staff a range of sectors from oil and gas to teaching and the health system.

But an economic and travel embargo on Qatar by a Saudi-led coalition that includes Cairo has cooled Doha's enthusiasm for mass migration from Egypt.

The two-year-long effort to isolate Qatar stems from accusations that Doha backs radical Islamists and has sought closer ties with Saudi Arabia's arch rival Iran.

Banned

Doha vehemently denies the charges. Egypt and Saudi, along with Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, closed their airspace to Qatar Airways and banned travel to the country, putting their citizens in Qatar in a difficult position.

Large numbers of Egyptians gathered in the Souq Waqif tourist bazaar to watch Liverpool's 5-2 trouncing of Everton in this month's Merseyside derby.

In a market cafe, other Salah fans called the 27-year-old Arab soccer talisman "an icon for many".

Today they will have a chance to watch Salah in the flesh when the Reds face Mexico's Monterrey in their semi-final at the 40 000-capacity Khalifa International Stadium.

Egyptian Mustafa Abdel Moneim, 42, told AFP he "got four tickets to the semi-finals, because I expect Liverpool to win and I know that there will be a lot of pressure from Arabs and Egyptians on the team's first game".

"My children put so much pressure on me to book the tickets because they are obsessed with Salah. They will be very happy to see him on the field." British newspapers have reported that Liverpool have received assurances from Qatar, which will host the 2022 World Cup, that Salah's visit to the Gulf monarchy will not be politicised.

Salah was the at the centre of a political storm when he was pictured alongside Chechen strongman Ramzan Kadyrov, who is accused of rights abuses, during Egypt's 2018 World Cup stay in the Russian region. *AFP*



EXPLAINS: Bafana Bafana head coach Molefi Ntseki.

'I must respect SA-born players'

JOHANNESBURG - Bafana Bafana head coach Molefi Ntseki explains why even though he is aware of the talented foreign strikers eligible to represent the country, he will not just push for their inclusion in the national team.

Molefi believes South Africa has enough talent playing in the country to solve the national team's scoring issues without trying to find new members from overseas.

"No, we'll end up roping in everybody," Ntseki tells KickOff.com.

"Whenever everybody is doing well for a week and for a month then everybody will be saying to me, 'Will you consider making him a South African?'"

"I think it's also unfair to our players every time to be looking at players from other countries, maybe to be getting them South African passports."

Kick-Off

Ben Arfa's compensation claim against PSG thrown out

PARIS - Hatem Ben Arfa's demand for millions of Euros of compensation from Paris Saint-Germain has been dismissed by an industrial tribunal in the French capital AFP learned from both parties on Monday.

Contacted by AFP, PSG's lawyer Marie-Helene Cohen-Guilleminet said all of Ben Arfa's "requests have been thrown out".

Ben Arfa's legal representative Jean-Jacques Bertrand told AFP the 32-year-old forward, who is currently without a club after Rennes released him in the summer, would appeal the decision.

The former France international wanted between 7-8 million Euros after accusing PSG of sidelining him for non-sporting reasons between April 2017 and the summer of 2018,

when his contract with the French champions expired.

His last game for PSG was a 4-0 French Cup win over Avranches on April 5, 2017, a match in which he scored twice and set up another.

He played in 23 Ligue 1 matches for PSG, often as a substitute, without scoring a single league goal.

French newspaper Journal du Dimanche reported he claims he was shut out after the club took exception to him appealing directly to PSG's owner, the emir of Qatar, over a lack of contact with the club's president Nasser Al-Khelaifi.

Ben Arfa has already had some revenge against PSG after helping Rennes to a penalty shoot-out win over the capital club in last season's French Cup final. *AFP*

United fans will not mind if Tau destroys their team

JOHANNESBURG - Even some South African Manchester United supporters have admitted they will not mind their beloved club losing should Percy Tau score the goals and be the architect of their demise for Club Brugge in the UEFA Europa League.

Others have professed loyalty to "club over country" and said Tau or no Tau, United need to beat Brugge when the two clubs meet in the Europa League last-32 February.

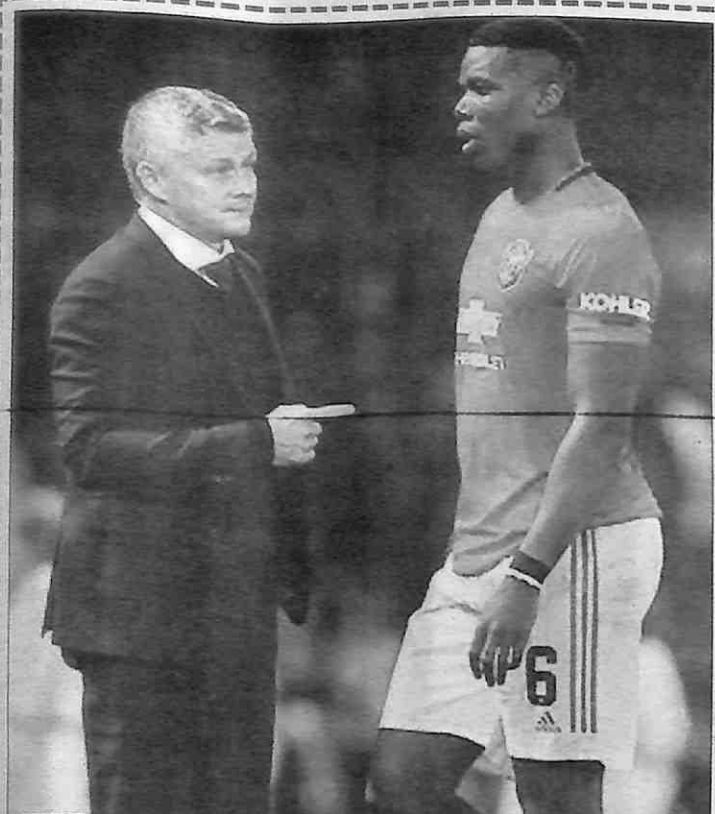
Having already taken the field on the Santiago Bernabeu this season in the UEFA Champions League, now Tau is set to stride Old Trafford in the Europa League. Brugge have been drawn to meet Manchester United in the last-32 of the Europa League in February. Tau had a particularly impressive first half when Brugge

drew their Champions League Group A away match against Real Madrid 2-2 in October. This included the assist for Emmanuel Bonaventure's opener, who scored a brace as the Belgian club took a hugely unlikely 2-0 lead by the break. That draw, plus draws home and away against Galatasaray, saw Brugge finish with three points and above the last-placed Turkish club (two points). The third-placed finishers from the eight Champions League groups go into the Europa League. Tau was an unused substitute as Brugge lost 1-0 away against Group A winners Paris St Germain at Parc des Prince last month.

He did get a run again, starting and being replaced in the 59th minute, as Brugge ended Group A with a 3-1 home defeat against Real on Wednesday. *Sowetan Live*



A STAR: Percy Tau.



POGBA SUFFERS ANOTHER SETBACK

MANCHESTER - Paul Pogba's comeback is on hold after the Manchester United star fell ill - after being given permission to attend his brother's wedding in France on Friday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer hoped to have Pogba available in time to play over the Christmas period after two-and-a-half months out with an ankle injury, but that is now in doubt following the latest setback.

Solskjaer revealed the news after confirming that Pogba will not play in today's Carabao Cup quarter-final against Colchester United at Old Trafford.

"Of all things he's been struck down ill now," said the United boss. "He's been off for two or three days - three days probably - so that's not beneficial. That's probably set him back quite a bit."

"As I've said so many times, Paul's a top player that we want to see him playing his best football at Man United. We just need to get him fit and match fit."

"It might be half an hour, 45, 60, 90 minutes in the first game, who knows? We're working hard to get him back but now he's ill."

The update on Pogba is all the more mystifying because the Frenchman and his family have

...as boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer reveals he is now sick

posted videos of the United player dancing at his brother Florentin's wedding in Bussy-Saint-Georges on the outskirts of Paris on Friday.

Pogba, who married his partner Maria Salas in the same Seine-et-Marne town hall 10 months ago, was also pictured walking their dogs near his Cheshire home on Monday after returning from France.

The latest twist in Pogba's comeback is likely to raise more questions over his rehabilitation after United's £89million record signing shared a video of himself playing basketball with Miami Heat star Jimmy Butler a month ago, even though he hasn't been fit to appear for United since the end of September due to the ankle problem.

The 26-year-old midfielder has spent time working on his fitness in Dubai and Florida, but may now struggle to play again until the new year. Sportsmail revealed last week that United will open the door to Pogba's departure in the summer by signing two central midfielders before the start of next season. *Daily Mail*

Italian football league launched bizarre anti-racism campaign

ROME - The Italian football league has launched a bizarre anti-racism campaign using three paintings of different coloured monkeys to show that "we are all the same race".

Serie A commissioned the artist Simone Fugazzotto, renowned for his depictions of apes, to produce the portraits which are supposed to represent "a western monkey, an Asian monkey and a black monkey." It is a response to a spate of racist incidents across the country's grounds in recent months.

Mario Balotelli, Romelu Lukaku, and Kalidou Koulibaly have been subjected to alleged racist abuse from fans this season.

And Fugazzotto says a specific incident involving the latter during a match between Napoli and Inter Milan was the inspiration behind the works. "Everyone was making the sound of monkeys at Koulibaly, a player I respect," Fugazzotto told reporters, as per Ansa.it.

"So I made the western monkey - white with blue eyes - the Asian monkey -



ANTI-RACISM: Simone Fugazzotto's work is on display at the Serie A HQ in Milan.

with almond eyes - and the black monkey in the middle, which is where everything comes from, this is what the evolutionary theory tells us.

"The monkey becomes the spark to teach everyone that there is no difference. It's not that one is man and one is monkey. At this point, we are all monkeys, if they really feel the need to tell

a black [player] that he is one."

The artwork, which is on display at the Serie A headquarters in Milan, has attracted widespread criticism, including from anti-racism network, Fare, who described it as a "sick joke."

"Once again Italian football leaves the world speechless," it said in a tweet.

Business

NEYMAR: WHY WOULD I WANT TO LEAVE?

PARIS - Despite being heavily linked with a return to Barcelona before the season ends, Neymar claims he has no reason to leave Paris Saint-Germain.

Neymar was involved in the biggest transfer saga in the last window after his links with the Catalan giants which lasted up until the deadline.

PSG Sporting Director Leonardo revealed that Barca had submitted a written offer, but the player eventually opted to remain in Paris while Barcelona signed Antoine Griezmann.

Neymar's latest comments though will certainly ease the nerves of PSG fans ahead of the January transfer window. "Why would I want to leave here? [Smiles] I have another two years on my contract, the team continues to improve," Neymar told France Football.

"We must remain concentrated on this season to do things well and to win as many titles as possible. This season, the aim, is the Champions' League."

"And my priority is PSG, with ensuring maximum involvement from me each week. The aim is always to win the next match. In each match, we must push for the club. That's how I see it."

Kickoff

STAR: Neymar.

Ex-Bucs, Downs star back in wilderness

JOHANNESBURG - A former Orlando Pirates and Mamelodi Sundowns midfielder has been released from his contract due to non-performance just a few months after joining a new club.

Thamsanqa Sangweni is once again a free agent after Maritzburg United confirmed his departure following their Telkom Knockout final disappointment.

The Team of Choice suffered defeat in their maiden league cup final against Mamelodi Sundowns on Saturday evening in Durban, and wasted no time in trimming down their squad.

The Pietermaritzburg outfit confirmed on their social media platform of the release of the 30-year-old, who penned a one-year deal after a successful trial during pre-season.

"Maritzburg United Football Club and midfielder Thamsanqa Sangweni have mutually agreed to part ways with immediate effect," read a statement from the club.

"The former Orlando Pirates and Mamelodi Sundowns star had been looking to resurrect his career, and Maritzburg felt he deserved the opportunity to prove himself."

"However, that was with the understanding that Sangweni would be able to force himself into the reckoning to play regularly, which unfortunately did not happen as he made just two substitute appearances in the league. "As such, MUFC believe that it is in everyone's best interests to allow the player to look for a new club."

Maritzburg Chairman Farook Kadodia further explained the decision, revealing that a minimum requirement clause was inserted in his contract and failure upon which has now resulted in his early exit.

"Thamsanqa Sangweni did not make the number of appearances as the club had requested as per his contract," added Kadodia in the statement.

"We felt that it was not good to hold on to him for too long and waste the chance for him to potentially find a new club in the January window period."

"Hence we have come to a parting of ways so that he can find a new club as early as possible."

Kick off

GOMEZ SLAMS VAR AFTER HE HAS SIX GOALS RULED OUT

MUNICH - Mario Gomez has slammed VAR, claiming it is 'bulls***' after the system ruled out his sixth goal in three games.

The 34-year-old striker has had a tough time in the Bundesliga 2 with Stuttgart so far this campaign, scoring just two goals in his 13 appearances since dropping down to the second-tier with them.

And the video assistant referees have thrown more obstacles in his path during the games against

Darmstadt, Nurnberg and Sandhausen.

Over the last three matches, Gomez has had an incredible six goals ruled out after he put the ball in the net by the VAR in the booth.

Gomez believes strikers who play like him are particularly heavily punished by VAR.

He told Sky.de: "This is the sixth time it's only a matter of centimetres. When I see the pictures - that's the same height for me. Just like

last time. "Strikers like me, depending on crosses and passes and playing with the offside line, are punished extremely by VAR."

"Then we have to buy a bunch of Messis who run off with the ball from the middle of the pitch and to score the goals."

"People come to the stadium because they want to see goals. If I look at it that way, it's not even two centimetres and that's a joke."

"But if we whistle every time

because of two centimetres and the linesman always raises his flag just to be safe because of all the pressure on the stupid VAR, he's fine because the video evidence revises him. It's such a bulls***."

"Maybe this is the revenge from the referees sitting in that basement for busting their balls for 20 years on the pitch."

"I certainly am one who annoys the referees. Maybe that's a reason." *Daily Mail*

MY GAME

'AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF SPORTS ISSUES'

WITH: COMFORT JELE
comfortjelle@gmail.com



THE MBABANE DERBY FACTOR!

It is without any semblance of doubt that this weekend's MTN Premier League fixtures are headlined by a titanic clash between sworn rivals, Mbabane Swallows and Mbabane Highlanders, who are set to meet during 'Y'ello Sunday' at Somhlolo National Stadium.

Under normal circumstances, and as per the norm with derbies, the clash between the two football giants always has a huge bearing on the lives and relationships of many football followers, all in the name of the beautiful game. Families are temporarily divided, while the city is also divided between two colours - it is the red and white colours associated with Swallows or the black and white colours of Highlanders.

Concerned

Arguably one of the big and oldest clubs in the land, both Swallows and Highlanders know exactly the magnitude of the derby. Both teams' sets of players are quite aware what it means to play in the derby - which is no doubt the mother of all derbies in the country. Both teams' sets of supporters know how this game is going to affect them in as far as bragging rights are concerned. As we head to the weekend derby fixture, one could not help but highlight some of the key factors of the derby, which date back in history. Although it is worrisome to note the attitude by some sectors of the football people towards the derby, something which has seen such a big fixture losing its spark, but we must not forget how this game is so



significant, not only to the two teams but the entire local football fraternity.

We know how derbies attract huge spectatorship, including neutral people who don't belong to either side. We have seen how the Soweto derby, which is one of the biggest in the continent, has brought the vibe to the football followers in Africa and beyond. This is a revered brand which unites the people through football.

The 'war' remains inside the field of

play - and for only 90 minutes!

That's the spirit of a derby. As you read this, in a few hours' time, another big one is set to take place in Spain where Barcelona host Real Madrid in the 'El Clásico'.

Intention

And obviously, this game is set to attract throngs of spectators across the globe. Even though it is not my intention to compare these fixtures with our own Eswatini's, I have the feeling that we can build the Mbabane

derby brand to become one of the most attractive even beyond our borders. And the onus remains with the two clubs to lead the way as other stakeholders follow suit.

They have to start by demonstrating good sportsmanship towards each other, and display the good type of football the supporters always cherish.

Playing in a derby should always come with pride for the players, always eager to protect the brand of their

respective teams.

With all the pressures, bragging rights and honours at stake, in the end the football should be the winner. Going to this weekend derby, Swallows are in serious contention for the E350 000 first round carrot while Highlanders are only hoping to improve their standings. Effectively, three points matters the most for both sides. And the question is, can Highlanders frustrate Swallows - and divert the first round carrot incentive chase?

Must-win

Depending on how Buffaloes play in their fixture including the pending one against Black Swallows later today, Mbabane Swallows could be in a must-win situation.

They have what it takes to beat their rivals, but this being a derby fixture, form doesn't count. In recent times, Highlanders incumbent coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati was on the opposite bench masterminding the down fall of his current employers. Is he ready to do the same against his former employers?

Only time will tell! In a nutshell, the Mbabane derby has the potential of becoming much bigger and better, only if all parties can come to the party and promote this important fixture.

I am made to believe that even the supporters can make this fixture more interesting if they can demonstrate good sportsmanship towards each other - just like Orlando Pirates and Kaiser Chiefs supporters do. Let's beautify the game. Over to you Swallows and Highlanders!

SPORTS MEDICINE SOLUTIONS

By: Melusi Lukhele
melusilukhele@gmail.com CELL NUMBER: 7907 2356

ALL has happen and this coming weekend marks the last games of the MTN Premier League first round, we thank God for being with us this far.

Today we are dealing with injury prevention.

Primary prevention-This involves preventing injuries from occurring in those with no history of injury.

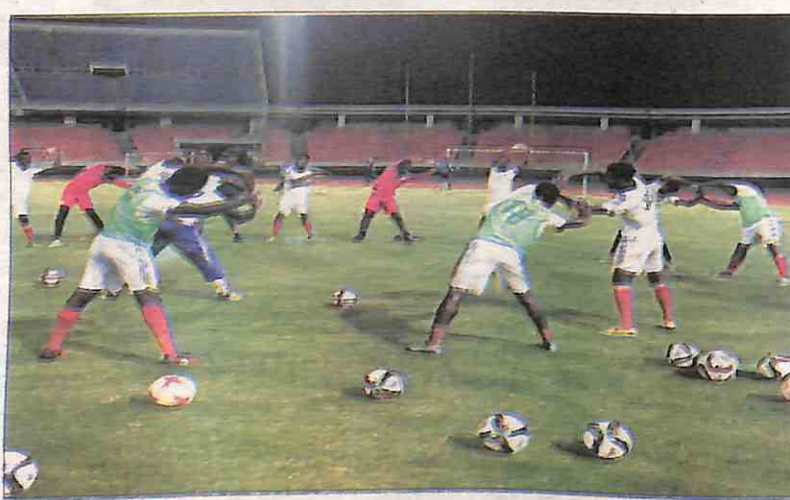
Secondary prevention-This involves the practice of trying to prevent re-injury. A good example here is the use of an eccentric strengthening programme to try prevent hamstring muscle re-injury.

Teams that have fewer injuries perform better in both their domestic leagues and in the Champions League.

How can football injuries be prevented?

- Have a pre-season health and wellness evaluation.
- Perform proper warm-up and cool-down routines.
- Consistently incorporate strength training and stretching
- Hydrate adequately to maintain health and minimise cramps hydrate adequately to maintain health and min-

INJURY PREVENTION



imize cramps

- Stay active during summer break to prepare for return to sports in the fall.
- Wear properly fitted protective equipment, such as a helmet, pads, and mouthguard.
- Speak with a sports medicine professional or athletic trainer if you have any concerns about injuries or preven-

tion strategies. There is an increasing body of evidence that shows that it is possible to reduce the risk of sustaining a hamstring muscle injury. Strategies which have been proposed include different kinds of stretching activities, eccentric strength training, core stability and combinations of these.

Strategies which are widely used to

try to limit the risk of injury.

Stretching-increase visco-elastic properties of a muscle and decrease the strain in a muscle. Several stretch episodes decrease muscle stiffness.

Eccentric strength-the greater mechanical tension and strain exerted upon the muscle fibers yielding increases in muscle fascicle length that consequently increase muscle shortening velocity and force production at longer muscle lengths.

Core stability- comprises the lumbopelvic-hip complex and is the capacity to maintain equilibrium of the vertebral column within its physiologic limits by reducing displacement from perturbations and maintaining structural integrity.

Balance- exercises are part of comprehensive neuromuscular warm-up programmes, like the FIFA 11+, which have clearly been shown to be effective in reducing injuries.

Strapping and bracing- in players with a history of ankle instability. In these players, taping or bracing the ankle to limit inversion can reduce the risk of subsequent ankle sprains by about 50%

Loading- The influence of loading and training volume has been identified

as a risk factor for injury. This is especially true in adolescent and youth players. Too much loading, and sudden changes in loading, have been associated with an increased risk of injury. Times when loads typically increase include during the pre-season, when returning from injury or when players enter an elite training environment. It is especially important to have a carefully designed training programme during these times.

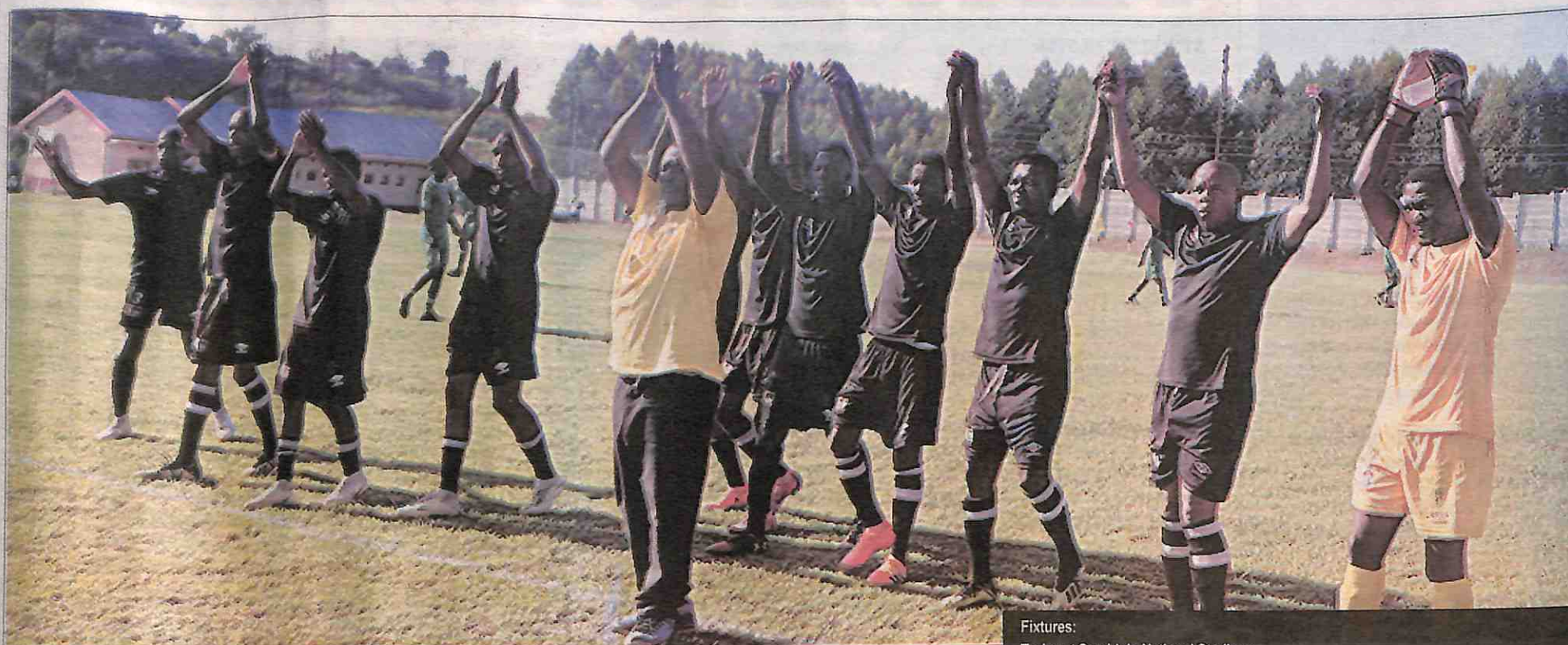
Fitness and conditioning- Muscle injuries occur most frequently towards the end of each half. Given the demanding nature of football, it has been suggested that this is due to fatigue. As a result, a low level of fitness may be an injury risk factor for players. Improving fitness may therefore reduce the risk of injury. It is, however, possible that increasing fitness may be a risk factor for injury. Players with greater physical fitness typically work harder and, as a result, may be more likely to become injured.

Finally let's encourage all sports people to attend Community projects and Church during the holidays till next week. Let us demonstrate the love of Christ,



MTN Premier League 2019/20

PREVIEWS



'Buffs' ready for Black Swallows

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER – Action continues today in the MTN Premier League when Young Buffaloes take on Pigg's Peak Black Swallows in their pending match that was cancelled two weeks ago due to heavy rains at King Sobhuza Memorial

Stadium.

This is a must-win match for the army side, who are chasing the first-round carrot that carries E350 000.

On the other hand, Black Swallows will be all out to get the maximum points as they are among the teams battling against relegation at the bottom of the log table.

YOUNG BUFFALOES VS PIGGS PEAK BLACK SWALLOWS

(Somhlolo National Stadium 3:45pm)

Army side Young Buffaloes are ready to take on Pigg's Peak Black Swallows this afternoon in what is expected to be an epic clash. The match has been rescheduled after it was abandoned on December 7 due to heavy rains at the King Sobhuza Stadium. The Phocweni-based outfit played the match without their coach Dominic Kunene, who was on international assignment with the Under-17 in the COSAFA Cup. Buffaloes were leading 1-0 when the match was called off in the 75th minute.

In their quest to increase their chances of winning the first-round carrot, Kunene will be hoping to lead his team to victory in this tricky encounter.

Flying winger Fanelo 'Order' Mamba will be instrumental in today's match. The former Moneni Pirates player has what it takes to destroy the opposition with his barnstorming runs from the flanks. He will be assisted by his partner in 'crime' Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze and together they pose so much threat. At the back, coach Kunene will be pinning his hopes on tough as a steak defender Sihlangu Mkhwanazi to keep the Pigg's Peak Black Swallows marauding strikers in check throughout the match. Senior players in the likes of Nhlanhla Gwebu, Sihlangu Mkhwanazi, and Wandile 'Skosh' Shabangu must stamp their authority

Fixtures:

Today at Somhlolo National Stadium

Young Buffaloes vs Black Swallows 3:45pm

Saturday at Somhlolo National Stadium

Malanti Chiefs vs Green Mamba 1:30pm

Milling Hotspurs vs Sea Birds 3:30pm

Saturday at Killarney Stadium

Black Swallows vs Royal Leopard 3pm

Saturday at Tambankulu Stadium

Mhlume Peacemakers vs Denver Sundowns 3pm

Sunday at Mavuso Sports Centre

Manzini Wanderers vs Tambuti 1:30pm

Moneni Pirates vs Young Buffaloes 3:30pm

Sunday at Somhlolo National Stadium

Mbabane Swallows vs Mbabane Highlanders 3:30pm

MTN Premier League log:

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Mbabane Swallows	12	9	2	1	24	6	18	29
Young Buffaloes	11	8	2	1	26	7	19	26
Moneni Pirates	12	7	3	2	18	9	9	24
Royal Leopard	12	7	3	2	16	8	8	24
Green Mamba	12	5	2	5	16	9	7	17
Mbabane Highlanders	12	3	7	2	9	8	1	16
Manzini Wanderers	12	4	3	5	12	17	-5	15
Denver Sundowns	12	3	4	5	12	17	-5	13
Tambuti	12	2	7	3	14	23	-9	13
Mhlume Peacemakers	12	3	3	6	13	12	1	12
Milling Hotspurs	12	2	5	5	8	15	-7	11
Sea Birds	12	3	2	7	10	19	-9	11
Black Swallows	11	3	1	7	12	21	-9	10
Malanti Chiefs	12	2	0	10	5	19	-14	6

in this encounter if they want the three points.

This will be tricky affair for the army side, as they play against the unpredictable Northern Hhohho-based outfit, who are coached by their former employee in Mandla 'Sitofu' Dlamini. 'Stofu', who is also a soldier by profession, knows the strengths and weaknesses of the 'Amathol' ezinyathi.

Black Swallows will be all out for the maximum points as they want to improve their position on the log.

The pair of lanky striker Allen Mabuza and his brother, Mbuso is the one to watch this afternoon, not only by the fans but also the

opposition defence.

This promises to be an exciting encounter with both teams gunning for the three points.

Teams:

Young Buffaloes

Coach: Dominic Kunene

Captain: Nhlanhla Gwebu

Key players: Phiwa Dlamini, Wandile 'Skosh' Shabangu, Sihlangu Mkhwanazi

Match winner: Fanelo 'Order' Mamba

Pigg's Peak Black Swallows

Stand in Coach: Sihle Mavimbela

Captain: Mbuso Mabuza

Key players: Luabo Mbikayi, Jonathan Bafoe, Lihle Shabangu

Match winner: Allen Mabuza





● Manchester City are fuming with Arsenal for their pursuit of assistant boss Mikel Arteta and have told the Gunners it will cost them a seven-figure sum to price him away. (Mirror)

● Former Chelsea, AC Milan, Real Madrid and Napoli boss Carlo Ancelotti has reached an agreement in principle to become the next Everton manager. (Sky Sports)

● Unai Emery rejected an approach from the Toffees to replace Marco Silva because he thought it was too early to take another Premier League job after being sacked by Arsenal in November. (Marca)

● English defender Ashley Young, 34, expects to leave Manchester United in the summer and is ready to talk to other clubs in January. (ESPN)

● Chelsea have added strikers RB Leipzig's German forward Timo Werner and Lyon's French forward Moussa Dembele, both 23, to their list of January transfer targets. (Mail)

● Leicester City are said to be "really interested" in making a £25m move for Juventus and Turkey defender Merih Demiral, 21, during January's transfer window. (Leicester Mercury)

Tottenham Hotspur's senior players urged manager Jose Mourinho to sign Wolves winger Adama Traore after the 23-year-old Spaniard impressed against them at Molineux on Sunday. (Football Insider)

● Manchester City's Germany winger Leroy Sane, 23, says he has returned to the football pitch as he edges closer to recovering from knee injury picked up in the Community Shield in August. (Manchester Evening News)

● Newcastle United are hoping to sign Everton defenders Mason Holgate, 23, and 19-year-old Lewis Gibson, both of whom have been capped by England at youth level. (Northern Echo)

● Sheffield United are also keen on Holgate, who is valued at £14m by the Toffees. (Yorkshire Post)

● Ipswich Town want to make 26-year-old English left-back Luke Garbutt's loan move from Everton a permanent one in January. (East Anglian Daily Times)

● Liverpool are interested in signing Coventry City's 19-year-old English left-back Sam McCallum. (90min.com)

● Liverpool and Aston Villa have been monitoring the form of League Two side Swindon Town's 21-year-old German goalkeeper Steven Benda. (Football League World)

E20 000 FOR MP 'MABHANISI' FESTIVE TOURNAMENT

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER – IT'S E20 000 for the much awaited Kwaluseni Member of Parliament Sibusiso 'Mabhanisi' Dlamini's festive tournament.

The tournament that will see 16 teams under the Kwaluseni Inkhundla participating will kick-off on Christmas day and the finals will be played on New Years Day.

Lushikishi are the defending champions of the annual tournament after they beat Mhlaleni in the finals last year.

One of the organisers of the tournament Moya Simelane said they were expecting teams to register ahead of the tournament. He said the joining fee was E250 per team. "It's all systems go as the tour-



IT'S ON: Kwaluseni Member of Parliament Sibusiso 'Mabhanisi' Dlamini.

nament will kick-off on Christmas Day. We are anticipating more than 16 teams for the tournament that will run until New Years day," he said.

Simelane added that the main aim of the tournament is to keep the Kwaluseni people busy during the festive season. He further thanked the MP for ploughing back to the

community. "You will remember that an idle mind is the devil's workshop, hence the games will keep the Kwaluseni people away from crime," he said. Simelane also invited local coaches to come and watch the games so that they could identify players they may want to sign in the January transfer window.

Meanwhile, the champions will walk away with E7 000 while runners up will take home E5 000.

Prize breakdown:

Champions -	E7000
Runners-up -	E5000
Third prize -	E3700
Fourth prize -	E2700
Individual awards:	
Player of the Tournament -	E450
Top Goal Scorer -	E450
Disciplined Team -	E350
Golden Glove -	E350

Mkhaliphi happy with team's overall performance

BY COLISILE SACOLO

TENNIS – ESWATINI National Tennis Association (ENTA) President Nqaba Mkhaliphi said he was happy with the team's overall performance during the East Summer Junior tournament.

The local squad left the country on Thursday to compete in the Gauteng tournament in Benoni and returned back on Monday afternoon.

Mkhaliphi said the Boys played well compared to the girls.

"Even though they did not bring anything home, we were impressed

with the performance of Thando Bhembe, who won some of his matches. He played tough matches and tried his best. Uviwe, who is in the Under-14 juniors always makes surprises as she also played well and managed to win more than two games."

Mkhaliphi said Sakhile Hlophe's performance was fair as she was up against very experienced opponents in all his games.

He said the other players in Sakhizwe Malindzisa and Nonqaba Mkhaliphi did win more than one game but they struggled as their performance was not conclusive.

"They did not have a proper train-

ing as they are both doing Grade seven. The weather also forced them to do indoor physical training and have less time in the courts.

"These tournaments are meant to prepare as they will be participating in the Southern Africa Junior Championships in Windhoek, Namibia next month."

On the other note, Mkhaliphi said they were expecting to play with the Mozambique junior team on January 3-4 before leaving for the SAJC," he said.

He further stated that as an association they were doing all they could to improve the team's performance during international games.

Eswatini teams endure tough time in Ulundi VB tournament

BY JONGILE XUBA

VOLLEYBALL – THE four teams representing Eswatini in the Ulundi Volleyball Tournament in South Africa did not perform well with only one managing fourth place overall while the others crashed out early.

This was revealed by Eswatini National Volleyball Association (ENVA) vice secretary Eric Zwane, who said even though the teams did not manage to win the competition, it was still a good learning experience for most of them.

"Our teams have returned from the Ulundi Volleyball Tournament. We were represented by RSSC, Chilly Babes, Zakhele and Bob Cats. It was a tough competition with only Bob Cats managing to finish fourth overall while Zakhele, RSSC and Chilly Babes failed to pass the group stages. Regardless of the results it was a learning experience for the teams that needed to get more international exposure," he said.

The teams were chosen to represent the country in the competition after the association received an invitation.

This follows the heart break of the association having to pull out of the Zone 6 Club Championships due to financial constraints and also the unavailability of the champions Correctional to defend their title.

James bags Penultimate Leg of Lamb tourney

BY JONGILE XUBA

GOLF – JAMES Nhlengethwa is the winner of the penultimate round of the United Health Insurance Leg of Lamb Golf Tournament played at Manzini Golf Club on Monday.

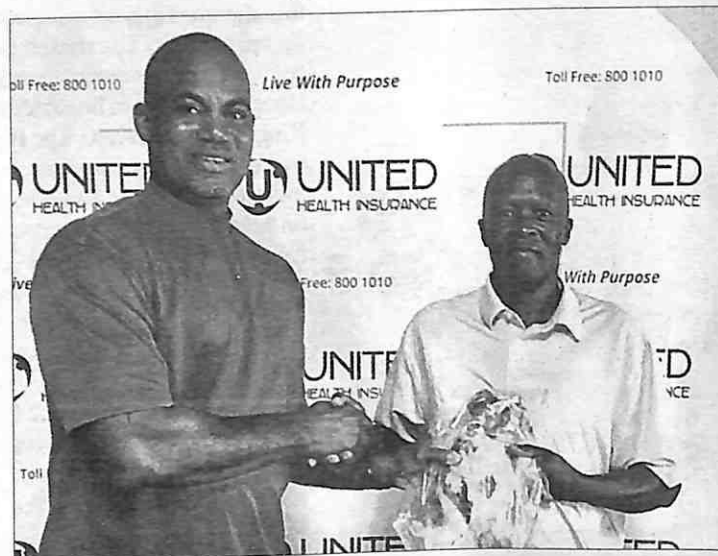
This week's competition had a field of 40 golfers playing 18 holes where Nhlengethwa managed to top with a score of 38 points.

Veteran golfer Richard Dlamini was the runner-up with 36 points while Dumisani Msibi finished third on 35 points on the count back.

John Mngomezulu came fourth after also scoring 35 points followed by Ben Simelane in the fifth position with 34 points. Simon Motsa finished sixth with 33 points while Ivan Groening rounded up the top finishers in the seventh position after accumulating 32 points.

Leg of Lamb captain Wakie Lawrence thanked all the participants for coming out in their numbers for the tournament.

"We will be holding our last competition of the year this Friday at



WINNER: United Health Insurance Leg of Lamb Captain Wakie Lawrence handing this week's winner James Nhlengethwa his prize during the presentation at Manzini Golf Club on Monday. (Pic: Jongile Xuba)

Manzini Golf Club.

There will also be a closing ceremony afterwards and we encourage everyone who has played to be there for this one," he said.

The Leg of Lamb Golf Tournament is sponsored by United Health Insurance to a tune of E50 000 with the competition played at Manzini Golf Club every Friday. The winners take home juicy meat

packages as prizes.

United Health insurance Leg of Lamb results:

1. James Nhlengethwa	38 points
2. Richard Dlamini	36 points
3. Dumisani Msibi	35 points c/b
4. John Mngomezulu	35 points
5. Ben J. Simelane	34 points
6. Simon Motsa	33 points
7. Ivan Groening	32 points c/b

Our teams have returned from the Ulundi Volleyball Tournament. We were represented by RSSC, Chilly Babes, Zakhele and Chilly Babes

BLACK SWALLOWS WORRY OF BUFFALOES

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - YOUNG Buffaloes coach **Dominic Kunene** says his team would be looking to win their MTN Premier League encounter against Black Swallows, but will not be taking things lightly.

He said this during an interview ahead of their match at Somhlolo National Stadium today.

The match will start at 3:45pm. It is a replay after their match that was called

off due to bad weather at King Sobhuza II Stadium two weeks ago.

The match was called off in the 75th minute, with Young Buffaloes leading 1-0 through a Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze goal. Kunene said they had prepared well for the encounter and were ready to accept any outcome.

"The players are all ready and fit for today's game. We will be all out for the maximum points."

Meanwhile, Black Swallows coach Mandla Dlamini said they respected Young Buffaloes because they were a

team with a lot of experience.

"We respect them but not inside the field of play." He said this would be a tough encounter but they would fight for the three points. "We need the three points to improve our position on the log table. We will fight until the end of this match today. We will be very cautious because we know what Buffaloes are capable of. Mine is just to invite our fans to come in their numbers for the match. They should accept any results since a game of football is all about a win, draw and loss."

Phil Mnisi scores highest in UGI Leg of Lamb

BY COLISILE SACOLO

GOLF - "TODAY'S record victory leaves me with a mixture of excitement and shock because I've not been playing that much of late. Nonetheless, I'm happy with such a great comeback."

These were the words of Phil Mnisi, popularly known as Pastor Phil, after winning the seventh edition of the United General Insurance (UGI) Leg of Lamb at the Royal Swazi Spa Golf Course on Friday. Outside golf, Mnisi is the Chief Executive Officer of Eswatini Sugar Association (ESA). In the main, he is a highly-esteemed corporate executive, who also serves as the Board chairperson in some of the country's reputable organisations. His victory was spectacular in that he recorded the most beautiful and envious score ever since this crowd-pulling nine-hole competition was launched in the beginning of last month. He scored an unprecedented 23 points and was three points ahead of his runner-up Vusi G. Dlamini.

In fact, the highest of the previous six winners was 22 points, which consecutively went to the pair of Dumisani



SOMETHING MEATY: Winner Phil Mnisi, popularly known as Pastor Phil accepts his prize from Patrick Gamedze after winning the seventh edition of the United General Insurance (UGI) Leg of Lamb at the Royal Swazi Spa Golf Course last Friday. (Courtesy pic)

Msibi and Dr Ralph Mgijima.

Mnisi further stated, "To shoot a 38 gross on the back nine of this difficult course is certainly an achievement worth celebrating. Thanks to the green-keep-

er for the excellent condition of the course despite the heavy downpours we've experienced lately." He also thanked the organisers of the tournament for the professionalism they have shown since the tournament started about six weeks ago. Commenting about the sponsorship, Mnisi paid glowing tribute to UGI, which is the subsidiary of United Holdings, for taking the strategic initiative of sponsoring a golf tournament at the prestigious Royal Swazi Spa. "This is an excellent and strategic initiative for stimulating the company brand. It's on point in as far as promoting its variety of products and services is concerned. Sponsoring this golf event is a programme that we golfers are delighted about and happy to support," he stated.

The winners:

Phil Mnisi	23
Vusi G. Dlamini	20
Sakhile Dlodlu	19
Frank Hlophe	18
Mike Zwane	17

Novelties

Mbongiseni Dlamini	Nearest the pin
Vusi G. Dlamini	Longest drive
	Hole 18
	Hole 15

Artwell Dlodlu pens 1-yr deal with Vovovo

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - FORMER Midas City head coach **Artwell Dlodlu** has penned a one-year deal with National First Division outfit Vovovo FC.

Information gathered is to the effect that the deal between the two parties has been concluded and Dlodlu has already started drilling the Motshane-based outfit ahead of this weekend's games.

Dlodlu also confirmed that he had joined the former elite league outfit. He said he had been mandated to take the team to a respectable

position at the end of the season.

Dlodlu will fill the void left by Musa Mamba due to a misunderstanding between him and management. "It is true, I have joined Vovovo on a one-year deal. I am happy to be part of the team and I hope we will work together so that we finish in a respectable position at the end of the season," he said.

Vovovo Communications Officer Stan Nxumalo confirmed Dlodlu's presence in their camp.

"Yes, Dlodlu is our coach now and we hope he will add value in the team." Vovovo are also part of the last 16 teams taking part in the Ingwenyama Cup.

Mighty Observer XI beat TGH in five-goal thriller

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

Eswatini Observer..... (2)3
The George Hotel..... (2)2

SOCCER - THE Mighty Eswatini Observer XI beat The George Hotel 3-2 in the Eswatini Corporate League match played at Killarney Sports Ground on Saturday.

Having lost their previous match, the Eswatini Observer team, led by captain marvelous Paradise Mamba was all out to redeem themselves in this encounter.

Eswatini Observer were first to score through Similo Mtsetfwa. However, a moment later, The George Hotel levelled matters through a long range shot from captain Ndumiso Ndwandwe.

The troublesome Similo completed his brace towards the end of first half to put his team ahead. Eswatini Observer's moment of joy was short-lived as TGH equalised via the boot of Ndumiso Ndwandwe. Before the referee blew his final

whistle to end the match, man of the match Similo completed his hat-trick, much to the joy of Eswatini Observer fans. The final score was 3-2.

Eswatini Observer captain Paradise thanked the ECL for sponsoring the tournament. He said the games were helping them to keep fit and healthy. "This is the beginning of good things to come. We mean business and teams must come prepared when they play against us," he said.

Eswatini Corporate League Chief Executive Officer Lungelo Sambo said he was happy with the progress of the games.

He said the games would now be played at strategic venues around the country to allow the different ECL followers to be able to watch the games.

Meanwhile, Babhamuli Social Team beat Pigg's Peak 2-1 while Eswatini Revenue Authority played to a goalless draw against Montigny. Sibusiso Made was crowned the man of the match.

MBABANE SOCIAL 'THE REAL MASTERS' AFTER THIRD SUCCESSIVE TROPHY

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - MBABANE Real Masters social soccer team claimed their third successive Southern Africa Masters Soccer Tournament title.

This was revealed by Real Masters Director Musa Masuku during the club's trophy presentation to their sponsors Eswatini Mobile at Madlenya House yesterday.

The tournament, which was played last weekend in Durban, South Africa saw the capital city-based outfit claim their fourth title overall and their third in a row.

Masuku said they were grateful for all the technical support they were receiving from the giant telecommunications company. He further revealed the secret behind their new found success was hard work and determination.

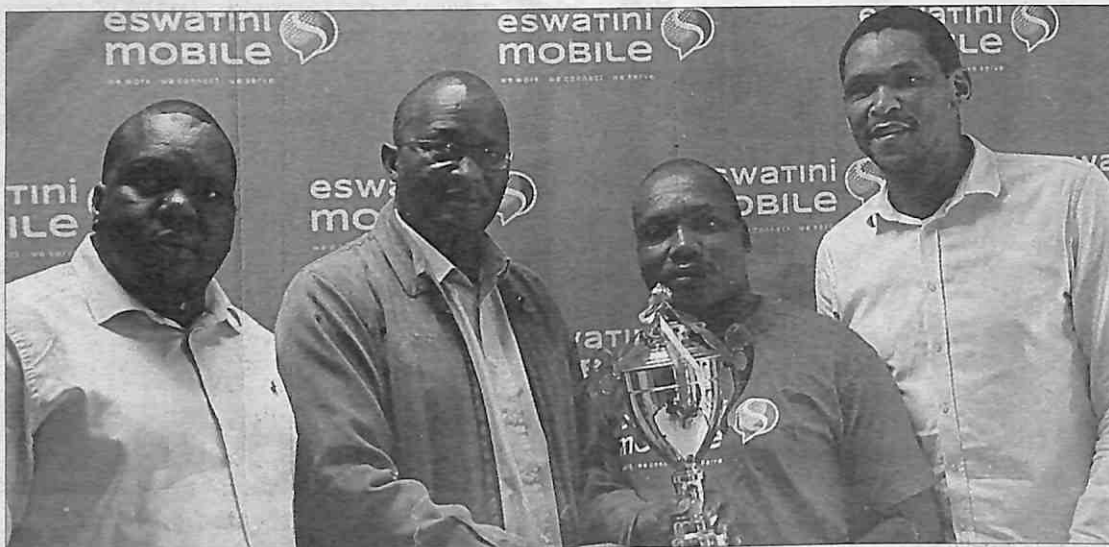
"We would like to thank Eswatini Mobile for all the help they have been providing over the past three years

when they started the sponsorship. Coincidentally, we have managed to win every tournament we joined since we started partnering with Eswatini Mobile. This shows that our partnership was meant to be and we hope it continues," he said.

Eswatini Mobile Chief Marketing Officer Khulile Dlamini applauded the club's performance and pledged support in next year's tournament.

"Once again Mbabane Real Masters have done us proud and we congratulate them on their achievement. We will continue to support them as way of encouraging them to keep up the good work," he said.

Real Masters Director further revealed that Eswatini would be hosting the next edition of the regional competition. "I am also happy to announce that we will host the Southern African Master's Tournament next year around the same time. Clubs from South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana and Mozambique will grace our shores and we are excited to host the competition for a second time," he said.

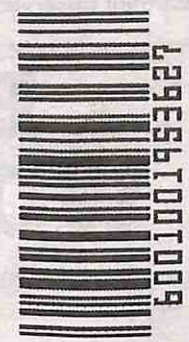


THE MASTERS: Eswatini Mobile Key Accountant and Real Masters player Sifiso Dlamini, Real Masters Director Musa Masuku, Eswatini Mobile Chief Marketing Officer Khulile Dlamini and Real Masters player Sifiso Masuku pose with the team's third successive trophy after they won the Southern Africa Masters Soccer Tournament title. This was during a presentation at Madlenya House yesterday. (Pic: Jongile Xuba)

The Southern African Masters Social Soccer Tournament is an annual competition which has social teams from

around the region competition against each other. Only players from 35 years and above are allowed to par-

ticipate in the competition which is made up of former professional players.



'EXPLOSIVE MBABANE DERBY'

STORIES BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - CAPITAL city giants Mbabane Swallows head coach Honour Janza believes their match against sworn rivals Mbabane Highlanders will be explosive.

The much awaited Mbabane derby will be played at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday at 3pm. The red and white glamour side is sitting at the summit of the log standings with 26 points.

Speaking ahead of the match, the soft-spoken former Chipolopolo coach said they were desperately in need of the three points and they knew what it meant to win the match.

- Swallows coach Janza says match will be tough
- Formers 'Landers pair has nothing to prove
- Game on Sunday at Somhlolo National Stadium

"It will be 50/50 and surely an explosive match. We know what we want and they also know what we want. We are preparing for them and my players will work for each other like brothers. The 90 minutes will be able to determine the best prepared team on Sunday," he said.

Janza further said from the little information he had gathered, their opponents were capable of causing an upset.

"I have been briefed about them (Highlanders)

and I have also watched their two matches. They are a good side, and we have to be ready mentally and physically in order to outsmart them," he said.

He added that the spirit in their camp was high ahead of the match and that they had an injury-free squad. "Everyone is excited about the derby and I want to make it clear that it's not about the first round prize, but we are looking at the bigger picture of winning the league."

SOCCER - FORMER Mbabane Highlanders players Thabiso Mokenkoane and Vusumuzi Zungu have said they had nothing to prove against their former team.

The South Africa-born imports 'crossed the Rubicon' during the 2019/20 season to join the red and white glamour outfit. They will for the first time face their former employer on Sunday.

...Nothing to prove against Bull - Mokenkoane, Zungu

Speaking yesterday after their morning training session, both players said they were looking forward to the match.

"We always play to win and we are looking forward to the derby. We want a win in this encounter and if a chance avails itself, I will score," said

Mokoankane.

Supporters

The former Amatuku striker also invited their supporters to come in their numbers for the match.

Meanwhile, mid-field kingpin Vusumuzi Zungu said they would do their best

to win the match.

"We need the three points more than our opponents.

"We hope for the best and we are confident we will get the three points. All in all, we have nothing to prove against our former club."



Highlands Park close to signing Manyisa

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

SOCCER - ABSA Premiership side Highlands Park are reportedly close to signing Manzini Wanderers skilful playmaker Leon Manyisa.

After an unsuccessful stint with Armenian side FC Van, the Elangeni High School pupil is currently on assessment with Highlands Park under the guidance of coach Owen da Gama since last week Monday.

According to latest news from Soccer Laduma, the Lions of North look set to sign the player, who is also monitored by Spanish giants Real Madrid.

Wanderers General Manager Berger Nxumalo confirmed that the player was in South Africa.

"It is true Manyisa is currently in South Africa for trials with Highlands Park.

Progress

Highlands Park coach Owen 'Rubber Doll' Da Gama said he would comment about the progress of the player once the trials were complete.

Manzini Wanderers Chief Executive Officer Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini referred all questions to the general manager. Nxumalo said they were ready to release the youngster provided Highlands Park came with a good offer.

Another PSL club that is reportedly interested in Manyisa is AmaZulu FC. "We can't stand in the way of the player and we wish him all the best. Our aim is to produce players who will play internationally," said Nxumalo.

On another note, Manzini Wanderers are set to lose their South African defender Thami Zulu to join Stenberg FC.

NFD second round games this weekend

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - THE MTN National First Division League second round games will start this weekend.

The games will be played at different venues in the country on Saturday and Sunday.

First round winners Tambankulu Callies have a date with Young Movers at Tambankulu Stadium on Sunday. This is according to a fixture released by Premier League of Eswatini Chief Operations Officer Pat Vilakati.

Another exciting fixture will see Madlenya take on Mbabane Citizens at Mayaluka Stadium on Saturday, while Rangers will play against relegated side Vovovo at King Sobhuza Stadium also on Saturday.

There will also be a double header at Manzini Club on Saturday, where Tinyosi will clash with Illovo, while Seven Dreams have a date with Hlatikhulu Tycoons.

FIXTURES

Saturday at Mayaluka Stadium		
Madlenya	vs M Citizens	3pm
Saturday at King Sobhuza Stadium		
Rangers	vs Vovovo	3pm
Saturday at Manzini Club		
Tinyosi	vs Illovo	1:30pm
Seven Dreams	vs HTycoons	3:30pm
Sunday at Tambankulu Stadium		
Tambankulu Callies	vs Y Movers	2pm
Sunday at Killarney Stadium		
Umbelebele	vs L. Killers	2:30pm

Former Premier League side Umbelebele will clash with Ludzeludze Killers at Killarney Sports Ground on Sunday.

PLE COO Pat Vilakati said these were the last games of the year as they league would take a break until next year. "We are happy with the progress of the games so far and we hope fans will continue behaving themselves during games." He said they felt it was proper to start the NFD second round this weekend since the first round finished early.