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MONDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2019

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BAYETHE: His Majesty King Mswati III dancing with Emazinyane on the last day of the Buganu Ceremony at Buhleni Royal Residence yesterday. The next event heads for Hlane Royal Residence to mark the end of royal officiation of the time-tested uniting and job creating cultural practice. **MORE PICTURES ON PAGES 4-5.** (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

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BUGANU AT BUHLENI ENDS WITH A BLAST

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VETERAN SCRIBE 'GAMASSAULTING' PASSES ON

BY MELUSI MLOTSI
Matsapha

THE Gama family and the media fraternity have been left devastated as former Swazi Observer cartoonist and columnist Bheki Gama has passed away after succumbing to a short illness.

Gama, who worked for both major print media houses for several decades, succumbed to death this past Saturday at Mbabane Government Hospital after suffering from a migraine (headache). The sad news was relayed by his elder sister, Nonhlanhla Simelane, yesterday at Esibayeni in Matsapha. A team from this publication visited the Gama homestead yesterday afternoon and found the family in mourning.

The devastated sister said the deceased started suffering from a headache at the beginning of the year. "We first thought it was just a minor headache and bought medication from the pharmacy. However, the situation worsened, hence, we took him to Phocweni Clinic where he received treatment," she said.

The distraught Nonhlanhla said as time went on Bheki was admitted to Mbabane Hospital and stayed there for some weeks. She said the situation worsened at the hospital as it was reported that there was no medication to treat

the migraine. She said the family ran from pillar to post, looking for medication. "We were referred to Manzini Clinic, unfortunately we were informed that there was also no medical supply of the migraine drug," she said. She further said Gama looked as if he had suffered a stroke shortly before he died as he could not turn his head. "Nurses told

me that he was not getting any better, the headache seemed to worsen," she said. The sister described the late as someone who was reserved and survived by a child aged 18. She said the family was busy with funeral arrangements.

"He might be laid to rest on Saturday or Sunday," said Nonhlanhla.

The unemployed Gama was also described as someone who loved music, as he did not mind playing his guitar the whole day inside his room. Gama left behind a legacy of arts expressed through song, writing, painting and mimic. He was an incessant critic who quite often treaded on sensitive areas.



RIP: Former Swazi Observer cartoonist and columnist Bheki Gama.

Let's tighten belt somehow - SNAT

BY SABELO MAJOLA
Mbabane

THE Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) National Executive Committee has called on government to suspend other national events in their quest to resuscitate the economy.

SNAT Secretary General Sikelela Dlamini said as the year is still young, their ears would be itching to hear the revival strategies for the economy to include even the suspension of some national events that are held annually and that continue to dig deeper into the pockets of the taxpayer.

"As we are inexorably moving towards the presentation of the National Budget by the Finance Minister Neal Rijkenberg (owner of Montigny Investments Limited with a E1.4 billion turnover per year), the nation will be confronted with unforgettable realities. The top down strategy of drawing the budget using armchair medieval methods has no place in the contemporary times. Experience has taught us that such budgets only cater for the needs of a selected few, in the echelons of power,

at the expense of the multitudes who live below the breadline. As the year is still young, our ears will be itching to hear those revival strategies for the economy to include even the suspension of other national events that are held annually and that continue to dig deeper into the pockets of the taxpayer," he said.

Justifying

Dlamini said in an attempt to make the Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini-led Government relevant and politically correct, it's head has been ravenously taking the lead in justifying why the government cannot adjust civil servants heavily-corroded salaries. He said that a clarion call has been consistently made to the nation to the effect that as an infant government, they be given a chance whilst they are trying to reinvigorate the country's economy.

"One would think, measuring the depth of such rhetoric, that in demonstrating sanity and walking the talk, major decisions are to be taken regarding the suspension of national events that are an annual financial drain to the country," he said.

As civil servants, we have not, and we

will never forget the fact that the government of Eswatini owes us 14.4 per cent in salaries due to its refusal to adjust salaries of workers by the aforementioned percentage (for two consecutive years) even though there has been an exponential increase of prices of goods and services in recent times-corroding our purchasing power as the working class. "Workers are undoubtedly living below the breadline in a dictatorship falling under the Low-Middle-Income Economy (L-MIE) countries, typically with a per-capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US\$ 5,940 (E83,569) per annum as well as a poverty rate standing at 69 per cent," added.

Below is a list of things that government is yet to work on according to SNAT:

- OVC fees have not been paid to schools.
- FPE funds have not been paid.
- Food for pupils in schools has not been paid for.
- Scholarships for our tertiary students remain cut.
- Health centres, clinics and hospitals remain under-resourced with drugs inadequate for patients.
- Grants for the elderly remain unchanged yet they are forced to get their medication from private pharmacies and clinics.

PSAs to hear strike case Thursday

BY MBONO MDLULI
Mbabane

THE strike case between government and public sector association/unions (PSAs) is scheduled to be heard this coming Thursday at the Industrial Court.

This was said by Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) President Mbongwa Dlamini yesterday. Dlamini said they were going to argue Section 89 of the Industrial Relations Act of 2000. He said Section 89 was the Section by which Minister for Labour and Social Security Makhosi Vilakati took the PSAs to the Industrial Court.

Section 89 of the Act does allow the minister to approach the Industrial Court if he or she feels national interest is threatened by parties taking part in a strike action.

Threatened

Section 89 (1) says, "If any strike or lockout is threatened or taken, whether in conformity with this Act or otherwise, and the minister considers that the national interest is threatened or affected thereby, he may make an application before court for an injunction restraining the parties from commencing or from continuing such action, and the court may make such an order thereon as it considers fit having regard to the national interest."

Section 89 (2) says, "Where the court upon hearing such an application under Sub-section (1) makes an order, the parties bound by that order shall immediately refrain from or discontinue such action, and the matter that gave rise to the action shall be deemed to have been referred to the court by the parties concerned for determination."

The following subsection states that an order made by the Industrial

Court in this regard shall be published in a gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the country and such publication of service shall be deemed to be service of notice thereof on all parties to the dispute, including all employees engaged in an action, whether threatened or taking place.

The last Sub-section under Section 89 says, "Subject to this Section, no order of the Court made under Sub-section (1) shall be deemed to have validated any action taken if such action was not otherwise in conformity with the provisions of this part."

Determine

Dlamini said this was the Section they were going to argue in court on Thursday, to determine if there was any national interest threatened by the PSAs by taking part in the strike that is currently stopped by the Industrial Court.

Minister for Labour and Social Security Makhosi Vilakati said he did not know anything about the matter being heard on Thursday. "It is my first time hearing about that," Vilakati briefly said. The Industrial Court stopped the PSAs' strike on January 27, 2019 because the matter was still before court. The strike was to take place the following day.

What made the court arrive at that decision was that the lawyers of the PSAs did not get enough time to prepare for the matter. Government had made an application on January 27 when the strike was supposed to take place the following day. The lawyers for the PSAs had asked to be given until the following day to prepare for the matter. Government lawyers argued that Section 90 should apply so that the strike could not proceed the following day, because the matter was already before the Industrial Court.



**REVEALS:
National Association of Teachers President Mbongwa Dlamini.**

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SUPPORTING: Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku and Ngwenyama Cup Committee Chairman Prince Hlangabeza and other senior princes follow proceedings during the last day of the Buganu Festival at Buhleni Royal Residence yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

Buganu ceremony ends with a blast

STORIES BY SAMKELISIWE KHOZA
Buhleni

DESPITE heavy rains that clogged the dancing arena the past Saturday, nearly ruining the ceremony, the Hhohho Buganu festival ended with a flare yesterday.

The 2019 festival commenced on Friday, however, heavy showers clogged the dancing arena during the crest of the festival, which is Saturday. Nevertheless, Lutsango danced and refused to let the rain dampen their spirits, as they jovially danced the rain away.

The final day of the festival at Buhleni had its weather sunny with slight breeze, making the day more fun for the Lutsango, as they showcased their unique dancing skills before Their Majesties.

Moreover, Lutsango members were gifted by Their Majesties with a new and unique matching lihiya (*kanga*) for the festival.

His Majesty, Emakhosikati being Inkhosikati LaMotsa, Inkhosikati LaMbikiza, Inkhosikati LaGija, Inkhosikati LaMagongo, Inkhosikati LaMahlangu, Inkhosikati LaNtentesa, Inkhosikati LaFogiyane and Inkhosikati LaMashwama led the cheerfully dancing Lutsango.

For day three, the remaining Lutsango,



IN FULL SWING: Throngs of Lutsango dancing for the songs.

comprising security forces; the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS), His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) and the Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) with other royalty members amongst others continued to dance until late in the afternoon.

Former ministers Sibongile Simelane and Hlobisile Ndlovu also joined in.

Emazinyane (princesses and princes) appreciated the festival and briefly joined Lutsango, led by the Minister of Information Communications and Technology, Princess Sikhanyiso.

obsessed with our unique culture."

Simile Sifundza-Dvokolwako

"The festival was good, despite the heavy rains and the fact that our trucks have been delayed.

Sibongile Mkhonta-Herefords

"Rains are common during cultural festivals, hence we paid no attention to the heavy down pours and enjoyed our exceptional festival."

given to us. However, I was slightly disappointed about the heavy rains on Saturday."

Khabonina Dlamini-Nkwene

"Our cultural festivals are always a blast, come storm or thunder, we always have a good time. No rain can dampen our spirits, we are literally

Here is what some had to say:

Thulile Sikhondze-Nkwene

"Kona umsebenzi weMakhosi bowumhle kuphose kona yona imvula."

Elizabeth Simelane-Buhleni

"We forward our heartfelt gratitude to Their Majesties for such unique and stunning *emahiya* generously

● The final day of the festival at Buhleni had its weather sunny with slight breeze, making the day more fun for the Lutsango, as they showcased their unique dancing skills before Their Majesties

Heavy rains nearly ruined the festival but...

RENDERING a song titled *Asinenzaba sitaw'fela eNkhosini* as cheerful Lutsango danced through the rain, Lutsango swore the festival was epic.

Interviewed members of the Lutsango shared the same sentiments that the festival was a blast despite the heavy rains.



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2019 BUGANU AT BUHLENI



MHLEKAZI: Her Majesty the Indlovukazi and emazinyane captured on the last day of the Baganu Festival at Buhleni Royal Residence yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



HONOUR: Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku and his peers in song.



BUGANU BAKHE: A section of emajaha following proceedings.



MOTHERHOOD: Lutsango looking amazing in their traditional regalia.

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DANCE MOVES: Throngs of Lutsango in song and dance.



2019 BUGANU AT BUHLENI



SIGODLO: Emakhosikati in full swing.

COLOURFUL: Emazinyane looking colourful during the event.



IN SONG: Former ministers Hlobisile Ndlovu and Sibongile Simelane-Ndlela in full swing.



COME CLOSE: A relatively close view of the Lutsango in a jovial mood.



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MARKETING AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

King appoints Jabulile Mashwama into PSB

BY MBONO MDLULI
Mbabane

HIS Majesty King Mswati III has appointed Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC) Managing Director (MD) Jabulile Mashwama to serve in the Parliamentary Service Board (PSB).

Mashwama is expected to join Senate President Lindiwe Dlamini, Speaker Petros Mavimbela and Clerk to Parliament Ndvuna Dlamini.

The three are already members of the PSB.

House of Assembly Speaker Petros Mavimbela said the appointments and election of the PSB members were still ongoing, so it would not be proper for him to divulge information regarding the PSB.

His Majesty the King, by appointing Mashwama, was doing so in accordance with the Parliamentary Service Board Act of 2015.

The Act requires that members of the PSB should be seven. The PSB membership should consist of the senate president, speaker and clerk to parliament, who shall be the secretary and ex-officio member.

Others to form part of the PSB include two present parliamentarians, coming from each chamber of Parliament. Another position is filled by a former parliamentarian, who is elected by all the parliamentarians from both houses of Parliament.

The seventh person is then appointed by His Majesty the King, according to the Act.

The existence of the PSB is also provided for in the Constitution. Section 131 (2) of the Constitution says the parliamentary service shall be administered by a Parliamentary Service Board consisting of —

(a) the President and Speaker who shall be chairperson on a rotational basis;
(b) four other members, two of whom shall be members of Parliament, to be



APPOINTED: Eswatini Water Services Corporation Managing Director Jabulile Mashwama.

appointed and removed by the Presiding Officers on the advice of the Joint House Committee;

(c) the Clerk to Parliament, as secretary and ex-officio member.

Section 131 (3) says, "The Parliamentary Service Board shall be responsible for the proper and effective administration of Parliament."

Section 131 (4) says the Parliamentary Service Board may make regulations, prescribe terms and conditions of service of the parliamentary service staff with the approval of the Joint House Committee and do anything necessary for the efficient administration of the parliamentary service.

The process of electing the PSB by the current parliament was aborted in December last year, in respect of the Incwala Ceremony. Now that the 11th parliament has been officially opened,

the process of electing the PSB is expected to resume.

Parliament was in the process of electing two current legislators.

The House of Assembly had nominated Mhlume MP Victor Malambe to go for the position.

It looks like the Mhlume legislator will be elected into the PSB because no one is against him from the House of Assembly.

Senate nominated three senators for the one position reserved of a senator. They included Senators Prince Mphatfwa, Prince Magudvulela and Princess Ntfombiyenkhozi.

The position reserved for a former legislator will be contested for by former minister for sports, culture and youth affairs Hlobisile Ndlovu and former Senator Menjeni Mahlalela.

SIKHATSI ACCUSED OF BEING UNRULY

BY MBONO MDLULI
Mbabane

SUSPENDED Mbabane Ward Four Councillor Sikhatsi Dlamini has been accused of violating his conditions of suspension.

Dlamini is said to have previously attended a public meeting at City Court in Mbabane.

Dlamini, according to a statement sent to this publication by the Municipal Council of Mbabane, was not invited to the workshop.

Municipal Council of Mbabane Mayor Zephaniah Nkambule stated that Dlamini was reminded of his suspension during the workshop.

Nkambule said Dlamini remained suspended.

The mayor further condemned Dlamini for disrespecting council. "Councillor Dlamini's continued violation of his strict conditions of his suspension show complete disrespect of fellow councillors, his constituency, the organisation and the people of Mbabane in general," Nkambule said.

He assured Mbabane residents and the nation that the mayor and his team of councillors

would continue to safeguard the integrity of the council at all times.

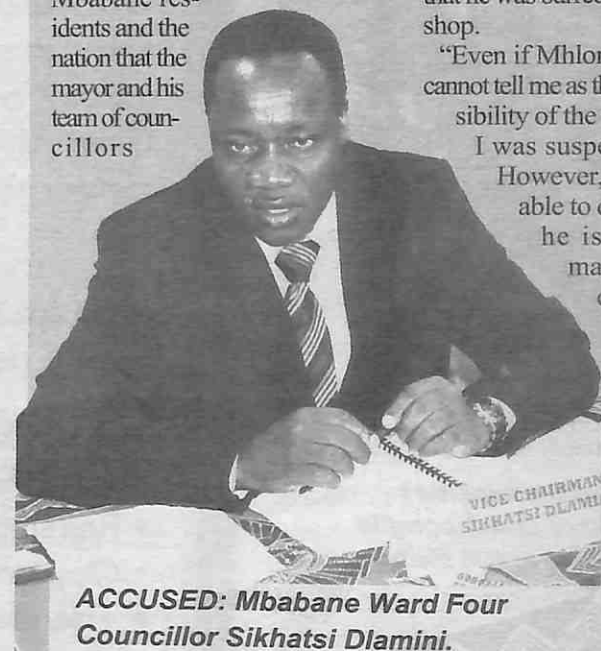
When contacted for comment on the matter, Dlamini confirmed that he was indeed chucked out of the workshop. He mentioned that Municipal Council of Mbabane Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gideon Mhlongo was the one who refused him access to the workshop.

He said what surprised him was that the said suspension they talked about was illegitimate. "The said suspension is unlawful, as I was never called to a hearing before the suspension was announced. I just received a letter from the mayor while I was suspended that I have been suspended for another two months," Dlamini said.

Secondly, Dlamini said the said letter was signed by Nkambule, but to his surprise, he was barred by Mhlongo from attending the workshop last Friday. Dlamini, in his own words, did not expect to find him in the workshop since he did not have a valid contract with council. He further said even if Mhlongo had a contract, it was not his responsibility to tell him that he was barred from the workshop.

"Even if Mhlongo has one, he cannot tell me as that is the responsibility of the mayor because I was suspended by him."

However, Mhlongo was able to do that because he is abusing the mayor. I am still consulting with my lawyer to find a way forward on this, but the end is near. Mhlongo can do this, but he will not be able to do it forever," Dlamini said.



ACCUSED: Mbabane Ward Four Councillor Sikhatsi Dlamini.

Princess Sikhanyiso recognised for contribution towards Croatia relations

BY OBSERVER REPORTER

PRINCESS Sikhanyiso, who is also Minister of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), has been recognised for working towards the country fostering diplomatic relations with Croatia.

According to the online publication, Croatia Weekly, the princess is lauded for the crucial role she played in ensuring that the bilateral story gets more attention from Their Majesties and the government at large.

The country is said to have issued a diplomatic note to the Permanent

Mission of Croatia at the United Nations in New York, as an official response on previous diplomatic notes and requests from Croatian government.

Of note, the same notes have been issued to countries such as Latvia and Lithuania.

Also, countries which have no formal diplomatic relations have the forum of the United Nations General Assembly, where ambassadorial relations are forged.

The publication went on to state how this development was a historical moment for the two countries, which will establish diplomatic relations in due course and complete Croatian diplomatic presence in South Africa.

"Serious negotiations started in May 2017 when Prince Leo held the meeting with Ambassador Christian of the Kingdom of Eswatini in London.

"Negotiations continued and thanks to friendship of Princess Sikhanyiso and Prince Leo, which played crucial role, this bilateral story getting more attention of King Mswati III of Eswatini and the government at large," reads the article.

A meeting held in February 2018 is said to have taken place at the London High Commission, where High Commissioner Christian Nkambule met Croatian World Congress' Branka Cubelic and Prince Leo of Breithen-Thurn.

The initiative for the diplomatic

relations was said to have been discussed. The last important meeting is said to have occurred last month at the Brussels Embassy and the duo of Prince Leo and Cubelic met with Ambassador Sibusisiwe Mngomezulu. Princess Sikhanyiso is, according to the article, said to have proposed an initiative for the bilateral meeting, and the final result of these meetings is the official establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states.

The princess is lauded for the crucial role she played in ensuring that the bilateral story gets more attention from Their Majesties and the government at large

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Parliament Tit-bits

with Mbono Mdluli

The importance of unity

WHEN His Majesty King Mswati III opened parliament about a week ago, he called upon parliamentarians (ministers, MPs and senators) and Emaswati at large to be a united force as they worked on taking the country out of the current financial mess.

In his own words, His Majesty the King said, "I have no doubt that the nation will succeed, for no challenge can be greater than a nation united!" This tells us that the King is very hopeful that the nation will succeed in overcoming the financial quagmire that it has found itself in, but only if the nation is united. The King is banking his hopes on unity for the country and its people to prosper.

Who can be the pioneers in fostering unity among Emaswati than our honourable legislators? They are the ones trusted by the King and his people to take this country to the much-talked-about First World status by 2022. They are the ones who are supposed to enact and implement legislations that will allow and encourage our people to prosper and live a first world life. All legislations should justify their presence, by motivating us to live a first world life. Any law that is against such a good motivation should be abolished. For all that to happen, unity must be displayed by our politicians.

MPs and their thanksgivings

WHILE many people might think that the thanksgivings and some functions done by Members of Parliament (MPs) these days are a waste of time, positives can be drawn from such functions.

First of all, the MPs have to take time and thank the people for voting them into parliament. It is part of Emaswati culture to thank someone for doing something good for you. It is the right thing to do and this is a custom that applies across many cultures of the world.

Secondly, the functions foster unity among the people's representatives, for they cannot perform their functions without being united.

The MPs go to parliament as people's representatives from their respective constituencies, but when they reach the august House, they have to work together because at that time, they are a national asset.

If an MP decides to work alone, the subjects must know that there will never be progress in that constituency.

That can have a negative impact on the country in its quest to revive the economy.

The country must move to the 'promised land' together. No one must be left behind.

The MPs roles include being the people's representatives and that of oversight. Being the people's representative means having the best interests of the people at heart. The MPs have to see to it that the interests of their people are represented at all times. They have to ensure that what the



executive does is in line with the aspirations of the people they represent. They also have to monitor the executive and encourage it to be efficient as it implements its duties. What is also important is that they have to encourage the executive to come out and speak about problems it might face while working. Sometimes, implementing some of these duties can be difficult.

Playing an oversight role means calling the executive to account for all the public funds that it has used in implementing its duties. It means the executive must do this from time to time. The legislature, on the other hand, must guard against the misuse of public funds and it must ensure that the public funds are channelled into projects that will directly benefit the people.

The MPs and senators can play that role better as a united team of legislators. If they are divided, they might find themselves failing to hold government to account. They might fail to protect the funds of the people. A divided parliament can allow the executive to use huge amounts of money for a small project that can cost even less money. A divided parliament can also allow ministers to trick them into accepting questionable (or should I say unlawful?) VAT regulations. Speaking of such, Central Bank Governor Majozi Sithole has to explain what happened on this matter. We need to know the truth as Emaswati.

MPs, the time to work is now

HAVING justified the thanksgivings, the honourable MPs should also know that the people are getting frustrated with the idea of endless thanksgiving functions.

It is said that another one is coming up in another constituency. However, the people there feel as if the money to be spent at the thanksgiving should be channelled towards projects like rehabilitation of public and private roads, just as the MP had promised during elections.

The people are so frustrated such that they cannot even see the good thing about these functions. They cannot see any progress since their MPs started working as one. Other people have now begun to ask if the MP still remembered his promise.

In another constituency, there is one MP who is said to have told people in

his constituency that he is broke and they should not expect much. Again, the people from that area want to hear none of that. They expect service delivery and they are not ready to buy the story of a broke MP. The MP did not tell them about being broke when he was still campaigning. He promised to deliver services. Otherwise, they would not have voted him to Parliament.

We are aware that some MPs will now use the country's unfortunate economic situation to justify their failure to deliver the services they promised. The economy has always been in a bad situation and there has never been a time where we have been told that the economy is now all good.

The people care less about the economy that is taking a nosedive. They want services that were promised to them during elections. The people want results, not reasons why services are not delivered. Some MPs in previous Parliaments have been able to deliver despite these tough economic times. Some have managed to come back while others, despite their hard work, have not managed. This is politics, after all.

Some MPs even splashed exorbitant amounts of money during elections, making the people believe they have the money and delivering the services would not be a problem. That is where the unity comes in. The time to make government deliver is now because on their own, the MPs cannot deliver. No matter how much impression they made during the elections.

Ministers fail to submit reports

THE honourable ministers' failure to table annual performance reports in parliament last week Thursday is very disturbing. This includes the prime minister and his deputy. Why did the ministers do this? What is the problem? Are they encountering difficulties somewhere? What does this say about the attitude they have towards parliament? Is this not contempt of parliament? If it was the High Court or Supreme Court that issued an order to the ministers, would they have defied? Where does this place the unity that His Majesty the King asked for?

All these questions came to mind when it was announced that they failed to submit the reports. House of Assembly Speaker Petros Mavimbela expressed disappointment at the fact that the honourable ministers failed to submit the

reports by Thursday last week. The ministers were urged on Friday of the Parliament opening to submit the reports to the office of the speaker.

Minister of Tinkhundla Administration and Development David Cruiser Ngcamphalala stated that his ministry had submitted. Let us hope the minister did submit. We hope that the mistake will be corrected because time is really not on our side. The year 2022 is just three years from now and we hope all the Cabinet ministers will be able to deliver their reports today in Parliament.

Parliament activities last week

Wednesday 13/02/19

- Members of Parliament attend a workshop on Parliament Practice and Procedure.
- MPs were sensitised on many issues that they have to know while executing their duties.
- They were told to guard against

misuse of public funds by government.

● MPs were also taught about the powers of Parliament, which the MPs were free to use while doing their work.

● AG Sifiso Khumalo also taught about the procedure followed when legislations were enacted.

Thursday 14/02/19

● Senators sit for the first time since Parliament was opened. The sitting was at 10am.

● Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini moves a motion to encourage senators to thank His Majesty the King for giving a clear direction to the country through the Speech from the Throne.

● Senators agree that the Speech from the Throne threw a challenge on Emaswati to turn the country's economy for the better.

● They called for unity from all Emaswati as the quest to improve the economy continued. They urged the Legislature and the Executive to work together to spearhead unity among Emaswati.

● They suggest that there is a need for some senators to thank the King for the speech.

● MPs sat for the first time since Parliament opened.

● Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini moves a motion to encourage MPs to thank His Majesty the King for giving a clear direction to the country through the Speech from the Throne.

● MPs also call for unity as the politicians worked to improve the economy of the country.

● MPs thanked the King and chose a five-member committee to thank the King for the speech.

● Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg tables a E76 million supplementary budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR PROPOSED SUDARCANE PLANTATION Ref: SEA/PRJ/5.03

LUMAC INCORPORATED intends to develop a sugar cane irrigation project on farm Rem: 7/69 within the Lubombo Region.

Notice is hereby given of a Public Participation Process in terms of the Environmental Audit, Assessment and Review Regulations (EAARR), 2000. Interested & Affected Parties are invited to a public participation meeting where information on the project can be obtained.

For details and written submissions please refer to the consultant.

Venue: Diamond C farm (Umntimphofu Bridge)
Date: 22 February, 2019.
Time: 1000 hrs.

Enquiries about the EIA

Please Contact:
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Mobile: (+268) 7602 7840
Fax-to-email: +278-6628-4639
Email: nmxumalo@econetworks.co.sz

Proponent Details

Please Contact:
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+268 7612 4927
Email: mcdp@mkhandlo.co.sz



SAVING LIVES: Foreign Affairs Minister Thuli Dladla, Dr Chang, Cho-Tsai and Ambassador Jeremy Liang during the minister's visit at Nhlambeni.

Taiwan medical volunteers continue helping locals for free

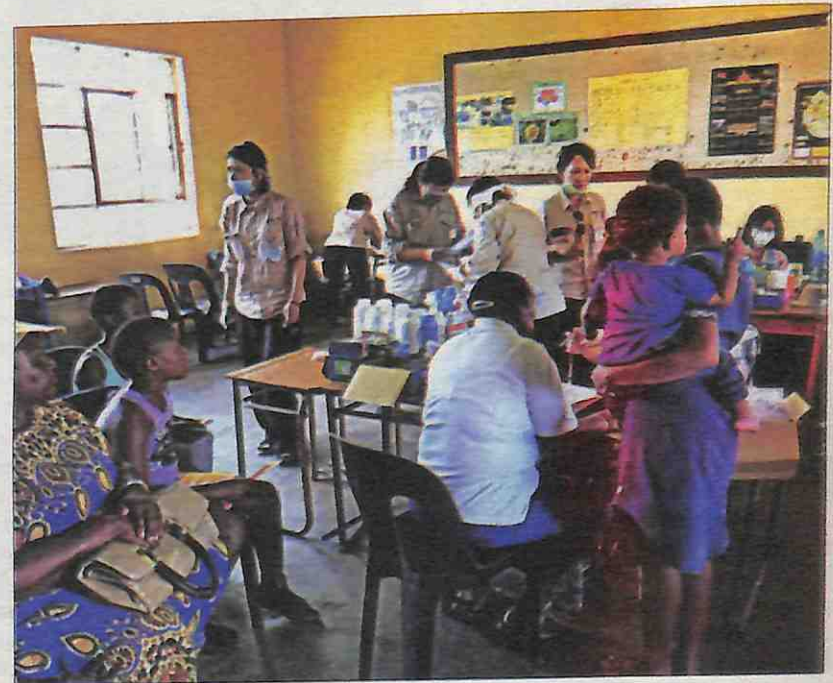
STORIES BY SABELO MAJOLA
Mbabane

SOME Swazi's have benefitted from free medical services from the Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps that have visited various places around the country including Siphofaneni, Nsoko, Ntfontjeni, Pigg's Peak, KaMethula in Hlathikhulu and Manzini offering assistance to patients at no cost.

A total 24 of the volunteers were at Nhlambeni on Saturday where Minister of Foreign Affairs Thuli Dladla and Nhlambeni MP Manzi Zwane were also present in appreciation of the services offered by the medical volunteers.

The group's leader Dr Chang, Cho-Tsai said the volunteers come from different countries like the USA, Australia, Japan and Taiwan with the youngest being 16 years.

"We have been treating people for different ailments like back pain and upper chest infections and we give them the required medication. We also have a dentist with us who checks the patient's teeth and we have a doctor



TREATMENT: Taiwan medical volunteers attending patients at Nhlambeni Nazarene Primary on Saturday.

who specialises with ear and nose conditions," he said.

The elderly were the dominating group at Nhlambeni Nazarene Primary

where the volunteers were stationed. The volunteers were at Mafutseni yesterday and will be at Mhlambanyatsi, Bhunya today.

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GRATEFUL: Minister Thuli Dladla, Nhlambeni MP Manzi Zwane and Ambassador Jeremy Liang in a conversation.

MP Zwane decry lack of health centers at Nhlambeni

PATIENTS travel as far as 10 km to get to the nearest clinic or health centre at Nhlambeni.

Member of Parliament Manzi Zwane said he was thankful to the team of medical volunteers for identifying Nhlambeni to offer their services.

"We are very grateful to get this kind of assistance where people get medical attention for free. We have four regions in Nhlambeni namely Masundwini, Njelo, Mphankhomo and Ngonini. Not all these areas have acces-

sible health centres, particularly at Njelo where patients have to travel long distances to get to the nearest health centre," he said.

Appreciation

Minister Thuli Dladla also forwarded words of appreciation to the team for their services. She said that this was a sign of good diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Eswatini and Taiwan.

"The medical volunteers are responsible for all medication and travelling expenses and we can only be grateful for

what they are offering to the country. The money they spend flying to the country, the free prescriptions to the patients, we can't take that lightly. We are also happy that Emaswati are taking advantage of the services offered by the medical team," she said.

Housing

Dladla also thanked the school for housing the volunteers and he acknowledged the role played by the Republic of China (Taiwan) Ambassador Jeremy Liang, who was also present at Nhlambeni.

ESWATINI ECONOMIC CONFERENCE 2019



● ● ● OCTOBER 23 - 25, 2019

INTRODUCTION

The Eswatini Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (ESEPARC,) together with the Central bank of Eswatini (CBE) and the University of Eswatini (UNESWA) held the first ever Eswatini Economic Conference (EEC) under the theme "Economic Recovery and Sustainable Growth in Eswatini," in 2017. The theme for the second Eswatini Economic Conference to be held in 2019 is thus **KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION, AND DEVELOPMENT IN ESWATINI: CURRENT AND FUTURE PROSPECTS**. The purpose of this conference is to provide a platform to discuss and begin to materialise the knowledge economy Eswatini can become.

FORMAT OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference will be jointly organised by ESEPARC, CBE and UNESWA. It will be held in October 23 - 25, 2019, in Eswatini. The two-and-a-half-day Conference will provide a number of plenary sessions on the themes listed below. These will feature presentations and discussions by policymakers, the Eswatini private sector, prominent local and regional academics and opinion leaders, and development partner representatives. Breakout sessions will be used for more in-depth discussions and technical analyses of prominent topics related to the thematic focus of the Conference.

THEMES FOR DISCUSSIONS

1. Knowledge generation and management for structural transformation.
2. The role of new technologies in strengthening productive capacities.
3. Building a competitive industrial base.
4. Human capital development and building capacities for the new economy in Eswatini.
5. Structural and macroeconomic reforms to boost competitiveness and growth.
6. The role of financial innovation on macro-economic and financial stability.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND TIMEFRAME

Papers are invited on the topics outlined above. To submit papers, author/s must follow the following instructions.

- Abstract of not more than 450 words (Brief; introduction, proposed methodology, justification).
- Submit the abstract by emailing it to the Conference Secretariat at EEC2019abstracts@separc.co.sz
- Papers should use:
 - Font - Times New Roman, 1.5 spacing.
 - Font size - 12
 - Not more than 6 200 words (excluding references).
 - Use the Harvard Referencing Style to cite information sources.

DEADLINE DATE

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| ● Deadline for submission of Abstracts | - | March 15, 2019 |
| ● Notification of Abstract acceptance | - | March 29, 2019 |
| ● Deadline for submission of full papers | - | June 28, 2019 |
| ● Notification of final acceptance | - | September 20, 2019 |
| ● Conference dates | - | October 23 - 25, 2019 |

Priority will be given to the submission of full papers. We also encourage the submission of policy-oriented papers with strong empirical work.

OUTPUTS

The expected outputs from the EEC 2019 include:

- A Conference Report summarising key findings as well as important policy recommendations extracted from conference papers and keynote speeches;
- Conference proceedings in the form of a special issue focusing on innovative articles of policy and operational relevance as well as an inaugural issue of the Eswatini Journal of Economics and Development Review (EJEDR) that will publish a selection of relevant papers with a strong empirical basis.



SOMBRE: Mbuyisa's wife covered in black gown surrounded by family members at the graveyard.



CHILDREN: Mbuyisa's children (L-R) Phiwayinkosi (11) Phumlile (20) holding Wenziiweyinkosi (2), Bandile (15) Khulekani (19) and Nkosiyezile (4).

Another long-serving Swazi Observer employee laid to rest

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI
Lushikishini

THE Swazi Observer has suffered yet another blow as one of its longest-serving employees has died within a space of three months of another loss.

Yesterday, hundreds of mourners paid their last respects to another Swazi Observer employee Bhekisisa Soul Mbuyisa, who has been the only security personnel engaged by the company on permanent basis.

The late security guard was described as someone who had worked diligently for nearly two decades.

Mbuyisa, who was also called or addressed by his surname, died two days before Valentine's Day after he succumbed to an undisclosed illness. He died at the age of 46, leaving behind his wife and six children, aged between two years and 20. He was laid to rest at his home at Lushikishini in the outskirts of Mankayane.

His death comes after that of the company's veteran journalist Thulani Thwala, who by the time of his death in November 2018 had climbed the ladder to the position of editor.

Mbuyisa, on the other hand, was known for his strictness on his job and demanding, recognition as well adherence to company policies.

His sendoff was graced by the large turnout of the company's staff, who had a fair representation from all departments, including management. Apart from his workmates, Mbuyisa's sendoff had been attended by his family, friends and relatives who filled the pitched marketplace.

They all sent condolences to his family and relatives on the demise



REST IN PEACE: Bhekisisa Mbuyisa's body being lowered to the grave at his home at Lushikishini yesterday morning. (Pics: Zwelethu Dlamini)



SUPPORT: Swazi Observer Managing Director Alan Mkhonta (centre) also attended the funeral service.

of the hilarious yet strict fallen hero. The Mbuyisa family thanked those who supported them during the time of the dark cloud, by comforting them, as well as contributions of all sorts.

Comforting his wife, the Mbuyisa family representative said she should always seek assistance from them as they will be available to assist her while raising the children.

"He was like my father, I am happy

that sister in law chose Jesus, we have hope the homestead will be a success. We encourage the children to tell us whatever comes on their way, including our in-law our brother's death does not mean they should be on their own," his brother said.

The Swazi Observer representative Mduduzi Ndzinisa said management and staff of the company was greatly touched by Mbuyisa's demise, saying the company will never be the same without him as he had turned the face of the company.

Fakazile Mbuyisa, who spoke on behalf of siblings Dudu and Gugu, said they were happy with their brother during his lifetime, and were saddened by his departure.

"Everything has its time, we should be ready. The time has come. Let us wait on hope, let us be in our positions. *Sikoni* I love you a lot do not move from your position," she said.

Businesses affected as Siteki without water for days

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

SITEKI had been without water for a few days last week, making life very difficult for the general public and businesses.

The town and its surrounding communities have been without water since last Tuesday, owing to renovations which were being undertaken by the Eswatini Water Services and Corporation (EWSC).

The situation has also seen a number of businesses reporting huge losses in productivity, as they cannot operate without clean running water.

Amongst the businesses which have reported serious losses is the sole textile factory, JS Clothing, which is situated near Mabhodweni area.

The factory has been compelled to cut its operation hours into half to ensure good health amongst the workers.

Speaking during an interview at the factory premises, Production Manager Soodesh Sivram disclosed that management was left without a choice, but to halt operations at midday. At least, this was the case last Wednesday and Thursday.

Sivram said management noted that it would have been a health hazard to keep workers in an environment which had no running water. "We could not keep the over 550 people in an environment where they could not use toilets, hence we had to halt operations at midday," said the manager.

Sivram said the situation had translated to huge losses, as they had to cancel some orders which were due last Friday.

Meanwhile, other businesses such as eateries within the town centre also reported a similar situation.

The EWSC has, however, pleaded for patience from members of the public. ESWC's Sakhiseni Khumalo, who spoke on behalf of Public Affairs Manager Nomahlubi Matiwane, said the situation had been caused by problems which have been experienced with the water network.

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

Amongst the businesses which have reported serious losses is the sole textile factory, JS Clothing, which is situated near Mabhodweni area



LAST JOURNEY: Mourners heading to the graveyard yesterday morning at Mbuyisa's home.



FOCUS on DD cases

85 drink-driving cases this past weekend

BY MBONO MDLULI
Mbabane

ABOUT 85 motorists have been arrested in the country's roads for driving under the influence of alcohol at the weekend.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati said motorists should refrain from drinking and driving.

"There were 85 drunken driving cases reported over the past weekend," she said in a press statement. She added that a 38-year-old motorist

was killed in an accident on Saturday afternoon at Sibhokazi River, next to a fence belonging to Summerfield Botanical Gardens.

The 38-year-old man's Nissan Hardbody collided head on with a Honda Civic driven by a man aged 27, of Ticanfwinini. The driver of the

Honda Civic sustained serious injuries on the head, neck, leg and arm.

He was rushed to RFM Hospital where he died whilst undergoing treatment. Meanwhile the driver of the Nissan Hardbody double cab sustained minor injuries on his leg. Police are still investigating the cause of

accident. Vilakati further mentioned that Malkerns police were investigating a robbery which took place this past Saturday afternoon. A 44-year-old man of Ntandozi was robbed his light green Honda Fit registered QSD 499 AS valued at E38 000.00 at gun point by three unknown men while at Lobamba Lomdzala.

Anyone with information that may lead to the arrest of the suspects and discovery of the motor vehicle can contact Manzini RCBO Mr. Sihlongonyane at 7612 7994 or Malkerns Desk Officer A/Insp. Gamedze at 7623 2716 or Malkerns Police at 2528 3011 or Dial 999/9999 for Emergency.

Number of DD offenders worries magistrate

STORIES BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

MAGISTRATE Sifiso Vilakati expressed his worry over the number of motorists that appeared before court for drink-driving over the weekend.

He disclosed that on Saturday, the court room was full to the extent that some offenders had stand and most of them were in court for drink driving.

The first to be called to the stand was Sifiso Thwala who had been arrested on Saturday at Lobamba and charged with four counts of contravening the Road Traffic Act including drink-driving.

A breathalyser test conducted on him read 0.43mg/l.

He was charged with contravening Section 91 (10 as read with Section 122 (2) of the Road Traffic Act. His vehicle was also found to have a faulty ignition switch. He was also charged for stopping the vehicle in the middle of the road and further driving the vehicle without a licence.

He pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of alcohol and parking the car in the middle of

the road but told the court that at the time of arrest police officers did not ask for his driver's licence.

He further apologised and pleaded for leniency from the court stating that he was rushing his stabbed friend to the hospital.

He claimed that his friend was stabbed at Mashibhini and he had to take him to Medisun Clinic without considering his state of sobriety.

He was sentenced to 15 months in prison with a fine option of E1 500 on count one and five months or pay a fine of E500 on count two. The other counts were discharged.

Another was one Innocent Okinelo of Thembelihle who was arrested yesterday morning at Extension three.

A breathalyser test conducted on him read 0.86mg/l.

He told the court that he had been discussing business ideas with friends over drinks without considering that he would drive later on.

"I apologise my Lord, such will not happen again," he said. He was sentenced to 15 months in prison with the option to pay a fine of E1 500.

Suspect pleads to pay fine in installments

A highly intoxicated driver was tried and sentenced for drink driving yesterday morning and in the event he pleaded with the court that he be given time to pay his fine.

Ndabenhle Kunene was arrested on Saturday at Checkers and when given a breathalyser test his alcohol content read 1.94mg/l. He pleaded for leniency before the court and stated that such would not happen again.

He further pleaded that the court give him some time to organise

money to pay for his fine as he could only pay E500 yesterday.

Magistrate Vilakati told Kunene that the court did not extend that courtesy to suspects because they tend to flee.

Age

However, Kunene continued pleading with the court, stating that as per his age and respect he has for the court he would keep his promise.

His plea was granted and he is expected to pay the balance of E1 500 by February 28.

I was playing cards not driving - Suspect

A drink driving suspect pleaded not guilty for driving under the influence of alcohol yesterday in court.

Mfanzile Maseko allegedly drove a vehicle whilst highly intoxicated as his alcohol content read 0.92mg/l. He was arrested yesterday morning at Ezulwini.

He told the court that he was not driving but was playing cards in the car when he was arrested.

Chris Sibandze who was the prosecutor on the day applied that Maseko be remanded back into custody. However, the accused applied for bail and was granted at E1 000. He is set to return to court on

April 23 for trial. On the same court, one Innocent Mcolisi Dlamini told the court that at the time of his arrest for drink driving, he was not driving but drinking in a car with friends whilst sitting on the driver's seat.

Dlamini was arrested yesterday morning at Sidvashini. A breathalyser test conducted on him read 1.67mg/l.

He pleaded for leniency and told the court that he was a first time offender and had made a mistake. Magistrate

Vilakati told the accused that his actions were not pleasant and a maximum fine for drinking and driving is E5 000. Dlamini was sentenced to two years in prison with an option of a fine of E2 000.



Highly intoxicated drivers traumatised by holding cell experience

TWO drivers did not refrain from disclosing the trauma they experienced for spending a night in a holding cell.

"Akakalaleki Nkhosi yenkantolo, akusiyo indzawo lekahle yekuba khona khona," said one Sandile Mavimbela who was arrested on Saturday at Extension Three.

His alcohol content read 0.52mg/l. He told the court that as soon as he was put into the cell at around 10pm he sobered up and it was a terrible experience. He further apologised to the court, stating that he would not drink and drive ever again for he will remember what he experienced. "I will stop doing anything that will potentially make me go back to that place your wor-

ship," he added. He was sentenced to 12 months in prison or pay E1 200 fine.

Another drink driver was one Gcina Dlamini who was arrested on Saturday at Motshane for driving under the influence of alcohol and further bumping into another vehicle.

Test

His alcohol content when given a breathalyser test was 1.30mg/l. "I plead for leniency your worship, I am very sorry and, as per my experience in the holding cell I do not wish to go back to that place," he said. He was sentenced to two years in prison with an option of a fine of E2 000 for drink driving and five months or pay E500 for the minor accident.

Imbibing motorist causes standstill on Betfusile Street

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

A motorist, who had half a quart of beer in his right hand while steering with his left caused an accident which blocked the Betfusile Street entrance last Friday morning.

The young man, who was driving a sedan with a learner's sign appended on the wind shield, caused a stir after he rear ended a vehicle ahead of him which had stopped in the middle of the road.

The stop was made after the elderly driver realised that he had miscalculated the amber (caution) light as he noted vehicles from the direction of Teba office about to cross his path.

Just as a South African registered minivan was about to drive past, the sedan rear ended the car which had stopped and pushed it right into the minivan. Getting off his vehicle, the elderly man rushed to accost the young man only to find him still holding on to his bottle. The elderly man called for him to give it up as it proved he was negligent. Attempts by the young man to spill the bottle's contents were thwarted by the older man who held on to the bottle for dear life.

The intervention of a group of young men saved what could have been an ugly altercation as they tried to explain to the elderly that a charge of drunken driving would cause the offending driver to fail to fix the two vehicles.

"Allow him to dispose of the bottle so that he can at least get a lesser charge and maybe pay for your vehicle," they argued extensively.

Defeated, the elderly man let go of the bottle and a vocal passer-by took and threw it away.

Despite that the accident occurred in the city centre and completely blocked traffic going onto the street, it took over two hours for police to arrive and enable the drivers to move out of position.



NO WAY: Betfusile Street was closed off last Friday morning just after 8am until well past 9am after an accident involving three vehicles with one driven by a suspected drunk driver.
(Pic: Thembeke Dlamini)



2019 BUGANU AT BUHLENI



TALKING TOURISM: Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati being interviewed by Eswatini TV OB Unit's Sandile Makhanya about the tourism aspect of the Baganu ceremony. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



MARKETING: ETA Marketing Officer Chunky Mdluli taking visitors through the ETA stall where they witnessed a demonstration of how the marula fruit are prepared to come up with the brew and other products.



LIKE THIS: Eswatini Tourism Authority CEO Linda Nxumalo assisting tourist Paggy Maguire from Canada to dress up.



YUMMY: SNTC Officer Xoliswa Mkhonta, Titi Nkumane and Kunene at the food tasting tent.



DISHING UP: Some of the visitors who were brought through by All Out Africa having a taste of the traditional meals.



KaShali Pro-Learning High School

2018 SGCSE RESULTS

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

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

Student Name	Subjects
Sandziso Nkambule	First Language: Swati: C Mathematics: A Geography: A Physical Science: B
Mxolisi Mdluli	First Language: Swati: B English Language: B Mathematics: A Business Studies: B Physical Science: B
Bongumenzi Dlamini	First Language: Swati: B English Language: B Biology: A Mathematics: A Business Studies: C Physical Science: A Geography: C
Minenhle Dlamini	First Language: Swati: B English Language: A Biology: C Mathematics: D Physical Science: C Religious Education: C
Candy Mazibuko	First Language: Swati: A English Language: A Biology: A Mathematics: B Physical Science: A Geography: C Religious Education: C
Evander Dlamini	English Language: B Physical Science: A Business Studies: A
Nomfundo Mkhwanazi	First Language: Swati: C English Language: C Biology: A Geography: B
Linda Dlamini	First Language: Swati: B English Language: B Physical Science: B
Zukiswa Mavuso	English Language: B Mathematics: A Biology: B Physical Science: A Geography: C Religious Education: C
Mandisa Matsenjwa	English Language: B Mathematics: A Physical Science: A
Brian DuPont	English Language: B Mathematics: A Biology: C Physical Science: B
Mgiyo Khaya Simelane	First Language: Swati: A English Language: C Mathematics: C Biology: B Physical Science: B Geography: B Religious Education: C
Nombulelo Nhlako	First Language: Swati: B English Language: B Mathematics: B Biology: C Physical Science: B Geography: C Religious Education: B
Swelethle Ndlovu	First Language: Swati: C English Language: C Mathematics: B Biology: B Business Studies: B Economics: A
Lungiswa Nkambule	First Language: Swati: B English Language: B Mathematics: C Biology: D Geography: C Religious Education: B
Hlobile Mkhonta	English Language: B Physical Science: C Business Studies: B
Samkeliso Dlamini	First Language: Swati: B English Language: B Physical Science: B
Njabulo Bhembe	First Language: Swati: B English Language: B Physical Science: B
Nhlonipho Ndlovu	English Language: B Biology: B Science: A
Bandzile Sukati	Mathematics: C Physical Science: B Geography: B
Nosipho Ntimate	English Language: B Mathematics: B

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EXTENSION OF TENDER PERIOD PREQUALIFICATIONS OF SUPPLIERS TENDER NUMBER: NIDCS EOI/001/2019

The National Industrial Development Corporation of Swaziland is established under the National Industrial Development Corporation Act of 1971 to promote industrial development in Swaziland through establishing and conducting a broad range of business undertakings; facilitating and assisting the new business undertakings with financing and schemes for expansion and re-organizing and modernizing existing business operations towards efficiency and optimal performance.

In order to fulfil the above mandate NIDCS invites proposals from eligible, reputable suppliers of goods and services who wish to be shortlisted into the organisation's preferred vendor list for the financial year period 2019/2020.

A document with terms, conditions and qualification criteria is obtainable, at NIDCS Offices situated at 3rd Floor, North West Wing, Sibekelo Building, Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane. The document is also downloadable at www.sppra.co.sz

Tender fee is five hundred Emalangeni (E500.00)

payable to NIDCS Current Account at Nedbank. Sealed proposals, accompanied by proof of payment of tender fee, clearly marked 'PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENT, CATEGORY XXX' should be deposited into the Tender Box at NIDCS reception area, 3rd Floor, North West Wing, Sibekelo Building, Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane on or before 12 Noon CAT on 8 March 2019. Addressed to:

**THE SECRETARY
NIDCS TENDER BOARD
NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION OF SWAZILAND
P O BOX 9458
MBABANE**

Request for clarifications must be in writing and should be addressed to email: qhawek@nidcs.org.sz NIDCS will strive to promptly respond in writing via e-mail to any request for clarification up until close of business on 28 February 2019.

CATEGORY A: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF GOODS	
TENDER REFERENCE CODE	ITEM DESCRIPTION
NIDCS1920-001	Computers, Laptops and related IT equipment
NIDCS1920-002	Personal Protective Equipment
NIDCS1920-003	Motor Vehicles
NIDCS1920-004	Branded and Promotional Materials
NIDCS1920-005	Office Stationery & Printing
NIDCS1920-006	Office Furniture and Furnishings
NIDCS1920-007	Corporate Wear

CATEGORY B: PROVISION OF SERVICES	
TENDER REFERENCE CODE	ITEM DESCRIPTION
NIDCS1920-008	Financial Advisory
NIDCS1920-009	Legal
NIDCS1920-010	Audit
NIDCS1920-011	Information Technology
NIDCS1920-012	Car Rental
NIDCS1920-013	Travel and Tour
NIDCS1920-014	Investment Advisory (Priority Sectors: Agriculture, Agribusiness, Manufacturing, Energy, Tourism, ICT, Education, Creative Industry, Infrastructure - Factory Shells, Retail, Logistics, Water)

CATEGORY C: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS REGISTERED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL (CIC)	
TENDER REFERENCE CODE	ITEM DESCRIPTION
NIDCS1920-015	Research and Market Studies (Priority Sectors: Agriculture, Agribusiness, Manufacturing, Energy, Tourism, ICT, Education, Creative Industry, Infrastructure - Factory Shells, Retail, Logistics, Water)
NIDCS1920-021	Loan management system
NIDCS1920-022	Hospitality: catering, conferencing facilities, events management and related services

CATEGORY C: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS REGISTERED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL (CIC)	
TENDER REFERENCE CODE	ITEM DESCRIPTION
NIDCS1920-016	Construction Firms - CIC Category: B, C, E, M
NIDCS1920-017	Specialist Works - CIC Category: BS, CS, ES, MS
NIDCS1920-018	Consultancy Practices - CIC Category: CE/SE, ARC, QS, EE, ME
NIDCS1920-019	Allied Professionals
NIDCS1920-020	Individual Artisans

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Handicraft - Buhle Bem Africa

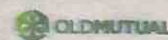


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Shiselweni business community shouts Bayethe

...He said the king summed up everything that needs to be done for the country

THE Shiselweni Business Community has applauded His Majesty King Mswati III for the State of the Nation address.

Justice Nxumalo who is the Chairman of the organisation said they were impressed with the way the State of the Nation Address (SONA) was presented as it outlined critical issues that need attention for the country to move forward.

He said the king summed up everything that needs to be done for the country to prosper and attain the first world status.

"What is left of us is to rally behind him and government in order to have all what he recommended implemented without any delay. His speech has thrown the gauntlet to all Emaswati, we have been tasked to ensure that we move forward as a country," said Nxumalo.

Nxumalo said no one should take a backseat in shaping the country's destiny especially after the country's highest authorities have given us direction. "No one should be a spectator in build-

ing the nation. We all have to contribute in making sure what our King wishes us to achieve, we achieve it and we can do that if we pull in the same direction.

The current government needs our full support and we have to come on board for the Cabinet to succeed," said Nxumalo.

Nxumalo said the business community should always rally behind the head of state and government in making sure that all the good things and wishes the king has for the country are achieved.

"We need to work tirelessly whenever we conduct business and make it a point that we implement all His Majesty's wishes for the prosperity of Eswatini.

The king meant it when he stated that there has to be some sacrifices in order for the country's economy which has taken a nosedive to be resuscitated. It has to be you and I who see to it that the Ingwenyama's order is implemented and we can do this together as a nation. *Sekhuta Libayethe!*" said Nxumalo.



IMPRESSED: Shiselweni Business Community Chairman Justice Nxumalo.

Hype building up for this year's Mahamba Gorge Hiking

SEVERAL companies have shown interest in the Mahamba Gorge Hiking event to be held this year.

Some organisations have started forwarding lists of employees who will participate.

This will be the sixth edition and it is slated for April 7. Registration was opened towards the end of last month.

The event which has become popular locally and beyond the country's borders has also become a family fun event as each year when it is held, some attend it just to enjoy themselves and take advantage of the entertainment that is provided.

FTM Garments which is a textile company in Nhlangano, has already forwarded a list of 100 employees to participate in the event.

FTM Garments has been supporting this initiative since its inception six years ago.

Lucky Msibi who is Mahamba Gorge

Hiking Sport technical organising committee Chairman said it was pleasing to see companies submitting a lists of employees to register.

"Showing interest is one thing but coming forward to register is another thing.

Interest

It's good to show interest in something that is meaningful. FTM Garments has not just shown interest but it has forwarded a list of over 100 employees who wish to be part of the event. It's also likely that as time progresses, the number will double if not triple," said Msibi.

Msibi said other companies which indicated that they were planning to send employees to the event were still to decide on the numbers.

"We have the Shiselweni Forestry Company (SFC) which has indicated that it will have its list ready before the end of this week.

SFC is also one of our major sponsors.

We also have All Nations Christian Church In Zion which last year made history by sending a total of over 350 members.

The leadership of this popular church has promised to forward the list this week. Last year, the church won itself a trophy for having registered more people than any other company or organisation," said Msibi.



TAKING A STEP: Ward One (Ekhayalami Township) Councillor Mngqobi Mkhonta.

Bucopho announces community development officers' visit

DUMENKUNGWINI, which is one of the chiefdoms under Shiselweni I constituency will be visited by community development officers to educate them on funds availed by government.

Bucopho of the area Bafanabodwa Sithole said it would be proper to start by educating the residents about the funds and how they could be accessed.

He said the office of the community developer has already been approached and mentioned that it was now just a matter of agreeing on dates between all stakeholders. The Regional Development Fund (RDF), Sithole said it was one of the funds which the residents were eager to know about it's processes to be fol-

lowed in order to qualify for it. "The aim is to have the development officers enlighten us about the funds and how to apply for them.

It's not just the RDF only but we are interested in knowing even about the other funds that are made available in starting projects.

People need knowledge and once they have it, they will make use of every opportunity that is meant to empower them.

They have to know that there are committees that must be in place and other requirements," said Sithole. Sithole said as people of Dumenkungwini, they were interested in playing their part in ensuring that the country successfully attains the world first status.

Roads at Ekhayalami Township needs rehab

ROADS at Ekhayalami Township (Ward One) in Nhlangano will soon get a facelift, a project which will cost millions of Emalangeni.

The poor road infrastructure in the township is also a concern not only to the residents, but even the town council which is working around the clock to find a lasting solution.

Residents in the Ward have applauded their Councillor Mngqobi Mkhonta for the efforts he has put in trying to address the situation.

Just over the weekend, pot-

holes which make driving a nightmare were being attended to.

"Councillor Mkhonta is trying and we really appreciate his efforts of making sure that the roads are attended to. Rehabilitating the roads needs a serious budget.

Closing the potholes is commended, but it is not a permanent solution as when rains come, it's back to square one. Our roads need a major facelift and not temporary fix," said Musa Dlamini.

Councillor Mkhonta acknowledged that the roads needed immediate attention.

He said it was unfortunate that at this juncture nothing much could be done as it was a known fact that the country was faced with a fiscal crisis.

He said the town council was doing all it could to deal with the situation with the little resources it has.

"The town council will be working on rehabilitating some roads with the limited resources it has.

Not long ago, we had a grader which leveled some of the roads but the heavy rains have 'washed away' all that.

We will now wait for the winter season to fix roads as there is little rain," said Councillor Mkhonta.





IT'S REFRESHING: Minister of Health Lizzie Nkosi and Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo with Coca-Cola Foundation management and health practitioners looking at the donated equipment at the Matsapha Medical Stores.

Coca-Cola Africa Foundation donates E3m equipment to ministry of health

BY MBONO MDLULI
Matsapha

THE Coca-Cola Africa Foundation has donated medical equipment valued at over E3 million to the ministry of health.

The donation came as an indirect gift to Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo from the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, through Medshare from the United States of America. Khumalo is a former general manager of Coca-Cola Eswatini.

Receiving the donation was Minister of Health Lizzie Nkosi. Nkosi said the equipment would

be installed at the Mbabane Government Hospital and Raleigh Fitkin Memorial (RFM) Hospital respectively.

She thanked the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation for the generous donation and said it came at the right time. "The current cabinet believes government cannot be the only one that takes care of the health of the nation.

"Therefore, we believe every piece of equipment and every commodity that is here will go a long way towards improving the health of the nation. The two hospitals that will be benefitting are both countrywide hospitals, as they service the entire nation so we do believe this donation will play a

crucial role in the livelihood of Emaswati," Nkosi said.

She added that some of the equipment was diagnostic, while some was for treatment; hence some will be installed in the Intensive Care Unit.

Coca-Cola General Manager Seon Song said the Coca-Cola Foundation supported projects that were aligned to their three priority areas for instance women, water and well-being.

"Today's donation is in recognition of Minister Manqoba Khumalo's past service as a trustee and public officer of the Coca-Cola Foundation. The leadership of the Coca-Cola Foundation decided that they would sponsor any pro-

ject of his choice. After careful consideration and consultation, he chose donating medical supplies and equipment to a few hospitals in Eswatini," Song said.

Minister Khumalo said he was very grateful to the Coca-Cola Foundation for their support; particularly at a time when government was undergoing major fiscal challenges. He said they welcomed every support from friends of the kingdom during such a period. "This donation will go a long way towards helping in some of the practical challenges that we have as a country. We are very optimistic about the future of the country and turning the economy around," Khumalo said.

Manzini City Council takes Fairview residents to 2022

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
Manzini

THE Manzini City Council has taken Fairview resident a step further towards Vision 2022 as a multi-million complex will be constructed in the area.

The project that has three components comprising a shopping complex, retail facility and a petrol filling station is expected to begin operating in July 2019.

This was revealed by the developers together with the city council during a scoping meeting held on site at lot 76 adjacent Rainbow Pre-school last Saturday.

Construction of the multi-million project is expected to last for a period of 15 months as it is expected to be completed by the year 2020.

According to the City Council of Manzini, the constructor is Inyatsi Construction and the architect is Architect International, a Mbabane-based company situated at the Embassy House.

This is a proposed mixed use commercial development for FIMAC (Pty) Ltd project wholly owned by the City Council of Manzini, it was stated. However, only a few residents made it to the meeting last Saturday, with the meeting lasting for less than an hour.

Present during the meeting were City Council Communications Specialist Mathokoza Thwala, the contractor (Inyatsi) and the architects with only a few residents, including Salesian High School Principal Petros Horton. It was stated during the meeting that residents of Fairview and surrounding areas are to be prioritised in as far as job opportunities are concerned, both during construction works and after the project has been completed in 2020.



Non-communicable diseases on rise:

Govt trains nurses to attend to patients

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

THE sudden increase in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the country has resulted in government training nurses in clinics so that they could attend to patients.

NCDs have traditionally been associated with affluent lifestyles in developed nations. However, at the dawn of the new millennium, NCDs now pose a huge health challenge in Africa, and Eswatini is no exception.

Online site www.medicalnewstoday.com listed NCDs as Alzheimer's, asthma, cataracts, chronic kidney disease, chronic lung disease, diabetes, fibromyalgia, heart disease, hypertension (high blood pressure), obesity, osteoporosis, stroke, cancer as well as several other cardiovascular diseases.

According to Chief Nursing Officer Dr Thembisile Khumalo, they have been training nurses from clinics as the number of NCDs patients have shot up.

"They are trained in tertiary but we have now seen that the number of people with NCDs is increasing. We have taken nurses, who are already in the field for a workshop so that they could manage the sicknesses," she said.

She said in the past, patients with NCDs were only attended to in hospitals where there are doctors not clinics. Dr Khumalo said the number of people with NCDs were many so government finds it befitting that

medical help should be decentralised so that such could be attended even in clinics without doctors.

She clarified that the nurses who were being work-shopped were strictly those from clinics. She said after the training, nurses would be able to manage NCDs and give out medication.

"In the past nurses would just refer the patient after discovering an NCD, but now we are saying the nurse should manage such patients," Dr Khumalo said.

She added that the nurses have been trained in different groups, adding that the groups were around five.

When asked on the implementation of the programme, she said it has already been rolled out in the Lubombo region.

"In some clinics we are still rolling out, it is not fully-fledged," she said.

She noted that many cancers including prostate cancer and skin cancer now also shown an increase over the past years.

Of note, the Swazi Observer, on November 14, 2018, reported that the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Director Dr Matshidiso Moeti said diabetes increased from four million in 1980 to 25 million in 2014.

She said this was due to aging populations and lifestyle changes, including unhealthy diets and a lack of physical activity. She said overweight and obesity were the strongest risk factors for type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and other non-communicable diseases.

Robbery suspect pupil granted E50 000 bail

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

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

The pupil, whose name has been deliberately withheld, was arrested by the Malkerns Police on February 7. Last Thursday, he appeared before High Court Judge Mumcy Dlamini who granted him the bail.

However, Judge Dlamini ordered that he pays E2 000 in cash and E48 000 shall be in the form of surety. Represented by Lawyer Sanele Jele, the pupil informed the court that he is now missing crucial classes since his arrest since during this time of the year, their teachers strategise their approach to the end of the year exams.

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

When Judge Dlamini enquired from him about his future professional aspiration upon finishing school, he told the court that he wanted to be a lawyer, as he has fallen in love with the profession sending the court into stitches. When he appeared in court, he was escorted by officials from His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) attached to the Malkerns Juvenile Centre, who escorted him back after the hearing while his relatives and Jele prepared to deposit the bail amount at the Treasury Department.

Arrest

In his founding affidavit, he submitted that on January 7, 2019 he was arrested by the Malkerns police and charged with the offence of robbery and further with the offence of house breaking with intent to steal.

He stated that he appeared before the Manzini Magistrate's Court for his remand and was advised to approach the High Court for bail application. He submitted that he is a sickly person, suffering from stomach ulcers and therefore lived by constantly seeing doctors, adding that he has been advised that the correctional services facilities are not adequately equipped to cater for such illnesses. He also submitted that the reason he has been implicated in the offences is that he was amongst the mob consisting of his co-accused during the assault of the victim, as he only followed around in the chase and further watched whilst the victim was assaulted.

"I happened to get out of my room that Saturday night when I heard people screaming and saying my elder brother was stabbed by the victim, Elijah Dlamini, however I did not take part in the process of assaulting the complainant, but instead I was supportive and it is evidentiary from the fact that I was the only person who assisted the complainant by taking him to the traffic police, who manned a roadblock nearby requesting the police to take him to the hospital," he submitted.

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

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

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Celebrating International Mother Language Day: The role played by siSwati authors



Foreword by: Busisiwe Simelane, Macmillan MD

THIS week Macmillan Education Eswatini joins the nations of the world in celebrating International Mother Tongue Day.

This global observance is held on February 21 each year to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity, as well as multilingualism. For Macmillan, this year's celebrations coincide with a very important milestone that marks 40 years of our existence in the Kingdom of Eswatini. This allows us the liberty to reflect on the journey since the company was established in 1979, which in itself is a very significant year as siSwati, our mother tongue, officially began being taught in schools, replacing isiZulu. It is for this reason that we consider it befitting to celebrate the pioneers of our mother tongue, a few of whom are sadly departed, though their memories are kept alive by their great literary works.

Of equal significance is the recent double celebration of the kingdom's 50th independence anniversary, as well as His Majesty King Mswati III's 50th birthday. His Majesty's government has made significant strides in all areas of development in the last 50 years, fuelled by a sound education system that we take pride to have been part of. As a company, we pledge to continue to be part of that growth. Through preserving the gains of past years, founded on a strong mother tongue foundation, we



believe we will attain the calibre of work synonymous with first world countries by 2022, as per the vision of His Majesty King Mswati III.

Affirmative

We recall vividly that it was shortly after independence that the winds of change in the literary world began to blow, as the government took affirmative action towards developing the country's own literature; a literature that would significantly impact both our mother tongue and culture as we know it today. When the government sought partnerships with publishers in a bid to publish materials that would suit the Swati learner, Macmillan grabbed the opportunity and relocated to the country in 1979, in order to provide the required services.

We take this opportunity to salute Macmillan's first Managing Director Luchi Balarin, who bravely put in place the first building blocks of the company, recruiting local people to run the country office. Led by Balarin, Macmillan

established a structure that would ably and expediently respond to the country's needs, setting a two-pronged establishment - Macmillan Swaziland National Publishing Company (MSNP), which exclusively focuses on producing learning materials for the state-funded free primary education (FPE), which has recently incorporated a few subjects offered at junior secondary level. The other part is Macmillan Education Swaziland (MES), a brand name by which we are primarily known, and focuses on producing pro-Macmillan titles which are sold to booksellers, who then avail the material to the general public.

Celebrations

At the centre of our celebrations this week are pioneers of our mother tongue who will be profiled in these pages for the next few days, so that the nation may appreciate the people who educated, informed and entertained them through writing in our own language; in the process helping to preserve and develop our mother tongue. Macmillan has come a long way with these national heroes and heroines since 1979.

The company considers all these authors

as partners because the relationships forged have been mutually beneficial. The writers engaged by Macmillan have always conformed to a standard that only fits a positive and relevant perspective; the sole objective being the development of the country's mother tongue. These remarkable forerunners include the legendary JSM Matsebula, Valentine Simelane, TT Ginindza, G Pato, to name but a few. In a bid to identify new literature and replenish our archives, Macmillan ran writers' competitions where numerous protégés were discovered and published. The first fruit of Macmillan's efforts in popularising SiSwati literature was the publishing of *Mane Ungitfole Tsine* written in 1968 by Stanley Matsebula, the dearly departed Managing Director of EswatiniBank.

The highlights of Macmillan's journey could never be complete without the mention of a writers' workshop that took place in 1988. This workshop was organised by then siSwati Senior Inspector, Elizabeth Mthembu (another author who will be profiled in these pages). It was abuzz with teachers, scholars, aspiring authors, budding authors and myself, facilitated by the capable hands of South African legends inclusive of NDZ Ntuli, Sibusiso Nyembezi, SQ Zulu and CT Msimang. This first of its kind platform still lingers in the memories of many who only started writing after they attended it.

There have been many testimonies from people who attended this workshop, all very positive. Participants said the workshop helped develop their creative skills, improved their individual tones, allowed them to engage critically with creative texts across multiple genres, as well as gain an understanding of core elements of their craft, among other attributes. Participants were able to develop a skillset for completing creative work, develop a personal practice of literary citizenship, develop authenticity and imagination as well as learn to present a live reading of their work. The powerful conference got authors to receive feedback and mentorship from professionals that most of us had, until then, only read about.

This was just the genesis of a long journey in nurturing new talent and refining the old, by means of workshops that are still being run from time to time. Our relationship with siSwati authors blossomed during the era of former Managing Director, Elias Ndwandwe, and today's generation of leaders continue to reap the fruits. Much has been achieved during this period, not least the very strong relationship with the African Languages and Literature Department at the University of Eswatini. UNESWA has been involved in our journey as true foot soldiers, providing authors, reviewers, editors and consultants. We sincerely hope that, together, we can finally turn the corner and be able to inculcate reading siSwati for pleasure at an early age. It gives us joy and satisfaction to be able to celebrate International Mother Tongue Day with the people who have made it all possible - our siSwati writers.



Dr. Nkomeni Douglas Ntiwane:

A mother tongue revolutionary

DR Nkomeni Douglas Ntiwane is to Eswatini both a mother tongue revolutionary and pioneer author, who used every opportunity to contribute to beating the path ahead of the advent of Macmillan Education Swaziland in 1979.

Here is a man whose passion for his mother tongue could not be suppressed by a dark era where emaSwati could not even tell stories of their own because siSwati was barely recognized. Dr Ntiwane's love for both the spoken and written word gave him the belief that someday, siSwati would become the people's official language, and he put his faith to action by leading a clique of prolific siSwati writers who wrote and read their own works at a time when the language was not even taught at school. Born in South Africa in 1933 to Jenny Dlamini of Lobamba and Isaiah Myotha Ntiwane, young Nkomeni showed very early in his development that he had bucket loads of his mother's genes. Jenny, who had very little education, somehow managed to serve as an interpreter for Hilda Cooper, the iconic anthropologist to whom Eswatini owes much of its written history. Cooper had travelled from England to get accustomed with the Swati way of life, and Jenny made sure Cooper understood enough of what she was told to put it into writing. This comes as a surprise because Jenny had only obtained primary education, but managed to acquaint herself with enough basics of a foreign language to meaningfully assist Cooper in her quest to preserve our history. Young Nkomeni started school at Lobamba and later proceeded to Holy Rood in South Africa to complete his primary schooling. He then enrolled at Ndlotane, in South Africa, for secondary and high school education. He recalls that his first passion had always been debates, where he mastered the art of f



expressing himself as early as primary school, right through to secondary school. He was also actively involved in a football team, where he served in a managerial capacity. "That is one sport where my abilities were seriously challenged. I could not kick a football to save my life," he laughs.

Role Model

Today, at the ripe old age of 86, he has lived to see his dream come true, and remains a role model for modern siSwati scribes. He and others began a mother tongue revolution here and beyond the country's borders that set the stage for Macmillan to thrive almost immediately, giving fellow Africans a reason to embrace their culture, expressed, first and foremost, in their own language. Dr Ntiwane recalls how it was an offence for students in

Eswatini back in the 1930s and 40s to express themselves in their mother tongue, as the only medium of instruction was IsiZulu. He says that dark era resulted in a poorly developed language whose vocabulary was largely borrowed from the colonial masters and Boer settlers such that, to this day, the Swati people have not been able to develop their own vocabulary to replace words such as *sipunu* (spoons), *sipeyiti* (spade), *shirt* (*lishethi*) and many others. He contends that everything that is learned is founded on the mother tongue, without which it is becomes difficult to learn anything. This year marks Macmillan's 40th anniversary, a time well spent in developing our own siSwati language. Macmillan

came to Eswatini at a time when no publishers had established themselves in the country as southern Africa companies claimed it would be expensive to maintain branches in foreign lands. Dr Ntiwane recalls an era when there was no other literature except material by JSM Matsebula, who soon became his inspiration and teacher. Matsebula was meant to edit Ntiwane's first material, which he had secretly inserted into Matsebula's papers, to avoid the embarrassment that would come with explaining his first attempt at writing. Unfortunately, the piece mysteriously got lost in JSM's busy desk. However, the loss of his first work did not deter him from writing.

The celebration of Mother Tongue Day brings nothing but sweet memories to Dr Ntiwane, who, in the middle of the interview, begins to recite popular poems, written by himself and others, in the run up to independence in 1968.

Dr. Ntiwane, a writer, poet, teacher, former soldier, personnel manager, ambassador, principal secretary, minister and linguist, possesses an unsalable love and immeasurable passion for siSwati language. His many achievements may well suggest the retiree is something of a superhuman being; but of course, he is flesh and blood, a former boxer with Malkerns Boys Club, who pounded leather almost all his young life. In 2014, Dr. Ntiwane received a Lihlahlandlela Award in the Pan African Awards, which was hosted in South

Africa. Just last year, he received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Eswatini (UNESWA), declaring him a Doctor of Letters. Dr Ntiwane recalls that his prolific language skills once saw him even translate for Basotho King, Moshoeshoe II one fateful day, as well as talk his way out of what could have become a confrontation with a group of Afrikaners while he worked in South Africa. He attributes all this to his strong mother tongue foundation. The love and pride of being a Liswati drove Dr. Ntiwane to write with so much passion and determination. When a young Ntiwane enrolled at the Middleburg Departmental Occupational Training College, he would buy *IzwiLamaSwazi*, a weekly newspaper that was written by his own people, but in IsiZulu. The reign of IsiZulu officially ended with the advent of Macmillan, and it all became a distant memory. Fires were lit as word went out that Emaswati were free to write in their own language and Macmillan would publish their work. Ensuring that he had all the right people in his corner, Dr Ntiwane made friends with Elias Ndwandwe, who was employed at Macmillan at the time. Dr. Ntiwane, in collaboration with other authors, had Macmillan publish their poetry compilation, *Takitsi*.

The trio also contributed to a compilation of short stories in *Idubukele*. His experience with Macmillan and writing enabled him to put together a health plan for the government, when he became minister, that is still in operation to this day. Macmillan made its presence felt as they would host myriad meetings to inculcate the culture of writing in siSwati. Budding writers were pitted against established scribes in seminars to peak their passion and sharpen their skills. Dr Ntiwane recalls his many encounters with one of the country's leading writers, Modison Salayedvwa Magagula. "Of course the age gap was vast, but we always clicked and shared many ideas. Since Macmillan had created a friendly environment for consultations and correction, one was encouraged to write in the siSwati language and contribute to our archives. All shyness was thrown out the window. Anyone could do anything they set out to do," he says. The celebration of Mother Tongue Day brings nothing but sweet memories to Dr Ntiwane, who, in the middle of the interview, begins to recite popular poems, written by himself and others, in the run up to independence in 1968. Being away in England, as the first High Commissioner for the country, proved that distance was not a barrier as he wrote a poem, 'LaSomhlolo', celebrating the milestone developments of September 6, 1968. Dr Ntiwane is a linguist par-excellence, as he taught a variety of languages while employed in South Africa, including Afrikaans. He is also fluent in Sepedi, Setswana, Sesotho, Sizulu, English and pint-sized bites of French and German. "I have often been asked how it is possible for one to speak so many languages, and can only think of one answer—a strong mother tongue foundation." He opines that peace, reconciliation and development, are only attainable to people who are united in language and of one mind.

Macmillan Mother Tongue Week

18 - 22 February 2019

Tfutfuka, uchakaze ngelulwimi lwesiSwati

Lokutawucubungulwa:

- Umlandvo ngetemibhalo yesiSwati
- Imininingwane ngebabhali besisiSwati
- Kubuketa tincwadzi tesisiSwati letikhetsekile
- Umcimbi wekubungata lulwimi lwenzabuko/ Kwetfulwa kwemncintiswano wekubhala indzaba



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ON THIS DAY

...FEBRUARY 18

1952 - Greece and Turkey became members of NATO.

1953 - "Bwana Devil" opened. It was the first three-dimensional feature.

1953 - Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz signed a contract worth \$8 000 000 to continue the "I Love Lucy" TV show through 1955.

1964 - "Any Wednesday" opened at the Music Box Theatre in New York City. The play established Gene Hackman as an actor.

1970 - The Chicago Seven defendants were found innocent of conspiring to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic national convention.

1972 - The California Supreme Court struck down the state's death penalty.

1977 - The space shuttle Enterprise went on its maiden "flight" sitting on top of a Boeing 747.

1984 - Reed Larson (Detroit Red Wings) got two assists to become the highest scoring, American-born player in the history of the National Hockey League. Larson broke the record by scoring his 432nd point.

1987 - The executives of the Girl Scout movement decided to change the color of the scout uniform from the traditional Girl Scout green to the newer Girl Scout blue.

1998 - In Russia, money shortages resulted in the shutting down of three plants that produced nuclear weapons.

1998 - In Nevada, two white separatists were arrested and accused of plotting a bacterial attack on subways in New York City.

2000 - The US Commerce Department reported a deficit in trade goods and services of \$271.3 billion for 1999. It was the largest calendar-year trade gap in US history.

2001 - NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt, Sr., was killed in a crash during the Daytona 500 race.

2001 - FBI agent Robert Philip Hanssen was arrested and accused of spying for Russia for more than 15 years. He later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

2003 - In South Korea, at least 120 people were killed when a man lit a fire on a subway train.

2006 - American Shani Davis won the men's 1 000-meter speedskating in Turin. He was the first black athlete to win an individual gold medal in Winter Olympic history.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Dr. Dre (Rapper) - February 18, 1965 (54 years)



John Travolta (Movie Actor) - February 18, 1954 (65 years)



Ask one question to help dispel your morning dread

MOST of us have been in its grip before — the alarm goes off, our mind starts whirring away, and before we know it, we've done a freefall into worry.

Neuroscientist Lisa Feldman Barrett has been there, too, and she tells us how we can stop the spiral.

How often does this happen to you?

"You wake up, and as you're emerging into consciousness, you feel this horrible dread, this real wretchedness. Immediately, your mind starts to race," says neuroscientist Lisa Feldman Barrett. "You think about all the crap that you have to do at work — you have that mountain of email which you will never dig yourself out of, the phone calls you have to return, and that important meeting across town. You're going to have to fight traffic, you'll be late picking your children up, your dog is sick, and what are you going to make for dinner? Oh my God. What is wrong with my life?"

OK, you may not have the dog, the children or the meeting across town, but what about the rest — the cascading catalog of to-dos, the sinking feeling that you're behind even before your day has started, and the headlong tumble into despair?

Whew. According to Barrett, those last two sentences of the above scenario — the "Oh my God. What is wrong with my life?" part — are especially treacherous. Why? Because too often we come to the sweeping and inaccurate conclusion that our life stinks.

But we don't have to take this

misery lying down, says Barrett. Through her research at the Affective Science Laboratory at Northeastern University in Boston, she has come to some mind-shaking realisations about human emotions. Contrary to what many of us think, our emotions are neither hard-wired into our brains nor are they out of our control. Instead, our emotions are guesses that our brains generate on the fly, based upon our past experiences.

As she explains in her book *How Emotions Are Made*, "Anytime you feel miserable, it's because you are experiencing an unpleasant effect due to physical sensations. Your brain will try to predict causes for those sensations, and the more concepts you know and the more instances you can construct, the more effectively you can recategorise to manage your emotions and regulate your behaviour."

When we start that AM spiral into anxiety, as Barrett explains, "Your brain is searching to find an explanation for those sensations in your body that you experience as wretchedness." But, she adds, "those sensations might not be an indication that anything is wrong with your life ... maybe you're tired. Maybe you didn't sleep enough. Maybe you're hungry. Maybe you're dehydrated."

So, the next time you feel gripped by morning dread, she suggests you ask yourself: "Could this have a purely physical cause?"

Check in and see: What's going on with your body? When the alarm went off, were you roused from a deep sleep and you're rattled as a result? Or, perhaps you're

too hot, too cold, achy or itchy ...

Barrett says, "You have the capacity to turn down the dial on emotional suffering and its consequences for your life by learning how to construct your experiences differently."

TRYING TO LEARN A NEW SKILL?

Avi Pryntz-Nadworny knows what it's like to make a big move, fall flat on his face, and get up and do it all over again — repeatedly. He shares a mental trick that can keep you going.

Avi Pryntz-Nadworny can do things that most of us earthbound humans can't — he can do somersaults, whirl around in a Cyr wheel, and juggle fire, and he's performed with Cirque du Soleil. You might call him an acrobat or a circus performer, but if you ask him, he's a "professional practitioner."

After all, Pryntz-Nadworny spends most of his time learning jaw-dropping tricks — and relatively little time executing them. While it takes him seconds to do a backflip, he spent roughly 48 hours figuring out how to do it and then mastering it. Even with his years of experience, Pryntz-Nadworny still gets discouraged when he's learning something new — and the life of a circus performer professional practitioner means he's always adding tricks to his repertoire. He says, "Often, when I'm practicing or training [for] something, I'll feel like I'm starting from square one, from scratch."

Which is the cue for many of us to go back to doing what we already know. So, how can we get past

that square-one feeling?

By recalling when we learned how to type, says Pryntz-Nadworny.

Remember looking at the letters and symbols on the QWERTY keyboard and worrying, "How am I ever going to memorise this!?" As Pryntz-Nadworny says, "It's important to remind ourselves that we've accomplished so much in our lives so far. Take a moment to marvel at the fact that you can type an email without looking down to find each key before you press it."

Another everyday activity that many of us take lightly but shouldn't: Driving. Think back to your student-driver days — of tightly gripping the steering wheel, your hands placed at 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock. You had to keep reminding yourself which was the gas and which was the brake. You switched on the windshield wipers instead of the turn signal. You were scared to merge onto the highway. Today you might drive places thinking about everything in the world — everything except for the fact you're driving a car.

As Pryntz-Nadworny says, "These are mind-blowing things that we take for granted on a daily basis."

And there are so many, many more. Riding a bicycle? The dish you make without looking up the recipe? The software you use without clicking "help"? The diapers you change in record time? Think of everything in your life you could do in your sleep. You didn't know how to do these things, once upon a time. And today, you not only know how to do them, you're great at them.

Now, are you ready to learn some-

Could a little dagga actually raise men's fertility?

MEN who've smoked marijuana appear to have significantly higher sperm concentrations than those who've never given it a try, a new study reports.

An observational study

There's also a potential link between pot use and testosterone, said senior researcher Dr Jorge Chavarro. He's an associate professor of nutrition and epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston.

"With increasing use of marijuana, there was a positive association with serum testosterone levels," Chavarro said. "More marijuana, higher testosterone levels."

Couples shouldn't start smoking marijuana to improve their chances of conception, however.

This was an observational study, and it's entirely possible that the link between pot and male fertility might run in the opposite direction, Chavarro said. "We know that men with higher testosterone levels tend to engage in risk-taking behaviours. The higher your testosterone, the more likely you are to do risky stuff," like frequent pot smoking, Chavarro said.

Chavarro and his team set out to study the possible effects of pot smoking on male reproduction by observing 662 men enrolled at the Massachusetts General Hospital Fertility Center in Boston between 2000 and 2017.

Higher sperm concentrations

Semen samples were taken from all of the men, and 317 provided blood samples that were analysed for reproductive hormones. The men also filled out a questionnaire about their marijuana use.

...Men who've smoked dagga appear to have significantly higher sperm concentrations than those who've never given it a try, a new observational study reports - but that doesn't mean men should start smoking the drug to raise the chances of fathering kids.



NATURAL BOOST: Forget the mellow slacker image - pot smoking might actually make men more potent.

Fifty-five per cent of the men said they'd smoked pot at some point, with 44 per cent saying they were past smokers and 11 per cent reporting they currently smoke.

The researchers had hypothesised that marijuana use would be associated with lower semen quality, so they were surprised to learn that pot smokers had higher sperm concentrations.

Current and past marijuana users had average sperm concentrations of 62.7 million sperm per millilitre of ejaculate, while men who had never smoked marijuana had average concentrations of 45.4 million sperm per millilitre. Only five per cent of marijuana smokers had sperm concentrations below 15 million, the World Health Organization's threshold for "normal" levels. By

comparison, 12% of men who never tried marijuana had below-normal sperm levels, the findings showed.

These findings were 'unexpected and surprising', Chavarro said.

"We spent a couple of months doing analysis to figure out if we had done something wrong," he added. "As far as we can tell, this is what the data is showing. Now the question is: What does it mean?"

Further investigation required

Animal studies have shown that cannabinoid receptors play a part in the male reproductive system, Chavarro said. It could be that marijuana complements or boosts the role played by cannabinoids that are naturally produced within the body.

Or it could just be that guys with higher testosterone levels are more

likely to smoke pot, as part of an overall pattern of risk-taking, he suggested. Dr Norbert Gleicher, medical director and chief scientist at the Center for Human Reproduction in New York City, said 'it's too preliminary' to say whether pot would help or harm a man's fertility.

"What this study shows is pot smoking doesn't make you automatically infertile, but there have been studies on pot smoking for many years and there are a good number of studies out there that indeed have reported adverse effects on semen in pot smokers," Gleicher said.

A difference in fertility potential?

"It requires further investigation, and I would argue those investigations have become more urgent now because pot has become more legalised," he added.

And pot smokers might not necessarily have a better chance of conception just because their sperm concentrations are higher, said Dr Jennifer Kawwass, medical director of the Emory Reproductive Center in Atlanta. Although there are more sperm, their quality might be affected by marijuana use in ways that remain undetected. "It is important to understand that the difference in sperm concentration between light smokers and never-smokers is not necessarily associated with a difference in fertility potential," Kawwass said. The new study was published in the journal *Human Reproduction*. (health24)

Today's more potent dagga means higher risk of dependence

COMPARED to pot of the 1990s, today's marijuana contains significantly higher levels of THC, the chemical compound that causes intoxication, the research team notes.

Increased addictive potential

This added punch may be associated with an higher risk of cannabis use disorder, researchers from the University of Michigan and Brown University conclude.

They said the THC concentration of pot confiscated by the US Drug Enforcement Agency has increased steadily from 3.5 per cent in 1994 up to 12.3 per cent in 2012. Meanwhile, average risk of developing cannabis use disorder increased by about 40 per cent with every one percentage point increase in national pot potency, they found.

"It definitely is a signal that potency of cannabis," said senior author Brian Hicks, an associate professor with the University of Michigan Addiction Center. And there are no laws regarding potency, he added.

States with legal marijuana might want to hone their laws to make THC levels in pot products clearer for consumers, just as alcohol levels are displayed on liquor bottles, the researchers said. Currently, 10 states and

Washington, D.C., allow recreational marijuana use and many more states allow medical use.

"We really need to look at the idea of regulating potency levels, and examining how potency relates to things you'd care about, like ability to drive and addiction potential," Hicks said.

Inability to cut down

"Levels have really gone up the last five years," particularly in pot products such as edibles and concentrates, he added. NORML, an advocacy group for marijuana legalisation, took issue with the findings, however.

Some prior studies have suggested that cannabis use disorder rates in the United States are actually declining, not rising, NORML deputy director Paul Armentano said. And he added, "Cannabis lacks the dependence liability associated with many other controlled substances, including those that are legal."

In the new study, Hicks and his colleagues compared federal statistics on pot potency with data gathered on participants in the Michigan Longitudinal Study. That's an ongoing research project focused on families at increased risk for substance abuse disorders.

They specifically looked for symptoms related to cannabis use disorder,



a condition recognised by the American Psychiatric Association. These symptoms might include an inability to cut down or control cannabis use, failing to meet obligations due to pot use, or using the drug even in physically hazardous situations, Hicks said.

The researchers found that regular pot users who first tried marijuana when national average THC levels held at 4.9 per cent had almost twice the increased risk of developing symptoms of cannabis use disorder within a year. But those who started regularly using pot when national average THC levels were 12.3 per cent had a 4.8 times higher risk of cannabis

use disorder.

Consistent principle

The study is 'one of the first to show increased risk of progression to cannabis use disorder with higher potency marijuana,' said Dr Scott Krakauer, assistant unit chief of psychiatry with Zucker Hillside Hospital in Glen Oaks, New York.

It's no surprise that the more potent pot is, the higher the risk that it can lead to problematic use, said Dr Harshal Kirane, director of addiction services at Staten Island University Hospital in New York City. Both New York experts were not involved with the study. "A consistent principle of the biology underlying addictive behaviour is that the potency of a substance usually correlates with its addictive potential," Kirane said.

However, at this time the United States doesn't have the knowledge to accurately set standard THC levels, he continued.

Major health consequences

Right now, Kirane said the question, 'how do we come to terms with a healthy relationship to cannabis in the same way we continue to struggle with having a healthy relationship with alcohol?' is the bigger conversation for society.

(health24)

With and Wisdom

- "The wisest men follow their own direction." - **Euripides**
- "Better to have, and not need, than to need, and not have." - **Franz Kafka**
- "You are free, and that is why you are lost." - **Franz Kafka**
- One of the first signs of the beginning of understanding is the wish to die." - **Franz Kafka**
- "From a certain point onward there is no longer any turning back. That is the point that must be reached." - **Franz Kafka**
- "We shall not cease from exploration. And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." - **T.S. Eliot**
- "What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from." - **T.S. Eliot**
- "Cynicism is easy. Mimicry is easy. Optimistic contrarians are the rarest breed." - **Naval Ravikant**
- "We are here to laugh at the odds and live our lives so well that Death will tremble to take us." - **Charles Bukowski**
- "Unless you believe, you will not understand." - **Augustine of Hippo**
- "You will always find an answer in the sound of water." - **Zhuangzi**
- "You attract what you are, not what you want." - **Unknown**
- "I focused so hard on what I wanted that I lost sight of what I deserved." - **Unknown**
- "Sometimes when things are falling apart they may actually be falling into place." - **Unknown**
- "Let it all go. See what stays." - **Unknown**
- "Anything I come across that feels impossible, I probably need to take a second look." - **Joe Gebbia (Co-founder Airbnb)**
- "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." - **Mark Twain**
- "Too much sanity may be madness and the maddest of all, to see life as it is and not as it should be." - **Miguel de Cervantes**
- "Every word is like an unnecessary stain on silence and nothingness." - **Samuel Beckett**
- "The less effort, the faster and more powerful you will be." - **Bruce Lee**
- "Some day you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again." - **C.S. Lewis**
- "Goodness makes greatness truly valuable, and greatness make goodness much more serviceable." - **Matthew Henry**
- "You must realise that one day you will die. Until then you are worthless." - **Chuck Palahniuk**
- "Do not think you will necessarily be aware of your own enlightenment." - **Dogen**

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.50%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	5%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	10.25%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.0%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E12.80 per litre
Replacement	E12.85 per litre
Diesel	E12.80 per litre
Paraffin	E 9.15 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 15 Feb 2019

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

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Standard Bank

PM launches ATS, name, logo for ESE

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

IT was a triple celebration as the Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini launched the Automated Trading System's (ATS) new name and logo for the now Eswatini Stock Exchange (ESE).

The launch, which saw the PM announce the new name from Swaziland Stock Exchange, took place at the Royal Villas last Friday.

Making his remarks during the event, the PM said the unveiling of the new name and logo was indeed a part of the evolution of the Eswatini Stock Exchange brand, coinciding with one major milestone for the exchange, that of successfully completing the automation of its trading platform.

Testimony

He said the re-design and re-imagining of the logo to one that 'stands out' is a clear testimony that the brand of Eswatini Stock Exchange was well-positioned in the marketplace to meet the requirements of investors looking for opportunities to derive higher investment returns.

"It is my pleasure, from the onset,



Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini ringing the bell to mark the official launch of the Eswatini Stock Exchange (ESE) during an event held at Royal Villas last Friday. He is joined by FSRA CEO Sndile Dlamini. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

to announce the new name of the local Stock Exchange to be Eswatini Stock Exchange (ESE).

"May I take this opportunity to appreciate the expertise of Escrow Systems (Pty) Ltd from the Republic of Zimbabwe who partnered with

ESE to automate the Eswatini Stock Exchange Trading Platform.

"I recall our first breakfast meeting where this gigantic project was introduced to me while I was in my previous employment. I was excited because I knew that the automa-

tion will see the exchange moving from a manual system to joining other modern markets," he said.

The PM also noted that the evolution of the ATS was in line with government's commitment towards uplifting the ICT sector and bringing efficient, affordable and convenient services at the fingertips of all Emaswati.

Revolutionise

"For both the sell and buy sides, the ATS will revolutionise Eswatini's capital markets by reducing the cost of transactions, enhancing market liquidity and increasing transparency

"Also since the ATS solution will come with mobile trading, it was clear to me that it will allow retail investors and company secretaries to use native applications like Android and iOS applications to enquire about their portfolios in the comfort of their homes or offices through an online Investor page.

"May I take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting the work of the ESE. A special gratitude goes to the FSRA and the Central Bank of Eswatini for working together to support the ESE in its endeavour to turn around the market," he said.



LET'S TOAST: FSRA Board Chairman Stephen Simelane, Minister of Economic Planning and Development Dr Tambo Gina, FSRA CEO Sandile Dlamini, PM Amdrose Dlamini and Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg toasting.

FSRA expecting up to nine ESE listings this year

THE Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) is expecting nine new listings in the Eswatini Stock Exchange (ESE) this year alone, CEO Sandile Dlamini has said.

Dlamini said this during the launch of the Automated Trading Systems (ATS), new name and logo for ESE, in an event held at the Royal Villas last Friday.

"May I implore the investing public to start saving money now to take advantage of these Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) so that you don't

regret a few years later why you didn't invest at primary market," he said.

He added that the Exchange would be hosting its Inaugural Listings and Investments Conference at a date and venue to be confirmed in due course.

The Conference will however be preceded by the 55th Committee of SADC Stock Exchange Meeting also to be hosted by the Exchange. The meeting will comprise of 12 Exchanges, the newest being FIN-SEC, a sister company to Escrow

Systems that have automated our Exchange Platform.

"We will be hosting the conference on 15 March but more light, on these events would be shed soon," he said. He then expressed gratitude to all the stakeholders that made the initiative a success.

"This project has been the success that it is today because of a dynamic team drawn from not only the Financial Sector, but the ICT and other Sectors of the Economy.

The team comprised of, amongst others, Chairman of the FSRA Board,

Stephen Simelane, the entire Board of the FSRA, and EXCO Members who supported the ESE financially and all ways possible, as it is one of the three entities falling under the ambit of FSRA, including the Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services and the Financial Services Appeals Tribunal.

Credit also goes to Stock Exchange Manager Joyce Dlamini who headed and chaired this Automation dynamic team as its Project Manager and ran with this project since inception in August 2016," he said.

ESEPARC, Central Bank launch 2nd economic conference

STORIES BY HLENGWE NDLOVU

RESEARCHERS prepare your topics, the country's second economic conference has been officially launched.

The first-ever economic conference was held in 2017 and raised the bar as Eswatini's premier platform for the pursuit of the economic development dialogue.

The second national economic conference was launched last Thursday by Central Bank of Eswatini Governor Majozi Sithole, who was in the company of Assistant Governor Mfan'fikile Dlamini, General Manager Economic Policy, Research and Statistics Sikhumbuzo Dlamini, Dr Patrick Ndzinisa, who is the Manager Policy Research and Macro-economic Analysis as well as Senior Economist Bongani Dlamini. The Central Bank team was joined by ESEPARC Director Dr Thula Sizwe Dlamini, ESEPARC is the Eswatini Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre.

Themed 'knowledge, innovation and development in Eswatini: current and future prospects; the second economic conference will be held from 23rd to October 25th.

The country's economic conferences are a partnership between ESEPARC, the Central Bank and UNESWA. Speaking during the launch, the CBE governor said the conference comes at a time when technological advancements, especially the fourth industrial revolution, present an unprecedented challenge for economies to move with the times.

Said the governor: "As it is well known, the global economy has entered the fourth industrial revolution, in which technology is positioned to disrupt the way we live, produce goods and services, and relate to one another as individuals, countries and global economies. To thrive in the fourth industrial revolution, countries must not only embrace science, technology and innovation but also other aspects of the knowledge economy."

The governor was adamant that the extent to which a country masters knowledge and innovation in the fourth industrial revolution will determine its pace of social development and economic growth. "Knowledge and innovation present many avenues for unlocking opportunities for younger generations for many years to come. There is little doubt that knowledge and innovation will be key ingredients in preparing Eswatini for the economy of the future," he said. In the meantime, ESEPARC'S Dr. Thula Sizwe invited researchers to prepare their topics related to this year's theme

The second economic conference's key thematic areas are:

- Knowledge generation and management for structural transformation
- The role of new technologies in strengthening productive capacities
- Building a competitive industrial base
- Human capital development and building capacities for the new economy in Eswatini



PREPARE: Governor Sithole gestures during the event.

How the first economic conference impacted Eswatini

THERE is no doubt that the country's inaugural economic conference, held at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre in 2017, swept the boards in terms of the presented research topics, seminars and the many other side-events which gave participants much needed insight on the country's economic development.

Well-organised as it was, the conference gave out much needed outputs as some of the recommendations were handed over to the late former prime minister Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini in anticipation that they could be used to inform the country's economic policy. This was said by Central Bank of Eswatini General Manager Economic Policy, Research and Statistics Sikhumbuzo Dlamini when quizzed by the Business Desk to share his thoughts on how the inaugural conference had impacted the country.

In a press briefing held at the Central Bank last Thursday, Dlamini had this to say: "The economic conferences are aimed at generating new sets of knowledge to inform the country's economic policy."

"Recommendations for the first economic policy were sent to the former Prime Minister's office and we trust these are still

being used especially to inform the country's economic recovery strategy," he said.

The CBE general manager research's thoughts were echoed by Senior Economist Bongani Dlamini, who recounted how the inaugural conference had impacted the country's Fintech (Financial and Technology) space in a tremendous way. He said: "In the first economic conference, there were two seminars, one of which was hosted by the First National Bank and the other by the Central Bank. It was during these seminars that the Central Bank was challenged to support the development of the country's Fintech space. As per the recommendations made in these seminars, in 2018, the Central Bank took steps to establish an internal Fintech unit which was also adequately staffed with young minds. The Central Bank also came up with the Fintech Challenge, a competition in which young people came up with many brilliant ideas on how the country's Fintech space can be improved," said the senior economist.

The Central Bank also hosted another financial innovation conference at the Royal Villas which came about after the hype created by the economic conference.



LAUNCH: CBE Governor Majozi Sithole addressing stakeholders during the launch of this year's economic conference.

Inflation drops to 5 per cent

BY HLENGWE NDLOVU

THE country's headline inflation rate has dropped to five per cent, down from 5.2 per cent.

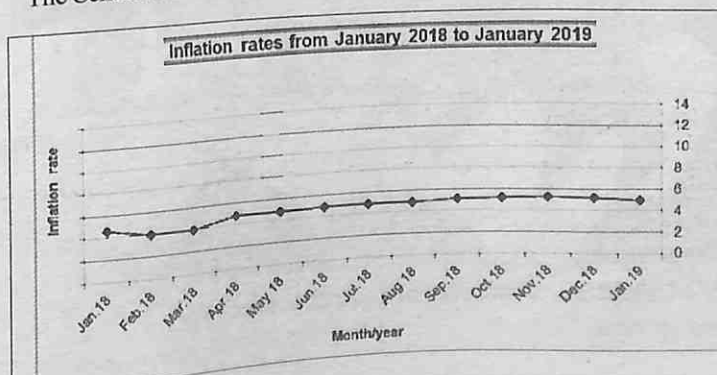
The Central Statistics Office states in

its latest Consumer Price Index that the lower headline inflation was due to decreasing indices for transport which went down from 2.4 per cent in December to 1.1 per cent in January. Operation of personal transport equipment: Fuels and lubricants largely contributed to the

decreased index in the transport category.

Also contributing to the lowered inflation was a decrease in recreation and culture which decreased from three per cent in December to two per cent in January. Under the newspapers, books and stationery sub-category, periodicals and books mainly resulted in the decreased inflation index.

Operation of personal transport equipment: Fuels and lubricants largely contributed to the decreased index in the transport category



Touch IT nets E570 000 ESCCOM Wi-fi tender

BY HLENGWE NDLOVU

THE Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) has awarded Touch IT with an intention to award contract to instal, commission, supply, deliver and instal long-distance air fibre Wi-fi.

Intention to award contract documents signed by ESCCOM Chief Executive Officer Mvilawemphi Dlamini in the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA) website show that Touch IT's contract is worth E 574 808.01. The successful tenderer also attained a total evaluated score of 73 per cent.

DETAILS OF BEST EVALUATED RESPONSIVE TENDERER

NAME
NATIONALITY
PROPOSED CONTRACT PRICE
TOTAL EVALUATION SCORE

Touch IT
Swati
E 574 808.01
73 per cent

Monetary prizes for EYA regional winners next year

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

ENTREPRENEUR of the Year Awards (EYA) regional winners will get monetary prizes starting next year.

This was revealed by SEDCO Managing Director (MD) Dorington Matiwane during the prize presentation of the EYA Manzini regional winner at the George Hotel last Thursday.

"I want to encourage SMEs to

make sure they join this competition because next year, for the first time, we will be dishing out monetary prizes even at the regional levels and not just at the gala dinner," he said.

The MD stated that this year, they have continued going around the regions and were heartened by the discovery of businesses by young and old Emaswati who are worthy to be mentioned in international magazines.

"Out of all the 14 past winners of

the competition we have only lost one company, the Wheel Centre.

"The rest are still going strong and are massive employers and we are impressed by the phenomenal growth these companies have shown.

Winners

"Just to mention one of the success stories, one of our winners is working on opening a branch in neighbouring Botswana as his furniture products are of international standard," he said. On another note, Matiwane noted that Manzini

has the biggest number of Tinkhundla centres and chiefdoms when compared to the other regions. "Manzini has 18 Tinkhundla centres and 81 chiefdoms. "With that said, we still have a challenge to reach all these centres in promoting our one household one product programme. "We would like to implore the ministry of commerce to help us with the resources so that we can be able to carry out this initiative and unearth the many entrepreneurial talents out there," he said.



REVEALED: SEDCO Managing Director Dorington Matiwane during the Manzini Regional EYA held last Friday at the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre.

ATS introduces cellphone trading for Emaswati

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

THE newly-launched Automated Trading System (ATS) will allow those listed in the Eswatini Stock Exchange to trade using their mobile phones.

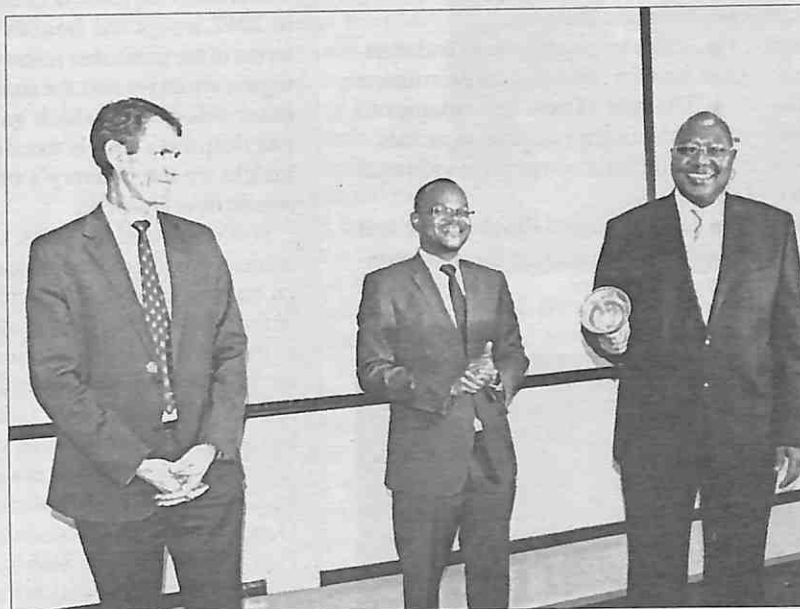
The cellphone trading, as announced by Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) CEO Sandile Dlamini, would be available on both the country's mobile networks and available for 24 hours.

In his remarks during the launch of ATS at the Royal Villas on Friday, Dlamini said automating the trading platform with new financial instruments embedded on it would open the market to companies, not only to float shares and bonds, as has been the trend over the past 29 years of the exchange existence, but the exchange would be transformed into a financial super-market eligible to trade Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Global Depository Receipts (GDRs), Commercial Paper (CPs), Commodity Derivatives and Currency Derivatives.

"All that the exchange is waiting for are companies willing to list these various securities, the trading platform is ready to trade them," he said.

Dlamini said they were happy to have partnered with Escrow Systems, a Zimbabwean company, to provide investors and participants with a streamlined and accurate way of handling online order placement and settlement.

"In today's rapidly changing and expanding financial markets, which include both money and capital markets, Escrow Systems' leading exper-



RING THE BELL: Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini rings the bell to mark the official launch of the Eswatini Stock Exchange at Royal Villas last Friday morning. Looking on are Finance Minister Neal Rijkenberg and MD of Escrow Systems Simbarashe Machanzi. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

tise stands out, providing our exchange with the specialised automation we need to effectively manage trading. This project also seeks to meet market requirements, keep pace with functional and technological developments in the securities industry and comply with international standards."

Elevation

"Automation of the Eswatini Stock Exchange will elevate the exchange to be in line with global trends and will enable the exchange to introduce a wide range of innovative products that speak to both local and international investors," he said.

Dlamini then expressed gratitude to

some of their partners in this initiative, including the Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC), MTN and Eswatini Mobile.

"We are grateful to the EPTC team, whose telecommunications systems provide the backbone of all these systems we are talking about, MTN which was there from inception of the ATS interface with MNOs, driving Mobile Trading and Settlement of Trades using Mobile Money (MoMo), as well as Eswatini Mobile, which joined just last December but proved to be worth the mantle to be at par with everyone, also driving the same Mobile Trading and Settlement of Trades," he said.

Over 100 000 individuals targeted for capital investments

THE Eswatini Stock Exchange (ESE) is targeting 100 000 individuals to save and invest in capital markets by the end of this financial year.

This was revealed by Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini during the launch of the Automatic Trading System (ATS), new name and logo for the now Eswatini Stock Exchange.

The PM stated that the ESE had recruited 20 resource persons, who will be traversing the country in ensuring this goal is achieved.

"As part of public education, His Majesty's government welcomes efforts to stimulate the issuance of securities by sensitising entrepreneurs on fund raising opportunities in the capital markets.

"We encourage the use of new and contemporary communication tools during the public education campaigns, including capitalising on the widely popular social media platforms, especially in reaching out to the youth.

"Many budding young investors may find it difficult to start investing in capital markets due to limited funds and knowledge about how investing in the stock market works.

"We have a duty to educate them and kindle their interest in investing on our capital markets. Mobile trading, for instance, will surely resonate well with this

tech-savvy generation," he said.

The PM further highlighted that government was in the process of launching a new strategic roadmap that would provide clear guidelines on the strategies and processes to be followed in jolting our economy back to life.

"We are happy with the positive feedback and support we continue to receive from Emaswati as we embark on this challenging but critical journey of turning around our economy to enable government to better provide the services that will uplift the living standards of our people".

He said government was determined to provide a fertile environment for the private sector to grow and flourish, thus providing employment opportunities and utilising the innovative acumen of Emaswati to create more value adding products and services to enhance economic growth.

"We all know that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are major catalysts in the development of economies, as they constitute a major part of industrial activity. "We are excited by the opportunity provided by the newly-branded ESE for our micro, small and medium businesses to be able to raise capital through listing on the SME board of the ESE.



HANDSHAKE: The Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini meeting the IMF experts who were at the launch, Greg Tanzer and Michael Hafeman.



OFFICIALLY: The prime minister joined by Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg and Eswatini Stock Exchange Board Chairman Stephen Simelane and some of the Board members during the launch of ESE.



IN NUMBERS: Captains of industry who were at the launch.

Focus on Africa News

Continental News

NIGERIA POLL DELAY:

Atiku, Buhari urge voters to 'remain calm'

LAGOS - In its meeting with stakeholders on Saturday, INEC explained that delays in transporting electoral material were the reason behind the poll extension.

INEC Chairman Mahmood Yakubu insisted that the commission was not under any external pressure to postpone the vote.

"Our decision was entirely taken by the commission. It has nothing to do with security, nothing to do with political influence, nothing to do with availability of resources," Yakubu told a gathering of foreign election observers and reporters.

Yakubu also said an audit would be conducted since some sensitive election material had been distributed but had since been returned to the central bank.

Asked whether candidates can resume efforts to canvass for votes, Yakubu said campaigns remain closed. In the northeastern city of Maiduguri, people gathered for morning prayers after which they had planned to vote.

"We are disappointed and deeply



REMAIN CALM: Nigeria President Muhammadu Buhari.

pained by the postponement of the election. We spent our all night without sleeping hoping to vote today and just hearing the news that the election was been postponed," said one worshipper, Auwalu Usman.

Kabiru Sale, 27, who sells oil in the northern city of Kano, said the move took him by surprise.

"I am not happy with the suspension. I had already gone out to cast my vote only to be told on the way

about the suspension. I do not really understand why they suspended the election," he said.

The chairman of the main opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP), Uche Secondu, said the move was "dangerous to our democracy and unacceptable".

He said it was part of an attempt by Buhari to "cling on to power even when it's obvious to him that Nigerians want him out".

Buhari's ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) party also criticised the electoral commission for the delay. The president had cooperated fully with the commission to ensure it had everything it had demanded to conduct free and fair elections, it said in a statement.

President Muhammadu Buhari on Saturday expressed disappointment and dismay over the postponement of the polls, saying INEC repeatedly assured the political stakeholders of its readiness to conduct polls. "This administration has ensured that we do not interfere in any way with the work of INEC except to ensure that all funds were released to the commission," Buhari said in a statement.

The president, who said he is travelling to Abuja for the INEC meeting with candidates and political parties, urged Nigerians to remain calm and refrain from civil disobedience.

Buhari and Atiku had travelled to the northern states of Katsina and Adamawa to cast their votes.

Africa News

Tshisekedi wants 'reduced, better armed' UN peacekeepers

KINSHASA - The president of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Felix Tshisekedi says his government will work with the United Nations to draw up a withdrawal plan for the MONUSCO peacekeeping mission.

Relations between MONUSCO and DRC's government during Kabila's tenure were tense, and the latter consistently called for the implementation of a 2010 resolution that 'required the United Nations Secretary General to prepare a withdrawal plan'.

In his first formal meeting with diplomats held last Friday, Tshisekedi called for a "better armed" UN peacekeeping force that can operate in the restive parts of DRC.

He reiterated his predecessor's position that it was time to draw up a withdrawal plan for the MONUSCO peacekeeping mission, which has been present in DRC for 20 years.

Tshisekedi, who was inaugurated last month says the UN troops "should be reduced and better armed and prepared" to fight the numerous rebel and militia groups which hold sway over large areas of the country.

Tshisekedi said he wanted a mutual exchange with diplomats and foreign allies "as soon as possible," but underscored Kinshasa would "protect its political independence... and sovereignty."

AFP



TO WORK WITH UN: DRC President Felix Tshisekedi.

OLF rebels in Ethiopia give up arms - Oromo officials

OROMIA - Authorities in Ethiopia's Oromia state say up to 1 000 fighters with the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) rebel group have given up arms and entered rehabilitation camps.

Popular among the largest ethnic group, the Oromo, the OLF fell out with the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) in 1992 and soon began launching armed attacks.

Last year, reformist Prime Minister

Abiy Ahmed removed the OLF from a list of terror organisations, and after peace talks in Eritrea's capital Asmara, the group's exiled leadership made a triumphant return home.

The deal between the government and OLF has run into trouble recently, with Addis Ababa deploying soldiers against armed members of the group it claimed were robbing banks and attacking residents in the remote west of the country.

The OLF denied this, and has accused

the government of failing to meet its promise of integrating its combatants into the armed forces.

"Parts of Oromia regional state, which had been suffering from unrest, are returning to normalcy, with OLF fighters giving up their arms and re-integrating back to their local communities," Admasu Damtwe, head of communications for Oromia, told state media last Thursday evening.

"The insecurity in parts of Oromia where OLF fighters used to operate

had led to the suspension of basic government services including education, but now with OLF fighters abandoning armed struggle, the government can focus now on development works," he added.

His claim has not been confirmed by the OLF.

The Oromos are the largest of Ethiopia's some 80 ethnic groups, with 35 per cent of the nation's nearly 80 million inhabitants.

AFP

BRIEFS

24 bodies retrieved from mine

HARARE - Rescue workers retrieved 24 bodies and eight survivors Saturday from two flooded gold mines in Zimbabwe where officials fear dozens more illegal miners are still trapped, state television reported.

"Eight of the trapped minors have been rescued ... while 24 bodies have been retrieved to date as rescue efforts continue at Battlefields Mine," the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation reported. The two disused mines are situated near the town of Kadoma, 145 kilometres (90 miles) southwest of the capital Harare.

The rescued received medical attention on site before being taken to hospital, but were in a stable condition, the report added. *Timeslive*

Bashir in power amendment

KHARTOUM - A parliamentary committee tasked with amending Sudan's Constitution to allow President Omar al-Bashir to run for another term said on Saturday it would indefinitely postpone a meeting to draft these changes, state news agency SUNA said. The move comes amid almost daily street protests since mid-December, initially sparked by rising food prices and cash shortages, against Bashir's nearly 30-year rule. SUNA cited "special emergency commitments" as the cause for the delay without providing further details.

A majority of lawmakers had backed the proposed amendment two weeks before protests broke out and had tasked an emergency committee with drafting the changes ahead of the Parliament's first session in April. *Reuters*

Libya slides from crisis to crisis

TRIPOLI - Eight years after the revolt in Libya against Moamer Kadhafi's authoritarian regime, a modern and democratic state remains a distant dream in a country which has been sliding from crisis to crisis.

While no major celebrations are planned for the anniversary of the uprising which started 17 February 2011 in the thick of the Arab Spring, Libyans profess no great nostalgia for the Kadhafi days.

"I cannot regret Kadhafi's time because what Libya is today is the product of 42 years of systematic destruction," said Marwan Jalal, a 43-year-old oil industry engineer, referring to the autocrat's four decades in power.

"Sooner or later, Libyans will find peace but the journey seems long," he said. *AFP*

Nigeria's election delay criticised

LAGOS - A civic group monitoring Nigeria's now-delayed election says the last-minute decision to postpone the vote a week until February 23 "has created needless tension and confusion in the country."

The Situation Room statement expressed shock and disappointment after assurances by the electoral commission that "everything was ready." It said the delay casts a "cloud of doubt" on the body's credibility and competence. It called on political parties to avoid incitement and misinformation and called on the electoral commission to explain how Nigeria will pay for the costly election delay.

The commission in its early-morning statement cited unspecified "challenges". *AP*

Focus on

SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

JOHANNESBURG - The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) has remained silent on the issue of two female staff members who were allegedly shown the door after initiating a petition against unfair treatment at the party's headquarters in Braamfontein, Johannesburg.

The two aggrieved workers say they were handed settlement offers on November 15.

Phindile Manganyi, former assis-

More women make claims of EFF bullying and abuse

tant manager in the office of EFF secretary-general Godrich Gardee, told City Press she has taken the party to the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), claiming unfair dismissal.

She says she, together with a personal assistant who worked in the

office of Gardee and EFF leader Julius Malema, were targeted for their role in the petition, saying: "After I asked why they were dismissing me they told me the leadership says they can no longer trust me ... So they gave me a settlement offer which I left the premises with, before signing. But

my other colleague, who was fired with me, signed on the spot. I refused because I didn't understand how I could just get dismissed ... I mean there was no disciplinary hearing, no notice, just a dismissal on the spot."

Reliable sources have told City Press that they were present when the sec-

ond woman suffered abuse at the hands of Gardee after a 'war council' meeting last year.

A senior staff member in the offices of the EFF national executive said the altercation was allegedly initiated by Gardee.

City Press

SA President promises to hasten service delivery

LIMPOPO - A thorough clean-up of government is on the cards as President Cyril Ramaphosa prepares to stamp his authority on what will be his new ANC administration after the elections.

Speaking at the party's fundraising gala dinner in Thohoyandou, in Limpopo, on Friday night, Ramaphosa said the governing party had made mistakes but that things were about to change with him at the helm.

He added that the country should look forward to a lively ANC. "I see this as an exciting period in the life of an organisation. It is like the ANC is coming out of the tunnel into the light."

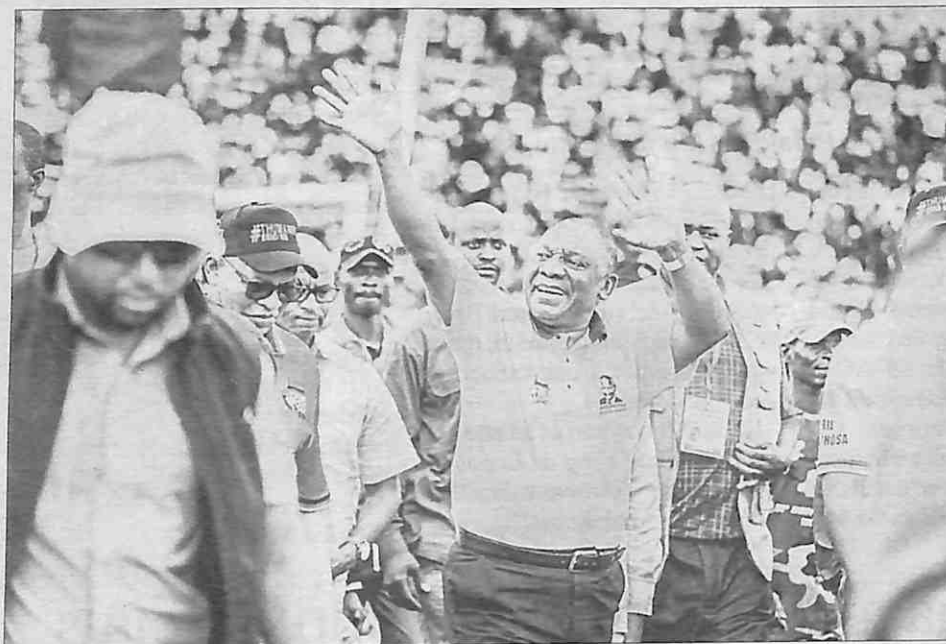
The president met with traditional and religious leaders in the Vhembe district, his stronghold in the province, to canvass for electoral support.

implemented

At the dinner, Ramaphosa outlined plans for his administration, saying he wanted to hasten service delivery. He said the ANC had good policies but that often, these were not implemented.

"Even at our national conference at NASREC in 2017, people kept saying that we should move beyond crafting policies, we should now focus more on implementation.

"We have the most wonderful policies that



ON THE CARDS: SA's President Cyril Ramaphosa in Limpopo. (AP)

anyone can think of, but it is in implementing those policies that we are slow; we get stuck and we delay.

"Now, in this next term of office, leading government once again, we want to make sure that we hasten the pace of implementation - and more importantly, that we begin to see

how we change our execution model."

Ramaphosa pledged that the ANC's execution model was going to be reformed to enable the party to rid itself of challenges plaguing it, such as corruption, state capture and rent-seeking.

City press

SA has lost faith in politics and politicians - De Lille

CAPE TOWN - Politics, as usual, has failed too many South Africans and the people have lost faith in politics and politicians, former Cape Town mayor Patricia de Lille said last Saturday.

Speaking at the launch of her newly established 'GOOD' party's Western Cape premier election campaign, she said, "God forbid they should lose faith in our democracy because the people in politics have not lived up to the privilege and responsibility to serve. It is time for a new political order.

"Duty and service runs through my blood, so I would be honoured to serve my country and my province, which I love, as the premier of the Western Cape," De Lille said.

Inequalities

"I am motivated by the same level of outrage at the state of our country, and the inequalities in our province, as I was 50 years ago when I was outraged by the cruelty and illegality of apartheid. And I am responding to the call to act. GOOD will put people before politics.

"For far too long we have lived with political and government agendas that have been determined by those who have the power of money. Money is what too many politicians and political parties are greedy for. Money and land should not be able to buy our future, as is currently the case in our province which is being sold to the highest bidder," she said.

ANA

DA ACCUSES ANC

...of allowing corruption, mismanagement to hollow out Eskom

JOHANNESBURG - The Democratic Alliance (DA) will on Sunday morning unveil its latest billboard at the Queen Elizabeth Bridge in Johannesburg which it says will highlight the African National Congress (ANC) and Eskom's failure to keep the lights on.

The party has accused the ANC of allowing corruption and mismanagement to hollow out the power utility.

South Africans have battled through five consecutive days of load shedding, with warnings that the blackouts could continue until at least April.

As part of its campaign ahead of elections, the DA will once again

unveil a billboard this time with a message around load shedding.

The latest billboard is focused on the ruling party's failure to handle the energy supply crisis at Eskom.

Victims

In January, the opposition party revealed a billboard in the Joburg City centre under the headline 'The ANC is killing us'.

It carried the names of the victims of the Life Esidimeni tragedy, Marikana massacre and the children who died after falling into pit toilets.

The da was accused of using the victims of these tragedies to score political points.

Eyewitness News

UDM promises to make service delivery a main priority if it wins

JOHANNESBURG - The United Democratic Movement (UDM) says should it come into power after May's elections, the party will place service delivery as one of its main priorities.

Party leader Bantu Holomisa launched the UDM's manifesto in Nelson Mandela Bay last Saturday where he slammed the African National Congress for the unemployment in the area. Ramaphosa knows ANC not worthy of South Africans' trust, says Holomisa.

A report by Stats South Africa 2017 revealed more than 20,000 people were without jobs in the municipality.

The party has vowed to

upskill workers and improve service delivery in the region.

Holomisa says civil service needs to be prioritised.

"When the UDM comes to power, one of the first things we shall invest in is professionalising the civil service in order to deliver quality service.

Responsibility

"The appointment of director generals will be the sole responsibility of the Department of Public Service in consultation with the presidency."

The UDM says the ANC has caused nothing but damage to the country's institutions. Holomisa says the actions of the ruling party have rendered institutions, like Prasa

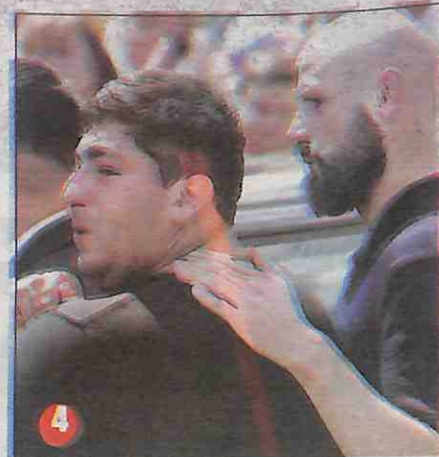


PRIORITY: Leader of the United Democratic Movement Bantu Holomisa (c) launched the party's manifesto in Nelson Mandela Bay last Saturday.

and Eskom, dysfunctional. "We all know the damage it has done to our economy, safety, education and health system. We know the cost of

state capture. Billions of rand have been stolen and many state agencies have been weakened."

Eyewitness News



YOU NEVER WALK ALONE: 1. Sala's father Horacio cries after his son's funeral. 2. Carina Mercedes Taffarel, mother of Emiliano Sala, looks at the casket after a vigil as she is comforted by relatives. 3. People leave flowers on Emiliano Sala's casket at the cemetery. 4. Nicolas Pallois (r) and Dario, brother of the late Argentinian footballer, mourn at the funeral. (AP)

THOUSANDS BID FAREWELL TO SALA

SANTA FE - The heartbroken family of tragically killed footballer Emiliano Sala were gathered for his funeral in Argentina yesterday - as thousands of well-wishers travelled to watch the star's coffin carried out of his childhood football club.

Cardiff City Manager Neil Warnock and the club's Chief Executive Ken Choo were also in attendance for the ceremony in the town of Progreso near Santa Fe this afternoon.

Family carried the footballer's coffin out of Club Atletico y Social San Martin - where Sala trained as a child - following an emotional ceremony, ahead of it being transported to Santa Fe for cremation.

Large crowds gathered to pay their last respects to the 28-year-old, after he died in a tragic plane crash over the English Channel on January 21.

Cardiff City manager Neil Warnock yesterday afternoon described a 'really emotional day' and said he'd 'never known anything like this' in all his 40 years as a football manager.

While Romina Sala, the footballer's sister, cut a sombre figure as she wrapped herself in an oversized grey hoodie and ignored the mass of press outside her home, before being driven to her brother's funeral.

She is among the thousands paying their last respects to the new Cardiff City signing at the ceremony in the sports hall of his boyhood football club - some 334 miles northwest of the capital Buenos Aires.

Speaking after the funeral, Neil Warnock described Emiliano Sala's mom Mercedes as an 'immense woman' after comforting the footballer's loved ones in the town where his new signing grew up.

The manager, who attended the wake and funeral alongside Cardiff City chief executive Ken Choo, said: 'It's been a very emotional morning.



LAST JOURNEY: Sala's brother Dario (l), Nantes defender Nicolas Pallois (2nd l) and family and friends of Argentina football player Emiliano Sala carry the star's casket during his funeral in Progreso, Argentina yesterday.

"I think Mercedes has been an immense woman this morning. Everyone she's met has had memories of Emiliano and it's brought tears to her eyes.

"She's an immense woman and I think the pride she has in her son has just shone through all day."

Following the cremation, Sala is to be buried at a cemetery also in Santa Fe. Family and friends travelled to the city for the burial - with Cardiff City manager Neil Warnock and Cardiff City chief executive Ken Choo also in attendance.

Both had been at the funeral and wake held at Sala's childhood football club in Progreso earlier yesterday. They arrived wearing black suits with yellow daffodils pinned to their jackets as a tribute to Sala.

Cardiff's players have also worn shirts bearing the flower in memory of Sala, who became the club's record £15 million signing days before his death.

At the burial, Nantes defender Nicolas Pallois was seen comforting Mercedes Taffarel, the mother of footballer Sala - and others were photographed laying flowers on his coffin ahead of the burial.

Warnock added, speaking to waiting reporters outside the sports hall at Sala's childhood football club where the funeral took place: "Things like this just don't happen in football. I've been a manager nearly 40 years now and I've never known anything like this.

It's something you hope never happens. We've had matches at the same time. People say things



IN MEMORY: Yellow flowers are displayed in front of the portrait of Emiliano Sala at the Beaujoire stadium in Nantes, France.



PRESENT: Cardiff City Manager Neil Warnock and Cardiff City Chief Executive Ken Choo both attended the funeral.

like, 'He never played for you', but he was my player.

Daily Mail



JOURNEY WELL: The car carrying the remains of Emiliano Sala leaves Progreso. (R) A young girl wears an Emiliano Sala jersey. (L) Sala's sister Romina cries at the end of the funeral.



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8 Seater dining table

Tea Set

Luxurious Round Bed

DOC:17940

Focus on World News

Global News

Seeking independence 'is not a crime,' Barca protesters

BARCELONA - Tens of thousands of people waving pro-independence flags and holding pictures of jailed Catalan separatist leaders took to the streets of Barcelona on Saturday to call for self-determination for the north-eastern Spanish region.

Chanting "Freedom!" and "Independence!", around 200 000 people, according to local police, took part in the peaceful march at a time when the region's divisive independence drive is back in the spotlight.

The trial of 12 separatist leaders, nine of whom have been jailed since late 2017 or early 2018, started this week in Madrid. They are being tried for their role in a referendum and an independence declaration deemed illegal by Spanish courts.

"I came here today because there are people, with children, that have



been jailed for a long time. It's unfair because we all voted, so we should all be in jail," said Josefina Soler, a 70-year-old retiree who voted in the banned 2017 referendum and

wants Spain to allow a new vote. Spain's public prosecutor is seeking prison terms of up to 25 years on charges of rebellion and misuse of public funds for their role in

Catalonia's failed 2017 break away from Spain.

"It is a shame to see how they judge in Madrid our legitimate representatives with all the impunity of the world," said Santi Margalef, a 61-year-old farmer who took part in the march, where many held banners that read "Self-determination is not a crime".

Catalan Regional President Quim Torra and the Catalan Parliament's Chairman Roger Torrent took part in the march.

In a further sign of Catalonia's influence in issues affecting the whole country, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called an early election last Friday after Catalan pro-independence parties joined opposition parties in defeating his 2019 budget bill.

Reuters

Trump urges Europe to 'take back' hundreds of captured IS fighters

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump said on Saturday the United States was asking European allies to "take back over 800" Islamic State fighters captured in Syria and put them on trial.

"The Caliphate is ready to fall," he said in a Tweet. "The alternative is not a good one in that we will be forced to release them..."

US-backed fighters in Syria are poised to capture Islamic State's last, tiny enclave on the Euphrates, the battle commander said on Saturday, bringing its self-declared caliphate to the brink of total defeat.

Reuters



READY: US President Donald Trump ready for a fight. (Reuters)

UK veers between high anxiety, grim humour in Brexit limbo

LONDON - It's said that history often repeats itself, the first time as tragedy, the second as farce.

Many Britons feel they are living through both at the same time as their country navigates its way out of the European Union.

The government awarded a contract to ship in emergency supplies to a company with no ships. It pledged to replace citizens' burgundy European passports with proudly British blue ones - and gave the contract to a Franco-Dutch company. It promised to forge trade deals with 73 countries by the end of March, but two years later has only a handful in place (including one with the Faroe Islands).

Pretty much everyone in the UK agrees that the government's handling of Brexit has been disastrous. Unfortunately, that's about the only thing this divided nation can agree on. *AP*

NOMINATES: US President Donald Trump greets Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during a bilateral meeting in New York on September 26, 2018.



'Japan's PM nominated Trump for Nobel Peace Prize on US request'

TOKYO - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe nominated US President Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize last autumn after receiving a request from the US government to do so, the *Asahi* newspaper reported on Sunday.

The report follows Trump's claim last Friday that Abe had nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize for opening talks and easing tensions with North Korea.

The Japanese leader had given him "the most beautiful copy" of a five-page nomination letter, Trump said at a White House news conference.

The US government had sounded Abe out over the Nobel Peace Prize nomination after Trump's summit in June last year with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the first meeting between a North Korean leader and a sitting US president, the *Asahi* said, citing an unnamed Japanese government source.

Aware

A spokesman for Japan's Foreign Ministry in Tokyo said the ministry was aware of Trump's remarks, but "would refrain from commenting on the interaction between the two leaders."

The White House had no immediate comment when contacted by Reuters.

The Nobel Foundation's website says a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize may be submitted by any person who meets the nomination criteria, which includes current heads of states. Under the foundation's rules, names and other information about unsuccessful nominations cannot be disclosed for 50 years. *Reuters*

BRIEFS

Albanian PM demanded to quit

TIRANA - Protesters in Albania attacked the prime minister's office with iron bars and petrol bombs on Saturday, demanding his resignation over a scandal-plagued plan to build a ring-road around the capital.

Several people, including journalists, were hurt as police fired tear gas to push back the protesters, some of whom were residents angry over the planned demolition of homes to make way for the highway around Tirana.

During four hours of unrest, they attacked two large art installations outside the office of Prime Minister Edi Rama, an artist and former basketball player elected in 2013.

Reuters

Merkel's call to work with Russia

MUNICH - US Vice President Mike Pence rebuked European powers over Iran and Venezuela on Saturday in a renewed attack on Washington's traditional allies, rejecting a call by Germany's chancellor to include Russia in global cooperation efforts. In speeches and in private talks at the Munich Security Conference, Pence and Chancellor Angela Merkel laid out competing visions for how the West should address world crises.

"America is stronger than ever before and America is leading on the world stage once again," Pence told European and Asian officials in Munich, listing what he described as US foreign policy successes from Afghanistan to North Korea, and urging support from American allies.

Reuters

US aid planes arrive in Colombia

CUCUTA - US military planes have been delivering humanitarian aid for Venezuela in the Colombian border town of Cucuta. The aid is being stockpiled at the request of the Venezuelan opposition leader, Juan Guaidó, who declared himself interim president last month. President Nicolás Maduro has alleged that the aid is part of a US plot to disguise an invasion into Venezuela.

Mr Guaidó said some 600 000 Venezuelan volunteers would carry the aid across the border on 23 February. "We will mobilise within and outside our borders," he said in a tweet on Saturday, adding: "Our struggle continues to yield results!"

It remains unclear if the aid will be allowed to enter Venezuela.

BBC

West's tactics against IS in Syria

MUNICH - A senior French officer involved in the fight against Islamic State in Syria faces punishment after launching a scathing attack on the US-led coalition's methods to defeat the group in its remaining stronghold of Hajin, the army said on Saturday.

Colonel Francois-Regis Legrier, who has been in charge of directing French artillery supporting Kurdish-led groups in Syria since October, said the coalition's focus had been on limiting its own risks and this had greatly increased the death toll among civilians and the levels of destruction.

Reuters

Observer Entertainment

New Reviews Star Signs Celebrity Watch Cartoons

Eswatini Arts Summit a huge success

...SA actress shared a message to all the people trying to make it in the acting industry

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

Graced by Skeem Sam actress MaNtuli, the Eswatini Arts Summit was a huge success.

The South African actress, who was a guest speaker at the summit, advised artists to stay in school and take education seriously.

This was during the second day of the Arts Summit, which was held at the Eswatini Electricity Company auditorium in Manzini.

MaNtuli was so overwhelmed by the love showed by the artists and she gave a message to all the people trying to make it in the industry.

Mostly, she emphasised to young pupils to go to school and get a qualification.

"There is no way you will make it in this industry without a qualification. This industry is cruel, young people should go to school," she emphasised.

She also added that drama should be taken seriously in schools and that children should be given a chance to discover their talent.

The summit was indeed fruitful as aspiring actors learnt a



ESWATINI'S BEST: Mshikishi Mndzebele speaking to the audience about how he made it in the industry.

lot and they were given the right tips and lessons on how to make it in the industry.

The audience was given a chance to ask what they wanted to know about the industry and their experiences.

Notable faces at the summit were Bholoja and Mshikishi.

They gave advice to the young, upcoming artists and actors on how they should carry themselves in order to make it in the art industry.

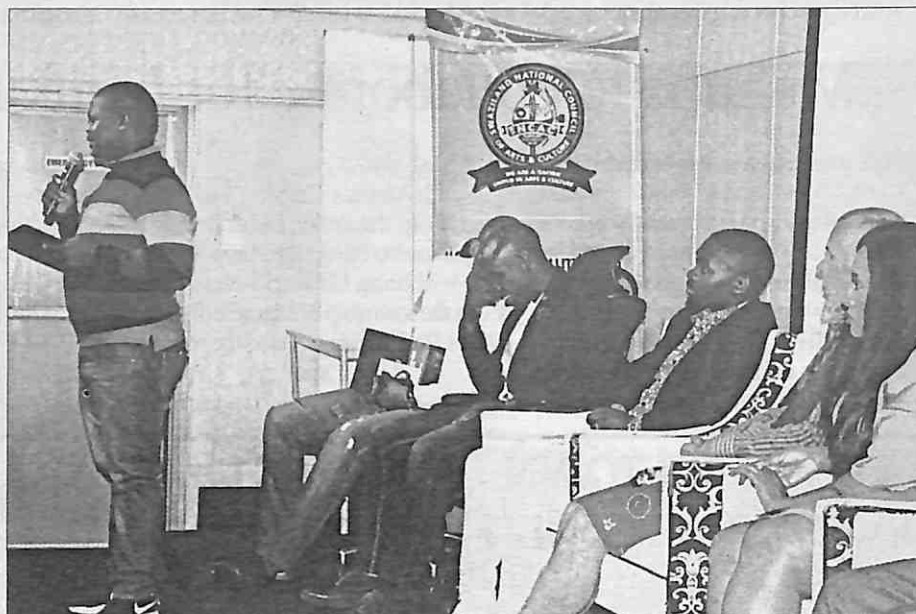
Guest speakers reminded the audience that acting was not all about money, but people should get into it because of its love and put in hard work so that it pays off.

They also added that there was a chance for Eswatini upcoming artists to make it.

The Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture (ENCAC) presented the guest speaker with emahiya as a token of appreciation.



TALENT: Mnqobi Mndzebele handing over portrait depicting Skeem Sam's MaNtuli, the artwork was drawn during the course of the event. (Pics: Phetsile Mamba)



WELCOME: Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture CEO Stanley Dlamini introducing the guest speaker at the Art Summit held last Friday.



ALSO THERE: Bholoja also attended the summit and gave advice to upcoming artists.



MY POINT: Nduduzo Matse sharing about his journey in the gospel music industry.



IN NUMBERS: The Art Summit was attended by a lot of people who were seeking to learn about how the industry works and how they can make it through.

NIGERIA'S ASA TO HEADLINE MTN BUSHFIRE 2019

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

NIGERIAN French singer and songwriter Asa will headline the MTN Bushfire 2019.

The Nigerian star will share the stage with South Africa's Moonchild who has been confirmed.

This was confirmed by Bushfire Communication Officer Wandile Dlamini through a press statement yesterday.

"The Nigerian and French singer is known for her soulful voice, powerful lyrics and according to some, 'With her dread-locked hair, quirky glasses and guitar, she earned a place as the de-facto patron saint of the cerebral, boho-chic Nigerian,'" said Dlamini.

Deeply

MTN Bushfire is a living, breathing ecosystem deeply rooted in African soil, yet inclusive and welcoming to guests from all over the world. MTN Bushfire will continue to reflect the festival's distinctly African ethos, with a strong focus on regional music, cul-



ture, and arts.

Nairobi-based 'Blinky' Bill Sellanga and MTN SWAMA Lifetime Achievement Award winner Smiles Mandla Makama has been added to the line-up as well.

"Makama is an elder statesmen of

the Swati music scene and has opened for the likes of Salif Keita and featured on Manfred Mann's Earth Band.

His most notable instrument is the Smilerphone, a great innovation of the traditional Makhoyane Bow," continued the statement.

...Mahube to collaborate for Mtukudzi tribute

THE press release also revealed that South African band Mahube, would be bringing together some of Southern Africa's top musicians in an explosive collaboration directed by the multi-award winning Steve and Bokani Dyer that will also include a tribute to the late Oliver Mtukudzi, one of the leading forces of the orig-

inal Mahube.

"South Africa's Thabang Tabane, is the heir to the father and founder of the Malombo music Dr. Philip Tabane and will bring his world-class band from the township of Mamelodi to the MTN Bushfire stage," read the release.

see

This year will also see the return of

Botswana acts to the MTN Bushfire stage with the selection of Sereetsi and the Natives amongst an all-star international line-up.

Sereetsi is considered a pioneer on the cultural landscape in Botswana and the group presents a fearless sound that blends traditional Botswana rhythms with Western influences.

'A Poets' In -Tuition' tickets flying off shelves

BY DELISA THWALA

AHEAD of his show dubbed 'A Poets' In -Tuition' to take place on February 23 at The Eswatini Theatre Club, poet Sbu J has revealed that tickets to the show have been flying off the shelves.

Speaking to this publication, the poet said he had managed to sell over 80 tickets from the initial three hundred that were printed and hope more people are still buy.

"I urge people to continue buying the tickets, I am impressed with the sales so far as they are doing better than I had expected and I know my fellow Swazis are going to buy them till the last minute," he said.

He also mentioned that one challenge he has been facing in preparation for the show has been funding. He revealed that he had to use his own money for posters and advertising. "I had to face decli-

nation from some establishments that did not want to help sell the tickets but I eventually worked around that," he added.

Tickets are sold at Sdeez, Pizza Inn at Manzini, Cuba Nora and Eswatini Theater Club in Mbabane. Tickets are going for E100.

One of the acts who are going to be performing on the night is none other than poet Nomfundo Sifundza who is popularly known as 'Mo Cats'.

She is running a promotion whereby each ticket bought is accompanied by a cake. "For people who are buying the tickets, I am proud to announce that each ticket bought comes with a cake baked by me. I figured this was another way to get people to buy the tickets so that they come to support the show," she said.

She also said the response has been great so far as the cake idea really enticed people and tickets are selling at a motivating speed.



FUNOUTOFTOWN EVENT POSTPONED

BY PHETSILE MAMBA

THE downpour experienced this past weekend led to the postponement of the Funoutoftown event.

This event was scheduled for Saturday at Encrypto Arts Lounge at Ngwenya.

Due to the weather conditions over the weekend, the organisers of the show had no choice but to call off the show.

They apologised to everyone who was looking forward to seeing their favourite performers and comedian Smallz. Speaking to Enkhosie Mdluli, one of the organisers he said, "we were compelled by the weather conditions to cancel the show."

All preps were however on point and we were ready to host our customers and fans but due to the downpour the venue was partially flooded.

"We had no choice but to call off the event. All customers that had secured their bookings were called and told about the cancellation. Quad Element, Smallz and Lerato fans were also informed through social media." The heavy rains over the weekend caused a lot of havoc such that even other events scheduled for Saturday were called off.

Calliber, Sarnilo drop Valentine's single

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

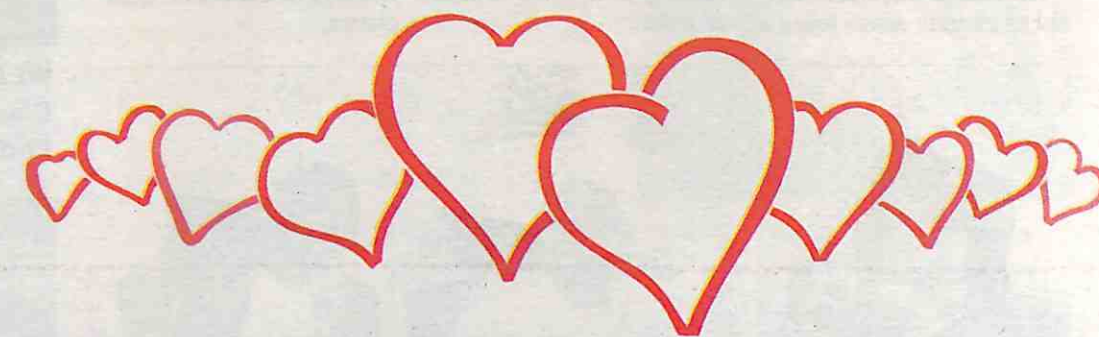
SARNILO and Calliber set the ball rolling during this year's Valentine's Day following the release of a new single, titled 'Anything', a perfect special gift to lovers on Valentine's day.

The soul hit is available for download on SlikourOnLife, UmcuLo.net, Audiomack, and SoundCloud.

Calliber, whose real name is Samkeliso Magagula, said the song tries to express that feeling when you love someone so much, you don't know how else to express it because 'I love you' is just not enough.

"The single is getting positive feedback and its message basically is to get people celebrate one another in the true spirit of love and positive vibes," he said.

The song's beat was produced by NKO. It was mixed by Mlandvo Mamba. It was a special advertising project for Khangisa, an online shopping mall designed for buying, selling and promoting goods and services in Eswatini. The online shop-



ping mall is a subsidiary company under TBWA\Yati, an integrated marketing and communications agency that provides fully fledged marketing, advertising and communications solutions.

TBWA\Yati Production Coordinator Velefini Mngomezulu said there is no better way to heighten brand experience than to incorporate music. "Music has the ability to dramatically change the way you experience an advert by evoking emotions, telling a story, and sparking action. This is exactly what the Anything duo delivered for the brand with this hit," he said.

Khangisa offered great Valentine

deals beyond candies and flowers to celebrate lovers.

"Valentine only comes once a year, but it can be the most important day, especially when searching for that perfect Valentine's Day gift for him or her. You can find yourself something that you can enjoy for years to come from our online shopping mall, something that you will always get a kick out of. You can visit www.khangisa.com for daily deals," he said.

The ad song was composed in line with the same spirit, to capture lovers at this unique time in their relationship, in a way that they will both cherish forever.

"The duo did an excellent job!"

Calliber raised his music profile when he released his first mixtape Kingdom Rap Volume 1 in 2012, wherein he worked with few local artists and producers.

He was also featured by United States based recording Rap artist; Sick Flo, formerly known as Ric Flo on his project 'The Beat Snatcher Vol.2.' Samilo, who real name Ntando Dlamini, is an upcoming singer and songwriter. She is set to perform at the upcoming Valentine's Extravaganza on the same stage with well established artists including the likes of Bhloja, Amanda Mo, and Nomlungelo.

BRA NKAB'S ROCKS SOLANI'S

BY DELISA THWALA

ISIBAYA actor 'Nkabinde', whose real name is Zweli Msibi, showed his face at Solani's Shisanyama last Friday evening, as a guest artist and was accompanied by his Manager, King Veg.

The actor immediately took the microphone as soon as he got on stage and teased the crowd with a kwaito song.

"It's me Nkabinde, the witch-doctor who kills people back in Natal and I will have you know that this witch-doctor is from here Eswatini, I'm one of you Swazis," he elaborated, sending the crowd into a frenzy.

He continued to dance and sang the night away, as he had taken to the stage just after midnight. The actor seemed to enjoy the energy the crowd gave him, as he would greet his fans and take pictures with them in between his fun-packed performances.

The crowd would cheer him on louder when he did his funny dance moves, and that is when he stopped to say, "You guys did not know that I'm a singer, right?"

The actor, when speaking to this publication, said he was happy to be in Eswatini.



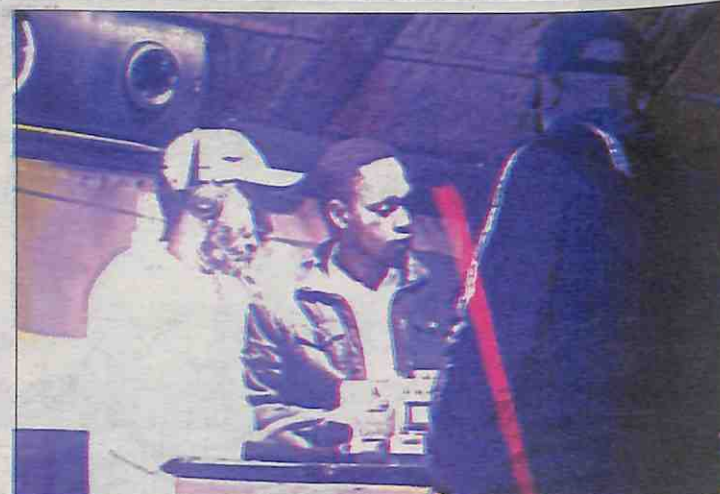
CHILLING: Zweli Msibi popularly known as Nkabinde sitting with his Manager King Veg at Solanis Shisanyama last Friday where they had gone to perform as guests for the Friday chill out sessions. (Pics: Delisa Thwala)

"The welcome is so warm I'm happy to be here, Eswatini feels like home really and I'm looking forward to coming back here, it is so nice, I'm amazed at such a welcoming crowd," said Nkabinde.

Zweli Msibi is an actor mostly popular for his love to hate character on TV as a witch-doctor called Nkabinde. The soapie is called Isibaya and airs on week-

days at 8:30pm on Mzansi Magic. Besides being on Isibaya, he has cameo roles on Lok'shin Bioskop, which also airs on Mzansi Magic.

Keeping the crowd entertained before the guest artist arrived were the local resident deejays who included Dope Deep, Bloss, Aya City and many more who as usually make sure that the crowd is entertained.



WHAT IS THE HOLD UP: Nkabinde seemed to be asking before taking to the stage to perform his kwaito and hip hop set.



BUBBLY: The ladies enjoying the night by smoking bubbly.



SMILE: The actor also took time to pose for the lenses with his fans on the night.



DANCE: This what the dance floor looked like in the late hours of the night, where everyone was dancing and having a good time.



TURNTABLES: DJ AyaCity making sure the audience is entertained.

More from Valentine's fundraising dinner



MR MUSIC: Brian Temba serenading the audience at the Valentine's Fundraising Dinner held at Molly's House of Grills in Manzini last Thursday evening. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



SING WITH ME: Tiny Carvalho was pulled by Brian Temba to join him on stage.



WARM WELCOME: Samukelisiwe Magagula posing with some of the ladies who gave couples a warm welcome.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

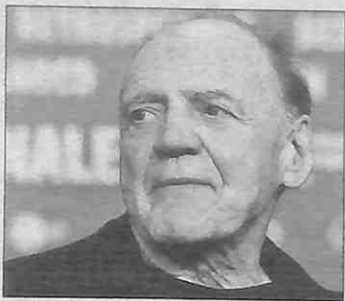
Swiss actor Bruno Ganz dead at 77

NEW YORK - Bruno Ganz, the Swiss actor who gave a masterful performance as Adolf Hitler in 'Downfall', has died aged 77, his agent said last Saturday.

Ganz, who died at his home in Zurich, had a distinguished career on screen and stage before his 2004 appearance in 'Downfall', which unfolds over the final, suffocating days inside Hitler's bunker.

For many critics his nuanced portrayal of the fascist tyrant that veers between explosive and sombre was unparalleled.

Hitler is a figure that German-speak-



PASSES ON: Bruno Ganz.

ing actors had historically been reluctant to take on and the Zurich-born Ganz conceded that being Swiss provided a necessary buffer.

People Magazine

'Suspects' in 'Empire' actor case freed

CHICAGO - Two men identified as 'potential suspects' in the alleged attack on 'Empire' TV actor Jussie Smollett have been released without charge, police in the US city of Chicago said late last Friday.

Smollett, 36, who is black and openly gay, reported to police on January 29, that two men beat him while he walked downtown in the third-largest American city.

He alleged they yelled racial and homophobic slurs, poured bleach on him and tied a rope around his neck, prompting police to initially describe the case as a possible hate crime.

Earlier on Friday police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said detectives had 'probable cause' that two men



FREED: Jussie Smollett.

arrested may have been involved in an alleged offence.

TMZ

Sophie Lichaba back on television screen

AUCKLAND PARK - Sophie Lichaba (formerly Ndaba) is taking it back to basics with her latest TV gig. After taking a break from the limelight to focus on her health, Lichaba will host new talk show 'Hashtags' with radio personality Mantsoe Pout, celebrity publicist Jarred Doyle and beauty guru Francois Louw.

While the show will premiere on Saturday, March 2, on



BACK ON TV: Sophie Lichaba.

eExtra (Channel 105 on DSTV) at 4pm, the foursome has already been shooting for the past month. The show will focus on discussing social and lifestyle topics.

"It's fun, nice and different. It's nice to be back after taking this amazing break. The waking up late is what I miss the most," Lichaba said yesterday.

Sowetan Live

Rapper Emtee joins debate on girls asking for cars

DURBAN - It seems like Mzansi just doesn't care about respecting other children's wheels and even Emtee has strong opinions about the questionable practice.

Nearly every week social media is flooded with comments about a girl on 'Date My Family' asking a potential date what he drives.

This past weekend DJ Black Coffee spoke out against a girl who claimed she would never date someone who drove a Fiat Uno, telling people to respect the car. While people were still digesting Black Coffee's comments, rapper Emtee took to Twitter to throw shade at all the fussy lay



DEBATES: Rapper Emtee.

queens and divas. He said in SA people without cars were the ones judging people for what they drive. Emtee's comments drew reaction from fans around the world, with some saying it was also a problem in the UK and US. *Sowetan Live*

21 Savage chides 'broken' US immigration enforcement

LAS VEGAS - Rapper 21 Savage last Friday said he was "definitely targeted" by US immigration agents who detained him earlier this month on the grounds he had been living stateside illegally.

"I was just driving. And I just seen guns and blue lights. And, then, I was in the back of a car. And I was gone," the artist born in Britain said in his first interview since he was released on US\$100 000 (R1 413 895) bond this week.

"They didn't say nothing. They just said, 'We Got Savage'," the 26-year-old told ABC's Good Morning America



I'M TARGETED: Rapper 21 Savage.

programme. *News 24 Live*

T.I., Floyd Mayweather beefing over Gucci 'blackface' boycott

NEW YORK - The fire that was sparked by the Gucci 'blackface' sweater has ignited once again with calls for boycotts of the brand causing a feud between T.I. and Floyd Mayweather.

Gucci was forced to issue an apology last week after it released a black wool balaclava, which has a slit near the mouth framed in red and was compared to the racist practice of light-skinned people painting their face to appear black. Angry fans, backed by some celebs have vowed to boycott the brand, but were further outraged this week when boxer Floyd Mayweather went on a shopping spree at one of the brand's stores.



BEEFING: Floyd Mayweather and T.I.

When asked why he hadn't joined the boycott, Floyd suggested that he wasn't a sheep who followed the crowd. "See, the thing is this. I live for myself. I do what I want to do. I'm not a follower. You know when everybody else they say, 'Everybody gonna boycott?' I say, 'guess what? This boy going to get on a yacht and live life,'" he told TMZ. *TMZ*

Multi-talented Enhle to launch own fashion label

CAPE TOWN - Actress Enhle Mbali Maphumulo is following in the footsteps of Nandi Madida, Rihanna and Victoria Beckham.

The wife of internationally renowned house music maestro DJ Black Coffee confirms she will launch her eponymous fashion label later this year.

The 31-year-old star plans to debut her first collection during SA Fashion Week's Autumn/Winter 2020 runway showcase in the second half of the year.

"I think this is where I take my giant leap because a lot of people don't know that I do fashion. I don't want to give too much away on the clothing I will be making; it's such



GIANT LEAP: Enhle.

a competitive market," she said. "But I think it's going to be something that introduces us to the rest of the world in terms of styling because as Africans we keep it safe and watch what they do internationally first, then follow. *Sowetan Live*

Third time lucky for Kgomotso Christopher

PRETORIA - Leading lady Kgomotso Christopher is hoping third time will be a charm with her latest South African Film and Television Award (SAFTA) nomination.

The vivacious 39-year-old actress has been nodded in the Best Actress in a Soap category yet again - and has walked empty-handed the last two times.

But with a year that was full of superb storylines, emotional range and nuanced acting for her portrayal of Scandal! vixen Yvonne Thebe, she looks like a lock in the race.



Christopher will duke it out against Isibaya heroine Nomzamo Mbatha and Uzalo villainess Dawn Thandeka King on March 2, in Sun City.

She was nominated last year for the same role but lost out to Jo-Anne Reyneke. For her role as Katlego Sibeko in Isidingo, Christopher lost out to Masasa Mbangeni in 2015.

Sowetan Live

LUCKY: Kgomotso Christopher.

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST



TODAY



IN ANGUISH: Mehlemamba.

Mehlemamba is in anguish as he chooses to access his powers to help the Zungus, fearing this might unleash a dark force in him. Samson seeks to solidify his legacy. Later, Dabula reveals his true feelings to Ntwenhle.



TODAY



TO RECEIVE INFORMATION: Lincoln.

Roman figures out a way to get Lincoln the information he wants. The Lategans have a brief, joyful moment before Anja causes more conflict. Makgorometsa goes in search of advice to win.



TODAY



HEALTH REIGNS: Mulalo.

Uncertainty over Shumi and the baby's health reigns in Mulalo's house. Gugu has reservations over Molihi's sudden change of heart. Vho-Makhadzi reprimands Mulalo over his troublesome first wife.



TODAY



TO NAME HER PIG: Mampho.

Dumi comes to rescue Sabelo, David finds a new suspect for Bong's murder and Rene encourages Mampho to name her pig.

PICTURE OF THE DAY

When he bought you a dog but he cheated and left you with it and you're very hurt



Some ladies need to chill

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Aquarius January 20 – February 18

It scares you when life seems like it's slipping through your fingers and you can't slow it down. But it isn't life that's playing tricks on you. You aren't seeing things as clearly as you should be. You feel a little left out, but don't worry. You're just out of energy. Try and think of this empty feeling inside as a kind of purification or a much-needed break from everything.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

It scares you when life seems like it's slipping through your fingers and you can't slow it down. But it isn't life that's playing tricks on you. You aren't seeing things as clearly as you should be. You feel a little left out, but don't worry. You're just out of energy. Try and think of this empty feeling inside as a kind of purification or a much-needed break from everything.



Aries March 21 – April 19

You've always been sensitive to the pain of an unhappy childhood, Aries. Today you can no longer stand the thought of all those children living in misery, victims of war or other atrocities. And this becomes especially painful when you take a look at the happy children full of joy around you. You may think that it's time for you to do something about it. You may be right.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

You may feel like you need to work for a cause or political party, Taurus. The period you're in right now is bringing you closer to social issues or humanitarian causes and pushing you to think about what you can do for people less fortunate. You can help develop a new strategy as far as human relations are concerned. Don't hesitate to listen to your heart and be a little more generous in life.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

Unfortunately, Gemini, this may be a period of conflict and tension in your family life, especially where siblings are concerned. Don't you think it's time to deal with these problems once and for all? It would be nice to build a new relationship with them. It might be painful, but it's up to you to take the first step. Call a family meeting and put all your cards on the table.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

You now seem to be able to do everything you want to do, Cancer. Things are going well as you reap the rewards of important past decisions you made. The obstacles that tended to get in your way are history now. Your family is happy and healthy. Your success is encouraging you to make plans for the future. It also enables you to look forward to much better days for you and those close to you.



Leo July 23 – August 22

You need to be more spontaneous, Leo, and stop trying to organise other people's lives. You will see that it isn't so hard to just let things happen. The unexpected also has a special charm. You're a slave to routine. You need to take a big bite out of life and put your trust in chance for a while. The people around you would like to see more originality in your personality. Listen to them.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

You're a hard worker, Virgo, and you expect the same from the people around you. Today you may want to take a look at your personal and work relationships. Demanding person that you are, you may be concerned about the quality of your friendships. Don't be afraid to separate good from bad. Life is too short to devote your energy to bad relationships.



Libra September 23 – October 23

Watch for any errors in orientation or strategic mistakes, Libra. You may be having some communication problems with almost everyone today. You feel like whatever you say falls on deaf ears and that no one really wants to listen to you. Don't get frustrated. Relax and see it with humour. Just be an observer for one day and see what happens.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

At the moment, there's a great deal of electricity in the air, especially in your life at home. Ignore those people who try to provoke you. Don't get involved in conflicts that could degenerate into fights. Go somewhere to be alone. Reenergise by really listening to your desires, feelings, and instincts. Why not spend the afternoon in a museum, for example?



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

If people say that you're stubborn when you're just determined, let them talk, Sagittarius, and do what you need to do. However, when you think you're being determined but you're actually being obstinate, you may want to listen to the people around you. They don't tell you to calm down because they're jealous of you but because they care about you. They may not know that you hate to lose.

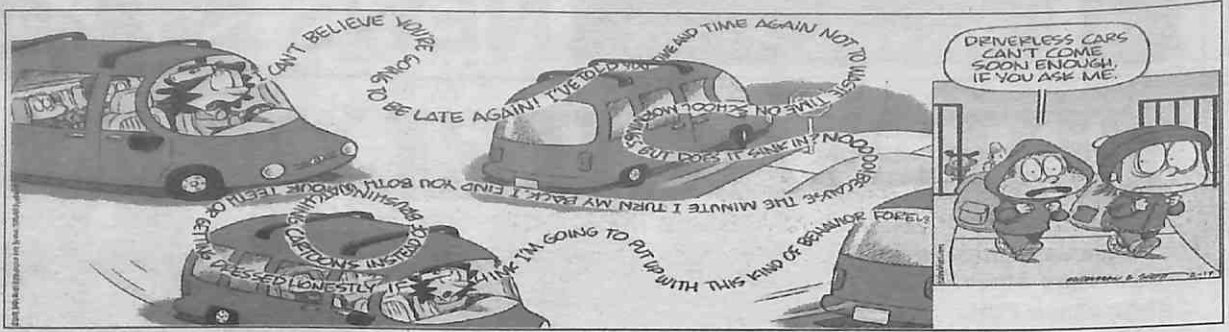


Capricorn December 22 – January 19

It's time to face up to certain things about yourself that you may have denied for some time, Capricorn. You have only yourself to answer to, so relax. You aren't the first one to have to deal with old issues that probably aren't as shameful as you think. You don't have to be proud of them. You can't keep hiding them from yourself. This could cause more problems than dealing with them once and for all.



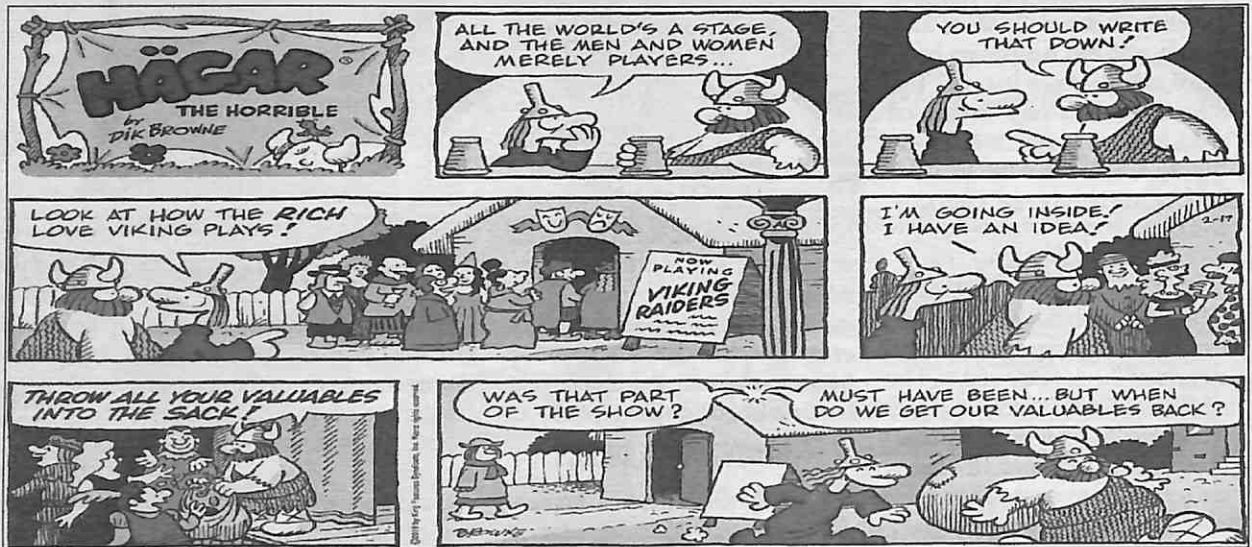
BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PUZZLE CHOICE

YAKETY-YAK

Can you find the mythical creatures hidden in the box? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

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P M O V T A D C L U A P H O S E G V L
P A R L E Y P L C D R E E R E R R E V
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Accent, Address, Argue, Babble, Blab, Bluster, Cant, Chat, Chatter, Comment, Communicate, Conversation, Converse, Debate, Disclose, Discourse, Discuss, Dissertate, Divulge, Gabble, Gossip, Gush,

Impart, Inflect, Language, Lecture, Lingo, Modulate, Mouth, Narrate, Orate, Palaver, Parley, Patois, Pontificate, Prate, Preach, Rap, Shout, Slang, Speak, Speech, Spiel, Talk, Tell, Utter, Whisper.

THREE PROFESSIONS

A physician, an engineer, and an attorney were discussing who among them belonged to the oldest of the three professions represented.

The physician said, "Remember, on the sixth day God took a rib from Adam and fashioned Eve, making him the first surgeon. Therefore, medicine is the oldest profession."

The engineer replied, "But, before that, God created



the heavens and earth from chaos and confusion, and thus he was the first engineer. Therefore, engineering is an older profession than medicine."

Then, the lawyer spoke up. "Yes," he said, "But who do you think created all of the chaos and confusion?"

USELESS FACTS

1. Lawn darts are illegal in Canada.
2. There are more psychoanalysts per capita in Buenos Aires than any other place in the world.
3. Between two and three jockeys are killed each year in horse racing.
4. 5 840 people with pillow related injuries checked into US emergency rooms in 1992.
5. The average woman consumes six lbs of lipstick in her lifetime.

BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FRIDAY'S BRAINTEASERS

1. What thrives when you feed it but fades when you water it?
Answer: A fire
2. What tree does everyone carry in their hand?

Answer: A palm tree

TODAY'S BRAINTEASERS

1. What is easy to catch but hard to throw?
2. What goes up as rain comes down?



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NEWS



THE BACHELOR SA 101

THE beginners' guide to The Bachelor South Africa Season 1 on M-Net channel 101.

You've heard of The Bachelor before...it's got something to do with a ring, right? Well...sort of. But before there can be a ring, there have to be roses. If you're confused, you're in need of our 101 on The Bachelor SA.

Already a fan? Refresh your memory now, and share your excitement about the show on social media using #TheBachelorSA.

THE BACHELOR

A bachelor is a man who is not and has never been married

That man is Lee Thompson, and he'll be looking for love over the course of the show. The American rendition is currently on its 23rd season, and the Australian completed its sixth season last year. This is South Africa's very first season and Lee is our very first bachelor. Will he find love on the show? If he does, will he propose? Only time will tell.

THE LADIES

Twenty-four ladies will be vying for Lee's love. They come from all corners of the country and will be revealed in the first episode. Every week, you'll get to make predictions about what Lee and the ladies are getting up to on the show.

DATE CARDS

This is a show about love after all, and in order to get to know the ladies better, Lee needs to do some serious romancing. The Bachelor uses date cards to invite ladies on dates, which can be individual dates or group dates.

GROUP DATES

Group dates involve Lee going



out with several of the ladies, often engaging in activities that incorporate his passions and pursuits. These dates can consist of several ladies or be a two-on-one. It's up to the ladies to make their presence felt, because Lee could hand out a rose.

INDIVIDUAL DATES

Any lady who's made an impression on Lee could stand a chance to go on a solo date, and have The Bachelor all to herself. There could also be a rose at stake.

FIRST IMPRESSION ROSE

The most important item on the show – besides Lee himself – is the rose. In the first episode, Lee will get a chance to meet all the ladies and the one who makes the strongest first impression receives the first

impression rose.

ROSE CEREMONY

What's the deal with the roses, you ask? If a lady receives a rose during the course of the episode it means she's safe at the rose ceremony. This happens at the end of the episode.

The Bachelor, Lee, hands out roses to all the ladies he wishes to stay in the house, so he can get to know them better. If a lady does not receive a rose, either during the episode or at the rose ceremony, she exits the show.

THE MANSION

House? What house? Well, actually it's a mansion. The ladies live together in Africa's Richest Square Mile during the run of the season,

leading to friendships but also fights. When you're living in close quarters, tensions are bound to rise, so prepare for lots of drama. Take a tour of the mansion here.

WHERE CAN I WATCH THE BACHELOR SA?

This is the most important question, after all. Well, perhaps after: Will you accept this rose? You can watch The Bachelor South Africa Season 1 every Thursday at 19:00 on M-Net channel 101. You can also watch the first episode on YouTube here.

We also go behind the scenes with Lee and the ladies here. For more on Lee, the ladies, love, romance, roses, and unconditional love, join the conversation on social media using #TheBachelorSA.



THE MANY SIDES OF COBRA

LOOKING back at some of Cobra's many personalities.

Sometimes it's funny, other times it's sad. But whichever way you choose to look at him, Cobra brings charisma, fun and laughter whether he's with his friends in Refilwe or his family.

Here are a few of the many personalities of Cobra.

COBRA THE FAMILY GUY: Don't try and play man of the house in the Mokoena residence because Cobra will remind you who's the real Mokoena. Who can ever forget the time Walter was hitting on Malefu? Cobra had his eye on Walter's every move and lest to say, he wasn't having any of it.

COBRA THE LOVER: Who isn't a sucker for a beautiful love story? We all are, and Cobra and Paulina's relationship is what many relationships are made of. Cobra loves his sweet, sweet Paulina and isn't afraid to show it. In fact, the two love each other so much that even during the worst times, they'll fight their way back into each other's arms again.

We were over the moon when Cobra proposed to Paulina, and although they never went through with the wedding, we hope that 2019 will unite the two and bring mini Cobrizzi's into the picture.

COBRA THE FATHER: If there's one thing that surprised us with Cobra, was the time we found out that he is a baby daddy. Not only was anybody ready for the baby news, but we were shocked when he came to the party. He immediately fell in love with baby Keitumetse and handled his responsibilities like a man.

COBRA THE BUSINESSMAN: Cobra doesn't have much going for him when it comes to his career. But when he's presented with an opportunity, he grabs it with both hands and runs with it. Plus, when he pulls out his "Egyptian cotton", everyone must know that he's about to be Refilwe's next Patrice Motsepe.

COBRA THE FUN GUY: Where there's Cobra there's the bev and laughter all around. And let's not forget his hilarious phrases.

ONE NIGHT WITH MY EX HEADING TO 1MAGIC

NEW reality show to give exes the opportunity to resolve old mysteries and get closer

Are you still haunted by questions of love that might have been?

Do you spend nights thinking about the one who got away? Tortured

by a life of unanswered questions? If you're in desperate need of romantic closure, the yearning ends today! 1Magic (DStv channel 103) is calling on all lonely singles, scorned lovers, and deserted dreamers, who need their mysteries of lost love

resolved, to join us on its newest relationship show starting this April!

If you have a lost love and want to reawaken what "might have been", reach out to us on 060 567 9955, and who knows, we might

be able to help you reignite the passion, and reunite with that long-lost ex. Entrants must be over 21 years old.

Let 1Magic and Rapid Blue help you reignite the fire of love this Valentine's month.

Coupled: Everything you need to know

FOLLOW 12 women as they start their search for love in Anguilla, deciding whether they are interested in each single man who arrives at their bungalows.

If you are a die-hard fan of dating shows, then you'll find a surprising treat in Fox's reality dating series, Coupled currently airing on 1 Magic, Fridays at 19:00.

Although Coupled adopts the genre of a reality dating show, bloggers have described as "delivering content that goes beyond the stock characters, conventions and situations of your

regular dating shows.

Coupled features women in sundresses who send and receive text messages on the beach, drawing in the young, hip crowd. However, beyond that, Coupled takes an in-depth look at the dating habits of older millennials. It taps into this group's rituals, conflicts and the desires that women and men have in their late 20s and early 30s.

How the show works is that 12 women live together in a bungalow on the beaches of Anguilla. Hunky suitors then arrive one-by-

COUPLED

one to meet the women individually. It is then on the ladies to decide whether they return to the bungalows or to continue their conversation with the suitors at the tiki bar.

From there onwards, the male makes a pick between two finalists, with the aim of eventu-

ally choosing one after a number of nights out. After choosing his girl, the two are then "coupled".

Sound like your kind of dating show? Then you don't want to miss Coupled, every Friday at 19:00.

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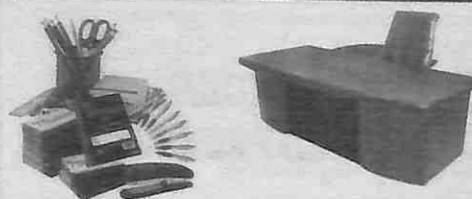
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Lady of 31 years with BSc in Accounting & Finance - Cell: 76411405

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Chelsea players do care - Zola

LONDON - Gianfranco Zola insists Chelsea's players do have character - and they do care - but he thinks they are reacting to hardship as individuals instead of a team.

The Blues slumped out of the top four to sixth in the Premier League after a 6-0 hammering at Manchester City last week and assistant boss Zola believes they have reacted well by beating Malmo in the Europa League.

His boss Maurizio Sarri recently accused his players of lacking moti-

vation in another poor result at Arsenal, but Zola believes their difficulty has been in trying to gel as a team.

Asked if the current group have strong leaders like Marcel Desailly, whom Zola played with for Chelsea, or John Terry, the Italian said: "I believe so. They are different personalities but characters (are similar).

"I think this group, like in the one I had in my time, didn't like losing. Maybe they are showing it in another way but it's wrong to make com-

parisons like that. We believe that we didn't like (losing to City) and they reacted yesterday and they continue to react. "It would be good if we could react more as a team rather than as individuals. Against Manchester City we reacted, yes, but reacted individually. There were players taking the responsibility and they wanted to change the situation on their own.

"But what we are building here is a philosophy of playing and we need to learn to react altogether." *Sky Sports*

If Man U lose to Chelsea, all the old questions will return

LONDON - After defeat against Paris Saint-Germain, tonight's FA Cup tie against Chelsea is big for Manchester United.

I don't necessarily mean for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and his prospects of getting the manager's job full-time, but for the

players.

They have been on a great run since Jose Mourinho left but two defeats in a row against elite opposition would see the old questions resurface - is the manager really the problem or are the squad just not good enough?

I watched the PSG game with interest and there was one glaring weakness with United. They don't have anyone in midfield who can dictate the tempo as Michael Carrick used to.

PSG did have that player, Marco Verratti, last Tuesday night.

Manchester Utd willing to pay world record fee for Koulibaly

LONDON - Manchester United are plotting a world record £90million summer move for Napoli centre-back Kalidou Koulibaly, according to *The Sun*.

Interim United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer assigned his top scout Jim Lawlor to watch the defender in last Saturday's 0-0 Serie A draw at Fiorentina. Sources close to Manchester United say Lawlor was impressed

working closely with Lawlor, whose own influence has increased since Jose Mourinho's sacking in December.

Daily Mail

with the Senegal international, who also featured in Napoli's 3-1 Europa League win at Zurich five days later.

27-year-old Koulibaly admits he has been flattered by interest in him, saying: "I am pleased that many teams follow me.

"But I want to demonstrate on the field I am at the level of the greatest and I want to show it in the future."

United are ready to trump the £75m Liverpool paid Southampton for Virgil van Dijk - the current record for a defender - to sign their No 1 target, even though Koulibaly admits he might not be worth such a hefty fee.

"I don't know if I'm one of the strongest defenders in the world," he said. "But I always try to give my best."

Solskjaer is expected to be named United's full-time manager, although the club may not announce it until the end of the season. While planning ahead the Norwegian has been



A TARGET: Napoli centre-back Kalidou Koulibaly.

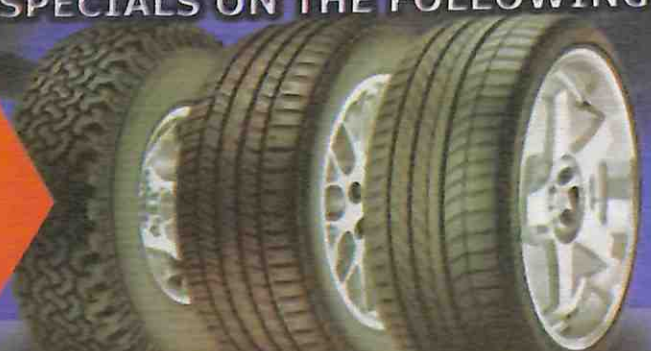
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Big move looms for Ntshangase

JOHANNESBURG - A decision is expected by SuperSport United regarding the future of Phumlani Ntshangase, as the midfielder is nearing the end of his contract with the club.

The 24-year-old is on a season-long loan deal with Matsatsantsa, while his contract with mother club Bidvest Wits is also set to expire.

However, SuperSport are believed to have an option in place to buy the player outright should they want to do so.

In this week's Soccer Laduma, edition 1110, the player's agent, Sizwe Ntshangase, hinted on Matsatsantsa's interest in the player.

"It's true that Phumlani Ntshangase's loan with SuperSport United is nearing an end. There is interest in the player, but we are giving SuperSport first preference to sign the player (permanently). There is interest from SuperSport, and we are waiting on that," confirmed the agent.

Read: Preparations Galore, Next Big Star For Bucs Identified?

Together with Xola Mlambo and Ben Motshwari, during their time at Wits, Ntshangase was also linked with PSL giants Orlando Pirates.

With Mlambo and Motshwari already furthering their careers at the Soweto giants and making progress, it remains to be seen what the future holds for Ntshangase.

Soccer Laduma

Monare would love to finish his career at Wits

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits midfielder Thabang Monare says he would love to finish his career with the Clever Boys.

Despite being linked to some of the big clubs in the PSL previously, Monare says he is happy with Wits and would not mind ending his career with the current ABSA Premiership log leaders.

Last year Wits exercised the two-year option they had in the player's contract and it will expire at the end of the 2019/20 campaign.

"I am also shocked as you are, but I'm happy at Wits," Monare told KickOff.com, when asked about the reported interest from Amakhosi and the Brazilians.

Asked if would like to retire at Wits, the former University of Pretoria FC and Jomo Cosmos player said: "Yes. You can quote me no problem. I actually don't like talking about retirement, it depresses me. I'm enjoying myself and I feel like we also have a good set up, and we also have a squad that is capable of winning things so. I feel like I'm at the right team, I feel like at the moment I'm going to be in this team, so, I wouldn't at this point think about anything else besides our team which is Bidvest Wits. "I think that's what should matter in football, winning things and a good set up, which is what we have." *Kick-Off*



Mosimane hoping to avoid continental giants in CAF

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane is keen to avoid the continent's big fish, should his side advance to the next round of the CAF Champions League.

The Brazilians recently earned a hard-fought draw on the road against Asec Mimosas, putting the Tshwane giants a healthy position to advance.

Nonetheless, despite currently occupying second spot on the Group A standings, the 54-year-old mentor admits that he has his eyes set on top spot as he hopes to avoid the likes of TP Mazembe and Al Ahly among others. "At the end of the

day you want to finish as number one because those teams are going to be put on one side and all the teams who finish second are on the other side," Mosimane was quoted as saying by Phakaaathi.

"History tells you that it is either Wydad (Casablanca) or Sundowns who are probably going to finish on top, but we can't say that until we finish because it can go either way," he added.

"But history says Al Ahly are going to finish at the top and either Orlando Pirates or Esperance will also finish top. TP Mazembe could also do so," Mosimane explained.

"I want to be on the side where I don't have TP Mazembe, Al Ahly, Pirates or Esperance. I am happy to be there because you are going to play against the other people," he expressed. With Sundowns have lost just one of their four group games on the continent, the penultimate clash against Lobi Stars could be decisive on their path to the next round. "I thought we were going to win against Lobi, but we need to win here against Lobi so that when we go to Casablanca we are not looking for a result and we play stress-free, that is the way it is," he said. *Goal*



KEEN: Mamelodi Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane.

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Anthony Joshua bout breaks Madison Square Garden pre-sale record

NEW YORK - Anthony Joshua's heavy-weight world title fight with Jarrell Miller has broken the Madison Square Garden record for highest-grossing pre-sale of a boxing event, though the arena did not reveal the figure.

Joshua will defend his WBA Super, IBF, WBO and IBO crowns against Miller on June 1 in New York, with the fight being broadcast live on DAZN in the US and on Sky Sports Box Office in the UK.

Fight fans showed their appetite to see the Brit make his American debut in the home

country of the unbeaten Brooklynite by breaking the pre-sale record inside two hours of the midday on-sale.

Tickets go on general sale on StubHub at mid-day tomorrow following today's pre-sale for Matchroom Fight Pass members, and fans hoping to get the chance to see Joshua lock horns with the 'Big Baby' will need to move quickly to purchase tickets.

Tickets range from £80 to just under £2 000. 'We know that AJ is a huge box office hit in the UK but to break the pre-sale record at the iconic Madison Square Garden is astounding,'

said promoter Eddie Hearn.

"We are building a huge event on June 1 and we look forward to the all the build-up beginning with next Tuesday's press conference in New York."

"We are thrilled with the early excitement for tickets," said Joel Fisher, executive vice president, MSG Marquee Events.

"Anthony Joshua versus Jarrell Miller will be an epic event at Madison Square Garden and we encourage fans to purchase tickets now because this fight will sell out."

Daily Mail



RECORD: Anthony Joshua will put his IBF, IBO, WBO and WBA titles on the line against Jarrell Miller.



Portu silences Bernabeu

MADRID - Real Madrid's four-game winning run in La Liga came to an end yesterday as they suffered a shock home defeat by Girona.

Casemiro had put the hosts ahead with a header in the first-half and they looked to be easing towards a win that would close the gap on Barcelona to six points.

But a Cristian Stuani penalty and Cristian Portu header in the second-half turned it around and saw Girona claim their first ever win at the Bernabeu. Sergio Ramos saw red for two bookable offences late in the game.

...after Stuani levels and Ramos picks up another handy yellow

Sergio Ramos gave away a penalty and was sent off as Real Madrid were beaten by Girona at the Bernabeu for the first time ever.

Santiago Solari's side came into the game after huge results against Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and Ajax but were undone by relegation-threatened visitors. They led after Casemiro headed in Toni Kroos' cross but self-destructed with Ramos at the heart of the collapse.

First he handled to gift Cristian Stuani the chance to level from the spot.

Then after Portu got the winner Ramos was shown a second yellow for a high kick in the Girona area.

After four consecutive wins, it's another defeat for Real Madrid. That probably puts paid to their faint hopes of catching Barcelona at the top.

Daily mail

SAFA joins support for Semenya in IAAF case

CAPE TOWN - The South African Football Association (SAFA) has joined the wave of support for Caster Semenya as she fights for gender equality ahead of her landmark hearing at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) this week.

The IAAF has proposed rules that would force so-called 'hyperandrogenic' athletes or those with 'differences of sexual development' (DSD) to lower their testosterone levels below a prescribed amount. The rules were to have been instituted in November 2018 but have been put on ice pending this week's hearings in Lausanne. "SAFA knows fully well, the pain of countless female football players who, on a daily basis are harassed, ridiculed and victimised sexually because they are deemed different by ignorant bigots," read the press statement from SAFA. "In the name of women football players who are victims of the disgusting scourge of corrective rape, discrimination and murder, we hereby declare our unqualified support for Caster and hope that the Court of Arbitration in Sport will make the right decision when it hears this matter next week."

Sport24

Diallo jumps over 7ft 1in Shaquille O'Neal

NEW YORK - Oklahoma City's Hamidou Diallo is the NBA's slam dunk champion.

Going over Shaquille O'Neal in the first round, then getting a boost from rapper Quavo in the finale, Diallo soared to the crown by topping New York's Dennis Smith Jr.

Diallo topped Smith 88-85 in the finale. Charlotte's Miles Bridges and Atlanta's John Collins went out in the first round.

Smith leapfrogged Miami's Dwyane Wade and took a lob from Stephen Curry to give himself a chance with his last dunk, getting a perfect score from the judges - and a round of boos from the crowd, many of whom weren't

that impressed.

That left Diallo as the night's final participant.

Diallo pulled off a dunk that will be talked about for years in the first round - dunking over O'Neal, hanging on the rim by his elbow, then tearing open his jersey to reveal a 'Superman' shirt underneath. And then he plucked the ball from Quavo as he went airborne for the dunk that sealed the title.

Daily Mail

Boateng horror show not the only bad news for Barca

BARCELONA - First, the good news: Barcelona suffered no injuries in beating Real Valladolid 1-0 last Saturday night to move seven points clear at the top of La Liga.

Now, the bad news: everything else about this performance.

Indeed, the best thing that one could say about it was that the second half wasn't quite as horrid as the first.

Barcelona were atrocious in the opening 45 minutes, appearing to play the game as if it were literally a warm-up for next week's Champions League clash with

Lyon, and they only led at the interval thanks to a penalty from Lionel Messi.

In truth, they were lucky not to be behind, with Nacho having blown an extraordinary four-on-two break just moments before Gerard Pique - of all people - was bundled over in the Valladolid area in the 43rd minute.

The centre-half's decision to venture forward was hardly surprising. Barca were slow and stagnant in midfield, and utterly ineffective in attack.

The temptation would of course be to blame Kevin Prince-Boateng, who endured a horrendous Liga debut for Barca.

However, it is not his fault that the Catalans opted for a cut-price option during the January transfer window when their need for another quality centre-forward has

been evident since Paco Alcacer was allowed to join Borussia Dortmund at the start of the season.

Krzysztof Piatek was available but he was allowed to join AC Milan, meaning on the same night he was plundering his sixth goal in five appearances for the Rossoneri. Boateng was toiling up front for Barca.

It was actually tough to watch. The likeable and multi-talented

striker nearly cleared the stand with one effort midway through the second half.

When he was put clean through on goal moments later, he didn't even manage to get a shot away, which prompted an embarrassing attempt to win a penalty, and then a desperate appeal for a corner. Ultimately, he could do nothing but put his head in his hands.

This was a nightmare first Liga outing for Boateng after his dream move to Camp Nou and it will hit him hard.

But he shouldn't be made the scapegoat on a night when so many players underperformed. *Sky Sports*



GOAL-SCORER: Lionel Messi's penalty guided Barcelona past Real Valladolid.

Kaizer Chiefs storm into Nedbank Cup last eight

PORT ELIZABETH - Kaizer Chiefs were taken to extra-time once again as they defeated third tier outfit The Magic FC 3-0 to advance to the Nedbank Cup quarter-finals.

Ryan Moon earned a rare start upfront, while Ernst Middendorp opted to start Bruce Bvuma ahead of Virgil Vries in Daniel Akpeyi's absence.

Ernst Middendorp's charges came close to getting an early goal as Happy Mashiane unleashed a left-footed strike from range that missed the bottom post by inches, but Moon had a better chance for Chiefs in the 20th minute although he could only rattle the upright from close range.

As Chiefs continued to dominate, another opportunity arose as Moon played a teasing square ball into the path of Hendrick Ekstein, who was eventually thwarted by Magic goalkeeper Bulelani Cola.

The men from Cape Town struggled to get on the ball for majority of the half and spent most of the time defending crosses, which they managed to deal with as the lively Happy Mashiane was let down by his delivery on a few occasions.



MY BALL: Kaizer Chiefs' forward Castro shielding the ball away from Magic FC players during their Nedbank Cup last 16, Kaizer Chiefs won 3-0.

Unfortunately, that was the trend for the rest of the half as Chiefs only other opening arrived through a Daniel Cardoso header that sailed

over the crossbar as the Magic shot-stopper was largely untested.

After a host of missed chances in the first stanza, Middendorp made

his first change at the beginning of the second stanza as Khama Billiat replaced Ekstein.

Magic nearly took a surprisingly lead as Wade Crowie was afforded a glorious chance in the box, but his half-volley sailed over the bar. Castro had even a better chance for Amakhosi ten minutes later after going through inside the box he struck over the bar with the net gaping as the frustration grew among the supporters.

Chiefs applied the pressure in the closing stages but they could not find the breakthrough as the Magic defence stood firm, forcing the game into extra-time.

Amakhosi were handed a lifeline in the 105th minute later after they were awarded a penalty when Billiat was brought down in the box. Daniel Cardoso stepped up to break the deadlock with a thumping low strike down the middle.

Philani Zulu, who replaced Mashiane just after the first stanza of extra-time, doubled the lead for Chiefs with eight minute remaining after turning home a cross from Dumisani Zuma.

Soccer Laduma

Mourinho on scouting mission at Lille game

PARIS - Jose Mourinho attended yesterday's 0-0 draw between Lille and Montpellier to reportedly cast an eye over Ivorian star Nicolas Pepe, one of the leading scorers in Ligue 1 this season.

Mourinho was sacked by Manchester United in December in a move that cost the Premier League club £19.6 million in severance pay for the Portuguese and members of his staff.

"He's in the stands with (Lille sporting advisor) Luis Campos. He came to oversee Nicolas Pepe and Thiago Mendes," a source told AFP.

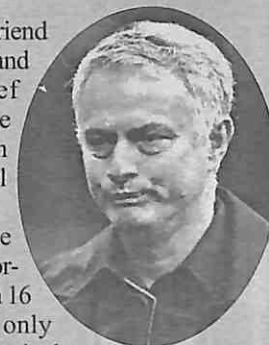
Campos is a friend of Mourinho's and served as chief scout when the latter was in charge at Real Madrid.

Pepe, 23, is the third leading scorer in France with 16 goals, trailing only Paris Saint-Germain duo Kylian Mbappe and Neymar, and also has eight assists for second-placed Lille.

United replaced Mourinho with former striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer halfway through his third season at Old Trafford with the club languishing in sixth and 19 points off the pace.

He has pledged to return to "top-level football" with Real Madrid, the club he coached from 2010 to 2013, touted a possible landing spot for the 56-year-old.

Goal



Cavaleiro sees Wolves into FA Cup quarters

LONDON - Ivan Cavaleiro's goal was enough to give Wolverhampton Wanderers a 1-0 win away to Bristol City yesterday that saw the Premier League club end their 16-year wait for an appearance in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup.

Second-tier Bristol City had their chances but midfielder Cavaleiro's 28th-minute finish at Ashton Gate ended their 15-match undefeated run and nine-match winning streak.

Victory kept alive Wolves' bid to win the FA Cup for the fifth time, with the Midlands club last having lifted the knockout trophy back in 1960.

Cavaleiro was one of three changes made by Wolves Manager Nuno Espirito Santo to the side that drew 1-1 with Newcastle, along with goalkeeper John

Ruddy and Romain Saiss.

Nuno's decision-making was rewarded at both ends of the pitch, with Cavaleiro scoring after he was played in by the influential Matt Doherty, who hit the post three minutes later. Meanwhile 32-year-old keeper Ruddy tipped Bailey Wright's shot over the bar after 69 minutes and then denied Marlon Pack from the ensuing corner.

Ruddy made an even better save to repel a close-range flick from Matt Taylor and even had to save a shot from opposite number Frank Fielding after the City goalkeeper came up for a corner in stoppage time.

Wolves now join top-flight rivals Manchester City, Brighton and Watford in the last eight, with Cup-holders Chelsea playing Manchester United shortly before

Monday's draw in a repeat of last season's final.

"Of course the goal was important and I'm very happy to score but the most important thing is the team move on to the next round," Cavaleiro told BT Sport.

"It was a tough game, very hard game, they have great players, very good players and it was a great win for us."

Daily Mail

Schlupp, Meyer guide Crystal Palace into FA Cup quarter-final

LONDON - Crystal Palace cruised into the FA Cup quarter-finals with a clinical 2-0 victory over third-tier Doncaster Rovers at the Keepmoat Stadium yesterday.

Jeffrey Schlupp and Max Meyer scored at either end of the first half to reward a professional performance and confirm Palace's passage into the last eight.

Doncaster were competitive throughout and managed to keep Michy Batshuayi goalless on his first Eagles start but lacked the attacking threat to maintain their best FA Cup run in over 60 years.

Roy Hodgson's men, now unbeaten in five matches, will enter Monday's draw as one of six Premier League teams left in the competition.

Palace struck early in their 2-0 fourth-round tri-

umph over Tottenham and did likewise in South Yorkshire as Schlupp, sent through by Luka Milivojevic, drove unerringly across Marko Marosi in the eighth minute for his fifth goal in all competitions this term.

The visitors had two penalty appeals waved away in quick succession prior to doubling their advantage in first-half added time.

Milivojevic's lofted pass enabled Andros Townsend to nod into Meyer's path for the simplest of close-range headers.

Doncaster offered more going forward after the interval with Liverpool loanee Herbie Kane nodding one half-chance over the crossbar and spearing another shot straight at Wayne Hennessey.

Daily Mail

Swansea book their place in the last eight

LONDON - Swansea won 4-1 against Brentford, Daniel James and Bersant Celina net stunners as Swans produce brilliant second half display to reach FA Cup sixth round.

If Graham Potter had a hat, Swansea's owners would likely find a way to sell it.

And yet still he pulls out the rabbits, still he finds a way to sprinkle a little magic at a club otherwise smelling of neglect.

This resurrection act being a case in point - Swansea were going nowhere, a useless shell of a team in a first half that finished 1-0 to Brentford.

And then from nowhere came a baffling second half, four very good goals and a place in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup. Major credit goes to the players, of course, and mostly to Daniel James and Bersant Celina - their

goals alone were exceptional.

But Potter is the constant heartbeat at a club that in too many other areas seems willing to die. The owners sell and sell and sell and no one comes in - it is not what he was promised. Not at all. Yet he has them punching above their circumstances in the championship and retaining enough belief and pride needed to transform matches like this.

To do it with a starting line-up of youngsters is all the more impressive - no fewer than seven of the starting XI here was 23 or younger - and you have to wonder what he might achieve if the club's hierarchy spent some cash.

That is fanciful, though. Regrettably so. Indeed, they are lucky to even have James given how close he was on deadline day to joining Leeds in the great ongoing clearance sale that has followed relegation. He only stayed by virtue of the late intervention of Huw Jenkins, in his last meaningful act as chairman.

That is fanciful, though. Regrettably so. Indeed, had the owners got their way James wouldn't even be there - he would be at Leeds, signed up on deadline day, another face gone in the great ongoing clearance sale that has followed relegation.

He only stayed by virtue of the late intervention of Huw Jenkins, in his last meaningful act as chairman.

Daily Mail



GOAL SCORER: Ivan Cavaleiro.

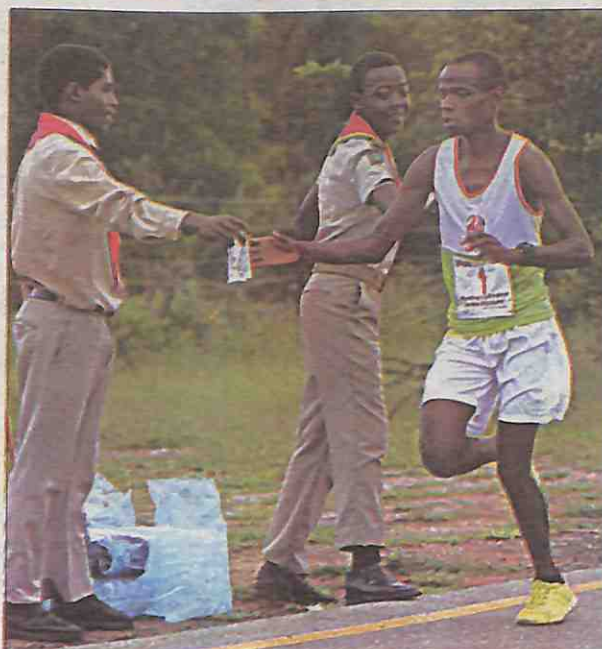


LET'S GO: Athletes from across the country braced the chilly morning weather to make it on time for the race.

INAUGURAL EPILEPSY RACE @ SIKHUPHE



WINNERS: Champion of the inaugural Epilepsy race Melusi Sihlongonyane with second and third placed Bheki Gama and Michael Ndaba – all from the EUDF. This was during the race which was held at Sikhuphe yesterday. (Pics: Sibusiso Dlamini)



WATER IS LIFE: Scouts handed out water to athletes.



ALL AGES: Even the elderly got on the road and enjoyed themselves.



STAR: 21km ladies winner Sebenele Shabalala on the road.



HOME-GROUND ADVANTAGE: TZD athletes dominated the race.



BIG GUNS: 21km runners racing for their lives.



MATSEBULA TRIO: The Matsebula trio that won the 21km race, Machawe Matsebula, Mxolisi Matsebula and Phila Matsebula.



DELIBERATIONS: Officials deliberating on the proceedings.

MTN NFD League @ Somhlolo National Stadium



TUSSLE: Rangers Innocent Dlamini and Tinyosi's Steven Maluleka tussle for the ball during their MTN NFD League encounter at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday, where Tinyosi won 2-1. (Pics: Jongile Xuba)



THE GAFFER: Rangers coach Thokozani Ndzinisa issuing out instructions from the technical area.



MAKE WAY: Tinyosi's Nkosiyazi Maphosa tries to go past his marker Innocent Dlamini.



THERE YOU GO: Rangers goalkeeper Thembinkosi Dlamini passing the ball from a goal-kick.



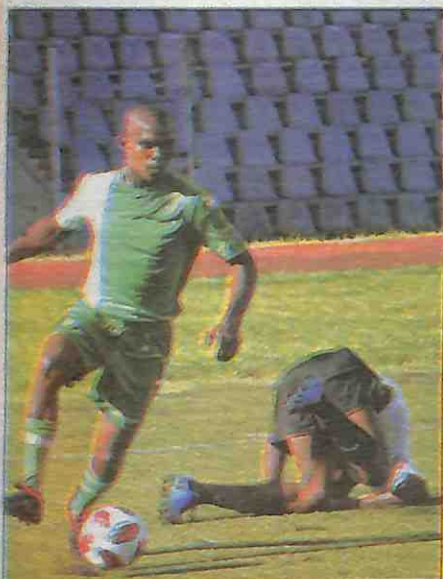
TOO SLOW: A Rangers defender dribbles past Tinyosi's Thando Gule.



ON THE BALL: Tinyosi's Steven Maluleka on the ball as he moves out of his defensive area.



STOP NONSENSE: Tinyosi's Simphiwe Malaza stops Innocent Dlamini from making a run with some fancy defending.



MINE: Tinyosi's defender Steven Maluleka comes away with the ball after a strong challenge.



HARD TACKLE: Mfanasibili tackles Simphiwe Makama to stop the attack.



TEAM TALK: Rangers players and the technical bench have a quick word during the break.



SUSA UMHLOLO EKHAYA: Mfanasibili Kunene clears the ball from his half, whilst Timothy Mathonsi tries to close him down.

Tyres Shocks Exhausts



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FOOTBALL TALK

All your latest WORLD FOOTBALL NEWS

● Chelsea are keen on signing Inter Milan's Argentina striker Mauro Icardi, after Real Madrid cooled their interest. The 25-year-old was recently stripped of the captaincy at the Italian club. *(Sun on Sunday)*

● Real will target Paris St-Germain's 27-year-old Brazil forward Neymar this summer, which could rule out a move for Chelsea and Belgium playmaker Eden Hazard, 28. *(Sunday Times - subscription required)*

● Manchester United want Juventus' 25-year-old Argentina forward Paulo Dybala and will offer the Serie A leaders Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku, 25, as part of the deal. *(Sunday Mirror)*

● United are also prepared to offer goalkeeper David de Gea, 28, a long-term contract worth £90m - the largest basic pay package in English football history - and are confident the Spain international will sign. *(Sunday Times - subscription required)*

● Arsenal and Colombia goalkeeper David Ospina, 30, is pushing for a move to South America because he has seen his chances at Napoli - where he is on loan for the season - limited since the return of Italy Under-21 international Alex Meret. *(Goal)*

● The Gunners are in contention to buy Ajax and Netherlands centre-back Matthijs de Ligt - but manager Unai Emery would have to trim the wage bill at Emirates Stadium before meeting the Dutch club's £70m valuation of the 19-year-old. *(Sun on Sunday)*

● Manchester City are targeting Atletico Madrid's Spanish midfielder Saul Niguez, 24, as a replacement for 33-year-old Brazil international Fernandinho. *(Sunday Mirror)*

● Roma want to either increase or remove the release clause from the contract of Greece defender Kostas Manolas, a target for Arsenal and Manchester United, to get an extra £12.5m for the 27-year-old. *(Corriere dello Sport, via Sunday Mirror)*

● Manchester United are planning a record £90m bid for Napoli's Senegalese centre-back Kalidou Koulibaly, 27. *(Sun on Sunday)*

● Paris St-Germain's France midfielder Adrien Rabiot, 23, believes he will join Barcelona in the summer. *(Le Parisien - in French)*

● Arsenal are lining up a bid for 19-year-old Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Kai Havertz if fellow Germany international Mesut Ozil, 30, decides to leave the Gunners. *(TalkSport)*

● Barcelona's Croatia midfielder Ivan Rakitic, 30, will delay contract renewal talks with the Spanish champions until the summer. *(Marca)*

● Cardiff City are consulting other Premier League clubs to see whether there are grounds for them to avoid paying the full £15m fee to Nantes for 28-year-old Argentine striker Emiliano Sala, who died in a plane crash last month. *(Mail on Sunday)*

Melusi wins Epilepsy race

STORIES BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

ATHLETICS - UMBUTFO Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) athletes started the year on a high as Melusi Sihlongonyane won the inaugural Epilepsy race.

The first marathon of the year was held at Sikhuphe yesterday, and attracted about 200 athletes. Sihlongonyane claimed his lead early in the first 15km and then maintained his pace until the final moment when he crossed the line, clocking an impressive 1:14:16.

When interviewed, the modest athlete said he enjoyed the race, stating that the victory had now set the tone for him for the whole year.

"It was a great race. The route was very challenging and I faced great competition from my fellow counterparts, who didn't even give me any moment to breathe. I think I have set the tone for the year, and now it's a matter of working hard and taking the coach's instructions to make sure we achieve the goals we have set for the year as a team," he said. He was followed by teammate Bheki Gama, who claimed the second spot with a time of 1:15:36 while Michael Ndaba, who returned back to action after a two-year break, came third, clocking 1:17:23. Gama expressed his displeasure with his time.

"I am happy I won, but then I am not very impressed with my



WINNERS: Champion of the inaugural Epilepsy race Melusi Sihlongonyane poses with second and third placed Bheki Gama and Michael Ndaba - all from the UEDF. This was during the race which was held at Sikhuphe yesterday. (Pics: Sibusiso Dlamini)

time. I could have done better with my time, so that's my aim going forward. I want to do better than this in the next race." Returning back to action after a two-year break was a dream come true Michael Ndaba.

"I thank the Lord and I am happy to be back in action.

"It's really good to be finally back doing what I love the most and it's absolutely humbling. The doctor has given me the green light to get back to what I am passionate about and I really don't take it for granted.

It's an absolute honour, for me, this is a special race, and I thank the Lord for such an opportuni-

ty and I need to get back to my very best," he said. When interviewed on behalf of the Epilepsy organisation, Board Chairman Majahonke Mngomezulu thanked all the stakeholders for their support and promised athletes that the race would be made annual. "I would like to thank all stakeholders who worked so hard in making this dream a reality.

"The awareness of epilepsy is easily raised through sport, and I can confidently tell our athletes that they should also come back next year because we will definitely be making this an annual event," he said.

Sithembile outpaces role model Winile

ATHLETICS - TZD Athletics member Sithembile Mnisi, who came first in the ladies category of the 21km race, managed to outpace her role-model in Eswatini Police Services' Winile Mnisi to claim the title.

When interviewed, the ecstatic youngster, who clocked 1:40:15, expressed her delight with winning her first tournament.

"I am so excited, I really can't believe I managed to win the race and beat my role model Winile Mnisi.

"She is absolutely amazing and for me to outpace her is a dream come true, I will never forget this day in my life," she said.

Mnisi then came through second, clocking 1:42:53, and said she was excited for the youngster and told her that it was time for her to claim her place in the athletics fraternity.

"She was wonderful on the road. That can ever be disputed.

"Absolutely fantastic and for such a girl to look up to me is also humbling on its own. I wish her all the best; she was just great on the day. This shows that everything is possible with determination and belief, she must take the baton and shine on," she said.

On the race, Mnisi said she was not fully prepared for the race; hence she was not that disappointed.

"I didn't really prepare much for this race, so I am happy with today's performance. I managed to do what I had prepared for," she said.

Next Generation dominate Taekwondo league opener

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

TAEKWONDO - Next Generation Taekwondo dominated the start of the Correctional Taekwondo league at Correctional Services last Saturday.

Next Generation amassed 136 points in first place, and were closely followed by Correctional with 90 points. They dominated most of the categories with their artists coming top or attaining second position.

ETA's Secretary Mbongeni Sibande said events progressed well. He said they had a very good turnout and were looking forward to more games in the near future.

"First of all, we would like to thank the Commissioner General through the Correctional Sports Officer, Mpendulo Ngwenya for availing the facility to taekwondo to host the event," he said.

The secretary extended words of thanks to the Correctional Martial Arts club leader and senior instructor Sensei Veli Dlamini (Oyama Karate) and team captain, Ncobile Ginindza (Taekwondo) for organising and co-ordinating the event.



DOMINATES: Taekwondo artists in action during their previous tournament, Next Generation dominated during the Correctional Taekwondo league this past weekend.

"They worked very hard in making sure the event was a success.

We also thank all the artists and parents who came through to render their support. It was really humbling to see them in full support of their favourite artists, especially the young

ones," he said.

Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC) were third with 88 points, followed by Swazi Tigers on 32 points. The University of Eswatini (UNESWA) topped the table with 18 points, the same as Mpaka.

THE RESULTS

CHILDREN - BELOW 10 YRS

MALE - 37KG

1. Magwaza Bandile - eNt Gen
2. Mkhatswa Bongmusa - eNt Gen
3. Dlamini Phiva - Swazi Tigers
4. Dlamini Inesisa - eNt Gen

FEMALE - 37KG

1. Dlamini Melissa - eNt Gen
2. Magongo Sincobile - eNt Gen

MALE - 47KG

1. Khumbulani - eNt Gen

CADETS - MALE - 37KG

1. SIFISO DLAMINI - eNt Generation
2. Mabuza Sibenkholi - Excelsior
3. Vilakati Nkosephayo -
4. Dlamini Bongwa - RSSC

CADETS - MALE - 49KG

1. Matsebula Sihlelewe - eNt Gen

CADETS - 41KG

1. Mahlalela Mickey - RSSC
2. Nxumalo Gcinumuzi - eNt Gen

CADETS - MALE - 61KG

1. Dlamini Soshangane - eNt Gen

CADETS - FEMALE - 29KG

1. Tlumbatda Sipheshile - Swazi Tigers

CADETS - FEMALE - 37KG

1. Dlamini Kuye - eNt Gen
2. Dlamini Kimberley - eNt Gen

CADETS - 44KG

1. Dlamini Sivuno - eNt Gen

JUNIORS (14-17 YRS)

MALE - 45KG

1. Simelane Khawane - Mpaka
2. Sihlongonyane Mthokozisi - RSSC

MALE - 55KG

1. Ndzabandzaba Sambulo - RSSC

MALE - 63KG

1. Manyatsi Samkelo - Swazi Tigers
2. Mkhatswa Lindelwa - RSSC

FEMALE - 55KG

1. Nxumalo Tembuni

SENIORS

FEMALE - 57KG

1. Marlim Celia - Correctional
2. Nxumalo Fakazile - Correctional
3. Magaguka Nompilo - RSSC

FEMALE - 49KG

1. Mahlalela Skhulile - RSSC
2. Manyatsi Thabile - Excelsior

FEMALE - 67KG

1. Ginindza Ncobile - Correctional
2. Mthembu Nozipho - Mpaka

FEMALE - 67KG

1. Munave Carola - UNESWA

MALE - 58KG

1. Muianga Frederico - Team Correctional
2. Maziya Wandile - Correctional
3. Dlamini Gcina - RSSC
4. Ndzabandzaba Siyabonga - RSSC

MALE - 68KG

1. Dlamini Thandukhanya - Next Gen
2. Masuku Saneliso - Correctional
3. Mtsetfwa Bagcini - RSSC
4. Chalton Alison - Correctional

MALE - 80KG

1. Mkhwanazi Peter - Excelsior
2. Matola Jose - Correctional
3. Muianga Fernando - Correctional
4. Mduli Thabiso - Correctional

MALE - 80KG

1. Cumbane Isaias - Correctional
2. Ndzina Thandlovethu - UNESWA

LOG-1ST LEG CORRECTIONAL

TAEKWONDO LEAGUE

1. Next Generations - 136pts
2. Correctional - 90pts
3. RSSC - 88pts
4. Swazi Tigers - 32pts
5. Excelsior - 26pts
6. Mpaka - 18pts
7. UNESWA - 18pts

'WE HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO RECOVER'

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCKER — MBABANE Highlanders' skipper Mxolisi 'Chocco' Sibandze has urged the team's fans not to panic after the team's 0-1 loss to Malanti Chiefs.

Malanti beat the 'Black Bull' in a league match played at Somhlolo National Stadium on Saturday. The performance was not popular with the fans, and 'Chocco' said there was nothing lost as the team was still competitive in the league and in the knock-out competitions.

"This defeat came at the right time because we have enough time to recover."

er. It was a wakeup call, and I thank the fans for not turning against us, even though we clearly were not at our best against Malanti," he said.

'Chocco' added that they had far too many injuries to cope in the game and pleaded with the fans to keep faith in the technical team as they were doing their best to improve the side.

"Malanti had prepared well for us and that is the sole reason they won. Our appeal to the fans as players is that they continue supporting the team."



"I was very happy that there was no booing after we lost the game."

It shows that our fans are now matured," he said.

Highlanders are now four points off the pace in the league after last Saturday's defeat. They are still involved in the Ingwenyama Cup, where they will play the final against Young Buffaloes on March 17th, and are through to the last 16 of the EswatiniBank Cup.

Three defeats would have been bad — Malanti captain

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCKER — MALANTI Chiefs' captain Siyabonga Nkambule says it would have been bad if his team were to lose three games in a row to Mbabane Highlanders.

Highlanders had beaten Malanti 2-1 in the first round of the league back in September last year, and beat them again 2-0 in the semi-finals of the Ingwenyama

Cup recently. However, the scales turned at Somhlolo Stadium last Saturday when the Pigg's Peak based side recorded the much-needed 1-0 victory.

"It would have not been good at all if we lost to them again. This win will boost our confidence as we needed to win a couple of games to move out of relegation danger. We hope this victory will give us impetus going into our next matches," he said.

His words were echoed by his coach,

Raymond Dlamini, who admitted that they started slow, but completely took over in the second half.

"We knew if we frustrated them early in the game, they would suffer in the latter stages. Well done to my players for sticking to the game plan and making sure we got the result we needed in the end," he said.

Former Wits University and Real Kings' Burundian striker Papy Faty scored Malanti's winning goal.

Players have potential to recapture great form - Nyanga

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCKER — NEW Mbabane Swallows coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe says his team has a lot of potential to recapture last season's form.

He said this after watching his side beat Manzini Sea Birds 1-0 during a league match played at King Sobhuza Stadium on Saturday.

Swallows' lone and winning goal was scored by Makabi Lilepo Glody in the 72nd minute to give his team all three points. 'Crooks' said even though he only joined the team last week, he could see that the players were capable of rediscovering their league's record winning form where they went 52 games unbeaten.

"I have been with the players for a week now I can already see that the players have a lot of potential to be a great side again. They played really well today (Saturday) and I appreciate the effort and commitment they showed on the pitch," he said.

He added that Sea Birds were a good side and beating them was no easy task, so he felt they had accomplished a big win.

"Sea Birds are not a small team because they have a lot quality players and good management. The result was not guaranteed, so this is a big three points for us," he said.

Meanwhile, Sea Birds coach Anthony Mdluli said it was a balanced game that could have gone either way.

"We didn't utilise the chances



KEEN: Mbabane Swallows coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe.

we created in the first half and that cost us. In my opinion, we could have won this match and credit must go to Swallow swimming."

He added that the drainage of the pitch hindered their style of play and probably contributed to them not playing their normal game.

Swallows are fourth in the log with 32 points after the win over Sea Birds, who are sixth with 21 points. The defending champions are now four points behind the new log leaders Royal Leopards and with nine games left, they could still defend their title successfully.

We are under no pressure — Edwin

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCKER — DESPITE assuming the top position on the MTN League log standings, Royal Leopard's coach Edwin Matsebula says they are not fixated.

The coach spoke after his team produced another master class of their passing game to walk over Manzini Sundowns at the Somhlolo National Stadium last Saturday. He said it had always been their aim to be at the top of the log standings at some point.

"At the start of the season every team wants to win the league."

Being on top of the log means nothing, really. What we have to do is to focus on our next games to make sure that we stay where we are until the end of the season,"

he said.

The coach added that they would have advantage because most of their injured players were beginning to return to the side. He said this would boost their bid to finish the season strongly. "This is good news for us. We hope their return will help us a lot. The timing of their return could have not been better," he said.

Long term absentees, Junior Magagula and Lungelo Tsabedze played for about 30 minutes in the victory over Sundowns.

Meanwhile, Matsebula revealed that striker Barry Steenkamp was still far from returning to the team as he suffered a serious knee injury.

Leopard replaced Green Mamba FC at the top of the standings after they could only manage a 1-1 draw against another title hopeful in Young Buffaloes.



Tinyosi edge Rangers to maintain promotion hopes

BY JONGILE XUBA

Rangers..... (1)1
Tinyosi..... (1)2

SOCCKER — TINYOSI kept their promotion hopes alive when they beat Rangers 2-1 during an MTN National First Division match played at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

Goals scored in both halves of the match by Njabulo Malaza and Bongumenzi Dlamini were enough to give Tinyosi the much needed three points in their promotion fight.

It was Rangers, who drew first blood through Sikhumbuzo Mkhwanazi, who finished off a brilliant individual run to beat Muzikayise Mtsetfwa in goals after just 17 minutes of play.

The lead was short-lived as Njabulo Malaza headed home a rebound off the post three minutes later to make it 1-1.

Both teams tried to push the second goal but it was not to be as the match went to break tied as 1-1.

The second half was another evenly balanced stanza with few chances falling to either side. Endless running and closing down by Tinyosi eventually paid off, when substitute Bongumenzi Dlamini found the back of the net in the 70th minute to give his side the lead.



MAKE WAY: Tinyosi's Nkosiyazi Maphosa tries to get past his challenger Innocent Dlamini.

He broke free from a through ball by Bafana Mndzebele and fired a low shot past Rangers keeper Theminkosi Dlamini.

More chances came and went for Rangers to equalise with Innocent Dlamini coming closest in the 85th but he could not hit the target. The match ended in favour of Tinyosi, who claimed their 10th win of the season.

Meanwhile in the second match of the day, Milling Hotspurs beat Seven Dreams

1-0 in what was a tightly contested encounter. An early goal from Phetsa Shongwe in the 12th minute from a curling 45 yard-set-piece gave Milling the win that moved them up to third spot.

THE TEAMS:
Rangers - Theminkosi, Ndumiso, Mfanisibili, Simo, Xolani, Bongani, Nkosilehile, Innocent, Sandile, Norman, Sikhumbuzo
Tinyosi - Muzikayise, Simphiwe, Thando, Steven, Ntsikie, Mangaliso, Timothy, Nkosiyazi, Njabulo, Bafana, Simphiwe

MTN Premier League title race continues tomorrow night

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER - THE race for the 2018/19 MTN Premier League title continues tomorrow night with clashes pitting current log leaders Royal Leopard and second placed Green Mamba.

The police service side will take on relegation threatened Mbabane Citizens at the Somhlolo National Stadium in their quest to extend their lead at the summit of the log.

'Ingwenyama' are currently sitting at the top of the log with 36 points following their 1-0 victory over Manzini Sundowns on Saturday.

Fellow title hopefuls Green Mamba will visit wounded Manzini Sundowns at the Mavuso Sports Centre where they will be looking to reclaim the top spot.

The Correctional Services recently played to a 1-1 draw against security forces rivals Young Buffaloes which saw them relinquish the top spot to Leopard.

FIXTURES

Tomorrow

Somhlolo National Stadium

Royal Leopard vs Mbabane Citizens 6:30pm

Mavuso Sports Centre

Manzini Sundowns vs Green Mamba 6:30pm

Wednesday

Mhlume Stadium

Matsapha United vs Malanti Chiefs 7pm

Somhlolo National Stadium

Vovovo vs Mbabane Swallows 6:30pm

Y. Buffaloes vs Mb. Highlanders 8:30pm

Mavuso Sports Centre

Moneni Pirates vs Tambuti 6:30pm

M. Wanderers vs Sea Birds 8:30pm

RESULTS

Premier League

Citizens	1-0	Vovovo
Y. Buffaloes	1-1	Green Mamba
R. Leopard	1-0	M. Sundowns
Sea Birds	0-1	M. Swallows
Matsapha	3-1	Tambuti
Highlanders	0-1	M. Chiefs
M. Pirates	1-1	M. Wanderers

National First Division

Hub Sundowns	1-1	H. Tycoons
Tambankulu Callies	1-5	Black Swallows
Madlenya FC	1-0	Red Lions
Mbabane City	vs	City Warriors
(did not play)		
Seven dreams	0-1	Milling Hotspurs
Tinyosi FC	2-1	Rangers

LOGS

MTN Premier League

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Leopard	17	11	3	3	28	11	17	36
Green Mamba	17	11	2	4	31	9	22	35
Buffaloes	17	9	6	2	24	11	13	33
Swallows	17	10	2	5	22	14	8	32
Highlanders	17	9	5	3	20	14	6	32
Sea Birds	17	6	3	8	18	21	-3	21
Pirates	17	5	5	7	17	23	-6	20
Malanti	17	5	5	7	13	22	-9	20
Sundowns	17	5	4	8	16	23	-7	19
Wanderers	17	5	3	9	17	25	-8	18
Tambuti	17	4	5	8	15	21	-6	17
Matsapha	17	5	1	11	17	24	-7	16
Vovovo	17	4	4	9	10	20	-10	16
Citizens	17	2	8	7	12	20	-8	14

MTN First Division

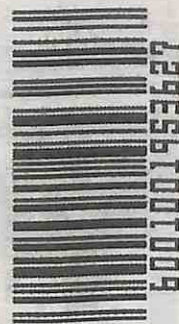
TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Black Swallows	15	10	4	1	28	11	17	33
Tinyosi	15	10	1	4	22	12	10	30
Milling	15	8	4	3	20	14	6	27
Madlenya	15	7	5	3	18	12	6	26
Rangers	15	6	5	4	21	18	3	23
Tycoons	15	6	5	4	18	12	6	23
Seven Dreams	15	5	5	5	17	14	3	20
Red Lions	15	4	4	7	17	19	-2	16
Mbabane City	14	4	3	7	12	15	-3	15
Hub Sundowns	15	4	3	8	8	19	-11	14
T. Callies	15	3	2	10	12	26	-14	11
City Warriors	14	1	2	11	5	19	-14	5

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Monday February 18, 2019



After Malanti defeat, coach Chaminuka says...

'BULL NOT INVINCIBLE'

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER - "We are not invincible!"

These were the words of Mbabane Highlanders' Zimbabwean coach Saul Chaminuka, which appeared to be a direct response to the team's fans, who questioned his team selection for the 0-1 defeat against Malanti Chiefs on Saturday.

Some of the fans were completely dissatisfied with the team's performance, and expressed unhappiness with the line-up.

The 'Bull's' line-up saw defender Simphiwe Manana play a defensive role in central midfield, which the fans did not warm up to. A majority felt the coach should have deployed Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Nkambule in that position, but he was on the bench.

Interviewed after the match, Chaminuka said what the fans did not understand was that most of his players were playing with injuries. He said fans should understand that the team is at times forced to make changes to cope with unexpected situations.

"We have too many injuries in the team. Sometimes people see players sitting on the bench and think everything is fine, yet most of them are not fit. We, as a technical team, decide what to do in order to cope with these circum-



NOT INVINCIBLE: Mbabane Highlanders coach Saul Chaminuka.

stances," he said.

Chaminuka refused to accept that they lost to Malanti Chiefs because they had made too many changes to the team. He said, instead, Malanti won the match because they had done their homework to good effect.

Not easy

"It is not easy to beat the same team three times in one season. There are times when we will lose

matches. We cannot win every match," he said.

Former Highlanders' coach, Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane resigned his position in November last year when the team's fans questioned his tactics in a 1-3 defeat to Mbabane Swallows. Although quite emotional in the press conference, Chaminuka

gave no inclination he would follow suit.

"The changes affected our rhythm, which is why we appeared to be playing at a slow tempo than usual," he said.

The coach further explained that striker Menzi Sithole was out injured, which he said did not help them. The team's captain, Mxolisi 'Chocco' Sibandze said they had not been blighted by the announcement of the date of the Ingwenyama Cup final match against Young Buffaloes. He pleaded with the team's fans to retain trust in the team's technical team.

Highlanders have only lost twice all season under Chaminuka, a 1-2 loss to Moneni Pirates in December, and Saturday's loss to Malanti. By far, this has been their best season in years.

Ernest Mavuso linked with return to 'Downs

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER - MANZINI Sundowns are reportedly on the verge of reuniting with their former coach Ernest Mavuso.

The former Mbabane Highlanders and Moneni Pirates coach is said to be on his way to the 'Kappa' Boys after the club failed to clinch a deal with Zambian coach Texan Phiri.

A source close to the matter revealed that the two parties are to finalise talks earlier this week before their game against Manzini Wanderers at the Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.

"Mavuso might now lead the team after the deal with Texan hit a snag. He is expected to meet with the Chairman (Mark Carmichael) before the end of the week. He might start drilling the team soon after concluding contractual talks."

Hopes

The source said the team hopes to have the new coach start his duties this week.

Efforts to get Mavuso were futile after his cellphone rang answered when tried several times yesterday afternoon.

Sundowns Public Relations Officer (PRO) Muzi Matsenjwa could neither agree nor deny the

matter when also reached for comment.

"We are still in talks with several local and international coaches including Mavuso and we will issue a statement once everything has been finalised," he said.

Mavuso is not new in the Manzini Sundowns set-up after leading the team last season before eventually joining Moneni Pirates.

The ex-National Under-20 coach recently had a stint with Matsapha United early in the current campaign where he eventually made way for Zimbabwean gaffer Rodwell Dhlakama.

