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FRIDAY MARCH 22, 2019

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IN BUENOS AIRES: His Majesty King Mswati III captured with Argentina President Maricio Macri shortly before they held bilateral talks on the sidelines of the UN South-South Conference in Buenos Aires on Wednesday. (Pic: Len Mohale - State Photographer) MORE ON PAGES 2,4,5

## EX-MAYOR SHOCKS WITH RAPE FACEBOOK POST

STORY ON  
PAGE 3



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# Eswatini re-assesses poverty, SDG progress

**STORIES BY KING'S OFFICE  
CORRESPONDENT**  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

## WHAT is the true poverty situation in the Kingdom of Eswatini?

A detailed answer to this question will be presented to the United Nations community in July. It will form part of a progress report on implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by Eswatini.

This was disclosed by His Majesty King Mswati III yesterday during the second United Nations high level conference on South - South Cooperation held in Argentina to deliberate on how developing countries can cooperate in order to be able to implement the SDGs by 2030.

SDGs are part of the UN Agenda 2030, which is a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

South-South Cooperation involves the exchange of resources, technology and knowledge between developing countries of the Global South.

The king informed the conference that the government of Eswatini received financial support from India, through the United Nations South-South Cooperation facility, to conduct a participatory poverty assessment. This was done in November and December 2018.

"The outcome of the assessment will feed into policy revision and programme development for coming up with new intervention measures," he said.

The king assured that government took seriously the poverty challenges and did not want to leave any citizen behind in its development agenda.

### Report

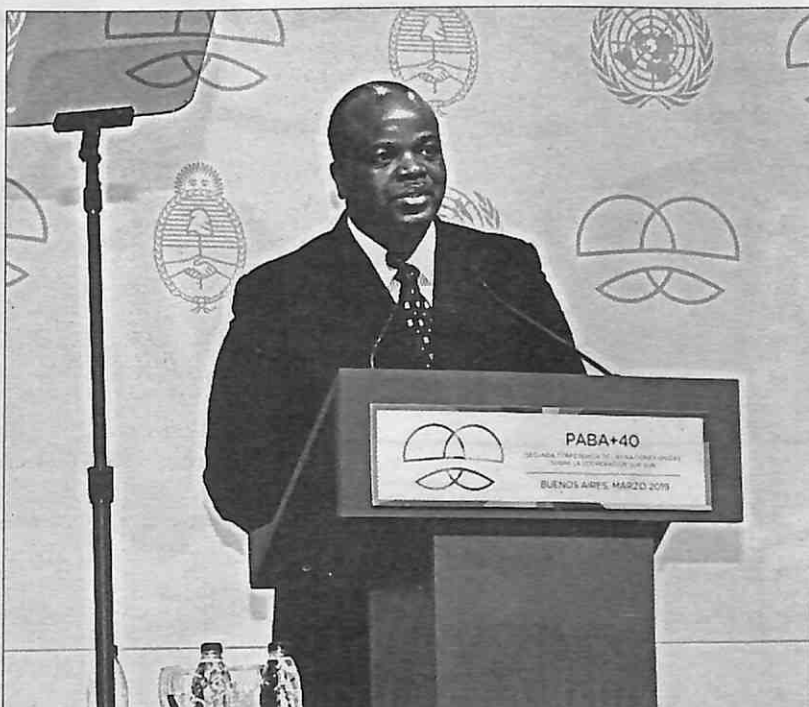
"I am pleased to inform this august Assembly that in July this year government will be presenting a comprehensive report on the implementation of the SDGs during the high level forum on sustainable development in New York," he said.

Currently, the official status is that 63 per cent of the population in Eswatini lives below the poverty datum line; or less than a dollar a day.

His Majesty said the country was open to the adoption of favourable national policies and regulations to promote cooperation that would leverage the pace towards achieving her national vision 2022, the 2030 UN Agenda, Africa's Agenda 2063 and other emerging global agendas.

The South-South conference is held

...His Majesty King Mswati III called for a more visible show of commitment to fully address most of the SDGs, especially those relating to food security, clean water, education, health, inequality, jobs, land and climate change



**ADDRESS:** His Majesty King Mswati III addresses the United Nations High level conference on South-South Conference on Wednesday afternoon. (Pic: Len Mohale - State Photographer)

under the theme: 'Role of South-South Cooperation and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development: challenges and opportunities.'

His Majesty said the theme was highly appropriate as developing countries would be able to share the challenges they face in the implementation of the universal goals.

It was during the UN General Assembly in 2015 that Heads of State and Governments agreed to implement the SDGs in order to achieve a better and sustainable future for all.

The king called for a more visible show of commitment to fully address most of the SDGs, especially those relating to food security, clean water, education, health, inequality, jobs, land and climate change.

### Issue

He noted that SDG (1), was all encompassing and poverty was a cross cutting issue.

"Addressing it will have a multiplier effect in almost all the other sustainable development goals, ensuring that no one is left behind," he said.

He recognised that much had still to be done to assist the global south to have access to affordable appropriate technologies to propel structural transfor-

mation globally, as underscored by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This would entail working together to undertake beneficiation and value addition on our primary products, as this was also the spirit of our regional economic bloc SADC.

"Our concerted effort would leverage the competitive edge of the south within the global market and therefore, enhance integration of the south into the global economy," he said.

He informed the conference that Africa was also working towards the Continental Free Trade Area, which would enhance trade between the South - South regions.

**The outcome of the assessment will feed into policy revision and programme development for coming up with new intervention measures**

## ...Every country has a niche

**EVERY country and region possesses some unique advantage that needs to be exploited and shared across the global south, through South-South cooperation.**

Speaking at the second United Nations high level conference on South-South Cooperation, His Majesty the King cited the example of Argentina which had realised significant growth in its agricultural and ICT industries. He said this offered lessons and experience to be learnt at the forum.

He said it was imperative that South-South countries strive to work together to promote collective interests within the global South and at the multilateral level, because they shared a fundamental goal of poverty eradication and sustaining the desired development.

"Our strategic strength must be stimulated from our solidarity and 'unity in diversity,'" he emphasised.

His Majesty highlighted that a high proportion of economies of the global south are anchored in agriculture, a sector where the main upkeep of the southern population is dependent.

He shared that in Eswatini, agriculture was the backbone of the economy where the majority of her people are subsistence and commercial farmers.

### Lifeline

He said the agricultural sector provided a lifeline for many nations and was fundamental in ending hunger and poverty, particularly to the rural populations.

It is, he added, also an important sector for value-addition prospects, thus promoting product and market diversification as well as industrial development, among others.

However, he is concerned about the drawbacks brought about by the effects of climate change which continue to immensely derail the

productivity of farmers.

"It is also having devastating effects on human lives as witnessed with tropical Cyclone Idai that has claimed the lives of hundreds of our fellow countrymen in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. Let us join hands to support initiatives to avert these tragedies," he urged.

The king said this requires greater investment in appropriate technologies and innovations that would lead to increased agricultural productivity at the national, regional and inter-regional levels in order to produce enough food for ourselves.

He further submitted that the global south was endowed with a vibrant demographic dividend of young people that need to be harnessed, supported and empowered with appropriate knowledge, skills and technical know-how that would transform economies of the south.

This could best be done through creating exchange programmes for the youth to benefit from experiences from the South - South cooperation, he said.

Currently, the kingdom is encouraging our schools and tertiary institutions to design an entrepreneurial curriculum.

He believes that such modalities would increase opportunities for young people to be competitive in the global job markets of the future as well as integrate their skills into the global value chain.

The king further said integration had become an important catalyst to regional trade, investment, industrialisation and a stimulant to job creation, innovation and technology advancements, among others.

The king concluded his remarks by extending appreciation to all countries and institutions that have continued to provide a range of South-South cooperation modalities over the years.

## King meets three presidents

**HIS Majesty the King held bilateral talks with the presidents of Argentina, Estonia and Uruguay.**

This was on the sidelines of the South-South Conference being held to discuss development cooperation strategies aimed at attaining the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals targets by 2030.

The king met Argentina President Mauricio Macri, Estonia President Kersti Kaljulaid and Uruguay President Tabare Vazquez.

The behind-closed-doors engagement were aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and deliberating on possible areas of cooperation, trade and investment.

Forming part of these engagements were the Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Manqoba Khumalo, Foreign Affairs Minister Thuli Dladla, Eswatini ambassadors to Washington DC and New York Njabu Gwebu and Melusi Masuku, respectively.

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### OUR CODE OF CONDUCT

The Swazi Observer commits itself to reporting news truthfully and accurately, and to publish comment that is fair, in accordance with our mission and vision of being the definitive news media, as well as abiding by the journalism code of ethics.

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# EX-MAYOR SHOCKS WITH RAPE FB POST

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE  
Mbabane

**FORMER Mbabane Mayor Thulani Mkhonto caused a stir on social media yesterday after posting provocative remarks that 'rape should be enjoyable'.**

The former mayor, who now works as a technician at Eswatini Posts and Telecommunications Corporation, had posted 'life is like being raped: if you can't fight it, enjoy it'. To many Facebookers, the statement was insulting and inconsiderate to those who suffered the act and consequences of rape. Mkhonto trended on social media for all the wrong reasons yesterday. An hour later, the former mayor posted another statement, apologising to the public, having deleted his previous statement.

However, his apology fell on deaf ears (or should we say eyes according to Facebook users) as users typed non-stop condemnation of his post. Many complained about the danger and threat that he allegedly put women under by suggesting they should enjoy rape if they cannot fight it as per his initial statement.

"To all Facebook users and Eswatini nation I will (sic) like to apologise for the recent post, especially rape victims and families. I have deleted my post and I am very, very sorry. Yes, I realised it sounds insensitive and inhumane. *Liphandlwa libhekile*, I am very sorry *Maswati Lamahle ayidle itishiyele*," reads the post.

Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse Communication and Advocacy Officer Silindele Nxumalo said the former mayor's post was not the first incident that has been seen degrading and putting women at risk.

"This is not the first incidence we have seen on social media, much as we have the freedom of expression, we need to be careful of our actions and behaviour, as they may have major implications on the next person."

"This is a concerning a statement that needs to be viewed beyond what it seems to be. The poster needs to be further engaged to unearth the deep-rooted issues behind this statement. People

...Technician posts that rape would be enjoyable, sparks outrage on the social media platform, employer dealing with matter internally



**SHOCKER: Former Mbabane Mayor Thulani Mkhonto.**

should take cognisance in making such statements because they have traumatic psychological effects to the public and are insensitive towards survivors of rape," she said.

Women in Law Communications Officer Zanele Vilakati said this kind of thinking would not attain the desired development and growth of the country.

## Revoluting

"Let me start by saying that this comment is a very revolting one which shows how weak the perception of society is on key issues that hinder the success of the country."

"This comment shows how some people are insensitive and cannot appreciate the nature of rape as a gross violation of a person's personal space and dignity. With such thinking, the country will not attain the desired developmental growth which comes with all people fighting against violence," she said.

In a press statement issued by Eswatini Posts and Telecommunications Cooperation's Corporate Affairs department they condemned the Facebook post by the employee. The company agreed that the post had an effect of belittling the impact of rape.

"EPTC notes with deep regret the publication of a Facebook post which was posted by a profile user who is an employ-

ee of the organisation. The post had the effect of belittling the impact of rape. The organisation strongly condemns any act of abuse against women, children and men."

"We denounce any act committed against members of all societies by taking advantage of their vulnerability. EPTC will continue to advocate for change of attitudes towards any act of violence against vulnerable persons," reads the statement.

The corporation regretted the subsequent effect of the post and disassociated itself from the insensitive statement posted by Thulani Mkhonto, who is an employee of the organisation. Lastly, the organisation assured the public at large that the issue was dealt with internally.

## Some of the Facebook comments

**Facebook user 1** - The mistake you made was to talk about something you have no idea about. *Noma kukhona lofinu kuku* achiever. From where I am standing, you are apologising because someone told you to.

**Facebook user 2** - Removing that post and apologising because it was up for over three hours. Your apology is not sincere, you knew what you were saying when you typed and posted and left it there.

**Facebook user 3** - *ucolisa nganike????*

## Former minister to know fate Monday

STORIES BY SANDILE NKAMBULE  
High Court

**FORMER minister of justice and constitutional affairs Sibusiso Bonginkosi Shongwe will now know his fate on Monday in his application to have 22 of his corruption charges quashed.**

High Court Judge Mbutfo Mamba, who last week indicated that the ruling would be made yesterday morning, postponed the matter to Monday March 25, where he will make the ruling following arguments made by counsel last Thursday.

Shongwe has filed an application before the High Court as he wants the 22 charges of Contravening the Prevention of Corruption Act preferred against him and his law firm quashed by the court.

He is seeking an order quashing the indictment against him and his law firm and he is represented by lawyer Sabelo Bhembe in the matter, while the state is represented by South African Advocate Gerald Lekan who is instructed by Principal Crown Counsel Thabo Dlamini.

Shongwe submitted that the charges should be quashed on the basis that they are calculated to prejudice and embarrass him and his law firm in their defence as they do not disclose offences cognisable by the court.

## Submissions

Making submissions through his lawyer, Shongwe submitted that there is absolutely no evidence which shows that the E2 million deposited in the Sibusiso B Shongwe and Associates law firm account was illegitimately received and that the money was from criminal proceeds.

Bhembe had argued that even the E950 000 which he is said to have laundered as alleged in the indictment, was never laundered but was paid to the Eswatini Revenue Authority (ERA) in respect of Impunzi Wholesalers, wondering as to how could that be viewed as unlawful.

"The charges against the first and second applicants (Shongwe and his law firm) my Lord totally make no sense, in fact the Crown used a wrong approach in crafting the charges against the applicants hence they should be quashed," Bhembe

had submitted.

Bhembe argued that it would be embarrassing for the applicants to plead on such charges as the section the Crown has charged them with does not in any way disclose the offences.

## Overboard

In his further arguments, Bhembe argued that the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) went overboard as Shongwe should have been investigated by the Law Society of Swaziland (LSS) not the ACC if there were suspicions of illegal dealings in the matter.

Bhembe submitted that there is an Act of Parliament which specifically states how trust accounts held by attorneys should be investigated.

He argued that the people who should have investigated any wrong doing by the applicants, as alleged by the ACC, is the Law Society acting under the instruction of the Attorney General as guided by the Legal Practitioner's Act.

"My Lord in this case, the ACC Commissioner acted ultra vires (beyond his powers) by investigating the applicants, such an investigation is the prerogative of the Law Society acting under the instruction of the AG, not the ACC," Bhembe had argued.

He told the court that it would have been a different case had the ACC acted on the instruction of the Law Society arguing further that the whole process of investigation Shongwe by the ACC was illegal hence the charges should be quashed.

On the charges of intimidating the ACC Commissioner by using government letterheads in a letter he addressed to the ACC, Bhembe submitted that such a charge also makes no sense as there was nothing wrong in Shongwe using same as he was served at his work place and in the letter addressed to him by the ACC he was addressed as a politician.

Further, Bhembe argued that on the charge of accepting a court record from then Chief Justice Michael Ramodibedi, Shongwe did nothing unlawful as same was already a public document, which everyone could have accessed, hence the charges should be quashed.

## Manzini Council closing in on public smokers

BY COLISILE SACOLO  
Mbabane

**ACCORDING to Tobacco Amendment 2013 No: 66 of 2013 smoking at an outdoor area is not allowed.**

An individual must not smoke within 10 metres of a state park that is in an outdoor or public space, also a person must not smoke at or within 10 metres of a sporting venue that is an outdoor public, at a residential premises or a land at which residential premises are built or may lawfully built.

However, the Municipal Council of Manzini Information and Public Relations

Officer Mathokoza Thwala noted that as council, they frowned against illegal activities in the city.

Thwala mentioned that their wish was to make it healthiest, peaceful and safest city in Eswatini. He added that according to the Tobacco Act, passive smoking endangered the health of innocent members of the public, including children.

"We call on all citizens who smoke to desist from doing so in public, anyone who takes that risk must be arrested by the Royal Eswatini Police Service. Besides the risk of arrest, as citizens let's adopt the culture of respect for one other", says Thwala.

Thwala added that council was aware

of a need for the establishment of smoking zones in the city; just like it happens in other cities around the world. Fortunately, according to the New Manzini five-year Intergrated Development Plan (IDP), which ends in 2024, council will in the next five years be working on achieving that.

He also stated that they would first conduct a study to identify public open spaces. Through the study, they would be able to identify spaces that could be designated as smoking zones. The next step will be decided whether they install cubicles for use by smokers (as it happens in cities in the first world) or they opt for alternative infrastructure. Thereafter, smoking zones will be declared. All



things constant, by the end of the IDP period, Manzini will have smoking areas. "But we want to emphasise the fact that even though at the moment there are no smoking zones, it does not give smokers the leeway to smoke in public," says Thwala.

Acting Chief Police Information and Communications Inspector

Nosipho Mnguni, said people who are found smoking in public should be reported to the police. Mnguni mentioned that they were liable to the matter and she also warned the public smokers to stop smoking in public, because it is dangerous to everyone. Mnguni stated that anyone found smoking in public, the law will take its course.





**REMARKS:** Delegates to the UN High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation listening to His Majesty the King deliver his statement. (Pics: Len Mohale - State Photographer)

## King at South-South



**FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS:** His Majesty the King converses with Eswatini Ambassador to New York Melusi Masuku (l) and Foreign Affairs Minister Thuli Dladya (c) at the South-South Conference in Argentina.



**PRESENT:** Members of the Eswatini delegation at the UN High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation (from L) Counsellor Siphelele Dladla (New York), Njabu Gwebu (Ambassador Washington DC), Jennifer Nerves (Foreign Affairs), Mbongeni Simelane (King's Private Secretary) and Poet Sandile Nxumalo.

### Ganoderma Reishi Mushroom

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Venue : Manzini, The George Hotel  
 Date: 23 March 2019  
 Time: 0930HRS  
 Contact Details: Anna-76137227

**COME, LET US GET YOU STARTED**

## Umcintiswano Wekubhala Indzaba Lendze (Novel)

### Ngabe unokugcina lekubhala indzaba lendze?

Inkampane yebashicileli i-Macmillan Education Eswatini igubha iminyaka lengemashumi lamane solo itinte eveni le-Swazini. Njengencenye yekubungata loluhambo, lenkampane imemetela ingcayizivela yemcintiswano wekubhala indzaba lendze ngelulwimi lwesiSwati.

### Imikhawulo:

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- Ingcikitsi yendzaba akube simo nobe timo letikhungetse tenhlalakahle kuletkhatsi lesiphila kuto eveni
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- Bhala usebentisa buso-mbhalo i-Times New Roman nombolo-12
- Tfumela indzaba yakho ngeliposi lembane ku: [bertha.jele@macmillaneducation.co.sz](mailto:bertha.jele@macmillaneducation.co.sz)

- Lilanga lekugcina lekuletsa umsebenzi ngumhla tingemashumi lamatsatfu enyangeni yeNhlaba emnyakeni losetulu (2019).

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- Bantfu labahlala Eswatini kuphela labangangenela lomcintiswano

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Kutawuklonyeliswa labasihlanu labahlabene, kanje:

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**Mashiya ngumashiywa! Ungasali!**





# Conference



**LIGHT MOMENT:** His Majesty captured with Argentina President Maricio Macri shortly before they held bilateral talks on the sidelines of the UN South-South Conference in Buenos Aires on Wednesday.



**RELAXED:** The two leaders, His Majesty the King and Estonia President Kersti Kaljulaid in talks, while their officials listen on. Members of the Eswatini delegation (from R) are Ambassador to New York Melusi Masuku and Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo.



**ATTENTIVE:** His Majesty listens attentively as Uruguay President Tabare Vazquez stresses a point during their engagement at the UN South-South Conference in Argentina.



**HANDSHAKE:** Estonia President Kersti Kaljulaid shares a light moment with His Majesty the King prior to holding bilateral talks.



## PRESS STATEMENT

### EPTC CONDEMNS FACEBOOK POST

EPTC notes with deep regret the publication of a Facebook post which was posted by a profile user who is an employee of our organization. The post had the effect of belittling the impact of rape.

The organisation strongly condemns any act of abuse against women, children and men. We denounce any acts committed against members of all societies by taking advantage of their vulnerability.

EPTC will continue to advocate for change of attitudes towards any acts of violence against vulnerable persons. The subsequent effect the post has to all Facebook users and the public at large is hugely regretted. EPTC hereby disassociates herself from such an insensitive statement.

We would like to assure all our valued stakeholders and the public at large that the issue is being dealt with in accordance with internal policies.

**EPTC MANAGEMENT**



DOC18386



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The Swazi Observer would like to inform its valued customers, clients and the general public that it is moving to new premises, **LILUNGA HOUSE (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)** by **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019**.

Relocation will be in the following phases:

1. **Sales and Marketing Department** currently located at Mbandzeni House 6th Floor will be first to relocate to the new premises by the **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019**.
2. **The Head office** currently located at Betfusile Street will relocate by the **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019**.



**Our telephone numbers will remain unchanged.**



**BY MANAGEMENT.**

**Swazi  
OBSERVER**

**OBSERVER  
ON SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY  
Observer**



# Eswatini not exempted from social, economic hurdles - AT

BY QONDILE NTIWANE  
Kwaluseni

**THE Kingdom of Eswatini has not been exempted from a range of social and economic hurdles.**

This was said by Tibiyo TakaNgwane's Managing Director Dr Absalom Dlamini during a Master of business administration lecture at the University of Eswatini (UNESWA) Kwaluseni Campus.

He stated that the country, and indeed the globe, was facing enormous challenges and threats to stability, development and peace as the deep levels of poverty and high unemployment were driven by negative, stagnant and low economic growth as well as the threat of HIV and AIDS, among others.

"Ecologically, economically, politically and indeed socially, we are facing a range of crises, which, if not responded to collaboratively and decisively, will threaten our existence.

The markets are unstable, the global economic systems are crashing, companies are retrenching, and governments are struggling to keep up with the growing infinite needs of their people.



**REVEALED: Dr Absalom Dlamini responding to a question from the floor. Next to him is Professor Annette Jackson, Associate Professor of Marketing at UNESWA's Faculty of Commerce.**

There are growing trade tensions and rising protectionism in the global markets," he said.

#### Prepare

Dlamini further mentioned that the world was developing at an unprecedented pace and Eswatini needs to take her ingenuity and innovation to prepare for the next 50 years.

"Our partnership with the government and the people of this country is underpinned by our founding principles and the socio-economic

pillars I have already mentioned.

These contextualise the many projects that we continue to initiate and support across health, education, commerce, the economy, cultural development and social cohesion, public works and others," he added.

#### Responsibility

Dlamini said government, being a representative of the people's wishes and a conduit for converting those wishes and needs into sustainable development, carries the responsi-

bility to set up a conducive environment for converging innovative ideas.

"It also carries the huge responsibility to rally all of us, as institutions and the general society to contribute to the achievement of the public good and it is important to emphasise that government alone cannot deliver on the complex and consistently shifting ambitions of the nation," he said. He noted that real and sustainable development could only be achieved by utilising all natural, capital and human resources productively, while at the same time empowering, in particular, the population to dream and be able to achieve their dreams. "We need to redeem our economy, to ensure that it drives growth and development and it is important to emphasise that government alone cannot deliver on the complex and consistently shifting ambitions of the nation. "Our biggest and immediate responsibility is to consistently stimulate the economy, so that it creates sustainable employment for our people, create sustainable opportunities for our small and medium entrepreneurs and by extension, sustain livelihoods for those who are outside of the economic net," he said.

## Suspect sheds tears of joy after a year in jail

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI  
Siteki

**TEARS of joy streamed down the face of a young man upon the pronouncement of an acquittal and discharge after he had spent slightly a year behind bars.**

Mfanimpela Khoza (24) was arrested in 2017 and charged with contravening Section 12(1) of the Peoples Trafficking and Peoples Smuggling (Prohibition) Act 7 of 2009. According to the charge sheet, he was alleged to have wrongfully and unlawfully recruited a Swazi woman into South Africa and harboured her for purposes of exploitation. He was alleged to have used means of abduction, force, coercing, threat and her vulnerability as a trafficked person by causing her to have sexual intercourse with him, and thus committed the offence.

The accused person has been pleading not guilty to the charge.

In an attempt to prove commission of the offence, the Crown which was represented by Patrick Mkhathshwa, paraded eight witnesses before the court.

The complainant told the court that the accused person grabbed and took her to the neighbouring country in February 2018. She claimed that she was on her way from church when the accused forcefully took her away.

In her evidence, she added that the accused repeatedly had sexual intercourse with her without her consent while they resided at Mbuzini.

She said she was eventually rescued by her father who came to collect her after three days.

However, most of the complainant's evidence seemed to be self-contradictory as she would give different answers when responding to similar questions posed to her by the accused person and the prosecution. Some of the witnesses also gave different versions of the story before court.

When the matter returned to court for judgement yesterday, the accused persons pointed out these elements, arguing that the complainant was fabricating evidence against him. He told the court that the complainant's 'visit' to the neighbouring country was consensual, as they were actually lovers at the time. The accused person said the complainant fabricated the evidence after learning that her parents were against their relationship. Having studied the presentation made before the court, Principal Magistrate Dumisani Magagula noted that the matter lacked essential elements which could qualify the commission of an offence. Therefore, the accused person was found not guilty by the court. He was effectively acquitted and discharged.

**Mfanimpela Khoza was arrested in 2017 and charged with contravening Section 12(1) of the Peoples Trafficking and Peoples Smuggling (Prohibition) Act of 2009**

## WORLD TB DAY IN NHLANGANO TODAY

BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

**TODAY, Eswatini will be joining the world in commemorating the World TB Day at King Sobhuza II Stadium in Nhlanguano.**

World TB Day is commemorated annually on March 24 by countries globally. According to the World Health Organisation, the main purpose of the event is to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis and to step up efforts to end this global epidemic.

The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch left the world astounded when he announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB (the mycobacterium bacillus, mostly affecting the lungs), which paved a way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.



Advocacy Communication and Social Mobilisation Coordinator (ACSM) at WHO Njabu Hlophe said Eswatini continued to join the rest of the world in commemorating this historic day.

She said the main objective for this year's event was to create public awareness on tuberculosis, with more focus on children, so that people may know that children are also at high risk of TB infection. Also, for the nation at large to know that TB is preventable and curable, hence the secondary objective will be to demand creation for TB services.

The theme of the 2019 international TB day is 'It's time,' a simple and open theme for each country to customise according to its TB context said Hlophe.

She added that for Eswatini, the theme is 'It's time to end TB in children.'

Hlophe said the key messages were; know your child's TB status, as well as screen your child for TB today. Also TB is curable; give your child TB treatment regularly until completion as well as give TB a red card.

She said the day would commence with a march at 08:30am from Mathendele, via the fire station, through Nhlanguano town, to the stadium, led by His Majesty's Correctional Services brass band and drummers by pupils from Nhlanguano Central Primary School.

There will also be touring of information stalls displayed by different health programmes.

A testimonial by a child TB expert client as well as a key note address by the Minister of Health, Senator Lizzy Nkosi, said Hlophe.

She mentioned that there would also be entertainment in the form of a dance by Amitofo children, sibhaca and African dance by SOS Children's Village and a poem by Shining Stars as well as a dance by Young Heroes and Lutsango by ministry of health.

She also stated that there would be provision of health services to the public for TB screening, HIV counselling and testing and an ambulance for first aid.

### ESTATE LATE:

**MARGARETE SYNDY  
MATSEBULA**  
ESTATE NO. EL 26/2019

Debtors and Creditors in the above mentioned estate are asked to lodge their claims and pay their debts with the under-signed within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.

**VUSI E. NHLENGETFWA**  
P.O. BOX 38  
MBABANE

R/N 167202 Dx 22 MAR 2019

### ESTATE LATE:

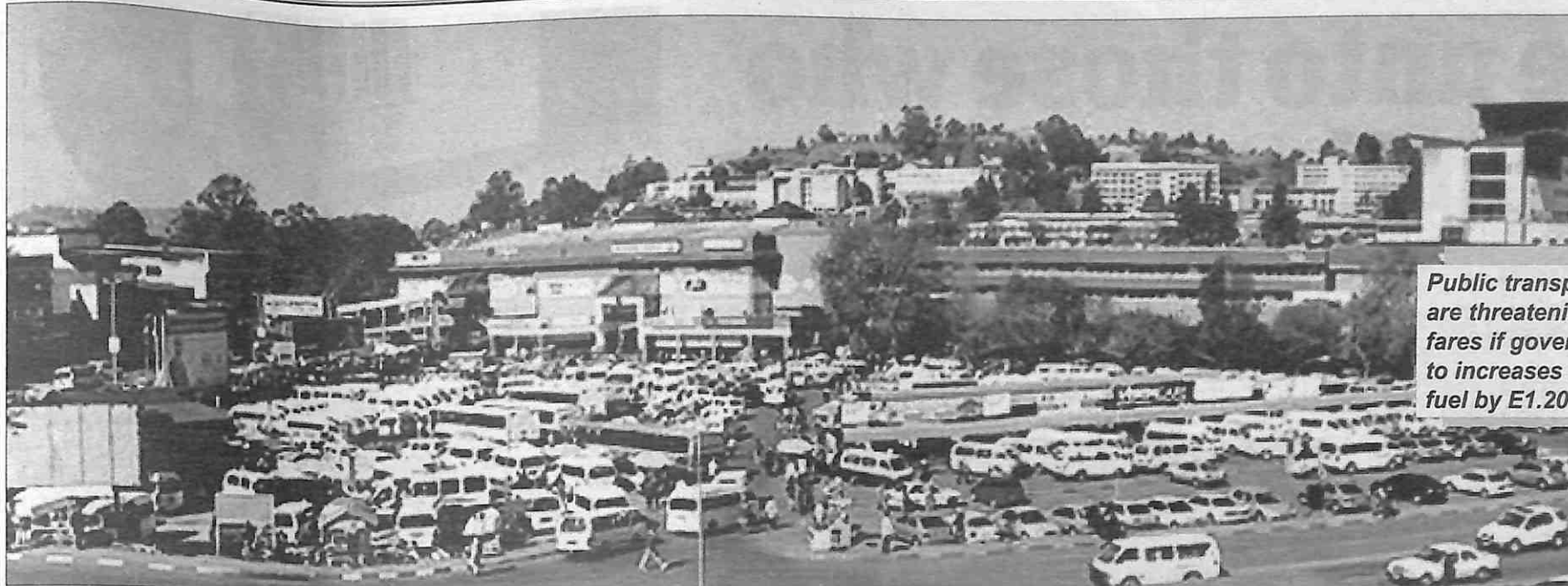
**TENTILE SHONAPHI  
GAMEDZE NEE MDLULI**  
ESTATE NO. EM 83/2019

Debtors and Creditors in the above mentioned estate are asked to lodge their claims and pay their debts with the under-signed within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.

**VELAPHI NGCAMPHALALA**  
P.O. BOX 2170  
MANZINI

R/N 167202 Dx 22 MAR 2019





**Public transport operators are threatening to hike bus fares if government decides to increase the price of fuel by E1.20 per litre.**

# Public transporters threaten fare hikes

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI  
Manzini

... if govt implements E1.20 fuel increase

**PUBLIC** transport operators are threatening to hike bus fares if government decides to increase the price of fuel by E1.20 per litre.

Speaking during a press conference yesterday, Swaziland Commercial Amadoda Road and Transport Association (SCARTA) Chairperson Duma Msibi said they wanted to know as to where the added E1.20 would be used by government.

They said if it was not used for improving the country's roads, then as transport operators they were totally against it and would increase the fares in retaliation.

Msibi said as transport operators, they met after the budget speech because they were not happy with it.

He said they understood that the minister of finance was trying to improve the economic status of the country through taxes and increasing levies. Msibi said they were of the view that the minister should have informed the nation what had resulted to the economy reaching this stage.



**COME LET'S TALK: SCARTA Chairperson Duma Msibi.**

He said because if the cause was not identified then trying to fight for economic recovery will be pointless.

"Every responsible citizen needs to

know what collapsed the economy," Msibi stated. He added that if the proposed E1.20 was anything to go by, then there should be an independent body to monitor it and make sure it is used in the country's roads.

Msibi said the situation was so bad in such a way that in some roads, vehicles had to use one lane and give each other space by taking turns using that lane.

Msibi said as transport operators, they should have a say on the proposed E1.20. He opined that what made things worse was that as important stakeholders they were never consulted about the fees, but they only got to learn about this through the media.

The transport operators, during the press conference, revealed that they were no longer making any money because the little they made was taken by traffic officers through fines.

## Recoverer

"If E1.20 is implemented we have to recover it and there is only one way we can do that through raising bus fares by the very same margin which government has used," Msibi stated. The transport operators said it was very unfor-

tunate that government passed the budget speech without recommendations from transport operators who are crucial role players in the economy of the country.

They emphasised that there was not even one single member of Parliament who could stand up and attest that he engaged his people at the different tinkhundla on the proposed E1.20 fuel increase.

They said it would seem like the tinkhundla centres were no longer serving the purpose which they were designed for in the first place.

## Pity

Furthermore, they said it was a pity that government wanted road-worthy vehicles while the roads were in a very bad state and not worthy to be used by vehicles.

The transport operators said they wanted to engage government on this issue and advise on how they could tackle the situation in order to get the country back on its feet.

The aggrieved transport owners said if government refused to meet them and effect the hike, then they will have no choice but to increase transport fares.

They said they would call the media the day they decided to raise fares and inform the public since it seemed that was the only way communication was done these days. Swaziland Local Transport Association Chairman Mandla Dlamini said as public transport operators, they learned through the media that government was plan-

ning to offer transport services to civil servants.

He said they should have been consulted because civil servants were their main customers and without them they would suffer.

He said if the E1.20 was given the go ahead over and above this, then it would be a major loss for business.

## Talks

Operators said if government wanted them out of business, then it should engage them in talks on how it (government) could buy them out.

Dlamini, on the other hand, said now that Easter holidays were around the corner, traffic police would be out in full force stopping public transport and issuing fines.

He said it seemed government had turned the public transport industry into a cash cow and was now milking it dry.

Dlamini said it was a pity that they were paying for permits and a lot of other documents at the public works and transport ministry but were not getting the service they deserved from the ministry.

He said everytime they visited the ministry, they were told that the machines were down or there was no paper, among many other excuses. The transport operators said because of this situation, even banks were refusing to extend vehicle loans to them because it seemed the transport industry was no longer stable.

Your load...



**BISA:** A man who wrongfully used the Shoprite trolley grabs his bag of mealie-meal after the elderly man forcefully wheeled off with it at the Mbabane Bus Rank yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

## ESTATE LATE:

JEREMAH NGANEKWANE  
MAVIMELA  
ESTATE NO. EH 11/2019

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 51 (2) of the Administration of Estates Act No. 28/1902 that the First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account will lie open for inspection at the office of the Master of the High Court of Swaziland, Mbabane branch First Floor Miller's Mansion for a period of **Twenty One (21) days** from the date of publication of this notice.

Any person objecting to the account may lodge his or her objection in writing with the executor and with the Master of the High Court at any time before expiry of the said period.

SIBONGILE ELLAH MAVIMBELA  
P.O. BOX 88  
BHUNYA

R/N 167190 Dx 22 MAR 2019

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL CONSENT IN TERMS OF THE EZULWINI TOWN PLANNING SCHEME OF 2014

I / We **TURK MOTORS EZULWINI**, the owner(s) of the property in question, hereby a Public Notice in terms of Clause 1.5 of the 2014 Ezulwini Town Planning Scheme, that I / We wish to apply for a **SPECIAL CONSENT** to establish (description of development) **AN EXCLUSIVE MOTOR VEHICLE SHOWROOM, SPECIALISED IN GERMAN MOTOR VEHICLES ON PLOT PORTION 62 (a portion of portion 11) OF FARM NUMBER 706.**

Anyone having an objection to this application may lodge their objections, in writing, with the Ezulwini Town Council at P.O. BOX 344, Ezulwini, Eswatini not later than (date) **13<sup>th</sup> April 2019**, that is 21 days from the last publication of the Notice namely on (date) **15<sup>th</sup> March 2019**.

R/N 167120



# Woe unto those who chop indigenous trees

STORIES BY SIMON SHABANGU  
Mbabane

**MINISTER of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati has warned the nation against the cutting of indigenous trees to use as firewood, saying such can result in arrest and prosecution.**

The minister was speaking at Fonteyn High School during the commemoration of the International Day of Forests yesterday.

The ministry decided to commemorate the day at a school in-line with this year's theme, which is 'Forests and Education'.

Fonteyn High School was selected as the right school to host the event, where the minister donated 560 trees and further did a symbolic planting of the tree at the school.

The trees donated by the ministry include 350 ornamentals, 200 hedge, five shade trees and five indigenous fruit trees. Vilakati said government noted with concern that people continued to 'harvest' trees and sell them for financial gain. He said such a practice was illegal and people must stop it immediately. "People must refrain from cutting indigenous trees for sale as firewood, as that may result in them being arrested and prosecuted.

"Such a habit also waters down the government efforts of making Eswatini to be green, clean and a beautiful place for tourists. Traditional leaders are urged to work with the ministry in bringing to an end the habit of cutting trees," he said.

The minister said there was a need to establish natural resource management

...Tree planting is not just about the beatification of our surroundings, but is also about addressing two of our biggest environmental challenges, being desertification and climate change



**WOE UNTO YOU: Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati addressing pupils of Fonteyn High School during the commemoration of the International Day of Forests. Looking on are school Principal Alice Nzima and Acting PS Hermon Motsa. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)**

committees as part of community development committees to help the ministry bring down the habit of tree cutting by the communities.

The minister also warned the public against starting unnecessary fires which usually get out of control, especially now that the dry season was approaching.

He said such fires eventually led to damage, which may result in loss of life and property.

"Communities with homesteads around plantations owned by private forest companies are also encouraged to work together with the companies and assist to prevent occurrence of destructive forest fires, which might result in massive job losses and decline of the economy," the minister pleaded.

The minister also highlighted that forests were very important to human beings in many ways, forests play a big role in regulating micro-climates of par-

ticular areas whilst ensuring there is a good balance on the levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Tree planting is not just about the beatification of our surroundings, but is also about addressing two of our biggest environmental challenges, being desertification and climate change.

## Livelihoods

"Forests also provide livelihoods to more than 1.7 billion people throughout the world and more than 13 million of those are employed in the forest sector worldwide. Forests also create beautiful scenery that attracts tourists and it is for the same reason why tourism in the Kingdom of Eswatini has been identified as one of the pillars for economic recovery," he said.

Meanwhile, school Principal Alice Nzima said they were excited that the ministry chose their school to host the forest day.

She said the school is committed to taking good care of the trees to

ensure that they add value to their already beautiful scenery and clean environment. She said they were grateful for the kind gesture of the donation of trees by the ministry. She added that the coming of the minister to the school was also a motivation to the school, noting that the children were inspired in many ways.

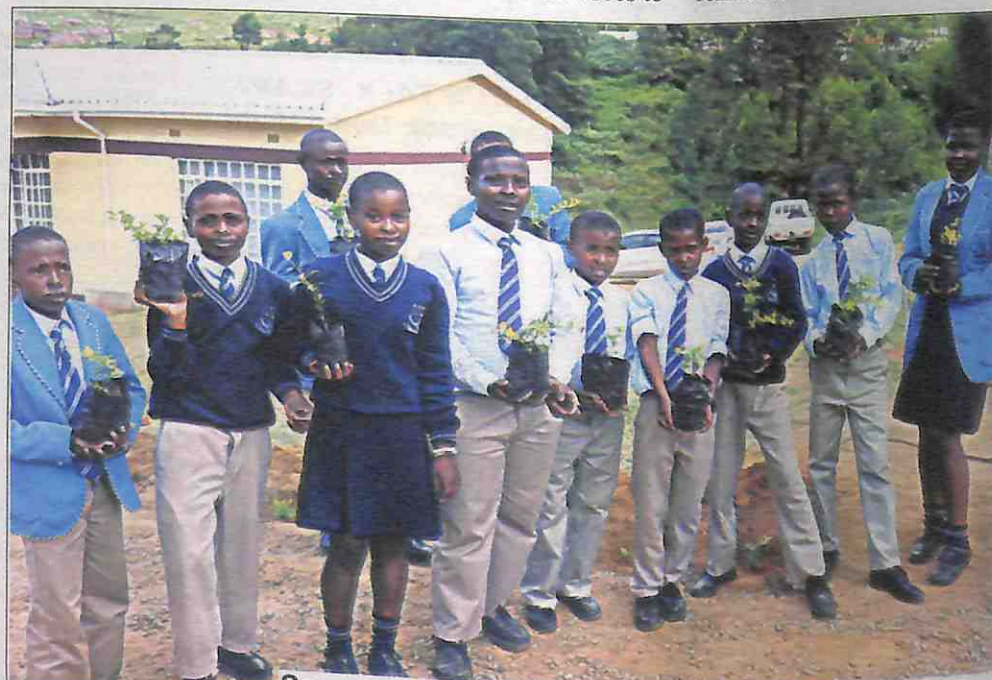
Senior teacher Lungile Nxumalo thanked the ministry for coming to the school, noting that they could have gone to any other school but they chose theirs.

She said they strive to be a school of excellence hence they take good care of the trees and ensure that they blossom and boost the already beautiful school. She said they are a favoured school hence all the good things come their way and spread to the rest. The children were excited by the visitation by the ministry and also pledged that they will also ensure that they look after the environment around the school.

**PLANT A TREE: Minister Moses Vilakati preparing to plant one of the over 500 trees donated to the school.**



**LET'S GET BUSY: It was a busy moment for the pupils as they got their hands dirty and planted the trees that will decorate their school.**



**Some of the pupils displaying the trees which were donated by the ministry.**

## Tourism minister... uhhhhh, school kids wonder

**THERE was a 'moment of silence' when acting Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Hermon Motsa asked the children who the minister of tourism was.**

The acting PS was about to introduce the minister to address the gathering

when, out of the blue, he decided to ask the children who the minister of tourism and environmental affairs was. As though lightning had struck, there was utter silence from the more than 200 pupils gathered at the assembly point for the function.

Neatly dressed and orderly seated on

their chairs on the lawn, the pupils almost buried their heads in the ground as none of them could answer.

Motsa decided to change the question and asked who the minister in front of them was, and still there was a deafening silence. The PS then requested one of the head girls, who had just made a

speech to tell them. "He is Mr M Vilakati", she responded.

The new Cabinet was appointed into office last year November following the appointment of the Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini by the King at the Sibaya.

A week later, the PM announced his Cabinet, where he is deputised

by the former Shiselweni RA Themba Nhlanganisio Masuku, who once served in the same position during the ninth Parliament.

Minister Vilakati was one of the 20 Cabinet ministers appointed by the King and is serving his second term since last term he was in the agriculture portfolio.





# If not you, then who?

Save water **today**. For our  
kids **tomorrow**.

**#ItBeginsWithMe**

World Water Day 2019

**#WaterForAll**

**FNB**

How can we help you?





**THE COMMITTEE:** Minister of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe with members of the King's Birthday Resource Mobilisation Committee, led by Dr Phil Mnisi. The committee was unveiled by the minister at Royal Swazi yesterday. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

## Phil heads Resource Mobilisation Team

STORIES BY SIFISO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

**MINISTER of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe has officially announced that His Majesty King Mswati III's 51st birthday will be celebrated at Buhleni Royal Residence on April 26.**

She said she was grateful to Their Majesties for allowing her to announce the birthday celebrations.

Cabinet has also established a Resource Mobilisation Team, she added. She expressed her gratitude to Cabinet for the noble gesture and said the team would work hand in hand with the ministry of home affairs.

"The King's birthday is both the pride and responsibility of all. This celebration helped to promote unity, goodwill, peace and fosters mutual respect and cooperation between Emaswati and neighbouring members of states, as well as boosts revenue through the tourism sector and other businesses," said the

minister.

She added that it, therefore, called for a collaborative effort from all stakeholders, including government, the private sector, *Imiphakatsi*, families and individuals as well as friends of the kingdom.

The minister also stated that she wished to underline her desire to see the team working diligently and with honesty for the success of the great work above. Consequently, as a ministry responsible for national celebrations, they were fully behind the mobilisation team, said the minister.

She assured the nation that all resources collected by the committee would be solely used to fund His Majesty's 51st birthday celebration's. She said essentially the mobilisation team was to consolidate resources for His Majesty's Birthday celebration within the Kingdom of Eswatini and abroad. All donations and contributions will be received by the resource mobilisation committee, which comprises the following:

### THE COMMITTEE

1. Dr Phil Mnisi - Eswatini Sugar Association Chief Executive Officer (Chairperson)
2. Nick Jackson - Royal Eswatini Sugar Corporation Chief Executive Officer (Deputy Chairperson)
3. Mvuselelo Fakudze - Standard Bank Chief Executive
4. Langalakhe Dlamini - Public Service Pension Fund Chief Executive Officer
5. Rev Anthony Masilela - Principal Secretary Home Affairs
6. HRH Prince Lonkhokhela - Eswatini National Provident Fund Chief Executive Officer
7. Sibusiso Nhleko - MTN Acting Chief Executive Officer
8. Sam Essa - Build it Chief Executive Officer
9. Zakhele Lukhele - EswatiniBank Chief Executive Officer
10. Fikile Nkosi - Nedbank Chief Executive Officer
11. Andrew Le Roux - Montigny Managing Director
12. Jabulile Mashwama - Eswatini Water Services Corporation Managing Director

### Details of the Account were as followed:

Account name: Resource Mobilisation Account  
Account number: 9110002365661  
Bank: Standard Bank  
Branch: Mbabane Branch  
Branch Code: 663164  
SWIFT: SBICSZMX

ties would submit their pledges through pledge forms availed by the committee in which they should reflect the value and/or nature of donations offered.

Financial contributions could be directly deposited into a dedicated government bank account with Standard Bank. This account would only hold monies specially contributed by sponsoring entities and would be solely used to cover the costs of the celebration, said Mnisi.

He noted that the date of this event was exactly a month away and preparations were already underway. Entities and the public were kindly requested to begin the contribution process at the soonest convenience time. Mnisi added that they trusted that all Emaswati would heed the call for participation and come out in their numbers to support and ensure that the national event was a resounding success.

the country.

The nation is therefore, urged to come forward and participate in various ways to support the event. Participation may be through any of the following methods:

1. Financial Contributions
2. Donations in Kind
3. Sponsoring a specific item of the event

Mnisi said individuals willing to make contributions and donations were requested to contact the secretariat of the committee on the following contacts: +268 7650 5151/+268 2411 7605 to register their pledges. He added that contributions had been classified according to the financial value of the sponsorship made and would be placed into the following four categories.

**Premium** - E500 000 and above  
**Gold** - E250 000 - E499 999  
**Silver** - E100 000 - E249 999  
**Bronze** - E50 000 - E100 000

He stated that each level of sponsorship would carry a deserving recognition during the event and sponsors will be advised of such in due course.

Mnisi said to make contributions, enti-

## Man sentenced to 28 years for trafficking SA girl

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI  
Siteki

**FOR the first time at the Siteki Magistrate's Court, a man has been convicted for trafficking a South African girl into Eswatini for the purpose of exploitation.**

The country has had a countable number of human trafficking cases going for trial in local courts, with only a few having been proven.

According to court records, the case of Machawe Pius Dlamini (31) of Nceka has been the first one to have been successfully proven by the prosecution at the Siteki Magistrate's Court. Dlamini was arrested in 2017, upon which he was slapped with two counts relating to human trafficking.

On the first count, he was charged with contravening section 12(1) as read with Section 13 of the People Trafficking and People Smuggling (Prohibition) Act 7 of 2009.

He was alleged to have unlawfully recruited and transported a South African minor girl from her native country to Eswatini by means of deception and harboured her at his parental home at Nceka.

A similar Act was preferred on the second count, in that, the accused person unlawfully arranged and assisted the said girl to enter into the country illegally, in order to obtain material benefit. The accused was said to have intended to subject the minor girl to exploitation.

The matter dragged for almost two years before Principal Magistrate Dumisani Magagula as the prosecution paraded a number of witnesses in an effort to prove its commission. The accused person has been pleading not guilty on both counts.

During presentation of evidence, the girl told the court that she first

came to know the accused person through Facebook, a social media platform.

The girl said she then divulged some information to the accused person as their friendship grew to a level where she thought she could trust him.

The said information was to the effect that she was looking for her father who is said to be residing in Eswatini. The accused is said to have used this information to lure the girl into the country, promising to assist her in finding her father.

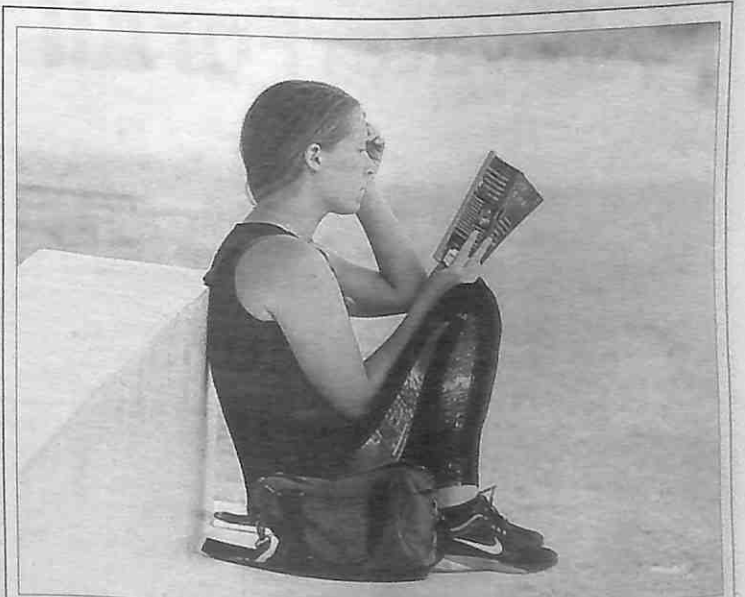
However when the girl eventually arrived in the country, the accused person changed the subject and wanted nothing to do with the girl's father. Instead, he is said to have introduced the girl to his family as his lover.

The girl told the court that she had to endure a series of sexual harassment in the hands of the accused person throughout her stay with his family. She alleged to have stayed at the said homestead for about three months before police came to her rescue after the matter was reported by a concerned neighbour.

When making judgement, the principal magistrate noted that the Crown, which was represented by Prosecutor Melusi Lukhele managed to prove all the elements of human trafficking.

Magagula said the court came to the realisation that indeed, the purpose of bringing the girl into the country was to exploit her. For these reasons, the accused person was found guilty on both counts. He was sentenced to 18 years on the first count, and 10 years in a correctional facility for the second count.

The sentences were ordered to run separately, and without an option of a fine. Effectively, the accused person will spend 28 years behind bars.



**BOOK WORM**

**FOCUSED:** A lady concentrates on her book as she sits quietly next to the Sports Emporium at UNESWA, Kwaluseni Campus yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



## Hot weekend ahead

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE  
Mbabane

THOUGH the week was warm to hot in the Lowveld, temperatures are expected to rise throughout the weekend, Sunday being the hottest day of the week. Chances

Today, morning fog at places otherwise cloudy and cool but warm to hot in the Lowveld.

Mbabane  
15/24

Mankayane  
16/25

Manzini  
18/27

Siteki  
17/26

Mhlume  
19/29

Big Bend  
20/30

Tomorrow, morning fog patches are expected in the morning otherwise partly cloudy and cool but warm to hot in the Lowveld.

Mbabane  
16/25

Mankayane  
17/26

Manzini  
19/28

Siteki  
18/27

Mhlume  
20/30

Big Bend  
21/31

On Sunday, fog patches are expected in the morning at the Highveld, otherwise fine to hot mainly in the Lowveld.

Mbabane  
15/26

Mankayane  
16/29

Manzini  
18/31

Siteki  
17/30

Mhlume  
19/33

Big Bend  
20/34

of rainfall are slim to none during the weekend, the meteorology service has predicted.

Sunrise is expected to be at 0557 hours and sunset to be at 1809 hours. Temperatures are expected to rise

from today up until Sunday being the hottest day of the weekend. Mbabane's maximum tempera-

tures as of today to Sunday would be 24, 25, 28 degrees Celsius respectively.

## New Gilgal-Antioch churches 'holy war'

# Former minister appointed arbitrator

STORIES BY SANDILE NKAMBULE  
High Court

● High Court Judge Mumcy Dlamini has appointed the former minister of the Crown, who is also pastor under Kukhanyokusha church

FORMER Minister of commerce industry and trade Gideon Dlamini has been appointed an arbitrator in the current New Gilgal Church in Zion and Antioch Church in Zion 'holy war'.

High Court Judge Mumcy Dlamini yesterday appointed the former minister of the Crown, who in his capacity as a pastor at the Kukhanyokusha Church, is expected to arbitrate in the current battle over church leadership and the current status quo in as far as whether Antioch is under New Gilgal or not.

The appointment was by consent by parties, the New Gilgal leader and Antioch leader, who through their lawyers indicated that their preferred arbitrator is the former minister.

The New Gilgal Church in Zion is represented by lawyer Osborne Nzima, while the Antioch is represented by Haiso Magagula.

After hearing both parties in argu-

ments, Judge Dlamini observed that the matter is far from over, as the Antioch Church insists that it is not part of the New Gilgal Church in Zion, while the former also vigorously insisted that Antioch is under them.

The holy war began when the church and its leaders took its evangelist to court seeking an order that the latter (evangelist) be stopped from coming anywhere near the house of God and conduct services there.

The church and its leader, Luke Mamba, last year obtained an interim order interdicting the evangelist Mfanfikile Elmon Fakudze from preaching the word of God following an ex-parte application filed at the High Court.

According to the second applicant (Mamba), the respondent (Fakudze) at one time had a conflict with the local preacher Thandokuhle Tsabedze attached to the church as he is alleged to

## What Gideon is expected to do

As per the appointment by the High Court, Judge Dlamini ordered that the arbitrator (Gideon) is to have a sitting with both parties present.

Upon hearing both parties, the arbitrator is expected to decide on the independence of the churches whether Antioch is under New Gilgal or each church

is independent.

Further the arbitrator has been given a one month period to arbitrate on the dispute and give a report on his decision to the High Court on May 2 2019

Judge Dlamini categorically stated that the arbitrator's decision shall be final should it rule in favour of either party.

have usurped and bulldozed the said preacher in the fulfillment of his duties.

It has also been alleged that Fakudze acceded to the position of evangelist without the procedural protocols, as he was allegedly ordained by the president in their headquarters in New Castle, South Africa.

There have also been allegations that an event that had been set for December 7, 2018 for the presen-

tation of gifts to the elderly, as led by Fakudze, would have led to bloodshed since there was allegedly uproar within the community and that Fakudze breached the church's policy.

However, Fakudze submitted that the event of December 7 was aimed at presenting gifts to the elderly as part of the church's social responsibility and disputed the allegations made against him by the applicant.

## Jericho pastor assaults wife, blames demons

BY VUYILE DLAMINI

A 30-year-old woman survived to tell a horrifying account of how she suffered violent attacks at the hands of her supposedly loving husband, all in the name of casting out demons.

Dumsani Simelane of Sibuyeni is said to have assaulted his wife, Khanyisile Shabangu by banging her head against the wall.

Questioned by the court why he banged his loved one's head, he said his hand slipped, while he was praying for her, as he laid his hands on her head.

"Nkosi yeNkantolo, sandla sami sivele saphunyuka nje. Inhlolo yami bekumthandazela umkami," said Simelane.

According to Simelane, Shabangu would have countless manic episodes, where she would randomly lash out at her family members in a raging fit, causing them to fear for their lives.

"Your Worship, as a pastor of the Jericho church, I took it upon myself to diagnose her, and I concluded that her outbursts were as a result of being possessed by demons. I then decided that the only way we were going to continue living peacefully as a family, was if I cast the demons out of her and as I held her head while praying, my hands slipped and her head banged against the wall," Shabangu said.

According to the victim's written statement, she would visit the police station countless times to report the pastor for assaulting her, and when asked, the pastor claimed that it was in fact he, who would report her for her violent episodes because he had had enough of the unrest caused by her behaviour in his home.

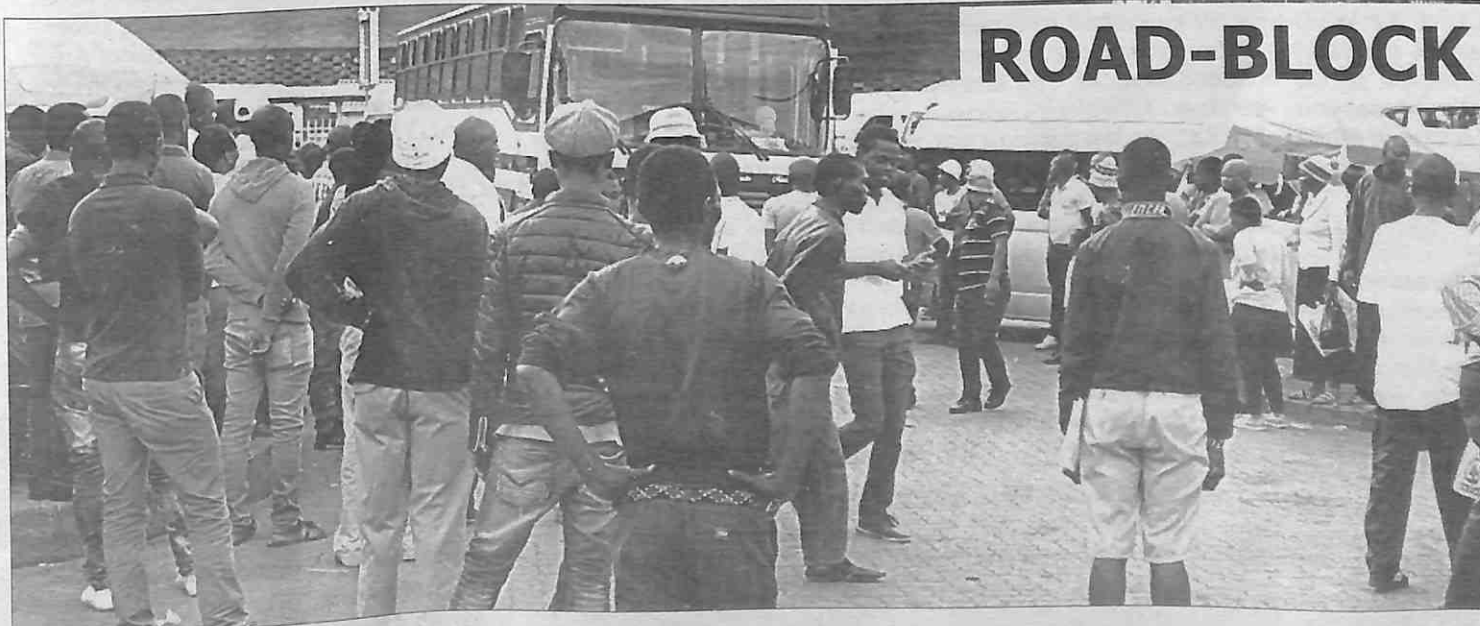
During mitigation, Simelane pleaded with the court to allow him to return home and resolve the issue with his wife, as they had young children together. He also cited health issues, which he claimed regular medical attention was required as he was sickly due to his age.

Appearing before Mbabane Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi, Simelane pleaded guilty to the charge. Simelane was convicted and found guilty of assault, and was sentenced to two years imprisonment, with an option to pay a fine of E4 000.

“

He also cited health issues, which he claimed regular medical attention was required as he was sickly due to his age

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RIOT: Public transport operators block the entrance of the Mbabane Bus Rank in protest of the Ding Dong Transport, which they were not satisfied about its operations yesterday. Police were later called to calm the situation. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



# Bennett to spoil Shiselweni 1 teachers today

BY STARKY MKHONTA  
Nhlango

**MBABANE** businessman Walter Bennett will be guest speaker at a Shiselweni 1 teachers' gathering today.

The event is organised by Shiselweni 1 Member of Parliament Christian Ntshangase, and he said it meant to thank the teachers for their work and look at how to overcome challenges they encounter along the line of teaching.

There are at least 20 schools and over 300 teachers under this constituency. The Minister of Education Lady-Howard Mabuza is also expected to grace the occasion.



**HOST: Shiselweni 1 MP Christian Ntshangase.**

According to MP Ntshangase, who is also Minister of Public Service, it

is all system go for today's event to take place at the Inkhundla centre. "I can confirm that the guest speaker is Walter Bennett and we are thankful to him for squeezing us in his busy schedule."

"Bennett needs no introduction as almost everyone knows who he is, and the role he has played in improving lives of many, as well for being passionate in rescuing the needy."

"We are also going to have Minister Lady-Howard Mabuza as her ministry is relevant here," said MP Ntshangase. The MP also mentioned that other guests would be MPs from the neighbouring constituencies and those from other areas.

"It's a big event and we want the

teachers to realise how important they are. It's going to be their day and we are to be celebrating with them for the good work they are doing. "It is a way of making them aware that we appreciate their work. I would also like to thank Bennett for agreeing to grace the event as this means a lot to us."

"We are also thankful to Minister Lady-Howard Mabuza, who has agreed to come and this is going to motivate the teachers," said MP Ntshangase. Nothing has been said about no-work-no-pay, since the teachers would have bunked lessons with the blessings of their minister and that of public service, all just to party.



**GUEST SPEAKER: Businessman Walter Bennett.**



It's time to  **END TB**

## Message of the WHO Regional Director for Africa for World TB Day 2019

### "It's Time to End TB in Children"

The theme of this year's celebration of World TB Day, "It's Time", is an opportunity to reflect on the advances that have been made in recent years but also on what remains to be done to end the scourge of TB in our Region and around the world.

In my message on World TB Day last year, I called on governments and civil society leaders at all levels to take leadership in combating the TB epidemic in our region. Following the high-level gathering of world leaders, policy-makers and civil society organizations at the UN High-level meeting on TB in September 2018, all stakeholders are now aware that an urgent global response is needed to a global epidemic. In the African region, TB is a major challenge to development, causes untold human suffering, and threatens the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2018 WHO Global Report indicates that the disease burden caused by TB is falling globally, in all WHO regions, and in most countries, but not fast enough to reach the first milestones of the End TB Strategy in 2020. In the WHO African Region, declining cases of TB cases (4% per year) placed it second among all WHO regions over the period between 2013 and 2017. Also, particularly impressive reductions (4-8% per year) have occurred in southern Africa (e.g. Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe), following a peak in the HIV epidemic and the expansion of TB and HIV prevention and care.

To sustain these advances, current levels of investment by national governments towards TB care and prevention must be increased as they currently fall far short of levels required to end the epidemic by the end date of the Sustainable Development Goals. Likewise, efforts must be made to identify and remove the challenges that are slowing down progress, as well as adopt and roll out the most cost-effective policy options and interventions. Core TB control services should be funded from domestic resources, and universal health coverage introduced to ensure quality assured preventative, diagnostic, treatment and care services.

Building on the successes of the recent past and fulfilling the

commitments made by our political leaders, national governments need to adopt policy and programmatic actions to foster a multisectoral response to end the epidemic. Within the broader context of a revitalized Primary Health Care system, these measures should include initiatives to look for and effectively treat all existing cases, and scaling up preventive treatment for high-risk populations, especially people living with HIV and child contacts of known TB cases.

To end the epidemic by 2030, we also need to ensure universal access to the WHO recommended rapid molecular tests as first-line tests for diagnosis for all presumptive TB cases, as well as to adopt the new WHO recommended drugs and drug combinations for treating drug-resistant TB.

Civil society organizations and community systems need to be strengthened to provide diagnostic support and care where patients live and work, as well as facilitate access to needed services, and to assist governments in scaling up services.

TB is at long last gaining a higher profile on the global political agenda, this should create more momentum to reach the targets we have set for 2020 and beyond; we look to our international partners for continued technical and financial support in the fight against TB and related conditions.

As Regional Director of WHO in the African Region, I re-affirm the commitment of my office and that of all my technical staff across the region to work with governments, other partners and communities to support the above actions towards ending the TB epidemic by 2030, if not earlier. It's Time to end this suffering and bring hope to TB patients and their families.

All roads lead to the King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium in Nhlango today (22 March 2019) to commemorate World TB Day. Everyone is invited!  
"It's time to end TB in Children"



**Dr Matshidiso Moeti, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for Africa**

## Taiwan ambassador visits sports minister

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

BY supporting the country in its efforts to revive the economy, relations between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the Kingdom of Eswatini seem to be getting stronger.

Republic of China on Taiwan Ambassador to Eswatini Jeremy Liang yesterday paid a courtesy call to Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Minister Harries Bulunga.

The meeting took place at the minister's office in Mbabane. It was Liang's first visit to the ministry's offices. Ideas were shared on possible partnerships of the two countries mainly around youth issues between the ministry and Taiwan Embassy.

Speaking during the meeting, the minister thanked Liang for the visit. "We appreciate the visit your excellency and most importantly, we thank your country for all the development initiatives which you have partnered with Eswatini. It is clear that Taiwan is a true friend of Eswatini," Bulunga said.

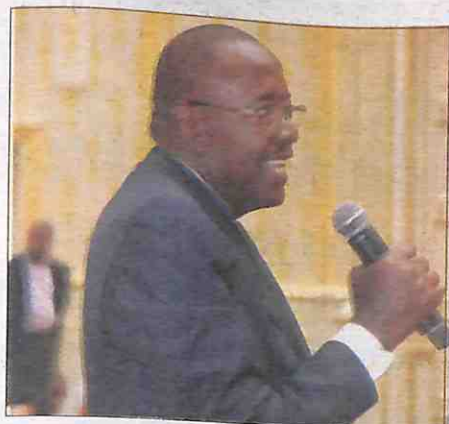
Ambassador Liang, meanwhile, thanked government for continuously supporting his country. "We thank the Government of Eswatini for supporting the relations between our two countries. I think this is a beautiful marriage," Liang said.

Joining the minister in the meeting were Principal Secretary Prince Mlayeto, Under Secretary Nhlanihla Motsa, Director of Arts and Culture Phinda Nkosi, Planning Officer Mfanikile Mabuza, Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund (YERF) CEO Bhekizwe Maziya and Eswatini National Youth Council (ENYC) CEO Makhosini Dlamini.



**WELCOME: PS Prince Mlayeto, Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga and Taiwanese Ambassador Jeremy Liang.**





**‘We will ensure that country never runs out of water’**

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

**MINISTER of Natural Resources Peter Bhembe worked in the water industry for well over two decades, since 1995 to be specific.**

He was the head honcho at the Eswatini Water and Services Corporation (EWSC) before joining politics after being appointed by His Majesty King Mswati III in the new government.

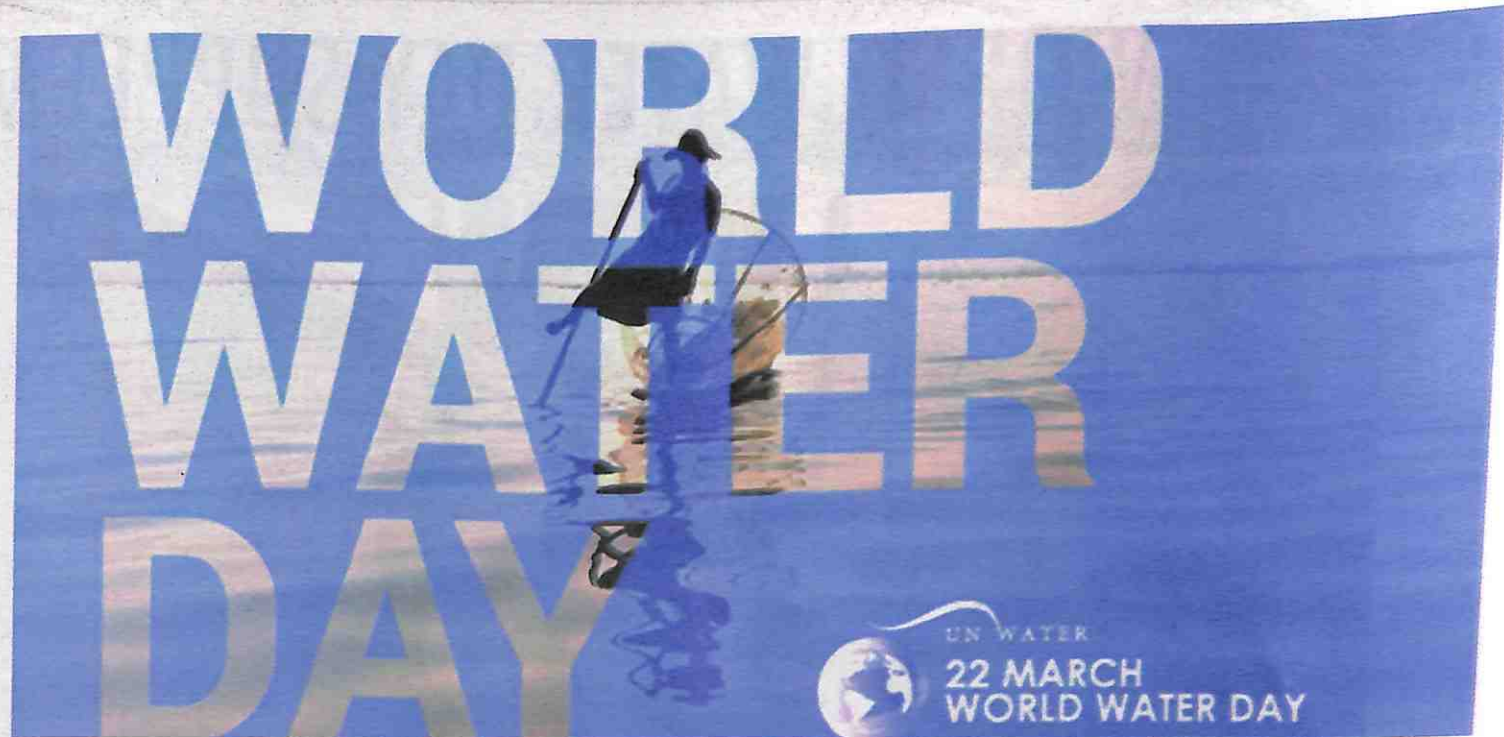
He has also served as a member of the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE) and the International Water Association (IWA) as well as the IWA Strategic Council.

With so much knowledge and skill on the industry, we took some time to get his view on water in the country. Firstly, we quizzed the minister on how this year’s theme of International Water Day was being interpreted by the country. “I think this year’s theme which is ‘Leaving no one behind’ speaks to how EWSC and government as a whole is working at the moment. The world is looking at ensuring that everyone gets access to clean water because water is life, and water is at the core of nearly all industries, so we need to make sure that we get clean water. Clean water saves us from getting so many illnesses, so this statement is widespread and can be interpreted from all different spheres,” he said.

When asked on the importance of recycling water, the minister made it known that it was much cheaper to at least try and save water by using it sparingly other than recycling methods. “Luckily enough for me, I have served in the water board in SADC as Chairman and have learnt that for some countries it makes sense to recycle, but not us as Eswatini. For a country like Namibia, for example, they recycle because they have no running rivers, but for us, it would be more costly to recycle. We are blessed with rivers and hence, we are doing just fine. It’s now a matter of preaching the message of saving water,” said Bhembe.

The minister further revealed that 95 per cent of Emaswati were covered in terms of clean water. “When you weigh us against our counterparts from the region, we are much more ahead than them. 95 per cent of the Emaswati population access clean water and this is something we have to be proud of,” said the minister. The last time the country experienced water rationing was during the tumultuous El Nino times, where Bhembe was still heading EWSC. When asked on what measures the company and government had taken in ensuring that such a situation does not occur again, Bhembe simply said the answer to that problem was building more dams.

“What the drought exposed us to at the time is that we don’t have enough storage for our water, hence the plans to have more dams. When you take a look at this year’s budget speech, government is working on the construction of another dam to cater for Mbabane – Manzini, as well as a couple down south to cater for the southerners. If the drought hits again, we should have stored enough water to make it a point that we do not suffer, even if the drought goes on for a whole two years,” he concluded.



# WORLD WATER DAY 2019

UN WATER

**22 MARCH**

**WORLD WATER DAY**

**As the world celebrates World Water Day 2019, EWSC reaffirms commitment to promoting socio-economic inclusiveness in project planning, implementation and Water and Sanitation Service provision.**

LEAVING  
NO ONE BEHIND

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# WORLD WATER DAY SUPPLEMENT

UN WATER



# WORLD WATER DAY

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

IN The United Nations General Assembly in 1992 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Heads of State adopted a resolution of was declaring March 22 annually as World Water Day.

The day was also part of the means to focus attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

In 2010, the UN recognised 'the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full

enjoyment of life and all human rights.'

The human right to water entitles everyone, without discrimination, to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use; which includes water for drinking, personal sanitation,

washing of clothes, food preparation, personal and household hygiene.

With more and more areas struggling with droughts around the world, conserving water is more important than ever for those even who are not living in drought-stricken regions.

This year's theme:  
'Leaving no one behind'

**MARGINALISED** groups such as women, children, refugees, indigenous peoples, disabled people and many others are often overlooked, and sometimes face discrimination, as they try to access and manage the safe water they need.

These groups are left behind without safe water for many different reasons. Some of the 'grounds for discrimination' that cause certain people to be particularly disadvantaged when it comes to accessing water are namely; Sex and gender, race, ethnicity, religion, birth, caste, language, nationality, disability, age, health status, as well as social status.

To 'leave no one behind' means focusing our efforts towards including people who have been marginalised or ignored. Water services must meet the needs of marginalised groups and their voices must be heard in decision-making processes. Regulatory and legal frameworks must recognise the right to water for all people, and sufficient funding must be fairly and effectively targeted at those who need it the most.

## What needs to be done and why?

**WHOEVER you are, wherever you are, water is your human right.**

Access to water underpins public health and is, therefore, critical to sustainable development and a stable and prosperous country and the world as a whole. We cannot move forward as a global society while so many people are living without safe water.

To 'leave no one behind', we must focus our efforts towards including people who have been marginalised or ignored. Water services must meet the needs of marginalised groups and their voices must be heard in decision-making processes. Regulatory and legal frameworks must recognise the right to water for all people, and sufficient funding must be fairly and effectively targeted at those who need it most.

## Celebration of World Water Day 2019 in Eswatini

IN commemoration of this year's 'World Water Day', the ministry of natural resources and Energy in collaboration with water and sanitation stakeholders will commemorate the 2019 World Water Day themed 'Leaving no one behind', at the Royal Swazi Spa, in Ezulwini

today.

The guest of honour for the big day will be Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Peter Bhembe, and some of the topics to be covered at the symposium include challenges faced by vulnerable groups in the country, addressing

inequalities with submission from the civil society, the media, researchers and the private sector.

Other topics will be water sector financing, legislation, co-ordination, institutional and policy, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

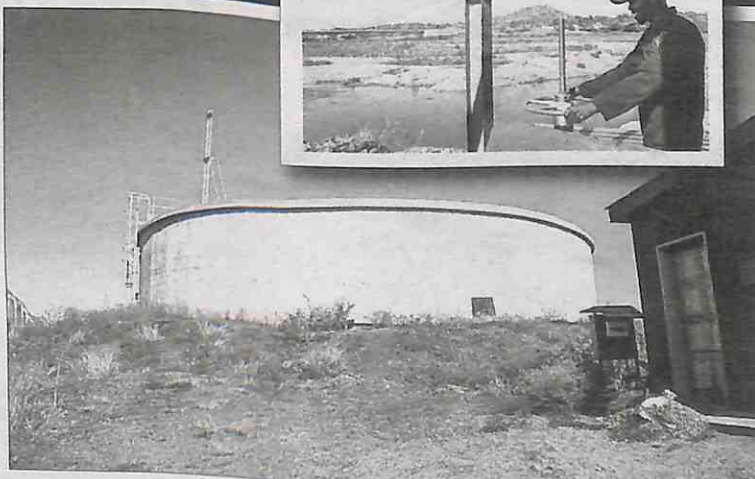
## Water kiosks

In a bid to get water to the rural parts of the country, the country initiated the 'Support to Water And Sanitation Swaziland' (SWASS) project.

Funded by the European Union to a tune of €15 500 000 (E250 million), the aim of the project is to provide safe drinking water and sanitation to an additional 61 000 people in the poor and dry south-eastern areas of Eswatini.

The existing network of water was expanded as twenty water selling points (water kiosks) were built, each with a toilet and sink next to them.

The project is implemented by Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC) and World Vision Swaziland, together with the Government of Eswatini. The project was made possible thanks



to the 'Upgrading of Potable Water Supply in Siphofaneni, Somntongo and Matsanjeni - Swaziland' (SISO-MA Water) programme. With the water

kiosk project, 20 communities benefit, where people can buy clean and affordable water.

● Better quality of life.

**Khangezile Kunene (31), water kiosk manager**

Before I started working at the kiosk, I was selling herbal products and braiding people's hair. I had to travel far to work and I was always tired. Now I'm far less stressed. I really love my job. Most of all, I feel like I fulfill an important social role: I provide clean water to many people from the community. I am very grateful to the European Union and to EWSC (Eswatini Water Services Corporation) for this job. Before I opened this kiosk, they gave me training of three days. I learned how to work with people and how to work with water. The training also gave me a lot of courage and confidence! I feel like this programme has given me a new direction in life.

### RESULTS OF THE WATER KIOSK PROJECT

- Access to drinking water is improved and made sustainable.
- Expansion and upgrading of the water network and treatment plants.
- Basic sanitation at household and community level is improved: sanitation facilities (sink and latrine) were built next to each kiosk.
- Training and sensitization at community level about sanitation, hygiene and waste management.
- Individual training on behavior about sanitation and hygiene.
- Risk of diarrhoea is much lower. Diarrhoea was very common among children and adults using dirty water from unprotected boreholes.



UN WATER  
22 MARCH

## WORLD WATER DAY SUPPLEMENT

UN WATER



RSSC charity golf tournament partners and MD Nick Jackson commission a borehole at Mpolonjeni in Siteki.



Borehole commissioning at Khuphuka.



### What this year's theme means to us?

The theme for World Water Day 2019 is 'Leaving no one behind'. This is an adaptation of the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: as sustainable development progresses, everyone must benefit.

### What is the problem witnessed by RSSC?

Today, thousands of Eswatini citizens are still living without safe water – their households, schools, workplaces, farms and factories struggling to survive and thrive. Marginalised groups – women, children, refugees, indigenous peoples, disabled people and many others – are often overlooked, and sometimes face discrimination, as they try to access and manage the safe water they need.

### What does 'safe water' mean to us?

'Safe water' is shorthand for a 'safely managed drinking water service': water that is accessible on the premises, available when needed, and free from contamination.

### What is the human right to water?

In 2010, the UN recognised "the right to safe and clean

# AT RSSC WE LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



RSSC MD Nick Jackson poses with residents while a member of Mpolonjeni community pumps the borehole.

drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights." The human right to water entitles everyone, without discrimination, to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and

domestic use; which includes water for drinking, personal sanitation, washing of clothes, food preparation, and personal and household hygiene.

### What needs to be done?

To 'leave no one behind', we must

focus our efforts towards including people who have been marginalised or ignored. Water services must meet the needs of marginalised groups and their voices must be heard in decision-making processes. Regulatory and legal frameworks must recognise the right to water for all people, and sufficient funding must be fairly and effectively

### What we have done at RSSC?

Over the years, we have managed to assist 650 families with boreholes as an intervention to the water crisis that is faced by communities in the Kingdom of Eswatini due to the most devastating drought experienced during year 2015/16. Through RSSC Charity Golf proceeds, together with other companies that we do business with and the National Disaster Management Agency, we have saved more than 10 000 lives by the provision of water in communities. The journey continues as we will again be donating

two more boreholes even this year. We are ensuring to 'leave no one behind'.

### RSSC water conservation measures;

Conversion of less efficient irrigation systems to more efficient systems such as drip irrigation

- Employing deficit irrigation strategies that ensure the application of enough water for optimum crop growth while taking into account and conserving the available water resources.

- RSSC has identified the need for more measuring devices across a wider spectrum to better and accurately determine fields' water status. These devices are the base information for prioritizing irrigation requirement on a field by field basis.

- Re-usage of water (Effluent water used for irrigation).

- Rainwater harvesting through the construction of on-farm ponds to store runoff from rainfall.

- RSSC is the largest drip irrigated farm in the world which is another way to conserve water. In numbers we have managed to conserve: 30 per cent water savings through converting furrow to drip and 20 per cent water savings through converting sprinkler to drip.

## EWSC CEO encourages water conservation behaviour

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

**ESWATINI Water Services Corporation (EWSC) Chief Executive Officer Jabulile Mashwama has encouraged change of behaviour regarding water conservation.**

When interviewed on this year's World

Water Day, Minister Mashwama said there was an urgent need for the people of Eswatini to start adopting methods that limit water usage.

"Our country has had serious drought issues over the years and they have left devastating socio-economic effects on the population. To try and curb this phenomenon from ever affecting us again, we need to save the little water

that we are able to store. This is therefore a call to the nation to try and adopt their lifestyles, and get into habits that will save water," said Mashwama.

### Potential

Mashwama made it known that the country hasn't been able to develop its river basins to their full potential, hence the water scarcity. "The average rainfall in Eswatini is 788 millimetres per

annum, ranging from as low as 500 millimetres in the dry Lowveld region to 1 500 millimetres in the wet and cooler Highveld.

Now, this high variability of rainfall means water availability is low and has to be enhanced through measures such as the construction of dams and other water harvesting initiatives, which is very costly," she said.

## 20 EASY WAYS OF SAVING WATER

**1. Shower Bucket** - Instead of letting the water pour down the drain, stick a bucket under the faucet while you wait for your shower water to heat up. You can use the water for flushing the toilet or watering your plants.

**2. Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth** - Water comes out of the average faucet at 2.5 gallons per minute. Don't let all that water go down the drain while you brush! Turn off the faucet after you wet your brush, and leave it off until it's time to rinse.

**3. Turn off the tap while washing your hands** - Do you need the water to run while you're scrubbing your hands? Save a few gallons of water and turn the faucet off after you wet your hands until you need to rinse.

**4. If it's yellow, let it mellow** - This tip might not be for everyone, but the toilet is one of the most water-intensive fixtures in the house. Do you need to flush every time?

**5. Fix your leaks.** Whether you decide to do it yourself or hire a plumber, fixing leaky faucets can mean big water savings.

**6. Re-use your pasta cooking liquid** - Instead of dumping that water down the drain, try draining your pasta water into a large pot. Once it cools, you can use it to water your plants. Just make sure you wait, because if you dump that boiling water on your plants, you might harm them.

**7. Head to the car wash** - If you feel compelled to wash your car, take it to a car wash that recycles the water, rather than washing at home with the hose.

**8. Cut your showers short** - Older shower heads can use as much as five gallons of water per minute. Speed things up in the shower for some serious water savings.

**9. Choose efficient fixtures** - Ventilating your faucets, investing in a low-flow toilet, choosing efficient shower heads, and opting for a Water Sense rated dishwasher and washing machine can add up to big water savings.

**10. Shrink your lawn** - The best way is to lose the lawn completely and go for an xeriscaped landscape that incorporates water wise ground cover, succulents, and other plants that thrive in drought conditions.

**11. Don't run the dishwasher or washing machine until it's full** - Those half-loads add up to gallons and gallons of wasted water.

**12. Keep an eye on your bill to spot leaks** - If your water bill spikes suddenly, there's a good chance that a leak is the culprit. Call in a plumber to check your lines to save water and cash!

**13. Install a rain barrel** - Rainwater harvesting is a great way to keep your plants hydrated without turning on the hose or sprinkler.

**14. Flush with less** - Older toilets use a lot of water. You can reduce your usage by sinking a half gallon jug of water in the toilet tank. Do NOT use a brick, because it will break down and the sediment can damage your tank.

**15. Water outdoor plants in the early morning** - You'll need less water, since cooler morning temperatures mean losing less water to evaporation. It's not a great idea to water in the evenings, since this can promote mold growth.

**16. Hand-washing a lot of dishes?** - Fill up your sink with water, instead of letting it run the whole time that you're scrubbing.

**17. Use less electricity** - Power plants use thousands of gallons of water to cool. Do your part to conserve power, and you're indirectly saving water, too!

**18. Wash pets outdoors** - That way, you're watering your yard while you're cleaning your pup. Just make sure that the soap you're using isn't harmful to your plants!

**19. Skip the shower from time to time** - Do you really need to shower multiple times a day or even daily? Skipping even one shower a week adds up to big water savings.

**20. Re-use grey water** - Check to make sure that this is legal where you live, but in some areas you can do things like re-route the runoff from your clothes washer and use that water for things like flushing the toilet.





# WORLD WATER DAY 2019

22 MARCH 2019



**I**n as much as the world has developed in so many ways, billions of people are still living without safe water.

Marginalized groups comprising women, children, refugees, indigenous peoples, disabled people and many others are often overlooked, and sometimes face discrimination, as they try to access and manage the safe water they need. It is therefore important to advocate for the inclusion of all stakeholders in the planning and implementation of water development interventions.

Serious investments and interventions have been committed by the Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE) to the development of water infrastructure and addressing water related problems but the subsequent benefits have not matched what was initially anticipated. Such occurrences are a result of inadequate inclusion of the relevant stakeholders concerned. The sustainability of water development interventions is hugely dependent on the

inclusion of the local people at all levels in envisioning, planning, design and implementation of initiatives to address water related problems. Sustainable development involves conducting economic development without depletion of natural resources and with consideration of the needs of future generations. In essence "Leaving No One Behind" involves considering the current water needs for everyone including the needs of future generations.

The theme for the 2019 World Water Day is an adaptation of the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This year's theme emphasizes that as sustainable development progresses, everyone must benefit. Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) includes a target to ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all by 2030. Synonymously, this means leaving no one behind.

According to UNDP (2019), 1.8 billion people globally use a source of drinking water that is

fecally contaminated. This figure is a clear highlight that we still have many people left behind in terms of the provision of access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and eradication of open defecation as stated under SDG 6. The government of Eswatini has invested a significant amount of money in developing water and sanitation related initiatives. However, some rural communities still suffer water scarcity which also expose them to water borne diseases. Regulatory and legal frameworks must recognise the right to water for all people, and sufficient funding must be fairly and effectively targeted to those who need it the most. To 'leave no one behind', we must focus our efforts towards including people who have been marginalized. Water services must meet the needs of marginalized groups and their voices must be heard in decision-making processes.

ESWADE has implemented various interventions that seek to address water development problems in the country. A substantial contribution towards achievement of sustainable development goal number 6 has been made through availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all in the provision of potable water supply to rural communities. ESWADE's LUSIP I & II projects acknowledge that every homestead in the project development area should be provided with potable water. In achievement or contribution towards this year's theme, a total of six community potable water supply schemes have been constructed in the LUSIP I project covering a population of 25,654 people.

The LUSIP II plans to provide a total of six (6) similar potable water supply schemes to benefit 15,925 people with two schemes having already been completed and covering three communities in the Ngcamphalala chiefdom. The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) which is people-centred and focusing on projects that meet basic needs such as food, energy, clean water and sanitation, healthcare and education, has played a huge role in ensuring that potable water is available for all in the LUSIP Project

Development Areas by financing most of these schemes. The LUSIP II will strive to get more of such funding to ensure that the other Chiefdoms are also provided with potable water.

Such initiatives involve bulk water infrastructure development projects such as the LUSIP I at Siphofaneni and the LUSIP II extension. These projects form a significant part of the water development projects in the country and it has yielded an enormous positive impact in the livelihoods of the benefiting population most of which was living below the poverty line.

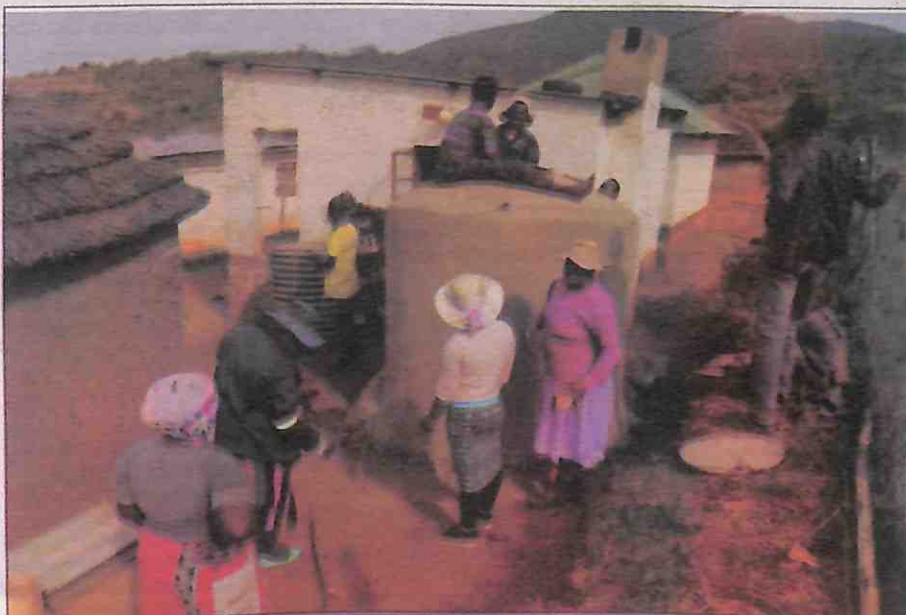
The Smallholder Market-Led Project (SMLP) is also implementing rainwater harvesting initiatives at farm and household level across 37 chiefdoms in the country. This initiative is aimed at improving water availability to meet household water needs and is targeted at households in the rural areas where acute water scarcity is experienced. To date a total of 850 households from Qomintaba, Lulakeni and Nkonjwa Chiefdoms have benefited from this initiative. This is an ongoing project and other Chiefdoms that are yet to receive this form of assistance are Lulakeni and Luhlanyeni.

ESWADE through SMLP addresses the problem of water scarcity by promoting microscale (household level) and macroscale (basin level) rainwater harvesting through the construction of ferrocement tanks for storing domestic water and earth dams to support crop production. The ESWADE development model is accurately in line with this year's theme of the World Water Day in the sense that all ESWADE project initiatives are based on the Chiefdom Development Plan (CDP) which is developed by the people. ESWADE's approach to water development is designed to be people driven, the people are at the forefront of their development hence ensuring sustainability and "leaving no one behind".

**"Leaving No One Behind"**



Community members help in the construction of a ferro cement tank



Community members from Nzameya Chiefdom constructing a ferro cement tank at household level



A finished product of a water ferrocement



# WORLD *Water* DAY TWENTY 19

CHARITY  
**GOLF**  
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## ON THIS DAY

...March 22

**1457** - Gutenberg Bible became the first printed book.

**1622** - Indians attacked a group of colonist in the James River area of Virginia. 347 residents were killed.

**1630** - The first legislation to prohibit gambling was enacted. It was in Boston, MA.

**1638** - Anne Hutchinson, a religious dissident, was expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

**1719** - Frederick William abolished serfdom on crown property in Prussia.

**1733** - Joseph Priestly invented carbonated water (seltzer).

**1765** - The Stamp Act was passed. It was the first direct British tax on the American colonists. It was repealed on March 17, 1766.

**1775** - Edmund Burke presented his 13 articles to the English parliament.

**1790** - Thomas Jefferson became the first US Secretary of State.

**1794** - The US Congress banned US https://on-this-day.com/sells from supplying slaves to other countries.

**1822** - New York Horticultural Society was founded.

**1841** - Englishman Orlando Jones patented cornstarch.

**1871** - William Holden of North Carolina became the first governor to be removed by impeachment.

**1872** - Illinois became the first state to require sexual equality in employment.

**1873** - Slavery was abolished in Puerto Rico.

**1874** - The Young Men's Hebrew Association was organised in New York City.

**1882** - The US Congress outlawed polygamy.

**1888** - The English Football League was established.

**1894** - The first playoff competition for the Stanley Cup began. Montreal played Ottawa.

**1895** - Auguste and Louis Lumiere showed their first movie to an invited audience in Paris.

**1901** - Japan proclaimed that it was determined to keep Russia from encroaching on Korea.

**1902** - Great Britain and Persia agreed to link Europe and India by telegraph.

**1903** - Niagara Falls ran out of water due to a drought.

**1903** - In Columbia, the region near Galera De Zamba was devastated by a volcanic eruption.

**1904** - The first color photograph was published in the London Daily Illustrated Mirror.

**1905** - Child miners in Britain received a maximum 8-hour workday.

**1906** - France lost the first ever rugby game ever played against Britain.

**1907** - Russians troops completed the evacuation of Manchuria in the face of advancing Japanese forces.

**1907** - In Paris, it was reported that male cab drivers dressed as women to attract riders.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Reese Witherspoon  
(Movie Actress) - March  
22, 1976 (43 years old)



Matthew Modine (Movie  
Actor) - March 22, 1959  
(60 years old)



info@observer.org.sz

What's in Your Mind

## Features &amp; Opinions

Refresh What You Think

## THE PRISON SYSTEM, WHICH ALLOWS FOR CONVICTS TO SERVE LESSER SENTENCES

## SERIES - PART 6

Many people have been questioning why convicts are always released earlier than their term of their sentence expires.

The prison system and its laws allows this in the following manner:

1. A year in the prison system consists of 8 months instead of the normal calendar month that we know. For example, where any person is sentenced to 12 years in prison, they will serve 8 years in prison, effectively serving  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the sentence.

2. Commuting of sentences - the Prerogative of Mercy Committee is tasked assessing convict behaviour and may commute or "write off" a portion of their sentence on account of good behaviour of the convict. The normal portion commuted from the sentence is  $\frac{1}{3}$ . If the example taken above is applied here, then a convict will serve  $\frac{2}{3}$  of his 8-year sentence, meaning that they will serve +/- 6 years, which would be almost  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the original sentence given by the court.

In addition, for convicts sentenced to the death penalty, the commuting of their sentence would change it to life imprisonment. Within the context of the constitution and the prison system, life imprisonment is 25 years under normal circumstances.

cumstances.

3. Royal pardon - the King normally grants royal pardons national during celebrations such as the King's Birthday or Independence Day. The pardon could be carried out in the form of commuting of sentences or remission or complete pardon (cancellation of sentences).

All these factors combined result in convicts at times serving less than half their sentences and being released earlier than the public would expect.

Though it is recognised that prison should be a rehabilitation centre in which convicts are

given the opportunity to reform and redeem themselves, the early release system does more harm than good:

1. It results in the public losing faith in the justice system because they perceive that convicts do not receive the punishment they deserve for committing serious offences.

2. Convicts do not have enough time within which to reform and change their attitudes, resulting in them repeating the offence for which they had been convicted.

3. Victims of offences are traumatised by early release of convicts, and live in constant fear that they will be violated again.

There is a need to reform the prison system such that convicts guilty of serious offences are not beneficiaries of the early release system regardless of good behaviour.

It is essential that sentences are served fully to ensure justice for victims, and to serve as a deterrent for would-be offenders.

This is particularly important for victims of sexual and gender-based violence who stand to be beneficiaries of the newly enacted Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, which provides for harsher sentences and heavier fines.

In order for the law to be effective, the sentences should be served fully to ensure that "justice is not only done, but also seen to be done".

All these factors combined result in convicts at times serving less than half their sentences and being released earlier than the public would expect



## Women and Law

in Southern Africa Research and Educational Trust - Swaziland

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## MOM GIVES BIRTH ON THE ROAD!

**HILLVIEW** - Community members came together to help a mother who gave birth on the road on Monday.

One of the residents, Olivia Adams of Hillview rushed outside after her daughter told her that a woman was giving birth on the street next to the tuck shop in Southern Hills.

"She was screaming very loud and I could already see the baby's head," said Olivia.

Olivia said the woman gave birth to a baby boy.

"I covered her with a blanket while her sister removed the afterbirth," she said.

Olivia said the mother was identified as Fazlin Jonas of Lavender Hill.

"She only had a bag with tins and other items. No baby stuff and said she didn't know she was pregnant," said Olivia.

Western Cape Government Health spokeswoman, Monique Johnstone, confirmed that the mother and baby are currently being treated at Groote Schuur Hospital.

Olivia is now appealing to people to donate baby clothing, nappies and toiletries for the baby.

"If you would like to assist, please contact Fazlin's mother, Faeza Jonas, on 076 032 0273. Donations can also be dropped off at 13 Kepe Court, Lavender Hill." *Dailysun*



**STREETWISE:** A woman gave birth on the street on Monday.



## Your Religious Corner

Unpacking the diverse religious beliefs in the country

with Futhie Dlamini

## The Catholic Faith Part II

## LENT: A time to follow the example of Jesus Christ

**THE Gospel of the first Sunday of Lent takes us with Jesus in the desert, the place of the encounter and of the intimacy with God, but also the place of the supreme fight with the tempter.**

The aim of these forty days is that the Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, who went into the desert to fast for days, makes us live the same period of time to prepare us to "celebrate the event of the Cross and Resurrection – in which the love of God redeemed the world and shone its light upon history" (Benedict XVI, Message for Lent 2013).

The purpose of Lent is not for mortification. It is for the encounter with Christ at Easter. For this walk toward the Crucified and Resurrected, it is necessary to purify our eyes, our heart, and our mind, to look, love and understand others and ourselves as God does.

In this exodus toward God's land, prayer, "that is the effusion of our heart in the one of God" (Father Pius of Pietralcina), is necessary. "It is necessary for us to pray because prayer gives us a pure Heart and a pure heart knows how to love" (Mother Theresa of Calcutta).

A pure heart has pure eyes to see God. If it is useful to know the purpose of the number of forty days, it is good also to know that its origin is not in the Gospel, but in the Old Testament.

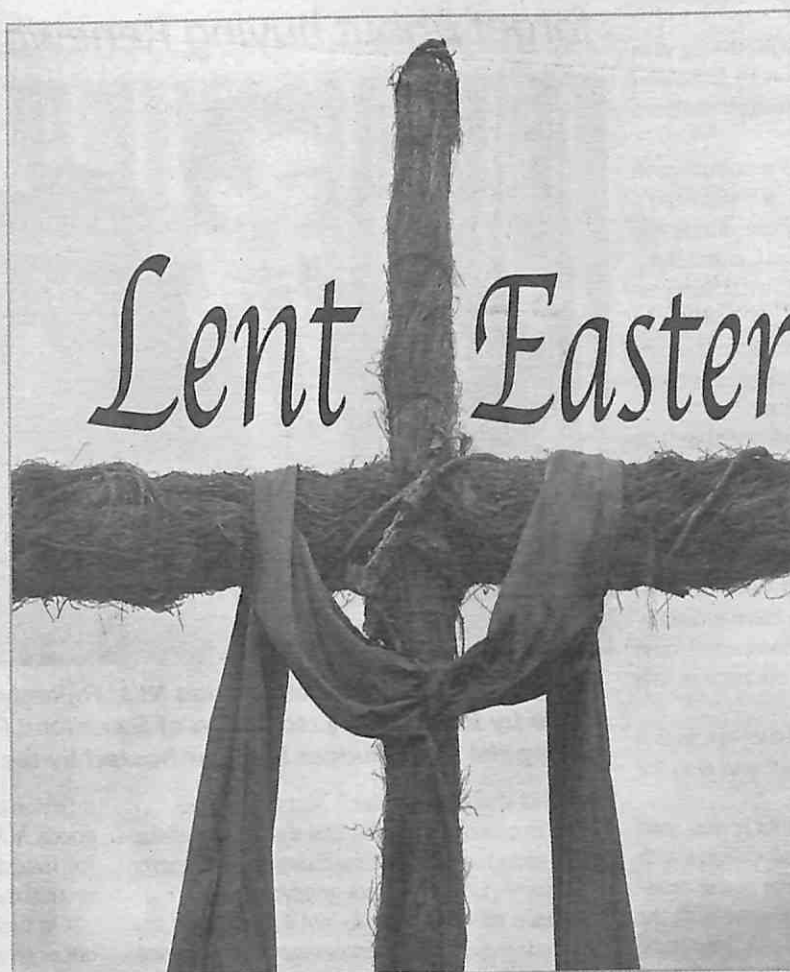
In Genesis, we read that because of the flood, the wise man Noah spent forty days in the arc with his family and the animals that God had told him to carry along.

He waited another forty days after the flood before coming ashore (Genesis 7:4,12; 8, 6). The book of Exodus tells us about Moses who remained forty days and forty nights on Mount Sinai with God and received the Law. During all this time he fasted (Ex 24, 18).

Also, Deuteronomy tells us that the walk of the Jewish people from Egypt to the Promised Land lasted forty years and it was a privileged time in which the elected people have experimented God's fidelity.

"Remember how for these forty years the LORD, your God, has directed all your journeying in the wilderness... The clothing did not fall from you in tatters, nor did your feet swell these forty years," said Moses at the end of these forty years of the desert (Dt 8:2,4).

Forty were the years of peace for Israel under the rule of the Judges.



(Judges 3:11,30). Unfortunately, after this period, the lack of the memory of God's gifts and of the application of the Law took over. Forty days were needed for the prophet Elijah to reach mount Oreb where he met with God (1 King 19, 8).

Forty days were requested by Jonah from the citizens of Nineveh to do penance and they were forgiven by God. (Jonah 3, 4) Forty are the years of the kingdoms of Saul (Acts 13, 21), of David (2 Sam 5:4-5) and of Solomon (1 Kings 11, 41) the first three kings of Israel.

**“The purpose of Lent is not for mortification. It is for the encounter with Christ at Easter.”**

In the New Testament, we read that forty days after his birth Jesus was taken to the Temple and Simon, at the end of his life, could meet the Son of God, at the beginning of his life among men.

Forty were the days that Jesus spent fasting in the desert where he went under the guidance of the Spirit (Luke 4:1-13).

While praying Jesus fed himself with God's Word using it as a weapon to win evil. After these 40 days, the Redeemer started his public life.

Forty were the days during which the resurrected Jesus instructed his disciples before 'finishing' his human adventure, going to Heaven and sending the Holy Spirit to continue it with us and in us. (Acts 1,3)

In conclusion, 40 is the symbolic number with which the Bible shows us the most important moments of the experience of the faith of the people of God. This number doesn't represent a chronological time but a necessary time to see God's work. It is a time to make up our minds and take responsibility without postponing it.

## TODAY'S WORD

## FORGIVENESS

Scripture reading: Matthew 6:14-45

Lack of forgiveness blocks access to the kingdom of God and miracle power.

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins (Matthew 6:14-15).

There are factors that cause unforgiveness; betrayal, bitterness, arrogance, pride, rebellion and lack of reasoning.

Unforgiveness is a cancer that feeds at you instead of the person you resent and is also a device used by the enemy to keep and cage you in pain. It can even kill you!

The first person you probably have not forgiven is yourself. More people have a lack of forgiveness towards themselves than towards anybody else. They are unwilling to forgive themselves and to recognise that God says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12).

If you are a believer, He has already cleansed your conscience from dead works so that you might serve Him, the living God.

It doesn't matter the kind of sin you might have committed but God cleanses us in order to not leave us with the guilt of past sin that should be dead, buried, and forgotten.

Obviously, we cannot have continuing sin in our lives and expect forgiveness. We have to be free from ongoing conscious sin and rebellion against God. But if we are walking in the light, and walking in forgiveness, then the blood of Jesus Christ is continuously cleansing us from all sin.

The second person we must 'forgive', if we have bitterness, is God Himself. There are people who blame God because a child died, a spouse left them, they have been sick, or are generally struggling in life.

Consciously or unconsciously they think all these things are God's fault. There is deep-seated resentment; yet you cannot be resentful toward God and experience miracles.

You must rid yourself of any bitterness toward Him. That may take some soul-searching by asking yourself if you are blaming God for your situation.

The third person you may have to forgive is a member of your family or friends. You must get rid of resentment, especially toward those closest to you. All must be forgiven when resentments have built up in family situations.

All lack of forgiveness must be eliminated. This is clearly demonstrated in 2 Samuel 13. The Bible says; Absalom's sister, who was also called Tamar, was raped by Amnon, who was their half-brother.

Amnon was also David's eldest son. After the rape, Absalom waited two years, and then avenged Tamar by sending his servants to murder a drunken Amnon at a feast, to which Absalom had invited all the king's sons.

Absalom resented his father David for not giving his sister Tamar justice.

In fact, he became so bitter that he wanted to avenge Tamar's rape ordeal that might as well have resulted in him even killing their father David.

He went as far as rebelling against David by having sexual escapades with his father's concubines. Why didn't David punish Amnon for his sin against Tamar?

One likely reason was that Amnon was also David's son and that David had been guilty of sexual sin himself (in the case of Bathsheba) - therefore, in the case of Amnon and Tamar, he felt inadequate to judge.

Another possible reason might be that there was no witness to the crime. Amnon's friend Jonadab had carefully orchestrated the crime to avoid the possibility of witnesses; therefore, there was no way to prove the crime.

Regardless of the reason, Absalom took matters into his own hands. He avenged Tamar by killing their half-brother Amnon, though it resulted in many problems for himself.

Absalom lived away from his family for three years after the murder and then lived for an additional period in Jerusalem before seeing his father's face again.

Absalom would also later seek to usurp his father's throne, resulting in his own death.

He died without being king whereupon David cried for him and wished rather it were him than his son Absalom, all because of bitterness.

The tragic story of Amnon and Tamar highlights some of the problems associated with sexual sin and its aftermath.

No one should experience the treatment Tamar endured, and it is important to respond to such situations with integrity and justice. David neglected justice, and Absalom implemented his own standards, creating additional problems in the process.

Finally, there has to be forgiveness for anybody else who has ever done anything against you. It may be that your resentment is justified.

The person may have done a very terrible thing to you. You may have every right to hold a grudge against him/her. But if you want to see miracles in your life, it is imperative that you forgive.

Forgive them to the point where you actually feel yourself cleansed of bitterness and are actually praying for them.

If you do not, the lack of forgiveness will make it impossible for God to forgive you. Every miracle depends entirely on your relationship and loves for God the Father, so you can be able to pass it on to others. That relationship is built strictly on the strength of His forgiveness of your sin.

Forgiveness is the key and it is lack of such that most often comes between people and God. Go through all lengths and humble yourself to forgive that somebody. Forgive that baby daddy, colleague, friend, sister or fellow brethren. Let love lead. Remember, forgiveness is a positive choice that changes you!

## ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE DAY:

Prayer is the calling of God to all believers, it is our decision whether we respond or not. Once we make the commitment to seek God's face in prayer, He honours our decision by empowering us with a special outpouring of His grace, strength and physical stamina.

For comments/feedback please contact 79460345 or email [info@observer.org.sz](mailto:info@observer.org.sz)



# BUSINESS UPDATE

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## VITALS

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

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 21 MAR 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.1800	14.2300
British Pound/SZL	18.7382	18.8042
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.7667	7.7920
Swiss France/SZL	14.3088	14.3520
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3301	1.3462
Australian Dollar/SZL	10.1316	10.1702
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.6649	10.6992
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	16.1921	16.2492
Gold	1,318.3203	
Oil	68.79	

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Standard Bank

# VAT, FUEL TAX ESSENTIAL - FINANCE MINISTER NEAL

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

MINISTER of Finance Neal Rijkenberg says without Value Added Tax (VAT) Eswatini can forget about renewable energy sources in the country.

The minister was reacting to a submission made by Economic Association of Swaziland's (ECAS) Professor Mike Matsebula during the Post Budget Seminar hosted by the Central Bank of Eswatini (CBE) at the Royal Swazi Sun yesterday.

Matsebula stated during the seminar that the VAT tax would fall hard on the lower income earners and also promote inflation.

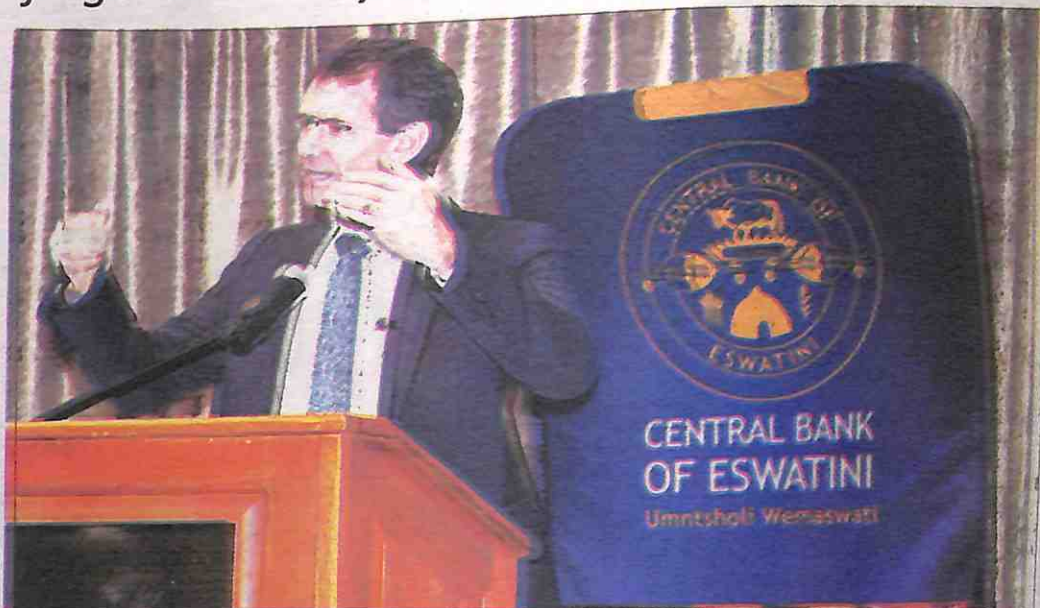
He implored government to work together with other stakeholders to find other measures for the level of electricity purchases.

"We need to find other funds available to purchase renewable energy sources as this would ease the burdens that come with VAT on electricity. Maybe government can have a discussion with the local office of the European Union to see how they can assist the country in this regard," he said.

He also touched on the issue of fuel tax, in that it would create a negative impact and also see a regress in the economy.

"I have no problems with the other levies, such as sin tax and all but I have reservations with the fuel tax. I believe it will give some resistance, especially considering the issue with the Cost of living adjustments (CoLA). Imposing this tax will just be a toxic mixture and gov-

*...Rijkenberg says without VAT, Eswatini can forget about buying Renewable Energy sources*



**REACTIONS:** Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg reacting to a submission made by Economic Association of Swaziland Professor Mike Matsebula during the Post Budget Seminar hosted by the Central Bank of Eswatini.

ernment should consider," Matsebula said.

The minister explained that a majority of the VAT went to coffers of the Eswatini Electricity Company (ECC) and not government.

He said this was mainly used to cushion the increasing electricity percentages from Eskom. "VAT does not have a negative impact on

inflation and has a zero tolerance of the cost of goods. VAT also opens renewable sources doors for investors and as Cabinet we are working around the clock to find a balance.

"On fuel, they may be an impact on inflation, but as government we need to find ways on how to make this easy on the tax payer," he added.

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Statements;
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**ATTENTIVE:** Dr Sikhomba Gumbi, Central Bank Governor Majozi Sithole, Finance Minister Neal Rijkenberg, Business Eswatini President Andrew le Roux and MP Marwick Khumalo, who is House Assembly Chairman of the Finance Portfolio Committee, listening to presentations. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

## Private Sector commends minister on VAT, CoLA freeze

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

While taxpayers feel they have been hit hard by the budget presented by the ministry of finance, Business Eswatini has commended Minister Neal Rijkenberg for, amongst other things, VAT on electricity and freezing the Cost of Living Adjustment (CoLA for civil servant.

Making his remarks during the post budget seminar hosted by the Central Bank of Eswatini at the Royal Swazi, Ezulwini yesterday, Business Eswatini President also Montigny Group CEO Andrew le Roux, who spoke on behalf of the private sector, commended the spreading of the tax burden to include the shadow economy, which will be made possible by the introduction of the consumption tax, the ease of doing business index, as well as the reduction of the regulation and labour law reform and also the tax appeal tribunal and tax reform.

The CEO said they had learnt from the budget speech presented by the minister that there was a realisation of the economic crisis and a firm grasp on the economic realities at hand that there is need for fiscal consolidation and the need to do things differently. He stated that this recovery could only be a private sector-led recovery and that government needed to get smaller to allow for the fiscal space that the private sector needs to

grow. "We have seen that there is a strategy; the first and most important step of which is to restore confidence with our lenders, our private sector and with our financial institutions. With the fully-funded budget being the first step, I believe that this has been achieved," he said. He, however, noted that the budget was still lacking in that it is long on some promises and short on specifics.

He cited the Corruption Perception Index as one of those promises by government. "Every person in this room knows of a story involving corruption. Yet, nobody has gone to jail and we are not allocating the resources to this scourge to show that we are serious about it.

### Adjustments

"There is more corruption, and more people think it is ok to be corrupt. Justice needs to be seen to be done.

"On the issue of CoLA, while it may be fiscally prudent to freeze cost-of-living adjustments, this will not solve the problem. We do not believe that Eswatini is going to be able to 'trade its way' out of this. The budget refers to Civil Service commitments of about E8 billion per annum, but once allowances, pensions, public enterprises and the like are included, this amount balloons to E 11.5 billion, or about 2/3 of our total revenue. This is simply not sustainable, and increased taxes are not going to fix this," he said.

The CEO highlighted on the issue of reduced corporate tax that business looks

for certainty, hence the need to know what the significant tax reductions are in order to best allocate their capital and resources. He added that tax reforms alone were not enough to attract investors.

"Attracting FDI and growing the economy: At this forum 12 months ago, we commended government for passing the SEZ Bill. A year later, how many investors do we have? 10? 5? 0? We have a raft of policy decisions and adjustments to make before Eswatini becomes the investment destination of choice in the region.

"As Emaswati, we know that Eswatini is a great place to do business (eg Montigny), but every indication is that for a foreign business, for fresh money and investment, we are closed for business. Our regulatory environment has reached the realms of the ridiculous, our processes for starting and running businesses, or even just opening a bank account has not improved: what takes two hours in Mauritius takes 30 days in Swaziland," he said. As a result, the taxpayer, investor and the consumer continue to pay for this, through stealth taxes, a lack of regionally competitive investment packages and incentives, and a lack of service delivery. I have the privilege of engaging with multiple development partners and agencies - I can give this audience the assurance that there is faith in this team, confidence in this budget and optimism for the future. And we look forward to the specifics," said.

## Establish factoring services for MSMEs growth - FESBC

FESBC Vice President Hezekiel Mabuza says it is time local banks and non-bank financial services establish 'Factoring' services to assist Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in the country.

He said during the post budget seminar hosted by the Central Bank of Eswatini (CBE) yesterday that this was one of the recommendations by FESBC that, if well implemented, would help free up credit and capital to the MSME sector in the country. "Most MSMEs are finding it difficult in maintaining a good cash flow position to meet their operational needs and financial obligations in respect of servicing their loans as expected. Factoring, as is well-known, will help MSMEs breath in some air of relief when it comes to the management of their account receivable because it has numerous benefits, some of which include tapping into unlimited cash. As sales increase, more money becomes immediately available.

"Moreover factoring is an easy process to setup in that accountable receivable financing does not require the mountain of documents generally needed to secure bank loans," he said.

Mabuza further mentioned that as FESBC, they would like to

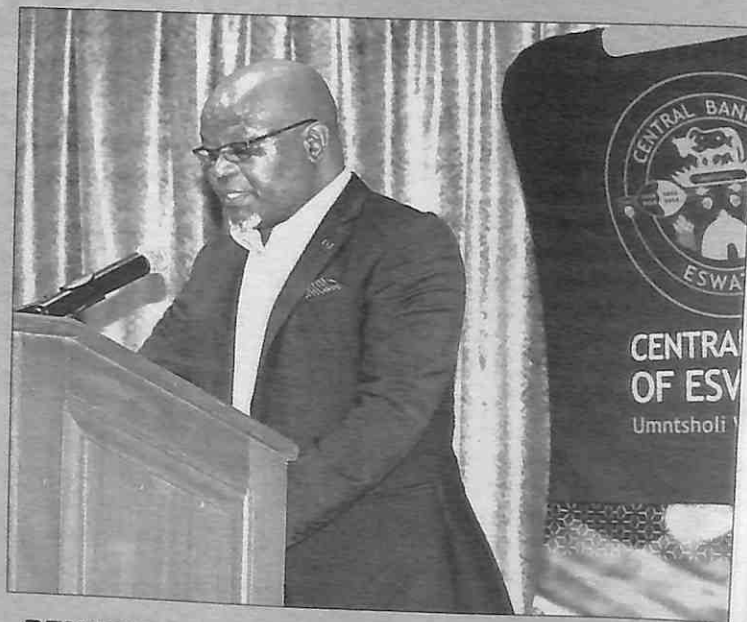
promulgate for the reform of the Credit Reporting Act.

"It should be taken on board however that, the Kingdom of Eswatini has signed into law the Act in 2007 to facilitate the activities of reference bureau, but has just about three reference bureaus that are finding it absolutely difficult in getting the cooperation of the various banks to share their credit information on consumers," he said. He added that they appreciate the generous support of E5.5 million from government towards the development of the SME sector in Eswatini.

"Our prayer is for the successful estimated E9.6 million projected for the end of the fiscal year 2019 to be strategically utilised," he said.

He, however, noted that their prayers for the SME community remain unanswered and that the fundamental questions from FESBC included, amongst other issues, a modification and reform of the available SME legislation, Parliamentary Acts, government and support framework provided to SMEs in the Kingdom.

"Just to give an example on this, by increasing the estimated SME budget by 100 per cent from E10 million to E20 million annually to achieve sustainable growth," Mabuza said.



**REMARKS:** SMEs FESBC Vice President Hezekiel Mabuza making his presentation.

## CSI budget towards youth and women empowerment

BY BAHLE GAMA

STANDARD Bank, through their Corporate and Social Investment portfolio, has dedicated a significant portion of the CSI budget towards youth and women empowerment.

Standard Bank's Head of Corporate and Investment Banking Betty Murambadoror said this at the Lioness Lean In event held at Royal Villas yesterday.

Murambadoror stated that women entrepreneurship continues to be a valuable need as they aspire to contribute to the growth of the economy of Eswatini and forums of this nature provide an opportunity to engage local women in business for purposes of sharing business acumen skills and taking advantage of regional and local trade opportunities.

"This commitment is in line with our Brand philosophy; Eswatini is our Home We Drive Her Growth".

"As a bank we are committed to going over and above offering exceptional banking services but establishing partnerships that address how best we can support local women entrepreneurs," she said. She also thanked the Lionesses of Africa team for partnering with the bank to engage and inspire local, phenomenal women entrepreneurs in a session that availed an opportunity to network with local business owners, as well as opportunities to join the broader network.



**EMPOWER:** Standard Bank's Head of Corporate and Investment Banking Betty Murambadoror making her remarks.



# Women entrepreneurs educated on business growth

BY BAHLE GAMA AND  
SANDZASIVE NXUMALO

**WOMEN** entrepreneurs were given the fundamental skills on how to operate and grow their businesses by founder and Director of Progress Stationery Senator Sylvia Mthethwa.

This was during the Lioness Lean In event held in partnership with Standard Bank Eswatini event organised for women entrepreneurs at Royal Villas in Ezulwini yesterday.

Mthethwa advised the women to believe in themselves and not listen to negative voices be it from their communities or families, and that as an entrepreneur one needs to have a clear vision and determination of what they want business wise.

"Have a vision that should be clear and determine what you want to do because if there is no vision, then there is no mission," she said.

She further advised that it was important to always plan and strategise.

The women were also taught on how to sell their brands and products, including how they must dress up in order to determine the future of the business.

She stated that it was important to be committed to success and never compromise standards by being calculated risk takers.



**PARTICIPANTS:** The women listening to the speeches at the event.

"Be a risk taker and also exercise diversity in your business. Do not sell the same product in order to make profit, invest in other sectors be it property or another portfolio," she said.

She also advised that even if one has a job they should not stop being entrepreneurs because income needs to be generated in one's life.

She further spoke about balancing the family life with the business life, whereby a woman entrepreneur is expected to plan their everyday life and work on a schedule that enables them to balance work, business and family.

Another speaker at the event was Busisiwe Ndlela, a Managing Director at BBX (Pty) Ltd who advised the aspiring entrepreneurs not to have the mindset that they are women but business people.

"You need to layback on the idea that you are a woman but see yourself as a business person and also learn to stand your ground, especially if you know what you want in terms of business," she said. She further advised that they must embrace the triple bottom concept because it concentrates not only on profit but the social being.

...65%  
SMEs owned  
by women in  
the country

STANDARD Bank Eswatini has revealed that there are 59 000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country and 65 per cent of these businesses are run by women.

Speaking at the Lioness Lean In event at Royal Villas in Ezulwini yesterday, Chantal Littler, who is an enterprise banker at Standard Bank, said despite the high number of SMEs in the country, about 14 000 which translates to 25 per cent, were registered.

## Challenge

She added that most of the women who owned these faced a lot of challenges, including social norms, self-limiting factors, male domination, lack of support networks and limited access to funding.

She advised the women entrepreneurs to make use of the income they generate in their businesses and also ensure they deposit money monthly into their accounts in order for the bank to assist them.

"You need to ensure that money comes into your account on a monthly basis and always speak to the bank in time for assistance because our objective in enterprise banking is to help increase SME's banking enterprises," she said.

## BUSINESS EXTRAS

### Lesotho's proposed tax increase on alcohol sparks protests

**MASERU** - A proposed tax increase of 15 per cent on alcohol has sparked protests in Lesotho.

Recently, Finance Minister Moeketsi Majoro proposed the tax increment when he presented his budget speech in Parliament.

According to Lesotho Times, Maluti Mountain Brewery (MMB) has raised concern that this tax increase would lead to an increase in price of alcohol and encourage smuggling of alcohol from neighbouring countries. MMB's Country Managing Director in Lesotho, Sesupo Wagamang, MMB remains a significant contributor to the economy through taxes and the employment opportunities it offers, as one of the country's largest employers. "It is however, concerned by the impending negative impact a levy of this nature will have on its business and the liquor industry as a whole," he said, adding that there are a number of implications associated with the introduction of this levy, many of which will put our business in an unfavourable position.

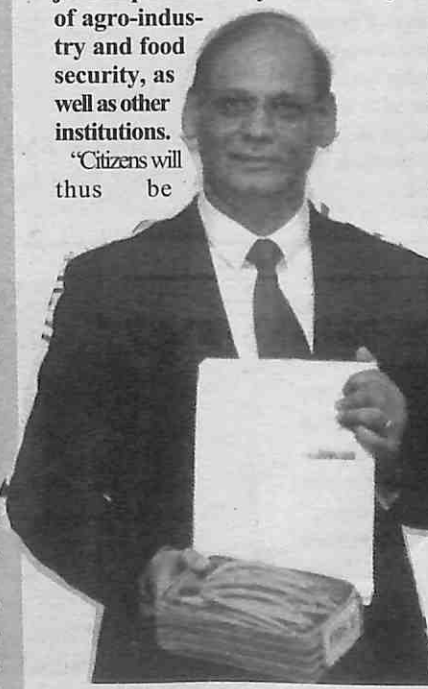
"The most important of which is the likelihood of consumers switching to informal alcohol and the increased opportunities for smuggling, which is contrary to the government's goal with this levy."

Presenting his budget speech, Minister Majoro said the government's revenues for the 2019/20 financial year are expected to rise by 3.4 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to reach 46 per cent of the GDP. *African Daily Voice*

### Mauritius ponders being an organic island

**PORT LOUIS** - Mauritius Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security, Mahen Seeruttun on Tuesday revealed that government is moving towards transforming the country into an organic island in the near future through different projects implemented by the ministry of agro-industry and food security, as well as other institutions.

"Citizens will thus be



**MOVING FORWARD:** Mauritius Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security Mahen Seeruttun.

encouraged to cultivate, as far as possible and without the use of any chemical product, vegetables in their backyard for their own consumption," said Seeruttun, while launching the Household Organic Garden project, at the Farmers Service Centre of Union Park.

"In order to reach government's objective, several incentives are being offered to planter to encourage them to shift from a conventional method to an organic one.

One of these methods, he stated, is the bio-farming scheme whereby government is financing all costs associated with the registration, certification and audit for those holders of a Bio-farming Development Certificate who would wish to acquire the international organic label for their farm produce."

According to the Government of Mauritius, Seeruttun also stated that the launching of the Household Organic Garden project is part of a sensitisation campaign so as to encourage and enable the population to use the organic method of cultivation.

*African Daily Voice*

### Botswana's economy grows by 3.4 per cent

**GABORONE** - Botswana's economy has grown by 3.4 per cent, eTurbo News reported.

According to the World Travel & Tourism Council's (WTTC) annual review of the economic impact and social importance of the sector, the research compared the sector across 185 countries.

The findings showed that last year, Botswana's Travel and Tourism sector grew at 3.4 per cent which is above the Sub-Saharan African average of 3.3 per cent; and it contributed US\$2.52 billion to the country's economy - this represents 13.4 per cent of all economic impact in the country, and nearly one in every seven dollars in the economy.

The research also found that the sector in the country supported 84 000 jobs which is 8.9 per cent of the country's total employment; it was primarily driven by leisure travellers, with 96 per cent of the Travel & Tourism spending in the economy that was generated by leisure visitors and just four percent from business travelers; and it weighted towards international travel which amount to 73 per cent of spending which came from international travelers and 27 per cent from domestic travel.

"Botswana is a jewel in the crown of Sub-Saharan Africa's Travel &

The research also found that the sector in the country supported 84 000 jobs which is 8.9 per cent of the country's total employment; it was primarily driven by leisure travellers, with 96 per cent.

Tourism sector. It is home to some of the most iconic tourism sites in Africa, such as the Okavango Delta, Chobe National Park and the Central Kalahari Game Reserve," said WTTC President and Chief Executive Officer, Gloria Guevara.

"I am delighted to see that Botswana recorded another year of growth ahead of the regional average, reflecting the excellent work of WTTC member, Myra T. Sekgororoane, CEO of Botswana Tourism Organisation, WTTC's first African Destination Partner."

She added that the country has long grasped the potential of travel and tourism to drive economic growth, create jobs and promote social development. *African Daily Voice*



# Focus on World News

Global News

## MAY'S DIVISIVE BREXIT STANCE

**LONDON** - Theresa May's attendance at the EU summit in Brussels yesterday was supposed to be the final appearance of a British Prime Minister in the European club before Brexit took place next week.

But after months of wrangling with lawmakers, resulting in a failure to get her deal approved by Parliament, May will instead ask her fellow EU leaders for three more months to get Brexit completed.

It is a situation that should have left May, the prime minister who took the job claiming only she could provide the fortitude and resilience to see Brexit through, feeling humbled and contrite. And yet on Wednesday night she delivered an extraordinary statement in which she tried to shake off blame for the collapse in her



**D-DAY: British PM Theresa May.**

Brexit plans -- and pin responsibility on British lawmakers.

Appealing directly to the British public through a televised statement from Downing Street, May said she was on the side of the people versus Parliament. "You, the public, have had enough."

### Tired

You are tired of the infighting, tired of the political games and the arcane procedural rows, tired of MPs talking about nothing else but Brexit when you have real concerns about our children's schools, our national health service, knife crime," she said.

"You want this stage of the Brexit process to be over and done with ... So far Parliament has done everything possible to avoid making a choice ...

You just want us to get on with it and that is what I am determined to do."

May's decision to create a dividing line between the people and Parliament -- at a time when lawmakers have faced death threats and abuse over Brexit -- enraged politicians on all sides on Wednesday, and justifiably so. From someone whose authority is already weakened by her failure to seal the Brexit deal, these comments could be her undoing.

For a start, they have already, apparently, cost her deal yet more votes in the House of Commons, when she has been trying to reverse a three-figure defeat.

### Opposition

Lisa Nandy, an opposition Labour lawmaker who was understood to have been on the verge of backing May's deal, tweeted: "The prime minister's statement was disgraceful. Pitting Parliament against the people in the current environment is dangerous and reckless ... she's attacking the MPs whose votes she needs. It will have cost her support."

Nandy later said on ITV's Peston show: "There's absolutely no chance she is going to win over MPs in sufficient numbers after that statement. It was an attack on liberal democracy itself. ... I will not support a government that takes such a reckless approach." *Reuters*

## Taiwan president to visit Hawaii amid China pressure

**TAIPEI** - Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen will visit Hawaii next week on a tour of diplomatic allies in the Pacific, official media said yesterday a move likely to anger China, which claims the self-ruled island as its own amid tension across the strait.

China regards Taiwan as its sacred territory and regularly calls it the most sensitive and important issue in ties with the United States, complaining to Washington about transit stops by Taiwan presidents. Tsai will transit Hawaii next

Wednesday on her way home from an eight-day visit to three diplomatic allies, the official Central News Agency said.

Taiwan, which China deems ineligible for state-to-state relations, has formal ties with 17 countries, almost all small nations in Central America and the Pacific.

The island battles to keep its allies from switching their allegiance to China, which last year persuaded Burkina Faso, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador to forge relations with Beijing. *Reuters*

## Criticising Britain, Germany, Trump tears up diplomatic rules

**WASHINGTON** - President Donald Trump is once again tearing up the diplomatic norm of treading lightly in allies' domestic politics, with his team attacking Britain's beleaguered leader over Brexit and irritating Germany.

Trump, who has slaughtered so many sacred cows in US politics, has shown no compunction over lambasting Prime Minister Theresa May's handling of Britain's most sensitive issue, even as she sought to build a warm relationship with him.

With Britain mired in crisis ahead of its scheduled March 29 departure from the European Union, Trump said that May "didn't listen" to his negotiating suggestions and that he was "surprised to see how badly it has all gone."

His son, Donald Trump Jr., went further in a biting op-ed in the eurosceptic Daily Telegraph newspaper, saying that "democracy in the UK is all but dead."

### Ambition

The 41-year-old, seen as harboring future political ambitions, deplored that May "ignored advice from my father" and wrote: "Now, the clock has virtually run out and almost all is lost -- exactly as the European elites were hoping."

National security advisor John Bolton, who advocated Brexit before taking a job at the White House, was more diplomatic during an appearance on Sky News but said that Trump sought a resolution that "allows the United States and Britain to come to trade deals again." *Reuters*

## Karadzic sentence for war crimes increased to life

**THE HAGUE** - Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic will spend the rest of his life in jail for the "sheer scale and systematic cruelty" of his crimes in the war that tore his country apart a quarter of a century ago, UN judges said on Wednesday.

Grim-faced and silent, the 73-year-old stood in the dock as judges in The Hague said they had upheld his 2016 convictions for genocide in the Srebrenica massacre and war crimes throughout the 1990s.

In one of the last remaining cases from the break-up of Yugoslavia, the tribunal also increased his original 40-year sentence, saying it was too light for his role in the worst bloodshed in Europe since

World War II.

Bereaved family members stood up as one and applauded and cheered in the public gallery of the court after the verdict, which is final.

Judges at the original trial "underestimated the extreme gravity of Karadzic's responsibility for the most grave crimes committed during the period of conflict, noted for their sheer scale and systematic cruelty," head Judge Vagn Joensen said. "Karadzic's contention that he was a psychiatrist and poet with no military training ignores his extensive authority over Bosnian military forces."

The panel of appeals judges therefore "imposes a sentence of life imprisonment,"

he said.

Relatives of victims had called for a life sentence for the man who, along with his military right-hand man Ratko Mladic and late Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, was one of the main architects of the carnage in the Balkans.

"My soul now is satisfied," Emma Cekic, 62, whose husband Salih and many cousins were killed near Sarajevo, told reporters outside the court.

Around 100 000 people died and 2.2 million others left homeless in the three-year war, during which prosecutors said Karadzic wanted to "permanently remove Muslims and Croats" from territory claimed by Bosnian Serbs. *AP*



**STAND-OFF: US President Donald Trump has shown no compunction over lambasting British Prime Minister Theresa May.**

## BRIEFS

### PM Abe may meet Trump in April

**TOKYO** - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe may meet President Donald Trump in the United States in late April for talks on North Korea and Japan-US trade, two government officials and Japanese media said yesterday.

The meeting was requested by the Japanese side and arrangements were being made for the end of April, the Asahi Shimbun daily said, without giving a specific date. Two government officials familiar with the matter told Reuters that planning for Abe's visit was underway. A foreign ministry spokesman said an overseas trip by Abe had not been decided. *Reuters*

### Sanctions workarounds failing to soften impact

**PYONGYANG** - North Korea's illicit and highly sophisticated efforts to circumvent UN sanctions may have sought to cushion their impact, but they offer no long-term solution to the fallout of tightened economic isolation, analysts say. Sanctions relief was top of leader Kim Jong Un's agenda for his Hanoi summit with US President Donald Trump last month, but the meeting broke up without a statement or even a lunch as the two sides disagreed over walking back Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme in exchange for relaxation. The North publishes virtually no economic statistics of its own. *AFP*

### Investigators to hold news conference on Air crash

**JAKARTA** - Indonesian investigators said yesterday that information from the cockpit voice recorder of a Lion Air jet that crashed in October was leaked to the media and they would hold a news conference at 0830 GMT. The investigation into the crash of a Boeing 737 MAX aircraft that killed all 189 on board has become more urgent after a second deadly accident in Ethiopia. *Reuters*



### Nicaragua agrees to free opposition prisoners

**MANAGUA** - The Nicaraguan government has agreed to release all opposition prisoners within 90 days in a bid to restart stalled peace talks. Mediators said the government would free more than 700 people detained since anti-government rallies began last April. A crackdown on the protests has left more than 300 people dead. The agreement also called for sanctions imposed on Nicaragua by the US and EU to be lifted. Luis Angel Rosadilla, a special envoy from the Organisation of American States (OAS), told a news conference that President Daniel Ortega's government had agreed to release "all the people detained in the context of the protests." *AFP*



# Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

## Ramaphosa signs proclamation

**PRETORIA** - President Cyril Ramaphosa has signed a proclamation that officially establishes the 'new Scorpions' - a new investigating directorate to be based at the office of the National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) - which will investigate high-profile cases including state capture.

Ramaphosa announced the introduction of the directorate during his state of the nation address and it was then dubbed the 'new Scorpions'.

Ramaphosa's spokesperson Khusela Diko said in a statement on Wednesday that it was a move by the president to intensify 'government's campaign against corruption and state capture'.

### Focus

Announcing the plan for the new directorate in February, Ramaphosa said it would focus on evidence that had emerged from the Zondo commission and other inquiries. "The directorate will bring together a range of investigatory and prosecutorial capacity from within government and in the private sector under an investigating director reporting to the NDPP," he said at the time. Diko said

...to establish corruption-busting 'new Scorpions'



**NEW SCORPIONS: SA President Cyril Ramaphosa.**

the new directorate would investigate common-law offences including fraud, forgery, uttering, theft and any offence involving dishonesty.

It would also investigate statutory offences such as the contravention of acts relating to finance, intelligence, organised crime, combating of corrupt activities, municipal and public finance

management acts. Aside from allegations from the Zondo Commission, Diko said the directorate would also probe unlawful activities relating to the Nugent commission of inquiry into tax administration and governance and also the Mpati commission which is probing allegations of impropriety.

*Timeslive*

## ... He briefly fools SA into thinking his account was hacked

**PRETORIA** - President Cyril Ramaphosa yesterday morning uploaded an initially strange-looking image to his official Twitter account, which led many to believe it had been hacked.

Every single word from what looked like an ANC message appeared to be censored.

However, minutes later, a second tweet made it clear the first one was intentional, and was possibly intended as a reminder of how the letters of detained or imprisoned struggle fighters had been censored during apartheid.

The ANC president was playing this

apparent game with his followers in celebration of Human Rights Day, which takes place on the same day as the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960, an event that began to turn world opinion against the apartheid government.

### Responses

Ramaphosa asked: "What are human rights?" but much of the responses suggested people are currently more interested in having uninterrupted electricity supply and other services, which a few told him the ruling ANC has been struggling to give them.

As the morning continued, the message from the president became clear-

er, as the blanked-out words appeared.

The full message turned out to be a quote from late singer Miriam Makeba, whose freedoms were curtailed under apartheid.

Ramaphosa said the country now had freedom, and that was why he would be voting for the ANC.

However, not all his followers were equally convinced, especially after Ramaphosa got himself stuck on a government-run train for four hours on Monday. One user said: "Now the entire South Africa has their freedom of movement denied by the ANC and Eskom."

*Citizen*

## Court bid by disgruntled ANC KZN members thrown out of court

**JOHANNESBURG** - Two separate applications by disgruntled KwaZulu-Natal ANC members to force the holding of a regional elective conference have been dismissed with costs by the Pietermaritzburg High Court.

Two groups of members of the ANC's Moses Mabhida region - who claim to represent 77 branches which includes Pietermaritzburg, Richmond, Mooi River and Camperdown - went to court in October last year and in January this year, respectively, in a bid to compel the ruling party to hold their elective conference.

The branch members were seeking an order declaring that the decision taken between September 28

to 30 last year and communicated by the ANC's national executive committee (NEC) on October 3 prohibiting the Moses Mabhida region from proceeding to hold its elective conference, unlawful and invalid.

### Wanted

They also wanted the court to declare that the Moses Mabhida region was entitled and authorised to hold its regional conference last year on a date that would be ordered by the court and that the ANC NEC and KZN ANC provincial executive committee (PEC) be ordered and directed to take all "reasonable and necessary" steps to organise the sitting of the elective conference.

*Timeslive*

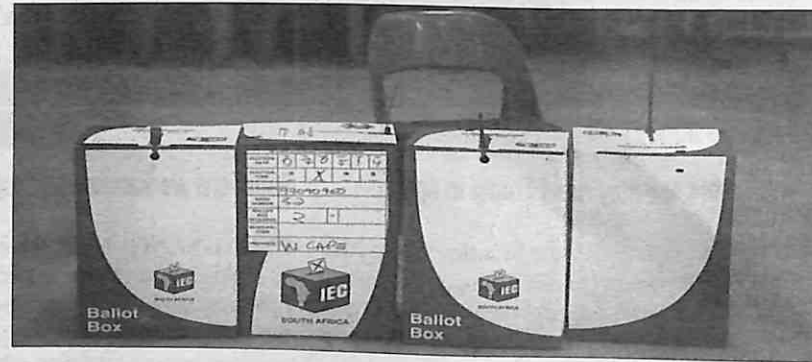
## Electoral commission to 'spare no cent' to get lights on voting day

**JOHANNESBURG** - The electoral commission has had to activate an expensive contingency plan to ensure voting stations have electricity on voting day due to load-shedding.

The commission said on Wednesday that the indefinite rotational power cuts were a concern for the electoral process.

Chief electoral officer Sy Mamabolo said ensuring all voting stations have electricity is 'not an easy issue' and is expensive. Mamabolo said the electoral commission has had engagements with Eskom, which announced on Tuesday that daily power cuts lasting as long as four hours were expected to continue for the next six months.

"We are going into a second-tier contingency plan to ensure that counting especially - because counting happens at night - is not disrupted if there isn't energy sup-



**PLAN: A contingency plan is being finalised so that voters and electoral officials are not left in the dark.**

ply in certain sections of our community," Mamabolo said. He said the contingency plan is being finalised so that voters and electoral officials are not left in the dark. "In order to protect the integri-

ty of the electoral process, we will spare no cent and no effort to ensure there is sufficient lighting inside voting stations on voting day," Mamabolo told the media on Wednesday. *Timeslive*

## Malema calls his EFF members' actions 'the highest form of stupidity'

**JOHANNESBURG** - Responding to a video showing EFF members tearing ANC posters off a wall, EFF leader Julius Malema responded to ANC head of elections Fikile Mbalula with an apology and called it unacceptable and "the highest form of stupidity".

He undertook that the EFF would personally ensure the ANC's posters were put back. Earlier, news broke that the EFF said they had seen and taken note of footage of their members engaging in the illegal removal of rival ANC posters. The statement came, ironically, on the same day the party signed an electoral conduct pledge undertaking to not do precisely this sort

of thing. "We categorically condemn such action and will take necessary steps against those fighters. We apologise to the ANC and pledge our commitment to a free and fair democratic contestation of these elections."

The footage had emerged just hours earlier and, in it, EFF and ANC members can be seen confronting each other. According to those claiming to have information about the incident, however, ANC members allegedly also tried to remove EFF posters, or were supposedly "provoking" EFF members by placing ANC posters next to theirs at the Mpumalanga, GwaQuka, township venue where the EFF will hold a manifesto rally.

*Citizen*

**CALLS: EFF leader Julius Malema.**

## Mkhwebane warns Letsatsi-Duba of jail time if she fails to declassify document

**JOHANNESBURG** - Public Protector Busiswe Mkhwebane has warned State Security Minister Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba that she faces jail time if she continues to refuse to declassify a document she needs for her investigation into Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan.

On Wednesday, Mkhwebane laid a criminal complaint against the minister over what she calls an interference with the functioning of her office. Last week, it was reported that the minister also laid a criminal complaint against Mkhwebane, accusing her of stealing

information and violating the country's security laws.

The State Security Minister suggested that the Public Protector doesn't understand the law, while Mkhwebane herself said the minister is breaking that law.

Mkhwebane's spokespersons Oupa Segwale said: "The minister has failed to avail to the Public Protector a declassified document which the Public Protector requires in connection with an investigation into allegations of a breach of the executive ethics code by Pravin Gordhan." *EWN*





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# POSTAL & TELECOMS on Observer



# LET US PROTECT OUR COPPER

Telephone copper cables theft denies all of us access to essential services such as communication, electricity, access to essential services like the police, banks, hospitals etc.

Telephone copper cables theft has a crippling effect on our ability to connect, stay connected and communicate with the world at large. We all rely on copper daily one way or the other and we all pay the price for telephone copper theft.

Telephone copper theft is the vandalising and removal of telecommunications copper wires to sell as scrap material, among other things. This is the act that threatens the economy and attacks EPTC on almost a daily basis. It results in service interruptions, poor quality network, dropped calls and service outage, to name a few. But the grim reality is that in the end, copper theft affects businesses, home users, shareholders and consumers alike, as it bites on the economy collectively.

## We all bear the costs as customers and the general public

The cost of repairing and maintaining stolen copper is huge and we all bear those costs as taxpayers. The money used to repair copper cables could be used to improve service delivery and rejuvenate the network rather than replacing already working equipment.

This, along with the money saved,

...Telephone copper cables theft has a crippling effect on our ability to connect, stay connected and communicate with the world at large. We all rely on copper daily one way or the other and we all pay the price for telephone copper theft



**EPTC would like to encourage the public to be on the lookout for Timbhungulu and continue to report cases of copper theft as we fight the war against copper theft**

## REPAIR: EPTC employees reconnecting stolen cables.

per theft to ensure that the country moves forward towards vision 2022 and providing telecommunications services to the whole population of Eswatini.

Together we can curb telephone copper theft. Through collaborative efforts with the community police and communities, EPTC has come up with a number of initiatives to alleviate telephone copper theft in the country. They include technological security measures, awareness campaigns and public incentives.

A Toll Free number has been made available for anyone to report any copper theft suspicions. The Toll Free number is 800 9999. Alternatively the public can call 999.

## Solution

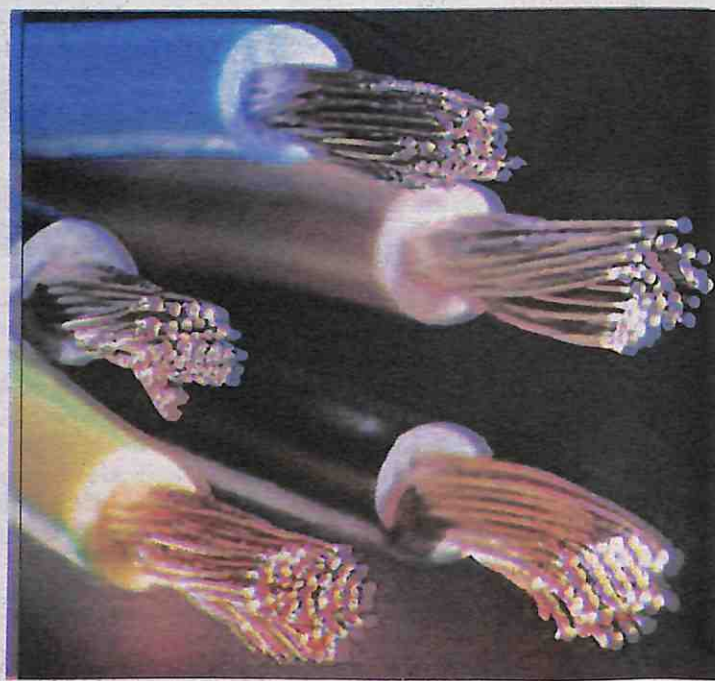
EPTC, along with other organisations including the Royal Eswatini Police Service has embarked on different initiatives to combat cop-

could translate into lower prices (tariffs) for making calls and connecting to the internet, for example. Because of the service outages that come with copper theft, the corporation's reputation suffers greatly.

Investors lose confidence in settling in the country as they doubt the capability of the country's telecommunications industry on keeping them connected to the world which ensures profits for businesses and jobs for us.



EPTC Employees repairing copper lines.





# Focus on Africa News

## Continental News



**DISASTER:** Aerial photos of the devastating impact of Cyclone Idai on Mozambique's city of Beira.

## Moza cyclone deaths hit 217, over 3 000 rescued

**BEIRA -** Mozambique's minister of land and environment has given updated figures arising from the deadly Cyclone Idai that ravaged the southern African country late last week.

According to the minister Celso Correia, the official death toll stood at 217, a figure significantly lower than a projection by President Filipe Nyusi who told state media earlier this week, that it could rise to 1 000.

Three thousand people have so far been variously rescued, most of them from atop building and trees where they were seeking refuge following the heavy winds and floods that came with the cyclone.

Meanwhile, it is estimated that 15 000 people are currently stranded as varied efforts are continuing to rescue them especially in the battered city of Beira – the hardest hit. *Africa News*

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**BEIRA -** At least 167 people were saved and reunited with their families on Tuesday following a successful rescue operation by members of the SA Air Force (SAAF) and IPSS Medical Rescue in flood-ravaged Beira in Mozambique.

This follows a trail of destruction left by Cyclone Idai last week, which displaced thousands of people after their homes were completely demolished or flooded.

The county's fourth-largest city, Beira is believed to be one of the worst affected, with Idai having completely cut off electricity supply and cellphone networks, and left water supply intermittent. IPSS Medical Rescue's Paul Herbst has been posting updates of their rescue operations.

"As more international rescue teams and resources continue to arrive in the region, rescue efforts are expanding and the impact being made is significant. This will also allow for some of the 'first-boots' on the ground to start to

### SAAF rescues 167 people in flood-ravaged Moza



**SAFETY FIRST:** IPSS Medical Rescue members carry children to safety from a SAAF helicopter in Beira, Mozambique.

withdraw from the area, seeking much recuperation back home.

"Many of the team members are both physically and mentally exhausted and operational decisions on whether to fly members out and back to their families, will be made during the course of the day.

"Thank you for the ongoing support. We are still shocked by the extent of the devastation. Mozambique needs all of the help it can get," he wrote on the IPSS Medical Rescue Facebook page. *Times Live*

## Zim gives public workers 29% raise, averts strike

**HARARE -** Zimbabwe's public workers have accepted a 29 per cent salary hike for the lowest paid employees, which the government says will cushion them against double-digit inflation, unions said yesterday and likely averting a strike in the interim.

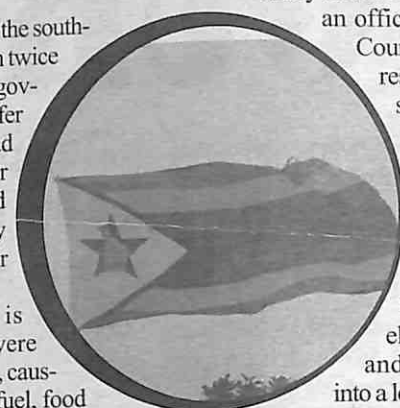
Civil servants in the southern African nation twice rejected a lower government wage offer in January but had been divided over a strike, which led to teachers briefly walking out of their jobs.

Zimbabwe is gripped by a severe US dollar crunch, causing shortages of fuel, food and medicine and dashing hopes among citizens that the economy will quickly recover after years of sputtering under Robert Mugabe, who was removed after a coup in 2017.

An agreement signed by the government and the top public workers' union Apex Council said "a cost of living adjustment of \$400 million (£303 million) will be effected across the board for all members of the public service with effect from 1 April."

That means the lowest paid worker will now earn a monthly gross salary of \$570 from \$441, said an official from Apex Council, which represents 16 public sector unions.

Zimbabwe's central bank last month ditched a discredited 1:1 dollar peg for its surrogate bond notes and electronic dollars and merged them into a lower-value transitional currency called the RTGS dollar. Public workers would also be able to import vehicles without paying import duty and the government will provide buses to transport the workers, the agreement said. *Africa Daily Voice*



## Tunisia, France in an exercise of consultation and exchange of views

**TUNIS --** Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi on Tuesday received visiting French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, a presidency statement said.

The two-day visit of Le Drian is part of monitoring the implementation of a road map in several areas of bilateral cooperation.

Regional and international issues of common interest will be discussed, especially the security situation in Algeria and Libya.

"During the meeting, Essebsi said Tunisia is following with great interest the political development in Libya and spares no effort to invite the Libyan brothers to continue the dialogue," the statement said.

Le Drian said France appreciated the major role played by Tunisia in ensuring the security and stability of the region, especially with regard to the Libyan issue.

"During the meeting, Essebsi said Tunisia is following with great interest the political development in Libya and spares no effort to invite the Libyan brothers to continue the dialogue,"

"Tunisia is in the front line in face of the Libyan crisis and it is also a valuable partner in our efforts to resolve it," he added.

Investments and bilateral cooperation in areas such as tourism, culture, higher education and new technologies will be on the agenda of the visit. *Africa Daily Voice*

## BRIEFS

### IEC promises free and fair election

**JOHANNESBURG -** The South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission's (IEC) on Wednesday said the assurance of a free and fair election was the responsibility of every South African and not just the IEC. This was revealed when the political parties who are set to contest the 2019 national and provincial elections vowed to uphold the IEC Code of Conduct while campaigning in the run up to the 8 May polls. "It is everybody's business. It is our responsibility as citizens of this country. It is the responsibility of the leaders of this country," said IEC Chairperson Glen Mashinini while addressing delegates. *Africa Daily Voice*

### POPE urges support for SA cyclone victims

**VATICAN CITY -** Pope Francis expressed his pain on Wednesday at the devastation wrought by Cyclone Idai in southern Africa and called for "comfort and support" for victims of the disaster. "Great floods have sown grief and devastation in various regions of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi," he said, addressing thousands of the faithful in Saint Peter's Square. "To those dear people I express my pain and my closeness," he added. "I entrust the many victims and their families to the mercy of God and I implore comfort and support for those affected by this calamity."

*AFP*

### CAR reaches deal on new govt - AU

**BANGUI -** The government of the Central African Republic (CAR) and armed groups that had joined it in a peace deal have reached an agreement to form an "inclusive government," the African Union said on Wednesday. "The Central African authorities and the 14 armed groups (that) signed the peace accord negotiated in early February in Khartoum agreed to an 'inclusive government' in Addis Ababa," the AU said. The deal is the eighth attempt to bring peace to the conflict-ravaged, impoverished state since 2012. It was signed in the CAR capital Bangui on February 6 after negotiations in Sudan.

*AFP*

### Civilian deaths mount as US drone strikes

**MOGADISHU -** US forces have "dramatically increased" the number of air strikes in Somalia with several civilians killed by the powerful missiles, Amnesty International said on Wednesday, reports denied by the military. Amnesty calculates that there have been more than 100 strikes by US drones and manned aircraft in the past two years, more than the number of US airstrikes in Yemen and Libya combined during the same period. Researchers who investigated five airstrikes in detail reported that at least 14 civilians had been killed – raising fears the total dead in the scores of attacks may be far higher. *AFP*



# Observer Entertainment

New Reviews Star Signs Celebrity Watch Cartoons

## ISSA WEEKEND!

COMPILED BY AYANDA DLAMINI

### TONIGHT

#### BUHLE BUYEZA THEATRE PLAY

Where: Eswatini Theatre Club  
Time: 7 pm

Buhle Buyeza is one of the few of Eswatini's very own theatre productions. This production is directed by Sindisiwe Nxumalo.

The action takes place between the reign of King Sobhuza I (Somhlolo) and his son, King Mswati II. It is a turbulent era in Swazi history as the nation searches for safe land to establish the Kingdom of Eswatini.

For dramatic effect, the action follows their engagement with the powerful Zwide.

The action ends with the defeat of Zwide by the Zulus and the establishment of the peaceful Kingdom of Eswatini. This is a very interesting stage play. You don't want to miss it. If you miss it tonight, tomorrow there is still a chance for you.

Same time, same place.  
Pre-sale tickets are vying for E85 and E100 at the gate.

#### MOZAIK'S NOWHERE ALBUM LAUNCH

Where: The George Hotel  
Time: 7pm

He's been in the industry for years now, graced international

### SAVE THE DATE

#### The Soul Train & Thobs

Where: Déjà Vu Cocktail lounge  
When: April 6

#### All White with DJ Zinhle

Where: Ronde Vu, Esibayeni lodge  
When: April 20

#### Zipho's Birthday Party

Where: Solani's Shisanyama  
When: April 18

#### MTN Bushfire 2019

Where: Malandela, Malkerns  
When: May 24-26

#### Standard Bank Luju Festival

Where: Malandela, Malkerns  
When: August 3

'NOWHERE'. You don't want to miss this one. E150 gets you in.

#### FRIDAY HANGOUT WITH LADY ZEE, BANDZIE

Where: Solani's Shisanyama  
Time: 6pm

Solani's presents 'The Battle of the Sexes' as Lady Zee will be battling it out with DJ Bandzie on the turntables.

Supporting DJs will be the resident spinners, such as Dopedee, Bloss, M'euigie, Ayacity, Rhythmic Soul and Yung Yas.

It's free entry before 10pm and E30 thereafter.

### Tomorrow

#### AMBIENT AMPLIFIED GATHERING

Where: Roh-Deh-Voo, Sidwashini

Time: noon till late  
Oltymers Session presents the Ambient Amplified Gathering, which will feature South African spinners Todt Vogt and Nutcracker and Ambient Kraft Ensemble.

The gathering will also see Eswatini spinners such as Jazzinsoul,

Katz, Supa CDQ, The Bishops, Macdeep, Msakrie, The Curious Lounger, Lord Boogy, Ipileng, Master-Jack, Forbes, The Abstracts, Igloo Deep and Fela Kuru.

E50 gets you into the show that starts at noon till late.

### Gospel groups required to pay subscription fee

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

IN light of the new Association of Christian Artists of Swaziland (ACASWA) Interim Committee, elected on October 21 2018, all gospel groups are required to pay up the agreed membership annual subscription fees/ joining fees per Clause 7.4 of the Association's Constitution not later than April 23.

ACASWA Convener Mathokoza Mletwa, through a letter circulated to all gospel artists in Eswatini, said as the new committee, they would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture (ENCAS) for their valuable assistance and to other members of the association.

"Members are required to pay at the bank only, send copy of the deposit slip to the undersigned and keep a copy for production at the door of the AGM. No payment will be made at the door," reads the letter.

The letter also reveals that the association will hold its Annual General Meeting on April 28, commencing at 2:30pm at Caritas Conference Room in Manzini.

"No delegates from any group, old or new, which has not paid the due subscription for the year will be allowed into the AGM," the letter continues.

The letter also states that all candidates who would like to run for elections in the portfolios of President, Secretary General/PRO and Treasurer are required to submit their profiles/CVs, inclusive of spiritual parents' names and contacts not later than April 23.

**DO NOT MISS:**  
MozaiK, Supa CDQ and DJ Msakrie.



## SPIN FOR CHARITY

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

FOR spin lovers, the 2019 Spin Revolution is here.

This show will be taking place at Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre, Sports Ground on March 23.

According to one of the organisers Nqaba Ginindza, the Spin Revolution is different from the pre-

vious ones, as they have based this one around charity.

"So the 2019 Spin Revolution show is not like any other spinning event we've had, this one is based around charity, which is why we have been asking for old unused or unwanted clothes that we will gift the poor after the event," he said.

For entertainment, a number of artists will be there to render their

art of work to the attendees.

These include DJ Matanza, NYD, KB DA DJ, Zulu D, Nkamba Nkamba, The Scientists, Illa Penboy, Tripy King, Kangaroo and DJ Bunny, to name a few. "We've also incorporated several finest local DJs and performers for the after party. Will have a pre-party at Mcwembe," Ginindza stated. The tickets are sold for E100 at Celltronix Manzini, Mcwembe Fairview and Ezulwini Ocean Basket; the tickets will then be sold at E120 at the gate on the day of the event.





# BUSHFIRE PHASE 1 TICKETS SOLD OUT

STORIES BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

**MTN Bushfire Festival golden lounge and main arena phase one tickets are sold out.**

This was revealed by House on Fire Communications Officer Wandile Dlamini.

Dlamini said they were happy with the sales as they were proving to be better than the previous years.

"This year's tickets are selling faster than last year's. When comparing them to, by this time last year, they are up by 70 per cent," said Dlamini.

"The MTN Bushfire has become a must attend, the level in which the tickets sell out proves that the festival is appreciated and loved by many. I think it also helps that the event is a family friendly event so literally everyone in the family is catered for," said Dlamini.

Dlamini also said that phase two



tickets are still available at different outlets. Full festival golden lounge tickets are selling at E1 950, and the main arena at E900. Both phases one and two of the full festival for children tickets are still available.

Phase one tickets are selling at

E250 and the latter at E300.

Tickets for the festival to be held from May 24 to 26 at House on Fire, are still available at House on Fire in Malkens, MTN Service Centre in Mbabane and Manzini and Shaks at The Gables, Ezulwini.

## MTN Bushfire merchandise now available online

**MTN Bushfire Festival 2019 merchandise is now available online.**

This was revealed by Dlamini who said MTN Bushfire is more than simply a music festival, as all previous guests would attest.

He said through various actions, MTN Bushfire encourages participants, guests, and suppliers to #BringYourFire through various activations and engagements.

"One of the simplest and most popular ways to support this call to action is to wear your fire with MTN Bushfire's amazing range of merchandise that sees all proceeds of sales directly supporting the MTN Bushfire beneficiary, BoMake Rural Projects who support rural women, their families and communities through health, education and sustainable liveli-

hood projects," Dlamini said.

He said the merchandise reflects the theme for the year that of the moral compass that guides all to be active participants and advocates for positive change in the communities.

"This year, MTN Bushfire Fire Starters can get the jump on the queues and purchase the MTN Bushfire 13th edition Golden

Compass merchandise range now available online. The link to the store for purchases is <https://bushfirefestivalmerchandise.mysshopify.com>," Dlamini added.

## Kukhany'Okusha Zion Church to host summit

BY DELISA THWALA

**KUKHANY'OKUSHA** Zion Church will host a summit from March 29 to 31.

This project is meant to revisit and resuscitate the active role of men in church and communities through economic workshop and seminar.

The Zion Church in Manzini still believes in the active role of men in the church has to be protected as it still serves as the key pillar upon which any society or nation is built.

The overall purpose of the summit is to help churches and communities with an enhanced awareness of implementation of activities.

One of the organisers Reverend Sandile Dlamini said they want to promote attitudinal changes in churches.

### Perception

"We want to change perception of society towards money and currency around the church," said Dlamini.

The summit, which will be held over three days, seeks to explore all issues that have to do with money and church and in attendance will be Reverend Gideon Dlamini, Reverend Sipho Tembe and also a financial planner Zethu Shongwe.

The church requested the support of organisations in recruiting the kind of men that will champion the economic sustainability of the church.

**The overall purpose of the summit is to help churches and communities with an enhanced awareness of implementation of activities. It will be held over three days, seeks to explore all issues that have to do with money and church and in attendance**

## Miss Cultural, princesses AWOL at Ingwenyama Cup

BY DELISA THWALA

**MISS Cultural Heritage Nokulunga Dvuba and her princesses were not at the Ingwenyama Cup finals, which was held this past Sunday at Somhlolo National Stadium.**

Parts of the activities during the event were cultural dances and colourful showcase of the Swazi culture in different Swazi regalia.

During the festivities of the day, it was noted that the culture pageant queens were nowhere to be seen.

Speaking to the CEO of Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture Stanley Dlamini, he said the beauty queen was not needed on the day as nothing that pertains them was taking place.

The event did not require their presence as it was not for them but for the King. Therefore they did not



attend," said Dlamini.

When Miss Cultural Heritage Nokulunga Dvuba was reached for comment, she said no one told them anything about the event or their role in it. "We could have taken part in the cultural activities but no one told us anything about the event nor our role. I guess no one needed us," said the culture queen.

Miss Cultural is a programme for tinkhundla and other entities associated with promoting culture and tradition.

The pageant looks beyond a crown and sash and it is for the indulgence of culture. The goal is to breed a queen who is aware of her culture and heritage and must guard it.

**SHE WAS NOT NEEDED: Eswatini National Council of Arts and Culture CEO Stanley Dlamini.**

## JELELE FM BECOMING POPULAR BY THE MINUTE

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

**JELELE FM started fully operating at the end of 2018 and the broadcasting station is everyday gaining more listeners.**

This was revealed by Jelele FM PRO Samantha Nkambule. She said between that time they started operating and now, they are humbled by the response from Emaswati.

"Artists, label owners and producers see what our vision is and what Jelele wants to bring to the people and have been very supportive towards the growth of the online radio station," she said.

Furthermore, she stated that the station was popular that they have decided to add more shows for their listeners.

"Shows that we have that are continuously running include 'Walking Tall' with Bongani Shiba who talks to

industry pros about how they got to where they are. We also have 'More Power' with Mo-Cats," she said.

Nkambule said Eswatini's 'New Age' charts have also added their own fair share of growth for the radio station.

### Wisdom

"On Sundays we uplift the spirit on 'Bless My Souls'. We will shortly start airing a show with Mncedisi Simelane, author and motivation speaker to share his experiences and wisdom on what it takes to make it," she added.

Seeing that the station is making waves, Nkambule said they have plans to provide Emaswati with more local content.

"We want to celebrate and share all that's best for the Swazi. That means showcasing any talents that have reached out to us and those that we have discovered. We want to bring our Eswatini content to the locals' fingertips," said Nkambule.



**HUMBLED:** Jelele FM PRO Samantha Nkambule.



# MO-FIRE ON BEING EXPLOITED BY OTHER ARTISTS

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

**MO-FIRE, a group of three young talented singers, has claimed to have been manipulated by people who have promised to help them progress in their careers.**

The three youngsters, namely Masiko Dlamini (17), Mbukisi Dlamini (18) and Yandiswa Magwaza (17) claim to have been exploited by a number of people in the entertainment industry who claimed they were rendering a helping hand.

With a dream of empowering the youth, they decided to form an RnB group where they made few songs that saw them being recognised by an artist from South Africa, who they claim asked to use their song as he would feature them in his video in return.

Dlamini, who is one of the group members, stated that he (the South African artist) told them he would come back and make a video with them.

He further said that shortly thereafter, searching for greener pastures they would perform for a number of production companies who would promise to pay them and afterwards end up not giving them anything.

Mbukisi said with all they had been through

trying to make a name for them, they met a number of people who also played a great role in helping their career grow. He said the likes of Ray Dlamini from Ezakho Films asked to do their videos for them, Lutfo Malinga asked them to help him advertise his merchandise for him and Nigerian ITWALZ who liked their beats so much that he asked them to send him the beats promising to help with making them internationally recognised.

"We have recently been promised by gospel artist Linda Dlamini that we will be given a slot at the Biggest Braai this year," he said.

## Advised

He then thanked Lindelwa Mafa and Gcebile Mndvubu for playing their music in the Eswatini Broadcasting Information Services.

SWAMA President Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini advised artists who are still making their name in the entertainment industry to educate themselves on the jour-

ney they are about to take.

"It is not a secret that we have predators in search for people who lack information in such issues and talent alone cannot make you successful so educating yourself and having a mentor who is doing great in the field you have chosen is important," he said.



**MO-FIRE: Artists Mbukisi Dlamini, Yandiswa Magwaza and Masiko Dlamini.**



**POSE: The pupils took time to pose for pictures after trying on the new shoes they received.**

**LEFT - TRY IT ON: The rapper seems to be saying to one of the pupils.**

# SWITCH, FRIENDS DONATE SHOES TO MQOLO PRIMARY

BY DELISA THWALA

**HELP a child and change their future.**

This is what rapper Switch together with his friends are trying to achieve by helping pupils in their education through giving them school shoes. This is a project that he, together with his friends, started last year.

## Demand

Due to popular demand and the recognition that this project amassed at Lozitha Primary School, they saw it fit to deliver over 20 pairs of shoes to Mqolo Primary School, to the delighted children.

The rapper quickly made it clear that this project does not

necessarily fall under the 'Switch Brand' but it is him and his friends deciding to do good and fill the gap they saw.

## Project

"The shoe project is not mine but it is a plan my friends and I came up with to help needy children. It does not even have a name to show that it is just a small initiative by friends," said the rapper.

He also went on to thank the public for their support, saying words cannot even describe how he feels about all the support they have received.

"I'm thankful to everyone who donated for us and this means a lot to us as we could not have done it on our own," said the rapper.



**HELPING HAND: Switch posing with one of the pupils during the visit to Mqolo Primary School. (Courtesy pics)**

# Fakazi Samuel, Banele Dlamini lighten up 'Lifted' concert

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

**LOCAL gospel artists Fakazi Samuel and Banele Dlamini lighted up the Lifted 2019 Concert held at Roodepoort Theatre in South Africa last Saturday.**

This year's lifted concert was packed with talented musicians; Andiswa Mbatha from Joyous Celebration, Angel Gabriel, Charisma Hanekam and many more.

South African based musician Curt Hardy, who is also the host of the Lifted Concert, put together a high end production this year. This is an annual event and this year Swazi musicians represented the country.

"It was a really amazing experience and the reception was overwhelming," said Fakazi Samuel during an interview.

Fakazi mentioned that the South African gospel industry was really warming up to Swazi artists and Swazi music such that even the market is really opening up for Emaswati. Fakazi Samuel performed two of his songs 'Holy is the Lord' and 'Umusa waJesu' from his debut album titled 'Sabela'.

Poet Majaha Nkonyane also took the crowd by surprise as he was not in the line-up but the organiser Curt Hardy



**RENDERING: Fakazi Samuel and Majaha Nkonyane.**

asked him to open up the event. Nkonyane said he was excited to perform even though he was not prepared.

"It was an amazing experience, performing for such an audience was great and I really think it did a lot for my poetry career," said the poet.

According to the host, Curt Hardy who is also a gospel minister from the Caribbean, 'Lifted' was not a Curt Hardy concert featuring artists but a gospel collaboration of artists from different countries, languages and genres.

"The concept of Lifted is to give our aspiring artists the platform to share their music and to get that experience of sharing the stage and back stage fellowship with established artists. It is where the audience gets to appreciate music from genres such as jazz, praise, worship, instrumental and even reggae. There is English, Afrikaans and different vernacular languages to satisfy the taste of each person in the audience. There is even comedy and the spoken word," said Fakazi Samuel.

'Lifted' was started in 2018 where Nothando Hlophe, Banele Dlamini and Majaha Nkonyane blessed the South Africa audience.

The vision of this concert, according to Hardy, is to give artists more exposure and make lasting friendships with other artists as well as to impress on artists to keep pushing their ministry and promoting their music.

"The atmosphere was beyond what words can express and the Holy Spirit really moved across the theatre and people left blessed. Each artist had 10 minutes to minister and they all kept to time and so a concert of 15 artists was finished within three hours even with a break," Fakazi said.

# ILLA GOES INTERNATIONAL

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

**THE future looks bright for Illa Penboy.**

The award winning artist will be performing in a number of countries.

The rapper will be performing in Mozambique at the Cardoso Hotel on March 29, Botswana at Top High Gardens on April 7 and at Ebukhosini Resort on May 4 alongside hip-hop heavyweights AKA and Cassper Nyovest, to name a few.

"Having been invited to perform in such places alongside such great people is really an achievement. It feels great as my dream is to open doors for locals at international level and inspire young kids that no matter the situation you can make it if you believe in

yourself and put the work in. My whole life I was told I couldn't do it because my music was 'whack'," he stated.

According to Illa, he has achieved so much because of family, friends and fans that encourage him on a daily basis.

## Hustling

To upcoming artists, Illa advised them to stay true to themselves and their craft even when people say the craft is wrack as he was once told by fellow artists.

"When people make jokes about your hustle just laugh hard and then continue hustling hard to be successful. Let them waste their time while you work hard to perfect and master your skills. It is very important to know that after doing your best, you will be your best then people will start respecting your hustle," said the artist.







# Celebville

International Celebrity News

## Jackson wax figures at Tussauds not going anywhere

**NEW YORK** - Michael Jackson's wax figures at Madame Tussauds locations around the globe are NOT getting the #MuteMichaelJackson treatment, despite renewed public outrage due to 'Leaving Neverland.'

A spokesperson for Madame Tussauds tells TMZ, "The figures on display at Madame Tussauds reflect profiles that have had an impact on popular culture and that visitors expect to see. Michael Jackson has been and is

currently a feature of Madame Tussauds attractions around the world."



**NOT GOING ANYWHERE:** Michael Jackson's wax figures.

The spokesperson added, "We regularly monitor our choice of figures on display based on external events and visitor feedback. It will be kept on display for the foreseeable future." (TMZ)

## Jenner's over it with Woods, ready to move on

**HOLLYWOOD** - Kylie Jenner and Jordyn Woods still aren't talking, and at this point, Kylie's given up on making up and is moving on.

Sources close to Kylie tell TMZ, the former BFFs haven't made any progress in mending their fractured relationship over the past few weeks, and have been mostly incommunicado since Jordyn's appearance on "Red Table Talk."

We're told Woods' interview with Jada Pinkett Smith -- in which she

denied actually cheating with Tristan Thompson -- had the opposite effect of winning Kylie back. Instead, Kylie was more steadfast than ever that Jordyn wronged Khloe, and their friendship would never be the same.



**MOVING ON:** Kylie Jenner and Jordyn Woods.

Our sources say Jordyn's stuff is still at Kylie's guest house, but Kylie's ready for her to come pick it up soon so they can officially go their separate ways. Kylie's still open to being amicable with Jordyn in the future. (TMZ)

## I'm not proud of 'original slay queen' legacy - Khanyi Mbau

**PRETORIA** - Often dubbed the original "slay queen", Khanyi Mbau has come out to explain why she isn't proud of the tag and the legacy it holds, even blaming powerful men for fueling the rise of slay queens.

Talking on The Big Debate recently, Khanyi said in retrospect she was just a naive go-getter, whose ambition was used against her by a man in power. "I grew up in an ANC home out you know every single day when values are then viewed, you then realise that there are certain things that you need to revisit. That



**NOT PROUD:** Khanyi Mbau.

whole idea of saying that I am the ancestor or the original slay queen is really sad. I come from a generation of go-getters, women that believe that they want to make it." Khanyi explained that the real problem was with men in power, who had the resources to get these girls where they want to be but instead use that for their own selfish desires. "Unfortunately we belong to a society where those in power then take advantage of that because they have the resources and they see the hunger in young women such as myself. (Times Live)

## Gagasi FM apologises for Cassper Twitter moemish

**DURBAN** - Gagasi FM has apologised to rapper Cassper Nyovest after a social media blunder saw it like a comment dissing the rapper.

The trouble started when Cassper was scrolling through his notifications and spotted that the radio station had liked a tweet from one of his haters. He rushed to Twitter to put them on blast, even bringing clips to show his followers. Gagasi



**APOLOGIES:** Rapper Cassper Nyovest.

FM moved to quickly remove the like and issued an apology to Cassper.

The station explained that the moemish occurred, while they were scrolling through their feeds and mistakenly pressed the wrong button. You know, like when you're stalking your crush and accidentally like their picture from 500BC. (Times Live)

## Lady Gaga opens up about performance with Cooper

**HOLLYWOOD** - Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper captured countless hearts

with their Oscar duet of "Shallow." Since then, celebrity news has been buzzing with rumours of a possible romance between them. Now Lady Gaga herself has revealed the truth about the relationship with her co-star -- and the news may surprise you.

Specifically, everyone's been talking about the duet Lady Gaga performed with her fellow A Star Is Born actor Bradley Cooper.

During a respite in the award announcements, the pair sang 'Shallow,' a romantic hit from the movie. Their palpable chemistry wowed both the hall's audience and those watching at home. (TMZ)

**OPENS UP:** Lady Gaga.



## Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes' deep voice isn't fake

Elizabeth Holmes is being touted as a fraud of epic proportions in the business world, but there's nothing deceitful about her curiously low voice, so says her family.

Elizabeth, the disgraced Silicon Valley hotshot, is the subject of a new HBO documentary chronicling the meteoric rise and spectacular fall of her company, Theranos, all the result of Elizabeth falsely claiming she discovered a way to revolutionise blood testing.

Elizabeth wowed world titans like Bill Clinton, George Schultz and Henry Kissinger, partly with her intoxicating pipes. But, a Stanford professor featured on the doc and others say even Elizabeth's voice was BS, they say she faked it. Viewers of the doc made 'voice' the buzzword for

**NOT FAKE:** Elizabeth Holmes.



fraud. Elizabeth's family members tell us her voice is naturally low. We're told most people in the fam have low voices, including her grandmother. (showbiz)

## Palesa Morgan on Phat Joe age difference

**CAPE TOWN** - Model Palesa Morgan may be younger than her baby daddy Phat Joe

but she ain't about to stress over it. Palesa was talking to her fans on YouTube this week when she answered questions about her relationship with Joe.

The couple are expecting their first child together and live with Joe's 16-year-old son Brooklyn.

Palesa said she was asked about what it was like dating a man who had a child already, and explained that it was one of the reasons she loved Joe so much. "I adore him (Brooklyn) to death and he is part of Joe. He is

part of the reasons I love Joe very very much. It shows me what a great dad Joe will be to our own children, so it's definitely a plus".



**EXPECTING:** Phat Joe with Palesa Morgan.

She then touched on the age difference between herself and Joe and said it didn't phase her.

"He is a lot older than I am, Joe. So, I don't expect him to have not lived his life." Palesa has been gushing over Joe and in a post late last year for his birthday showered him with love.

"You know I'm so obsessed with you. I wish you a year of success in your business and years of health, and laughter. (Times Live)

## Kani to star in international Nelson Mandela musical

**DURBAN** - Several months after voicing the late Nelson Mandela in the audiobook

version of The Prison Letters of Nelson Mandela, actor Atandwa Kani has revealed that he is part of an upcoming musical on the life of the anti-apartheid icon. The musical, Mandela, will feature music by South African composers Greg Dean Borowsky and Shaun Borowsky.

Besides Atandwa, who wowed international audiences with his role in Marvel's hit film Black Panther,

the cast includes several South Africans, including Emmanuel Castis, The Lion King star Ntomb'khona Dlamini and Phindi Mkhizwe-Wilson. US star



**UPCOMING:** Actor Atandwa Kani.

Quentin Earl Darrington will play the role of Nelson Mandela, while Sasha Allen will star as Ma Winnie.

The musical is centered on Madiba's political struggle to end apartheid and the toll it took on him and his family. (Sowetan Live)

## WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST



TODAY



**CONFRONTS:** Sbu.

S'bu confronts his father and real truth and strong feelings are finally revealed. Mbomvu makes his move. Iris makes Jabu an irresistible offer. Fezile goes on a surprising and uncomfortable date.



TODAY



**SCAPEGOAT:** Lincoln.

Lincoln finds a handy scapegoat for Gabriel's murder. Hendrik chooses romance over common sense. Sibiya's anger at Cebisa turns to something more complicated.



TODAY



**PPEARANCE:** Mpho.

Mpho keeps up appearance. KK grows bitter. Skhumbuzo and Rendani's relationship is challenged.



TODAY



**BAILS:** Mzi.

Mzi gets Bash out on bail. Mapula finds out the truth about Dumi joining the 68s. Blossom and Keabetswe bond.



## PICTURE OF THE DAY

To all the men who says women love money, is bushiri a woman?



## TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

### Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Don't trust anyone today, not even people you consider friends, Capricorn. There are indications of deception all around, especially at work. Someone may be keeping something from you or even manipulating information to his or her own advantage. Be sure to check the facts of any situation. Don't take anyone's word for anything. This is a good day to take your own advice rather than someone else's. Aquarius Don't trust anything related to money or contracts today.



### Aquarius January 20 – February 18

Don't trust anything related to money or contracts today, Aquarius. This isn't a good day to enter into any kind of contract, whether it's starting an investment program, negotiating a salary, or changing banks. There's a lot of miscommunication and misunderstanding in the air. You may think you understand what you're signing, but you may not. Save legal and financial matters for another day.



### Pisces February 19 – March 20

This isn't the day for contracts or legal work of any kind, Pisces. You may think you understand everything about a document, but it's likely you don't. The atmosphere is ripe for misinformation and misunderstanding. You will be well served today if you keep to yourself and do your work carefully and systematically. The legal documents can wait for another day.



### Aries March 21 – April 19

Trust your instincts regarding anyone you meet today, Aries. There are unethical people around, and one of them may enter your circle. Entering into legal contracts or business or personal partnerships of any kind is absolutely out of the question. Don't even go to renew your driver's license, as you're likely to fail the eye exam! Stay home and save contracts and bureaucracy for another day.



### Taurus April 20 – May 20

If you wake up this morning and feel glued to the bed, perhaps that's where you should spend the day, Taurus. You've been working hard and long these past few weeks. It only makes sense that your body would rebel eventually. This is a day for rest and relaxation. The office will survive without you. Call in sick and then turn off the phone. You're likely to sleep better than you have in a long time.



### Gemini May 21 – June 21

Pay attention today, Gemini. There may be some unethical behavior occurring at work, and it could trigger some long-buried anger. You may have difficulty keeping your emotions in check, but you need to. Honest communication is the only way you can get through this day. Once you've calmed down, you might want to approach the person who's behaving irresponsibly.



### Cancer June 22 – July 22

Check and double-check any information that comes your way today, Cancer. There's deception and discontent in the air, which is an unfortunate combination under any circumstances. Research before you judge. Gossip is likely to fly around the office. Run for cover when necessary. You don't want to get involved in this particular round of office politics.



### Leo July 23 – August 22

Don't take your bank or portfolio statement at face value today, Leo. Financial errors are likely. Someone may want you to see things from his or her viewpoint, which may not be based on fact. Check and double-check important figures that cross your desk. You're the only one you can trust to truly work in your best interests. It's time to put your mind to use and work on your own behalf.



### Virgo August 23 – September 22

You won't feel particularly social today, Virgo. You'd be happiest at home with a good book, a good meal, and no contact with the outside world. Alas, such solitude isn't always possible. You may have to balance your need for isolation with obligations to colleagues. Part of your grumpiness might be due to a physical imbalance. Make it an early night and you will wake tomorrow with a new attitude.



### Libra September 23 – October 23

All isn't quiet at home today, Libra. There's tension in the air. You can't shake the feeling that someone is lying. You're a peacemaker by nature, so your inclination is to suppress your suspicions. In this instance, your instincts are right. The person withholding information is doing it for your own good and will come to you once the situation has been resolved. You can all laugh about it then.



### Scorpio October 24 – November 21

It's strange how past incidents can still cause such pain in the present. Today you may feel overwhelmed by memories of a particularly traumatic incident. No one is more surprised than you by your reaction. You felt sure you'd addressed this issue and put it behind you. Apparently there's still work to be done, Scorpio.



### Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

It's apparent that something underhanded and unethical is occurring at your job today, Sagittarius. Co-workers could try to manipulate situations and take advantage of proprietary information to use to their own benefit. Steer clear of office politics and refrain from participating in any gossip. Trust your instincts. You know who can and who can't be trusted.



## BABY BLUES

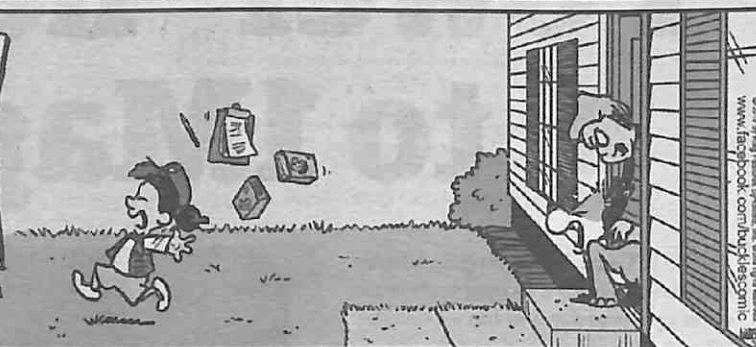


## BUCKLES

### The Buckles List of Dog Idioms:

#107

"all in a dog day's work"



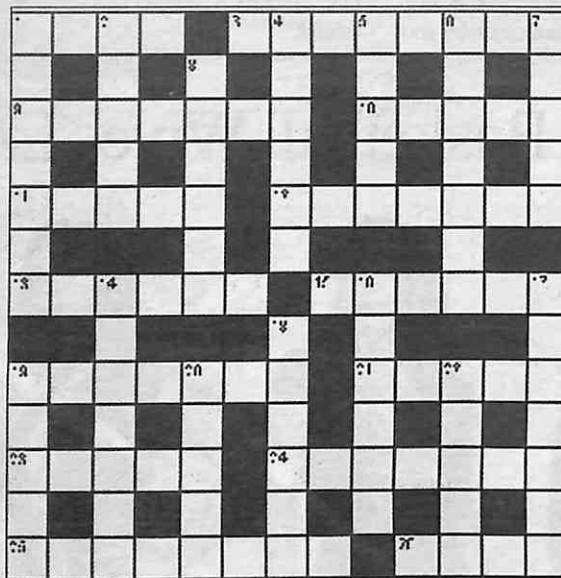
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## PUZZLE CHOICE

### True or False Crossword - 01

In this crossword there are two clues for each word. Can you work out which is true and which is false?



#### DOWN

1. Fruit / Vegetable (7)
2. Worldly / Callow (5)
4. Ask / Reply (6)
5. Animal / Fish (5)
6. Place where books are kept / Place where bees are kept (7)
7. Mountain chain / River valley (5)
8. Type of bird / Type of mammal (6)
14. Bicycle part / Plant part (7)
16. Enlighten / Bewilder (6)
17. Feared / Looked forward to (7)
18. Artist's workshop / Banquet hall (6)
19. Parts of a book / Parts of a clock (5)
20. Valuable item / Worthless item (5)
22. Speak / Remain silent (5)

#### ACROSS

1. Type of metal / Type of wood (4)
3. Unmarried man / Unmarried woman (8)
9. Dried plums / Dried grapes (7)
10. Type of bird / Type of insect (5)
11. Male relative / Female relative (5)
12. Raise / Lower (7)
13. Strong / Weak (6)
15. Complied / Refused (6)
19. Type of boat / Type of flag (7)
21. Stringed instrument / Woodwind instrument (5)
23. Young men / Young women (5)
24. Concentrated / Watered down (7)
25. Problem / Result (8)
26. Wet / Dry (4)

## LOL

Laughing out Loud

### A COUPLE

Boyfriend: Would you like to be the sun in my life?  
Girlfriend: Awww... Yes!!!

Boyfriend: Good then stay 92.96 million miles away from me

### USELESS FACTS

1. To "testify" was based on men in the Roman court swearing to a statement made by swearing on their testicles.
2. Facetious and abstemious contain all the vowels in the correct order, as does arsenious, meaning "containing arsenic."
3. The word "Checkmate" in chess comes from the Persian phrase "Shah Mat," which means "the king is dead."
4. The first episode of "Joanie Loves Chachi" was the highest rated American program in the history of Korean television, a country where "Chachi" translates to "penis".

## MOVIE QUIZ

### YESTERDAY'S QUIZ

1. Who was Rusty Ryan in the 2004 movie, Ocean's Twelve?

B. BRAD PITT

### TODAY'S QUIZ

1. Who directed the 1941 classic, The Maltese Falcon?

A. Alfred Hitchcock B. John Houston





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**NEWS**



# New season of 'Power' heading to 1Magic!

**GHOST, Tasha, Tariq, Angela, Kanan and Tommy return to your screens to cover up a murder and bury a daughter.**

The plot twist that wrapped up the 4th season of 'Power' has been enough to keep the drama on top of mind for viewers, who have to endure of anticipating the next moves for Ghost and the rest of the St. Patrick family.

We were left with two unforeseen bombshells; Raina, their young daughter, was shot to her death at her school. The target was initially on Tariq, who made a narrow escape at the cost of his younger sister's life.

The St. Patricks continued coming under much scrutiny from the FBI, who are starting to piece bits of credible evidence to build a viable case linking Ghost to his illicit drug trade.

Tasha has some decisions to be made. She could remain loyal to Ghost, despite him walking out on her to fornicate with Angela, who turned out to be working for the FBI, or she could take on her new lover's promise of a new life. The only issue with Prince Charming Terry is that a) he is a lawyer. This potentially opens up all kinds of loose gaps for the St. Patricks key position in New York's underground drug trade. Secondly, he's



not au fait with this damning truth, which also puts a target on his own back.

Ghost has to protect his son, Tariq, from being found out. How does a parent help his teenage son cover a murder? Of course, the whole murder shot

a big hole on the family's pretend 'perfect family' fantasy. Tariq looks to be far more involved in this world than his parents knew him to be, and it looks like their lies have blown up to destroy their family.



## The Makings of a Gripping Audition – The Voice SA

**SUNDAY'S talent had several of our viewers queuing up for their stan cards. Here's the likely reason why.**

There's simply no denying how much we've all been in our feelings throughout the Blinds this season for more reasons than one. While out-of-this-world talent has been a key element of almost audition, a strong voice alone can't guarantee a turn. That's why we decided to peep your reactions and parse the key elements a contestant needs to possess to win over even the most circumspect viewer and make them feel.

Nowhere was this more apparent than in Soné and Skhumbuzo's auditions.

The former got a four-chair turn and rapturous applause singing a song in a language many in the audience might not have understood or spoke fluently. The same could be said of Skhumbuzo's hauntingly beautiful, isiZulu translation of the Afrikaans gem, 'Sonvanger'.

### Break

This is a make or break call because it can elevate or sink your performance immediately. No amount of talent will suffice if you don't pick a track that suits your style and range in addition to showcasing the full extent of your abilities. We think Sbu and Emil absolutely nailed this criteria picking well-known, evergreen, pop tracks that complemented their voices perfectly. We'd even go as far as saying they took what the original artists did and elevated it!

Though this might be a BLIND audition character absolutely matters. A contestant's personality and demeanour will always shine through in their vocals helping establish that all-important connection with the Coaches. Let's not forget the very obvious fact – the crowd CAN see you and if they're thoroughly entertained that

**That's why we decided to peep your reactions and parse the key elements a contestant needs to possess to win over even the most circumspect viewer and make them feel.**

will work greatly in your favour.

Lastly, your values, story and charm are what will keep people rooting for you long after your debut and right through to the end of the competition!

We think The PJ Twins and Carmen took the cake in this regard on Sunday. Their wholesomeness, unassuming nature, charisma and strong desire to uplift others with their gift warmed everyone's hearts.

Things get even more emotional this Sunday as the remaining talent do battle for the last two spots, one on Team Riky and another on Team Vancoke. With spots at such a premium this is sure to be a recipe for a lot of heartache on everyone's part.

Speaking of heartache, if you're already sour because loadshedding wrecked your Sunday and Monday night viewing you'll be happy to know Episode 7 is now live on DStv Catch-Up. You might also find solace in the fact that you didn't suffer alone.

On that note, start watching right here and share your fave moments with us using '#TheVoiceSA'.

The Voice SA airs on Sundays at 17:30. Join the conversation on our Facebook page, and on Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag #TheVoiceSA.

## Why you need to watch Basketball Wives LA

### THIS is reality on another level.

If you think all reality shows are all the same, then you clearly never seen 'Basketball Wives'. Imagine this: a show that features some of your favourite NBA stars' wives, ex-wives, girlfriends and ex-girlfriends. Well, this is exactly what you get on 'Basketball Wives' LA and trust us, once you tune in, you'll be hooked.

Here's why you need to watch the show:

### THERE'S DRAMA

Things often go from zero to 100 real quick! There is a lot of drama, in case you didn't know.

You've probably had issues with the people in your life, and during those times, you've found a decent way of dealing with the issues. However, the ladies on this show tend to take things up a notch and things escalate quickly. Don't believe us? Well, tune in.

### THE LADIES ARE REAL

Here are some reality shows that claim to be 'real' but aren't quite convincing. Well, fortunately you won't be left doubting the authenticity of the show because the cast is just too real. They don't hold back when it comes to what they're going



through, or if they have beef with one another. You will see everything unfolding right in front of your eyes. You want reality? This is reality!

### THEY'RE LIKE FAMILY, SORT OF

Although they fight and argue sometimes, we know that deep down inside

they actually do care about each other. Just to show you that there's love there, on Shaunie O'Neal's birthday, Evelyn Lozada sent her a sweet message on Instagram.

You know, this is what besties do. Is it even your birthday if your friends don't post you on the 'gram?



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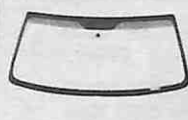
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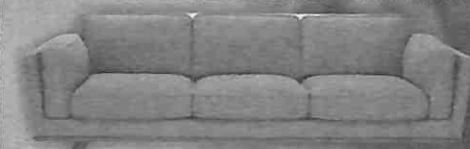
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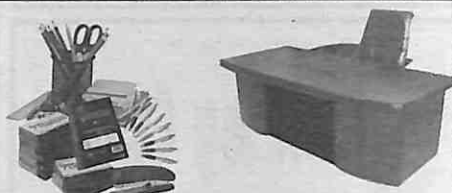
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## DEATHS

**Annah Ntombitodwa Simelane ulaMkhathwa**



Funeral: 23/03/2019  
Vigil: 22/03/2019  
Place: kuNtjingila

Kwatiswa bantfwanabenhosi bako Ntjingila, tihlobo, umndeni nebangani ba Annah Ntombitodwa Simelane ulaMkhathwa waFijiji (naye longasekho) kutsi akasekho emhlabeni utobekwa endlini yakhe yekugcina ngeMgicibelo mhlaka 23rd March 2019 emvakwe Mlindzelo koNtjingila-Kagwegwe-Enzwangaye ngase New Nazarene Primary School. Kwatiswa nebakubo Eliwandle naseMthombe lapho atalwa khona. Simemetelo sikhishwa bantfwanabenhosi bako Ntjingila.

**Jabulile Elizabeth Mdaka laMdluli**



Funeral: 23/03/2019  
Vigil: 22/03/2019  
Place: Timphisini

Relatives and friends of Jabulile Elizabeth Mdaka laMdluli are notified of her demise. She will be laid to rest at her home Etimphisini on Saturday 23/03/2019 after a night vigil on Friday. R.I.P Bhokiswako

**Isaac Nyosi Dladu**



Funeral: 23/03/2019  
Vigil: 22/03/2019  
Place: Mzimnene

Friends and relatives of Pastor Isaac Nyosi Dladu are notified that he has answered his call to the Lord. Memorial service on Friday 22nd March 2019 at 100 p.m at Manzini Full Gospel Church, next to St' Michael's School. Funeral on Saturday morning after a night vigil at his home in Mzimnene.

**Majahonkhe Brutus Nkambule**



Funeral: 23/03/2019  
Vigil: 22/03/2019  
Place: eMfeni

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Majahonkhe Brutus Nkambule kutsi akasekho emhlabeni ufihlwa ngeMgicibelo 23rd March 2019 Emfeni kaMgawaba. Kwatiswa bekhakhakhe kaMagagula Engayini, nebe khabonina bakaDlamini kaMgobo kuMalandzela. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Andreas Mthethphi Nkambule umnakabo lomkhulu.

**Mpini Miriam Dlamini**



Funeral: 24/03/2019  
Vigil: 23/03/2019  
Place: kaNcesi

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Mpini Miriam Dlamini kutsi akasekho emhlabeni lobekendze kuMankwefane Dlamini naye longasekho. Kwatiswa bekhakhakhe eMalangeni base Machegwini, ekufikeni nase Nkhamba nemndeni wasekhaya kubo kaMkhosi Gama eDlangeni nebekhabonina baka Nsoko kutsi ufihlwa ngeLisontfo, 24 March 2019 ekhakhakhe ka Ncesi. Siteshi kuka Ncesi emvakwenkonzo yemlindzelo ngeMgicibelo 23 March 2019. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumkhulu wakhe Tetema Dlamini egameni lemndeni.

**Andile Sithembile Dlamini nee Khumalo**



Funeral: 24/03/2019  
Vigil: 23/03/2019  
Place: Mbebeleni

Relatives and friends of Andile Sithembile Dlamini nee Khumalo are notified of her demise. She will be buried at her parental home Mbebeleni on Sunday 24 March 2019 after a night vigil on Saturday. There will be a memorial service on Friday at Greyhound Ezulwini at 12 noon.

**Tikwangu Lucy Motsa**



Funeral: 23/03/2019  
Vigil: 22/03/2019  
Place: eMkhuzweni

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani baTikwangu Lucy Motsa lobekendze kaMakhabane atiwa ngekutsi ngu'Motheni' akasekho emhlabeni. Utawufihlwa ngeMgicibelo mhlaka 23 March ngemuva kwemlindzelo ekhaya lakhe eMkhuzweni (kuNgulutjana) siteshi kuse Mhloshane. Simemetelo sikhishwa nguMandeni.

**Moses Thanda Mkhwanazi**



Funeral: 23/03/2019  
Vigil: 22/03/2019  
Place: Ebenezer

Friends and relatives of Moses Thanda Mkhwanazi are notified of his demise. He will be laid to rest at his home Ebenezer, Hlatikhulu on Saturday 23/03/2019 after a night vigil. Announcement by his children.

**Phikisile Elphy Dlamini ulaVilakati**



Funeral: 23/03/2019  
Vigil: 22/03/2019  
Place: eMgadini

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba Phikisile Elphy Dlamini ulaVilakati kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa eMalangeni aseMgadini, bakaVilakati Enkanyezini, bekhahonina kaNhlabatsi eMahlangatsha. Utawufihlwa ngeMgicibelo 23rd March 2019 emvakweMlindzelo ngaseSihlanu eMgadini. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngemalangeni.

**Ruth Batsane Dladu laMtsetfwa**



Funeral: 24/03/2019  
Vigil: 23/03/2019  
Place: Ebenezer

Kwatiswa baka Dladu nebe ka Mtsetfwa Ekutsimuleni nebe ka Lukhele eNkiliji natotokhe tihlobo kutsi Ruth Batsane Dladu laMtsetfwa kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ngeLisontfo mhlaka 24 March 2019 emuva kwemlindzelo ngeMgicibelo. Lowatisako ngu John N. Dladu indvodzana egameni lemndeni.



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# ROONEY EAGER TO SEE HUDSON-ODOI HANDED ENGLAND DEBUT

LONDON - Wayne Rooney is hoping to see Chelsea starlet Callum Hudson-Odoi handed a senior England debut after being drafted into the squad for the first time.

With the likes of Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Fabian Delph dropping out of the Three Lions' ranks through injury, the door has opened for others.

Southampton midfielder James Ward-Prowse is back in the fold and seeking a second cap after enjoying a welcome return to form in 2019. Hudson-Odoi has also been promoted to the first-team fold by Gareth Southgate at just 18 years of age. A product of a famed academy system at Stamford Bridge has seen limited game time at club level this season, but has made plenty of headlines.

Goal revealed in January that German giants Bayern Munich were prepared to pay £35 million (US\$45m) for Hudson-Odoi's potential, and exit talk remains as the youngster has not committed to fresh terms. Competitive minutes are of greater importance to him at present than a new contract, with it possible that his learn-



**HOPE:** Callum Hudson-Odoi.

ing curve could include England outings against the Czech Republic and Montenegro in Euro 2020 qualifying.

Former captain Rooney is looking for Hudson-Odoi to be involved over the coming days, telling Sky Sports of the latest exciting talent to join the likes of Jadon Sancho and Declan Rice in the Three Lions squad: "To be honest I haven't seen that much of him play, which is a

shame because from what everyone says he is a huge talent.

## Hofully

"He doesn't seem to be getting a lot of game time at Chelsea at the minute so hopefully with his call-up to the national squad he'll get some game time and there will be a chance to see him.

"It's great to see young players getting the opportunity to play for England and certainly over the last year or so, they've taken that chance."

Hudson-Odoi has taken in 19 appearances for Chelsea this season, scoring five goals. He has said of his selection by Southgate, having initially linked up with the U21 squad: "It's been a crazy experience but I'm delighted. I thought the manager was joking.

"I was shocked and then when I heard that I actually had to go over, I couldn't believe it. I was delighted. It's a dream come true. Now I've got to work hard, enjoy every moment and keep working to just hopefully make an impact when I get the opportunity."

## Goal

## Playing for Zidane would be a dream - Pogba

MANCHESTER - Paul Pogba says playing for Real Madrid under returning Manager Zinedine Zidane would be a "dream for anyone".

Zidane returned to the Bernabeu as manager earlier this month, replacing Santiago Solari.

The Frenchman, who left Real last summer after leading the

club to three successive Champions League titles, signed a contract at the Bernabeu until June 2022.

Pogba, who had been linked with an Old Trafford exit during recent transfer windows, admitted playing for the former France captain at one of the

world's biggest clubs would be a dream.

"Like I've always said, Real Madrid is a dream for anyone. It's one of the biggest clubs in the world," Pogba said in France's pre-Moldova press conference.

*Sky Sports*

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# Barcelona consider €80m Coutinho sale

**BARCELONA** - Barcelona are ready to listen to offers for Philippe Coutinho but a move to Manchester United does not seem likely, Goal understands.

The Red Devils have been strongly linked with the Brazilian, while a return to Liverpool has also been reported in some quarters, but a switch to the Premier League is not currently an option for Coutinho.

Goal understands that the midfielder is put off the idea of heading back after his family struggled to fully adapt to life in England, with Paris Saint-Germain appearing the most plausible option.

The Ligue 1 club are the only European giant outside of England's top-flight that have the financial means to afford the player's wages, worth a reported €2.3 million a month before tax, while the opportunity to team up with international colleagues such as Neymar, Thiago Silva and Marquinhos is likely to appeal.

Juventus, who are already committed to signing Aaron Ramsey from Arsenal and would struggle to meet his wage demands, aren't an option, while Bayern Munich, who would equally be put off by his wages, seem likely to sign James Rodriguez on a permanent deal. A switch to Real Madrid, meanwhile, isn't going to happen.

Despite PSG looking like an attractive option for Coutinho there has as yet been

no approach.

The Barca board would be willing to discuss offers of in excess of €80m (£68.8m/US\$90.8m), a significant loss on the initial €120m (£103m/US\$136m) that they paid in 2018 to sign him from Liverpool.

Coutinho was expected to be a key cog in the Barca attack alongside Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi, although it has not quite gone according to plan in Spain, with his stock having fallen dramatically in the 2018-19 season.

The Brazil international has made just 16 starts and 10 substitute appearances in the league in the current campaign, and hasn't completed a full 90 minutes since January.

Goal understands that Coutinho was not interested in leaving the club in the winter transfer window as he was determined to turn his situation around.

He has, however, failed to convince Ernesto Valverde that he should be a first-team regular starting every week and thus is set to consider his future once again in the summer.

Indeed, the 4-1 win over Real Betis last time out saw the Barca head coach switch to a 4-4-2 formation and start with Arturo Vidal, rather than the club's traditional 4-3-3, with Coutinho instead used as an 89th-minute sub. With 10 games remain-

ing in La Liga - where Barca have a 10-point lead over second-placed Atletico Madrid - and the Catalans also in with a chance of winning Copa del Rey and the Champions League, there is still time for Coutinho to turn things around and make his mark.

**Goal**



**ON SALE: Philippe Coutinho.**

## RASHFORD MAJOR DOUBT FOR ENGLAND

**LONDON** - Marcus Rashford is a major doubt for England's opening European Qualifier against the Czech Republic after missing full training on

Thursday.

The Manchester United forward trained separately from the rest of the England squad at St George's Park due to an ankle injury.

Rashford sustained the injury in the 0-0 draw with Liverpool on February 24.

The 21-year-old has been playing through the pain since, but is unlikely to play today after missing training a day before England kick off their campaign.

His injury is a blow for England having scored 15 goals this season, including two in his last three games, with six assists as well.

Raheem Sterling missed Tuesday's session as medics assessed him after what they described as a heavy workload last weekend but the Manchester City forward trained as normal on Thursday.

Rashford's omission could pave the way for 18-year-old Jadon Sancho to start.

The Borussia Dortmund winger is the first Englishman in any of Europe's top five leagues to reach 10 assists this season.

**Sky Sports**

**DOUBT: Marcus Rashford.**



## Zungu confident Bafana can do the job against Libya

**JOHANNESBURG** - Bafana Bafana midfielder Bongani Zungu says the players are feeling little pressure ahead of this weekend's clash with Libya and vowed to go out and complete their qualification job.

The stakes are high for Bafana in their final Group E 2019 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier away to Libya on Sunday evening in Tunisia, where a draw or win will see them qualify for the final showdown in Egypt in June.

Much has already been made of the senior men's national team's failure to secure their tickets to such major events, especially when it comes to crunch time.

However, Zungu has insisted there is no sense of stress or panic amongst the players or the technical staff, as they aim to perform at their best under less strenuous cir-

cumstances.

"We're looking

forward to a good game of football, but it's just another day and another match, which we just have to go out and play our hearts out to win the game for ourselves and our nation,"



Zungu told SAFA.

"Everyone is happy, and what I like the most about this camp is that everyone is chilled. There's no pressure. The coach has spoken to us and motivated us, not to feel too much pressure and just go into the match and play.

"As professional players, we want to qualify and compete with the best... We'll go out there and do the business."

**Kick-Off**

## Billiat ends 11-game goal drought

**JOHANNESBURG** - In late September, former Kaizer Chiefs coach, Giovanni Solinas compared Khama Billiat to Barcelona's Lionel Messi.

At that stage, the Zimbabwean forward had three goals and three assists in his first eight league games for Chiefs.

The Italian coach, who was fired after just 22 games at the helm, told the Kaizer Chiefs official website at the time: "Barcelona have ten players and Messi. Kaizer Chiefs have ten players and Billiat. Khama is the best player in the PSL and he's one of those rare players who makes the

difference."

However, last Friday night's long-range stunner by Billiat against SuperSport United was his first league goal in 12 games, having had an 11-game barren spell in league action. Since his goal on the October 27 against Kaizer Chiefs, it had been 945 minutes on the pitch in the PSL without registering. Although Billiat has scored in cup competitions during that period - once against ABC Motsepe side, The Magic FC in the Nedbank Cup and five times in the CAF Confederations Cup - his drought in the league has been a concern. **Laduma**

## BRIEFS

### Willian desperate to sign new contract

**LONDON** - Chelsea attacker Willian wants to sign a contract extension at Stamford Bridge but is unsure if they will offer him new terms. The 30-year-old Brazil international has a year remaining on his current deal and has been at Chelsea since 2013, when he joined from Russia side Anzhi Makhachkala. "I have one year left, but of course I want to play for this club," Willian was quoted as saying by the Evening Standard. "I don't know if they want me, but of course I want to continue here." Willian has won two Premier League titles and the FA Cup in his six years at Chelsea. "This club is very special to me," he added. "I won titles here, I have the affection from the fans and from the people that work in the club."

**Daily Mail**

### Man United subsidise away tickets

**MANCHESTER** - Manchester United have cut the cost of tickets for their fans travelling to the Champions League tie in Barcelona after claiming the Spanish club have charged 'excessive' prices. Barcelona had confirmed that tickets for the quarter-final second-leg at the Nou Camp on April 16 would cost the travelling fans £102, but United are charging £75 to their supporters. In response, United are charging Barcelona fans £102 for the first-leg at Old Trafford on April 10, providing extra revenue which United will then use to subsidise the away ticket costs. A letter sent to United fans from the club read: "FC Barcelona confirmed our tickets for this game were to be priced at £102."

**Sky Sports**

### Giggs explains why he rested Bale

**WREXHAM** - Ryan Giggs explained he had no choice but to disappoint Wales fans by leaving Gareth Bale out of the side that beat Trinidad and Tobago at Wrexham. Wales had not played at the Racecourse Ground since 2008 and much had been made of the national team's return to the north for the first time for 11 years. But Real Madrid striker Bale was among those missing as manager Giggs fielded a shadow side just four days before Wales' opening European Championship qualifier against Slovakia in Cardiff. "Gareth got his first 90 minutes in three months and took part in a little bit of training on Monday," Giggs said after 19-year-old Ben Woodburn's stoppage-time strike gave Wales a 1-0 win over the Soca Warriors.

**Daily Mail**

### Sanches considering leaving Bayern

**MUNICH** - Euro 2016 winner Renato Sanches says he is considering leaving Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich at the end of the season because of a lack of playing time. The Portuguese midfielder joined the club as an 18-year-old in 2016 for 35 million euros (US\$39.9m) a Bundesliga record for a teenager. "I'm not happy here," he told magazine Kicker. Bayern signed Sanches to great fanfare after he helped Portugal win the European Championship title in France and was voted the tournament's best young player. However, he has only ever been used sporadically by Bayern and spent last season on loan at Swansea, where he played only 12 Premier League games after labouring with a leg injury.

**AFP**



# Weekend Sports Fixtures

...Compiled by Sibusiso Dlamini

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# AMAZULU, WANDERERS BRING **JOY** TO HOPE HOUSE

BY JONGILE XUBA

**SOCCKER – MANZINI Wanderers and South African team AmaZulu FC visited Hope House yesterday to make a food donation and mingle with the patients.**

The Hope House, which has about 23 patients, received a visit from the officials of the two teams who were there on a goodwill mission.

Manzini Wanderers Head of Marketing and Communications Bhekthamba Zwane said as a club, they had always been a supporter of Hope House since some of their fans and family mem-

bers may have their loved ones at Hope House.

"Taking care of our fans and family members is part of our culture at Wanderers. We hope this small donation can help but we will continue to offer support in any other way we can," he said.

## Purpose

Meanwhile, AmaZulu Technical Director Rodney Moroka praised the initiative by Wanderers and said he had learnt a lot from their visit.

"The purpose of our visit is to exchange knowledge and we like what we see from Wanderers. Social responsibility is very important and as a club we have picked a lot from this visit," he said.

Sister Elsa Joseph from Hope House

thanked the teams for the donation and wished them the best in the current season.

"We really appreciate the gesture from Wanderers and AmaZulu FC. This is not the first time Wanderers have helped us as they already sponsor a house here. We hope they continue their goodwill and wish the teams all the best in their respective leagues, she said.

Hope House is a subsidiary of Caritas Swaziland and is a hospice and palliative care centre situated in Manzini.

**WESELI:** The teams' officials presenting a Manzini Wanderers replica to one of the patients.



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**SUPPORT:** AmaZulu General Manager Lunga Sokhela making his remarks. This was during the team's visit to Hope House alongside local side Manzini Wanderers yesterday.



**THANK YOU:** Senior palliative nurse Godwin Chidorori spoke on behalf of the staff. (Pics: Sibusiso Dlamini)



**HOPE:** AmaZulu Technical Director (TD) Rodney Moroka poses for a picture with Nkosinathi Matsebula and Magcina Khulu.



**HUMANE:** Patients at The Hope House listening attentively to the speeches of the day.



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# SWALLOWS VS DESPORTIVO FRIENDLY



## HAVE A GREAT MATCH:

Mbabane Swallows players exchanging niceties with Mozambique's Desportivo de Maputo. This was before the two teams' international friendly match played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday where Swallows won 2 - 1. (Pics: Sibusiso Dlamini)

## RIGHT - MY BALL:

Paito Dube wins the ball against Desportiva's Zinho Armando.



## PAGE:

Mbabane Swallows captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze looks to keep up with Stelio Gustavo.



**HOW HIGH:** Sizolwethu 'Nunu' Shabalala fights for the ball with Ze Luiz Vas.

**RIGHT - SHAPE:** Swallows head coach Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe issuing instructions.



**IN NUMBERS** Mbabane Swallows fans showed up in numbers despite the fact that the match was on a weekday.

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● Manchester United can chase Borussia Dortmund and England winger Jadon Sancho this summer because his former club Manchester City did not insert any clause in the 18-year-old's contract after selling him stating he could not join their rivals. **(Evening Standard)**

● Dortmund will put a £100m price-tag on Sancho and will move for Chelsea's English winger Callum Hudson-Odoi, 18, if they need to replace him. **(Mirror)**

● Manchester City are front runners to sign Atletico Madrid's Spanish midfielder Saul Niguez, 24, this summer. **(ESPN)**



● Barcelona are ready to listen to offers for Philippe Coutinho, 26, with a move to Ligue 1 champions Paris St-Germain most likely. **(Goal)**

● Barcelona have cooled their interest in Atletico Madrid and France forward Antoine Griezmann amid speculation Manchester United will push to sign the 27-year-old. **(Mirror)**

● Paris St-Germain's Brazilian right-back Dani Alves, 35, has appeared to deny reports he has agreed a new deal with the Ligue 1 champions. **(Goal)**

● Manchester United interim manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer wants 30-year-old Chilean forward Alexis Sanchez, Argentine defender Marcos Rojo, 29, and Ecuadorian full-back Antonio Valencia, 33, to leave the club this summer. **(Star)**



● Arsenal will face competition from Bayern Munich in their pursuit of Lille and Ivory Coast winger Nicolas Pepe, 23. **(Bein Sports - via Mirror)**

● Bayern Munich have agreed a deal for Atletico Madrid's French defender Lucas Hernandez, 23. **(Foot Mercato)**

● Former Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho says he wants to be back in club management by the summer and that he has turned down 'three or four' offers already. **(Goal)**



● Manchester City are ready to hand their Belgian defender and captain Vincent Kompany, 32, a new contract. **(Evening Standard)**

● Chelsea's French striker Olivier Giroud, 32, is open to a return to France to get more playing time. **(Goal)**

# Bob Cats to host tourney in honour of late director

BY JONGILE XUBA

**VOLLEYBALL – CUSTOMS**  
Bob Cats will host a volleyball tournament in honour of their late Director Eric Sibanda next month.

The tournament will be held on the weekend of April 7-8. This was revealed by Bob Cats Manager Phinda Dlamini, who said the tournament would feature local teams

as well as some invited teams from outside the country. Both men's and ladies teams will be part of the competition.

"We will have the tournament in honour of our late director, and it will be played at Bosco Skills Centre Hall and Mavuso Sports Emporium. We will have our local volleyball teams playing, as well as Red Skins from Lesotho and University of Free State from South Africa.

"We are still waiting for a third

team to confirm their participation," he said.

Dlamini added that prizes would be available for the best finishers, with first placed team getting E2 500, a trophy and gold medals, while the second-placed will get E1 500 plus silver medals, with the third winners getting E1 000 and bronze medals.

The manager thanked all their sponsors, namely Thusi Pawn Brokers from Siteki, Mseni Construction,

True Sounds and former coach Thulani Maphosa for all contributing towards the sponsorship package. He added that there were other individuals, who had contributed towards the tournament.

"Mine is just to express our appreciation." Eric Sibanda served as director of Bob Cats for over 30 years, as well as serving as Eswatini National Volleyball Association (then Swaziland) president for some time.



**ALL SET:** Correctional and REPS netball teams in action during last season's tournament with teams playing at OlympAfrica Centre in Lobamba. (Pic: Jongile Xuba)

## ENNA PRE-SEASON TOURNEY TO BE USED TO GRADE UMPIRES

STORIES BY JONGILE XUBA

**NETBALL – ESWATINI**  
National Netball Association (ENNA) will hold a pre-season tournament tomorrow at OlympAfrica Courts to be used to grade umpires, who have started their level 1 course.

This was revealed by ENNA Secretary Ntombikayise Masango, who said they would also be awarding certificates on the day.

"We have umpires, who are currently in a level 1 course and have completed the theory part of the course. The

### ENNA Pre-season teams

Group A	Group B	Men's category
Correctional	REPS	Correctional
Mbabane Raiders	UEDF	Phoenix
OlympAfrica	RSSC	UEDF
Bob Cats	Buhleni	REPS
Illovo	Kartat	Vixens
Sunshine	Vixens	

tournament will be used for the practical aspect and those to do well will be awarded their certificates," she said.

The pre-season competition will be played at Lobamba and will start at 9am with 12 teams taking part. Two groups of teams based on last season's log standings will compete with the top two advancing

to the knockout stages.

There will also be a men's category with five teams playing in a round robin format to determine the champions.

Winners in both categories will walk away with a trophy and gold medals for first place, silver medals for the runners-up and bronze medals for third place finishers.

## Elite League applicants to be screened during competition

**NETBALL- TEAMS** that have applied to be part of the Eswatini National Netball Association (ENNA) Elite League will be assessed during the pre-season competition tomorrow.

ENNA Secretary Ntombikayise Masango said that applicants Illovo, Buhleni, Sunshine, Karat, Vixens and Bob Cats would be looked at closely to see if they had what it takes to be part of the Elite League.

"After receiving the applications, the management committee decided it would be fair to look at the teams in action first before we accept them. We need to know if they can hold their own against the best," she said.

The applications come after ENNA and its members made changes to the rules and regulations during a meeting where it was decided that the Elite League must have 12 teams. The six new teams will be in action tomorrow to test their strength against Eswatini's top teams.



**After receiving the applications, the management committee decided it would be fair to look at the teams in action first before we accept them**



## Mozambicans for international rugby match tomorrow

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

**RUGBY – THE** Mbabane Cheetahs Club will host their Mozambican counterparts in an international friendly match tomorrow.

The match, to be played at the Malkerns Country Club, will see the locals taking on their counter-

parts in what will be a return match since the locals also played against Mozambique in their own backyard in December 2018.

Speaking on behalf of Mbabane Cheetahs, Andile Sihlongonyane said the club was happy with their on-going relationship with the Mozambicans.

"A few weeks back, we went to Mozambique to compete against

the Mozambican side and it is where we formed a relationship with them, hence they are now returning the favour. I think both countries are benefitting because we are both on the development stages in terms of the sport, so we all get to learn from each other and this can only make us stronger," he said.

The match will start at 10am and after this match, the Mbabane

Cheetahs will then proceed to participate in an international match in South Africa.

Sihlongonyane further invited fans to come and watch the game, as it was free of charge.

"We would like to invite fans to come and watch the game. It's going to be quality rugby and since we don't have any rugby action in the country, this will be the perfect opportunity for them to see what we are capable of," he said.



# 'Sikhali', Felix to face familiar foes in Tunis

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

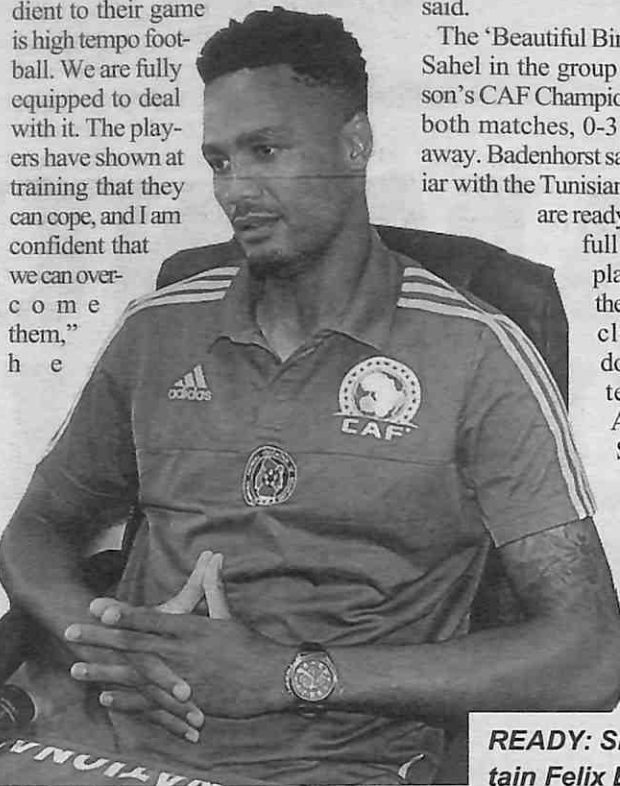
**SOCCER – SIHLANGU captain Felix Badenhorst and striker Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa are set to come up against familiar foes when Sihlangu take on Tunisia in an AFCON qualifier in Tunisia tomorrow.**

No less than five of Tunisia's squad is formed by players from both CS Sfaxien and Etoile du Sahel. Swallows played Sfaxien twice in the group stages of the CAF Confederations Cup in 2017, losing 0-1 away and 3-1 at home.

Interviewed before Sihlangu departed for the North African country on Tuesday, 'Sikhali' said they were fully aware of the brand of football they were likely to come up against when they face Tunisia. He said where possible, they would impact advice on their teammates on what to expect and how to cope.

"It is not a secret that the key ingre-

dient to their game is high tempo football. We are fully equipped to deal with it. The players have shown at training that they can cope, and I am confident that we can overcome them," he said.



READY: Sihlangu captain Felix Badenhorst.

said.

The 'Beautiful Birds' faced Etoile du Sahel in the group stages of last season's CAF Champions League, and lost both matches, 0-3 at home, and 0-2 away. Badenhorst said they were familiar with the Tunisians' style of play and are ready to deliver. "I have full confidence in the players we have that they can cope with the clever tactics predominantly used by teams from North Africa," he said. Sihlangu lost the first leg of the AFCON qualifiers 0-2 at the Mavuso Sports Centre in September.

## Papy Faty faces Aubameyang in crunch AFCON qualifier

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

**SOCCER – Malanti Chiefs striker Papy Faty has vowed to help Burundi beat Gabon tomorrow to qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations ahead of Arsenal's star, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's Gabon.**

The two teams will meet in a crunch qualifier at the Prince Louis Rivagasore Stadium in Bujumbura.

Burundi is second in the group with nine points, two ahead of third placed Gabon. A draw will be enough for Faty's Burundi, while Aubameyang and Gabon must win the game if they want to qualify for the 2019 AFCON finals.

Interviewed ahead of his departure for his home country to honour his call-up to the 'The Swallows', Faty said he was excited to be called up to join up with his international teammates for the game. He said he was optimistic that they would qualify for the AFCON finals given that they are playing this match at home.

"They are a strong team with high quality international players, but the fact that we are playing at home should give us a clear advantage. For now I am cherishing my return to the national team,

...Malanti Chiefs star vows to help Burundi qualify and put Swazi football on the world map



MUST WIN: Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

and if called upon I will do my utmost best make sure that we qualify and put Swazi football on the world map," he said.

If Burundi were to qualify, and Faty travelled with the team to Egypt for the AFCON finals, it would be the first time ever that a player registered in the local premier league was to appear at the AFCON finals.

Faty said his countryman were happy to have him back in the fold after his highly proclaimed heart condition that almost stalled his football career. He

### Group C standings

Mali	11 points
Burundi	9 points
Gabon	7 points
South Sudan	0 points

said he last played for Burundi in 2016 when he was vice-captain.

"The confidence shown by the coach on me means a lot," he said.

Faty joined Malanti as a free agent in January and already has one goal to his name. It came in his team's famous 1-0 win over Mbabane Highlanders last month.

Although he has agreed to join up with 'The Panthers' of Gabon for the game, Aubameyang told Nigerian website Konbini.com yesterday that he was seriously considering international retirement.

"I am thinking hard about retiring from international football. I am honestly asking myself that question. Sadly, I have come to this point, and I am going to make a decision," he said. The game kicks-off at 3pm on tomorrow.

## SADC countries agree on regional cycling association!

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

**CYCLING – THE SADC cycling community has reportedly agreed to form a regional cycling association.**

The Six sub-Saharan member states are said to have passed the vote of confidence on the new organisation, during the recently ended Universe Cycling International (UCI), which was held about two weeks ago at Rome, Italy.

Some of the countries that agreed on the new initiative include Eswatini, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia

Mozambique and Botswana.

The countries are expected to finalise the new association during the upcoming UCI event to be held between 12-14 May at Polokwane, South Africa.

Eswatini Cycling Association President Sihlangu Nhlabantsi confirmed the developments when contacted yesterday.

"The SADC countries saw a gap in the development of the sport within the region and they decided that a regional cycling association should be formed. Other logistics of the new association will be discussed in Polokwane, where

a UCI event will be taking place,"

"We believe that the formation of the regional association would help to develop the sport in the SADC region and further them to compete effectively in the international arena," he said.

African countries which are current affiliates of the Confederation of African Cycling (CAC) and international governing mother body (UCI) ECA are next month expected to send the Cycling National team to the 2019 African Mountain Bike Challenge slated for Windhoek Namibia between 12-14 April.

## Free entry for first 100 in Wanderers, AmaZulu clash

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

**SOCCER – THE first 100 fans to arrive for the international friendly match pitting Manzini Wanderers and South African side AmaZulu FC at the Mavuso Sports Centre tomorrow will gain free entry.**

The two teams will feature during the family day where members of the public and football fans are invited to attend.

Manzini Wanderers Marketing and Communications Manager Bhekithemba Zwane confirmed the reports when contacted yesterday.

"We have decided to give free entry to the first 100 supporters, who will arrive early at the stadium.

"The gates will open at 9am. We will also conduct a raffle draw during the day where a lucky supporter

will win himself/herself a cow.

"We have further lined-up several entertainment activities on the day such children's games, athletics, tug-of-war for the supporters.

Zwane said they would be conducting their registration programme for their supporters using their digital machine.

"Supporters are encouraged to bring E100 registration fee for their national identity cards in order to be registered as fully-fledged supporters.

Those who will not have the money on the day can still register but they can only get their cards after paying the fee at the team's offices," he said.

AmaZulu are expected to arrive in the country this afternoon for their two-day international friendly match where they would also take on Mbabane Swallows on Sunday at the Mayaluka Stadium.

## Milling face Tinyosi as NFD League returns

BY JONGILE XUBA

**SOCCER – THE MTN National First Division League will resume tomorrow as Milling Hotspurs and Tinyosi headline this weekend's fixtures.**

Both teams are looking at securing promotion to the elite league with four games left.

This is according to a fixture released by Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Simanga Nhleko.

Milling, who are second on the log table with 34 points take on third place Tinyosi at Somhlolo National Stadium at 4pm. Red Lions have a date with Seven Dreams FC at 2pm at the same venue, as they continue with their relegation survival campaign. Log leaders Pigg's Peak Black Swallows will clash with Mbabane City at Prince of Wales Ground at

### MTN First Division League fixtures

Tomorrow at Prince of Wales Ground	Mbabane City vs Black Swallows 3pm
At Tambankulu Stadium	Callies vs Tycoons FC 3:30pm
King Sobhuza II Stadium	Rangers FC vs City Warriors 3pm
At Mayaluka Stadium	Madlenya FC vs Hub Sundowns 3pm
At Somhlolo National Stadium	Red Lions vs Seven Dreams 2pm
Milling Hotspurs vs Tinyosi FC 4pm	

3pm. A win will put Black Swallows one step closer to promotion.

Other encounters will see Callies take on Tycoons at Tambankulu Stadium at 3:30pm. Rangers will face bottom side City Warriors at King Sobhuza II Stadium at 3pm while Madlenya will clash with Hub Sundowns at Mayaluka Stadium.

## Imbuyiselo Academy boost for people with disability at TZD Marathon

BY JONGILE XUBA

**ATHLETICS – IMBUYISELO Academy has donated E7 000 towards the track and field events of the TZD Half Marathon to be held next weekend in Siteki.**

This was revealed by Imbuyiselo Academy Deputy Principal Siphon Ngecamphalala, who said they felt it was important to sponsor the event, as it was a first of its kind.

"As a school and company we believe that people living with disability should be included in such an event, which is why we partnered with TZD in this initiative. We provided E7 000, which will go towards the prizes for this particular event," he said. He added that they advocated for healthy living, especially amongst young children whether

living with disability or not. "We also want to sensitise the public on healthy living especially for children and to stop the side-lining of children with disability," he said.

TZD Director Zakhele Dlamini thanked Imbuyiselo for their contribution and pleaded with other Lubombo based companies to follow suit.

"This is one of the region's signature events and we ask that other corporate companies provide assistance so we can make it a big spectacle.

We thank Imbuyiselo Academy for their contribution towards the track and field category for people with living with disability," he said. The track and field events will include the 100m, 200m, 400m and relay events for athletes in wheelchairs and in crutches.



## FIXTURES

### EURO - QUALIFICATION

Bulgaria	vs	Montenegro	7pm
England	vs	C. Republic	9:45pm
Luxembourg	vs	Lithuania	9:45pm
Portugal	vs	Ukraine	9:45pm
Albania	vs	Turkey	9:45pm
Andorra	vs	Iceland	9:45pm
Moldova	vs	France	9:45pm

# SPORTS

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Friday March 22, 2019



## Birds complete double over Desportivo

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Mbabane Swallows..... (1)2  
Desportivo de Maputo..... (1)1

**SOCCER – CAPITAL** city giants Mbabane Swallows scored in each half to complete a double over Mozambican side Desportivo de Maputo.

The red and white glamour side recorded a 2-1 victory over the visiting side during the two team's second friendly match played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The result further ensured a double for Swallows over the Maputo based side after beating the same team 1-0 during the first friendly encounter played last weekend at the Machava Stadium.

The Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe-led side used home ground advantage profitably as they took the lead three minutes into the match through lanky striker Sandile Hlatshwako.

The former Malanti Chiefs player broke free on the right flank, beating the flat footed opposition backline before firing past the opposition goalkeeper Augusto Mumbir after being released by right back Xolani 'Tyson' Magagula.

Swallows could have doubled the lead in the 22th minute but midfielder Paito Dube miscued a Mncedisi Dlamini cross inside the box.

Desportivo eventually levelled matters after the half hour mark through a Rodrigue Chireque's powerful effort which came from a Gervaiso Mafato cross. The match went to the break with both sides looked at 1 all deadlock.

Swallows made two changes in the second stanza, bringing in first choice goalkeeper Sandanezwe Mathabela for Ntokozo Shabangu and Sakhile Shongwe for an injured Mncedisi Dlamini.

There were no meaningful chances created by the two teams for prolonged stages of the second half until the 71st minute where Swallows sealed the victory. It was through a solo effort from their veteran winger Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko, who dispossessed defender Sidique Sataca before releasing a rasping shot past the hapless keeper, much to the delight of the over 300 home fans.

# CHAMINUKA SHUNS BULL ACTIVITIES!

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

**SOCCER – MBABANE** Highlanders head coach Saul Chaminuka's relationship with the club continues to be sour after the coach shunned the team's training session yesterday afternoon.

The Zimbabwean mentor has reportedly opted to excuse himself from the team's activities following his strained relationship with the club.

Chaminuka is currently under fire following the capital city side's crippling 4-1 loss to army side Young Buffaloes during the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup final played last weekend at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

A source

- Estranged Zimbabwean coach missed training session
- Cites safety fears after Ingwenyama Cup loss



close to the matter revealed that the coach will not attend the team's activities until his differences with the directors were resolved.

tors were resolved.

"The coach will not attend training and other activities until the two parties find a way forward over the ongoing tension.

### Decided

He now fears for his safety and has since decided to remain indoors until he meets the directors over his future," the source said.

Highlanders were drilled by their assistant coach Bongani Mhlongo in Chaminuka's absence.

Efforts to reach Chaminuka for comment proved futile after his cellphone rang answered when contacted yesterday.

### Absence

The team's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Thulani Khumalo also confirmed the coach's absence in training when contacted yesterday.

"It is true that the coach

did not attend the training session yesterday due to tension.

### Performance

However, there are on-going talks with him since we are still reviewing the performance of the team.

"The team is currently drilled by assistant coach Bongani Mhlongo and trainer Sithembiso Shona until a decision is taken over the on-going talks," he said.

### Focus

Chaminuka joined Highlanders four months ago where he replaced South African coach Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane.

The 'Black Bull' have now shifted their focus to next MTN Premier League clash against hoodoo side Vovovo FC next Wednesday at the Somhlolo National Stadium before taking on bitter rivals Mbabane Swallows four days later at the same venue.

**SOUR RELATIONSHIP:** Mbabane Highlanders head coach Saul Chaminuka.

# Solo inje!

1<sup>ST</sup> Prize .....E15,000

2<sup>ND</sup> Prize .....E9,000

3<sup>RD</sup> Prize .....E6,000

Consolation: E500 each for 10 winners

Deadline: 26 April 2019



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