

Mpolonjeni Inkhundla community shocked as...

BUCOPHO COMMITS SUICIDE AT LOVER'S HOME

SAY NO TO SUICIDE

● 'He seemed troubled'

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FARMERS BANK READY TO START OPERATIONS

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GOVT IN E30 MILLION NMC SUBSIDY MESS

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Hello MaSwai Swai...



BOSS: Mbabane Swallows Chairman Archbishop Bheki Lukhele waves to the supporters after watching his team up against Mbabane Highlanders in the MTN Premier League for the first time at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. The Mbabane derby ended in a goalless draw. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

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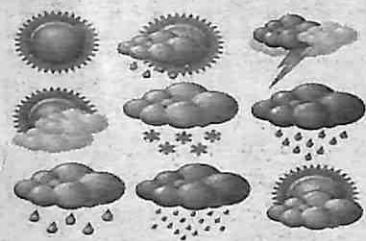
BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

WEATHER forecasts issued by Accu Weather Services indicate that the week will be warm and becoming hot to very hot in the Lowveld.

The week's temperature range will be between 16 to 39 Degrees Celsius. On Wednesday, Christmas Day, it will hot to very hot in the Lowveld.

Today it will be pleasantly warmer with times of clouds and Sun in the evening. Tomorrow, sunshine mixing with some clouds with a thunderstorm in the afternoon is predicted. The Lowveld will be mostly sunny and very hot; caution advised if outside for extended periods of time becoming cloudy in the evening.

On Christmas Day, variable cloudiness with a shower or thunderstorm around in the afternoon is expected becoming clear in the evening while the Lowveld will be partly sunny and very hot. Thursday, Boxing Day, will be hot to very hot in the Lowveld, variable cloudiness and a thunderstorm around the afternoon is expected.



THE WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY

Mbabane	16/27
Mankayane	17/28
Manzini	19/30
Siteki	18/29
Mhlume	20/31
Big Bend	22/32

TOMORROW

Mbabane	18/30
Mankayane	19/32
Manzini	21/34
Siteki	20/33
Mhlume	23/36
Big Bend	25/38

WEDNESDAY

Mbabane	18/31
Mankayane	19/33
Manzini	21/35
Siteki	20/34
Mhlume	22/36
Big Bend	24/39

THURSDAY

Mbabane	18/32
Mankayane	19/2
Manzini	21/35
Siteki	20/34
Mhlume	22/36
Big Bend	23/38

EIGHT MONTHS PREGNANT WOMAN RAPED

...she fears for her unborn child's life, suspects arrested

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

A 24-year-old woman feared for the life of her unborn baby after she was repeatedly raped when she was eight months pregnant.

*Bulelwa of New Village was raped by two men who had given her and another woman a lift from Nhlambeni to New Village.

The two suspects; Thokozani 'TK' Madolo (25) of Khuphuka and Bongani Mahlalela (20) of Mpaka were arrested and charged with three counts; two of rape and the other for robbery.

The incident happened near New Village on November 27.

Narrating her ordeal in court, Bulelwa said she was from visiting her sister at Nhlambeni area to New Village when she got a lift from the two accused persons' car.

Car

She said it was around 8pm when this happened. After the car stopped, Bulelwa said Thokozani alighted from the front passenger seat and sat at the back, allowing her to sit next to Bongani who was driving the grey Corolla vehicle.

Upon getting into the car, Bulelwa informed the two that she was headed for New Village, and they promised to take her there since they claimed to have been driving to Malkerns.

Along the way, at KaShali area to be precise, Bulelwa said they stopped for another woman who was hitch-hiking. This woman, *Dudu (25), informed the car occupants that she was going to Mfabantfu area.

The four then reportedly drove for some time and when they reached a place known as Emabhodini in Ngwane Park, Thokozani complained that the car did not have sufficient water, hence the mechanical problems. Amid all this, Bongani drove the car for a while before stopping far off the main road.

Fault

The two men reportedly alighted presumably to discuss what was to be done regarding the faulty car.

A short while later, the suspects



YOUR WORSHIP: The matter is before Manzini Principal Magistrate David Khumalo.

returned into the vehicle before locking all its doors.

Thokozani then asked for his bag which was at the feet of Bulelwa. Upon taking it from the pregnant woman, the suspect drew a knife and placed it on her stomach, demanding that she surrendered her cell-phone. Thokozani also demanded that Bulelwa removed any security password, failing which he would stab her on the stomach.

Death

Meanwhile, Bongani also demanded same from Dudu, and she complied. Thereafter, the two men waited until there were no oncoming cars on the road, before they ordered the women to go into a nearby bush. The suspects told the two women that they would have sex with them in the bush, and if they refused, they would kill them.

Dudu pleaded that the suspects used condoms when raping them. Bulelwa told the court that she objected to sex as she was worried about the baby she was carrying.

In response, the men told her that any objection would be countered by death. After hearing this, Bulelwa said she then pleaded for condom use instead but her request fell on deaf ears.

Each of the women was told that they would sleep with the one they were seated with in the car. They were then directed to different directions within the bush. Bulelwa said she was ordered to undress and Bongani inserted a condom before grabbing her neck and pushing her to bend over.

Police

After raping the woman, Bongani told Bulelwa that he would make her his wife, but she informed him that she feared him after what he did to her.

While the two were talking, Dudu and Thokozani emerged from the other side of the bush and they were talking about money on e-Wallet.

Dudu suggested that she transferred some cash to Thokozani's phone because she did not have cash on her.

After this was concluded, Thokozani ordered the pregnant woman to undress again before forcing his hands into her private parts while saying that he also wanted to sleep with her.

However, after some time, Bulelwa said Thokozani's focus was turned back to the money sent to him by Dudu, so he ordered the two women to hug each other.

Meanwhile, Bulelwa said while they were hugging, they heard the car speed off leaving them in the bush.

Luckily, a Good Samaritan gave them a lift and they relayed their ordeal to him.

The Good Samaritan assisted them by driving to Mhlaleni and Logoba hoping to find the accused persons withdrawing the E300 from an FNB ATM.

When they couldn't spot the car at these two places, the man suggested that they reported the matter to the police.

While they were driving to the Manzini Police Station, Bulelwa said they saw the car parked near the post office. The Good Samaritan quickly drove the two women to the police station where Gugu in the company of police officers, returned to the post office where the two suspects were eventually arrested.

The two women were then taken to hospital where in Bulelwa's case, the doctor reportedly could not detect the heartbeat of the unborn baby.

In a bid to resuscitate the baby, the doctor injected and prescribed some medication to Bulelwa.

She said she had been in and out of hospital where the doctors had been trying to ensure that the baby was alive and healthy.

However, whether or not these efforts were effective is still to be made known to the court after Bulelwa has delivered the baby.

The matter is pending before Manzini Principal Magistrate David Khumalo. More witnesses will be paraded on Friday.

Each of the women was told that they would sleep with the one they were seated with in the car. They were then directed to different directions within the bush

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REVEALED: FARMERS BANK TO FINALLY START OPERATIONS

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI
Mbabane

A year after the Central Bank of Eswatini issued a banking licence to a new bank called the Farmers Bank (Pty) Ltd, the bank is expected to finally operate early next year.

The licence allows Farmers Bank to conduct banking business in the Kingdom of Eswatini as a commercial bank as of October last year.

Even though the management of the Farmers Bank did not want to respond to questions on

the matter saying they would be pre-empting their current position, investigations by this publication indicate that the bank may be operating by January, which is two weeks away. Similarly, the Central Bank of Eswatini has not responded to questionnaire on the status of the bank sent two weeks ago. The Chairperson of the Farmers Bank Hlonipho Dlamini said they were currently not in a position to say anything at the moment for fear of pre-empting their position until they are ready to operate.

"We will grant you an interview at the appropriate time," he said. However, the Eswatini

Observer while investigating the matter came across billboards which indicate that the bank is ready to operate and will be at the Arcade Building (Manzini) located near the Satellite Bus Rank. Sources stated that this venue will be the first offices of the bank with prospects of establishing branches over time.

Efforts to get comment from the Central Bank, which is a regulator of banks, proved futile as a questionnaire sent to the Head of Communications Zithulele Gina on 10 December was not responded to. His phone rang unanswered when called several times in the interim and the last call was

made yesterday at 5:16 pm. Gina was called on December 12 at 12:07pm, he was also called on December 17 at 10:16am and again on December 18 at 13:13pm. Similarly, efforts to get comment from the CBE Governor Majosi Sithole proved futile as his phone rang unanswered on December 12 at 12:10pm and yesterday at 17:17pm. When confirming granting the license last year the governor was quoted by the media having said the Central Bank was doing so after having done a thorough interrogation and determination of the incoming bank and its directors.

BUCOPHO COMMITS SUICIDE AT LOVER'S HOME

STORIES BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

MEMBERS of a Sihlongonyane family in Mpolonjeni near Siteki yesterday morning woke up to a shocking discovery after a man was found hanging in a tree which is in the middle of the homestead.

It transpired that the individual was Bucopho of the area, Hawane Dlamini (39) and was married. The incident has left both the Dlamini and Sihlongonyane families dumbfounded as they try to comprehend what could have led to Dlamini ending his life.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Supt. Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident, adding that the police were carrying out active investigations.

Tablets

She stated that at the moment nothing tangible has reached them on why Dlamini decided to end his life.

It is gathered that before he was found hanging at the Sihlongonyane homestead, Dlamini was discovered with weevil tablets and was discouraged from the idea.

Dlamini is said to have had a lover at the Sihlongonyane homestead.

However, his lover is reported to have not been at home when the incident happened.

The mother of Dlamini's girlfriend was the one who made the shocking discovery as she was out to pass water early in the morning.

She raised an alarm, prompting neighbours to make a prompt response. It was then that the hanging body was close-

...lover was not at home when incident happened



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

ly inspected and identified as that of Dlamini.

Police were also called to the scene, upon which they recorded statements before taking the body to Good Shepherd Hospital.

By yesterday afternoon, members of the Dlamini family were found gathered at the homestead where they discussed preparations for burial.

Tree

Qonda Mazibuko, the deceased's half-brother, confirmed the sudden death of Dlamini. Mazibuko said the family was still traumatised and trying to gather pieces of information which could explain his brother's decision to end his life.

Mazibuko said they received a call from the Sihlongonyane family in the early hours of yesterday, informing them about the incident.

He said the Sihlongonyane family also could not give any explanation as they claimed to have only discovered the body hanging from the tree in the morning.

"My brother did not leave even a note, something which makes it even harder for us to know what could have influenced his decision," said Mazibuko.

He then referred further questions to the police, saying they could be the ones with clear answers.

Meanwhile, relatives who claimed to be privy of some details stated that Dlamini visited his in-laws' homestead in the middle of the night for unknown reasons. He parked his vehicle outside the premises of the homestead before walking in to commit the alleged suicide.

Dlamini's relationship with one of women at the Sihlongonyane homestead was reportedly well-known in the community. He was said to have recently rented a flat for his lover at Mhlume, where he would make occasional visits. "We do not understand why he went to his in-laws' homestead while knowing that his girlfriend was not there," said a relative who preferred anonymity.

Dlamini looked troubled recently- Indvuna yenkhundla

IT seems that Dlamini's final decision to end his life came after a long emotional suffering which he could not have resolved.

Mpolonjeni Indvuna Yenkhundla Thulani Dlamini said the deceased looked worried and emotionally drained over the past few weeks.

Dlamini said this was so evident to the point that it affected his work as he would remain quiet even during critical discussions.

Dlamini said at some instances, the

deceased would arrive at the inkhundla office and do whatever he had come for and later return home without really talking to anyone.

"I noted a sudden change of behaviour with Dlamini, and I arranged for a meeting with him. He, however, avoided the meeting until the time when I received a report that he had committed suicide," said the indvuna yenkhundla. Dlamini said he was supposed to meet with the deceased on Friday to find out what challenges he could be

facing. Dlamini said the news of his colleague's death came as a huge blow for the constituency.

He described the deceased as committed to his work and always engaged all stakeholders in a project.

"Dlamini was very productive, and that is why it was easy to note that something was wrong with him lately as he started missing out on some projects," said Dlamini. Dlamini then passed his condolences to the family and the community at large.

Man burns own house, commits suicide

STORIES BY DELISA THWALA
Mbabane

IN a rather shocking incident, a 30-year old man of Mankayane, Mgazini, shocked family members when he burnt down his house before committing suicide.

This was allegedly after going through his wife's cellphone and seeing another man's picture.

Bongi Mabuza is said to have gone through his wife Nontsikelelo Ndzimandze's cellphone and little did he know that he would see another man posing in a sexy manner.

It has been reliably gathered from well-placed sources that upon seeing the picture of the man, an altercation ensued between him and his wife which led to him walking out of their matrimonial home.

After walking out, he went to get petrol which he then doused the house which is located at the heart of his parental home.

And he later ended his life.

Family members, including his sisters, children and brothers rushed to the scene and removed him from the rafters.

They rushed him to hospital where he was certified dead upon arrival.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident.

Meanwhile, Nontsikelelo, the surviving spouse of the deceased, refuted claims that her husband killed himself because of a picture and altercation they had earlier. "He was fine, he just woke up burnt his house and decided to kill himself," said Ndzimandze.

Speaking on behalf of the family was the deceased's sister Jabulile Mabuza who said they were still reeling in shock following the incident as a family.

She stated that the deceased was doing well and they had not anticipated that such would happen to him. "We know for a fact he had a fight with his wife on the fateful day but we had not expected such," said Mabuza.

Carols, holy hugs as MBAC celebrates Christmas

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

IT was raining holy hugs at Mbabane Alliance Church (MBAC) as the spirit of Christmas filled the picturesque church during a special service yesterday.

Since the Christian community will be celebrating the birth of Christ on Wednesday, the Alliance Church dedicated the last Sunday to a Christmas themed service which was categorised by the singing of carols by the children's ministry and the praise and worship team.

The Sunday School going children, led the singing of the Christmas carols while clad in their red and white hats. Some of the carols sung 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen', 'O Come All Ye Faithful', 'O Holy Night', 'Away in a Manger' and 'Joy to the World'.

Of all the carols that were rendered during the day, 'FelizNavidad' took the centre stage as the whole congregation joined in song and dance.

Meanwhile, as the carols were sung Sunday School teacher Gugu Sibandze encouraged the church to join in. The church indeed delivered splendid music.

As the praise team was singing the

song, Reverend Johannes Mazibuko gave a motivation about the value of Christmas.

He stated that Christmas is the time for spreading love and celebrating the love for Christ. He then urged the whole congregation to join in singing the songs with deeper meaning by spreading love amongst each other.

This saw a perfect rendition of 'FelizNavidad', which saw the whole congregation exchanging holy hugs and shaking hands.

This then opened the floor for hugs and spreading love to everyone in the church.

Throughout the song congregates were hugging and wishing each other a Merry Christmas.

The church was well decorated with balloons and Christmas trees which clearly resembled the spirit of Christmas the minute you entered the church.

The Christmas service came a week after a family fun day held at St Mark's High Sports Ground last Sunday. The family day, according to Reverend Mazibuko, was also part of the this season spirit of togetherness and family time.

Mazibuko applauded all congregates who took part in the family day and encouraged the spirit of love and sharing as they celebrate Christmas.

Pastor's Day at Destiny International Christian Centre



CELEBRATE: Reverend David Chaliyumba of Destiny International Christian Centre and his wife Pastor Bonile speak during the Pastor's Day at the church yesterday. The day was also to celebrate the elderly of the church by presenting them with food hampers. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



LET'S PRAY: Reverend Chaliyumba leads the congregation in prayer.



PRESENT: Roy Bhembe and his wife Khombisile spotted among the congregants during the prayer session.



FOLLOWING: Congregants listen to the sermon of the day.



AMEN: Congregants in prayer during the service.



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ME TOO: Gogo Josephine Simelane also had something to give in appreciation of the man of God and his wife.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Eswatini

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NUMBER OF VACANT POSITIONS	1 (One)
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS	31 December 2019
EXPECTED START DATE	As soon as possible
DURATION	1 year with possibility for extension
TYPE OF CONTRACT	Fixed Term Appointment
GRADE	GS 5

CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT MBABANE ALLIANCE CHURCH



HOLY NIGHT: Mbabane Alliance Church Sunday school choir with the praise and worship team render Christmas carols during a special service yesterday. (Pics: Nonduduzo Kunene)

HUGS: Reverend Johannes Mazibuko blessing congregates with hugs.



SPREADING LOVE: Brethren blessing each other with hugs.

MERRY CHRISTMAS: Brethren singing and dancing during the service.



Keep your bank card safe this festive season

The combination of crowded stores and distractions this **festive season** requires extra precaution to keep **your card and PIN safe** at all times.

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How can we help you?



Cops bust three wanted robbers ahead of Christmas

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

RESIDENTS of Pigg's Peak and Mbabane can now breathe a sigh of relief as three men have been arrested in connection with a string of armed robberies.

This brings the almost month long search for the trio to a close, after the Royal Eswatini Police Service issued notices of the wanted persons published through the media.

Bongani 'Mdi' Buthelezi (27), Sanele Ngwenya (31) and Sipho Sibandze (35) have since been advised to move their bail application at the High Court after their appearance before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati.

According to court records, the trio was said to have been charged with six counts, after they were said to have committed the offences at Mangwaneni, Mahwalala, Mgababa Bar in Mbabane and in Pigg's Peak.

They were said to have forcefully taken items valued at E49 472 from various unsuspecting victims. The highest value of items taken by the trio was from one Yasen Patel, where Buthelezi and Ngwenya were said to have taken items valued at E25 130.

Some of the items taken from Patel included three cellphones, money in cash amounting to E6 500, cigarettes and a work permit valued at E2 000.

They were further said to have threatened to assault one Monel Hassan with a gun, if he refused to let them take his valuables valued at E7 720.

Some of the items taken from Hassan included a Samsung J6 cellphone valued at E2 900, six boxes of cigarettes and money in cash amounting to E2 500.

During their appearance before the court, the trio was informed that they were to be remanded into custody until February 7, 2020 for the setting of their trial date.



ARRESTED: Bongani 'Mdi' Buthelezi (27).

GOVT IN E30 MILLION NMC SUBSIDY MESS

...farmers turned back without farm inputs as agro-suppliers not paid

STORIES BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI
AND NONDUDUZO KUNENE

OVER 2 600 farmers who registered for the input subsidy programme may find themselves being serviced later than anticipated as government is said to have failed to pay the National Maize Corporation (NMC) E30 million.

This amount according to sources, includes that of last year as government reportedly paid part of the funds resulting to the parastatal failing to efficiently roll out the programme.

For instance, NMC had a balance carry over of 1 055 hours from last year.

A well-placed source stated that this year the government did not pay even a single cent of the E30 million subvention to NMC. Therefore, NMC reached the last straw as it cannot maintain the programme they were entrusted with.

Tools

"Since last year the government has not paid the subvention in full, this year not even a single cent of the subvention has been paid to NMC. Therefore, NMC is unable to maintain services which range from fixing tractors that have developed mechanical faults to buying ploughing tools," said the source.

Following the frustrations that were encountered by NMC to keep the tractor hiring service afloat a decision was made to ground the operations to put pressure on government.

In addition to the issue of tractors, the well-placed source revealed that farmers were turned back by agro-



WE ARE READY: NMC Marketing and Communications Manager Nokwanda Dlamini.

dealers listed to supply farming inputs under the programme as they have not been paid.

This comes as a disadvantage to the farmers because they have paid their portion of the money but now they are being turned back.

Through the input subsidy programme farmers pay half of the price for the inputs of one hectare and government subsidises them with the other half which means farmers save 50 per cent under this programme.

Dealers

The source narrated that the E30 million was budgeted to cater for all the necessities of the programme.

Farmers started accessing their farm inputs from the agro-dealers spread across the country from the first week of October 2019 but the dates were extended as some have not received their inputs.

NMC Marketing and Communications Manager Nokwanda Dlamini in September said the parastatal was ready for the 2019 farming season as they had already ploughed 4 098 hours out of the nearly 14 000 hours paid by the farmers.

She said they were awaiting rains to commence ploughing the remaining hours, we are ready to service farmers anytime as soon as we receive rains."

A total of 178 tractors, both government and privately-owned tractors are waiting to plough as soon as the rains come. This number is expected to increase as we continue to service more tractors," she said at the time.

She revealed that 46 more tractors were to be added to the pool as soon as they were repaired.

Dlamini assured the farmers that

they would be serviced regardless of the number of tractors that may have broken down in their RDAs as the tractors from the pool would be distributed to the different areas across the country.

"We sometimes get comments from the concerned public about a number of non-operational tractors they see in RDAs. We would like to advise that we have fixed several the tractors and RDAs are not necessarily allocated those tractors parked at the RDAs.

Fears

We distribute tractors around the country according to the demand and we can assure farmers and the general public that they will get serviced on time, because we aim to finish all registered hours during the current ploughing season," she said.

Last year, not all the farmers who had paid had their fields ploughed and thus some of the hours were carried over to this year's farming season.

In a press statement, NMC announced the disruption of services under the government tractor hire programme. The corporation assured members of the public that it was working around the clock together with the ministry of agriculture to fix the problem.

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

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

All is well – Agriculture PS

MINISTRY of Agriculture Principal Secretary Bongani Masuku maintained that the ministry has been working around the clock to ensure that farmers are not affected by the ongoing crisis.

Masuku said the ministry greatly regretted the inconvenience caused by the interruption of services. He added that the ministry had everything under control up until the number of farmers that paid for government services increased drastically.

"Even so we have everything under control," he said.

However, a highly placed source

mentioned that the PS was not being truthful. "If the issue was fuel all the services would be provided," said the source.

Ministry of Finance's Communications Officer Setsabile Dlamini when asked about the E30 million that has not been paid said the ministry was in no position to respond on the matter and referred questions to the ministry of agriculture. "The ministry of agriculture is in a better position to respond, but from what I have gathered this was due to technical issues which the ministry of agriculture is currently sorting," she said.

Farmers frustrated over service delivery

PRESIDENT of the National Agricultural Union Boya Matse has expressed disappointment about the poor service delivery.

Firstly most farmers from the Lowveld narrated that this was unfair on them as the rainy season is limited in the Lowveld.

In addition, the farmers said the delay might result in an even tougher crisis come harvesting season. "It is a pity that our government is letting us down," said Boy Matse, speaking on behalf of the farmers. He added that they thought the

government programme would be much better and cheaper instead it is stressful and costing them a lot.

It is a pity that our government is letting us down



SANU SRC members not guilty

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

THE seven-member Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU) Student Representative Council (SRC) has been acquitted of the three charges that were levelled against them.

The verdict was reached last Tuesday and it was issued by the Chairman of the disciplinary committee Sicelo Dlamini last Friday. The SRC members were suspended on November 11, after leading students in a protest action that led to the total shutdown of the institution.

The three counts that the seven students of the institution faced included that of alleged misconduct in that on October 31, the SRC members called an illegal meeting, without a written consent form from the dean of student affairs.

On the second count, the seven students were charged for misconduct in that on the 1st and 4th of November, they conducted an unlawful activity on the institution's premises without following the procedure as prescribed in Regulation C6 (6.3) of the university's calendar. The other charge was for damaging the university's property during the protest action.

Papers presented to the affected students by their lawyer stated that evidence brought before the disciplinary committee to prove that they were responsible for the removal

of the rest of the student body from classes was unsatisfactory.

"We accordingly find that all the accused students are not guilty on all the charges based on evidence that was presented during the disciplinary hearing," read the ruling.

On another note, one other student, Sibusiso Nkwanyana, who was suspended along with the SRC members, is still not in the clear as his disciplinary hearing has been scheduled for January 9. Nkwanyana also has a pending matter at the Manzini Magistrate's Court, along with two others, where he faces a charge for contravening Section 83 of the Road Traffic Act of 2007 which states that one shall not place or cause to be placed a barrier, gate, rope, wire or any other obstruction across a public road.

Gathered

Likewise, the fate of the SRC President Simelane Tholumuzi Gubevu and secretary general Maseko Colani Khulekani remains unknown as they have not yet appeared before the disciplinary tribunal. Information gathered was to the effect that their lawyer has written a letter to SANU requesting that the two be allowed to register for the second semester next year. The letter also stated that the institution should respond in writing before December 31.

Failure to do so, the letter states, will result to the matter being referred to the

High Court where the student leadership's lawyer would request that the charges levelled against the two be withdrawn altogether.

When SANU's Marketing Manager Petros Mavuso was sought for comment on the way forward following the seven students' verdict, he said in as much as he was aware of the verdict the management was still waiting for an instruction from Senate directing them on what to do, especially because these students have missed their end of semester examinations.

"Currently, the institution has closed for the holidays and most of the relevant figures are away. Until we get a directive on what to do, I cannot say anything," he said. Meanwhile, Swaziland National Union Students (SNUS) SANU branch has called on the institution's administration to ensure that the SRC members write the tests that they have missed which contribute to their continuous assessment (CA), and the missed first semester examination. "Until and unless our 12 demands are met, the issue of Phephile Sifundza is resolved, and the SRC president and secretary general are back in class our discontentment will remain permanent. Students should be aware that our challenges as students of SANU will be better addressed in a democratic government and by a sound and competent administration," read a statement by SNUS.



FESTIVE RUSH: The public queueing to receive services

138 arrested for DD as festive in full swing

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

WITH the festive season in full swing, the number of drink-driving cases increased drastically over the past weekend.

The Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) nabbed 138 motorists for driving while under the influence of alcohol. This was communicated by Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati yesterday.

"There were 138 drink-driving cases reported over the past weekend," she said.

This has been the highest number of drink-driving cases that has been recorded by the service in a while.

Last week, the police recorded 99 cases.

The reason behind the drastic increase is attributed to the festive season as people indulge a lot in alcoholic beverages during this time. The weekend before last police nabbed 117 motorists for driving under the influence of alcohol.

On December 1, 91 motorists were arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

This therefore effectively means within a space of three weeks police have arrested

445 motorists for contravening Section 91 (1) as read with Section 122 of the Road Traffic Act of 2007.

According to the Act, the legal limit stands at 0.38mg/l and every motorist found with more than the stipulated legal content will be charged for contravening the Act.



Mphosi SWAMA founding member

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

THE first SWAMA president and King's Trust public relations officer Mphosi Raphael Mamba has been described as someone who worked very hard to promote arts and culture in the country.

Mamba, who was behind the coming of Joan Armatrading in the country, was laid to rest over past weekend. Mamba died on December 11 at Sithobelweni Healthcare Centre after battling diabetes. He had a huge impact in developing arts and culture in the country.

Speaking during his memorial service held at Sithobelweni Church of the Nazarene, Eswatini Arts and Culture's Stanley Dlamini said Mamba's passing was a great loss to the arts community. Dlamini described Mamba as one of the founding members of SWAMA. He described him as one of the few people who were keen to see the arts and culture industry succeed and reaching greater heights.

He said the late Mamba wanted to see arts and culture being recognised. Therefore, he said Mamba pioneered so many awards bodies as well as associations.

Dlamini said even though Mamba no longer served at the arts and culture board he kept in touch since he was a fountain of knowledge.

"God has fulfilled his entire plan with our deceased brother," he said.

Mamba died a day after son got new job

THE late Mphosi Mamba's son was unable to share his employment news with his father.

Speaking during the memorial service, an emotional Nkosingphile Mamba shared how the passing away of his father had devastated him. Nkosingphile, who was accompanied by his brother Salem, told the mourners that his father died a day after he was employed. "My father died before I could share the good news that I had been employed," he said. The two sons promised to continue growing their father's legacy. Nkosingphile, shared that his father always encouraged them to focus on education.



NO MORE: The deceased Mphosi Mamba. (Pics: Nonduduzo Kunene)

Mamba clan has lost an encyclopedia

THE Royal Mamba clan has lost another crucial member of the family.

The late Mphosi Raphael Mamba was described as an encyclopedia for the Mamba clan.

Indvuna for the Mamba Royal family Mthala Matsebula said the death of Mphosi has left a gap in the family as he knew a lot about history of the clan as well as the country, this was because he had served under King Batjana and Maja. Matsebula added that Mphosi completed his journey in this world and those left behind had big shoes to fill.

"There is nothing wrong with the work of the most high," he said.

He then passed condolences to the His Majesty King Mswati III, the Mamba clan as well as the arts and culture fraternity.

Meanwhile, speaking on behalf of the Mamba clan Phinda Mamba said Mphosi was a warrior.

He described him as a humble and generous person with discipline.

He mentioned that Mphosi met his death after battling diabetes.

He died at 65 years old and left behind two sons.

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Indlovukazi commends

BY SIMON SHABANGU
Kwaluseni

HER Majesty the Indlovukazi has commended government for increasing social grants and giving free health services to the elderly people.

Her Majesty also encouraged the elderly to take advantage of the free health services which the ministry of health has availed to them.

She was speaking through MP Princess Phumelele at Swazi National High during the presentation of food hampers to over 500 elderly people of Kwaluseni.

The early Christmas for the elderly was an initiative by Her Majesty's Liphupho LeNdllovu in partnership with OK Foods. Other partners included United Holdings and Premier Bakery among others.

Her Majesty told the elderly that this was a time to celebrate, hence ensuring that they were also given something ahead of Christmas to enjoy and celebrate with the entire nation. She also encouraged the youth to look after the elderly stating that most fend for themselves yet have children who are employed.

She urged the youth not to abandon their parents but always visit their parental homes and provide for their parents.

Gesture

She also appreciated OK Foods and partners for catering for the elderly this festive stating some will now enjoy Christmas Day because of the generous gesture by the chain of stores under LINAC Investment, a company owned by Lincoln Motsa and family.

She said the company has been supporting the elderly for many years and encouraged them to continue with the good work.

She urged the nation to support such businesses so that they continue giving to the underprivileged.

Meanwhile, Motsa said as a company they were proud to partner with Her Majesty in her

vision to cater for the elderly in the country. He said they have been distributing food to the elderly since 2015.

"As OK Foods we are very grateful to partner and align with the Queen Mother's association and vision of making sure that our elderly are well taken care of."

"We are humbled by Indlovukazi's kind nature and gesture."

She is an inspiration to us and the nation as a whole. She is teaching us to look after one another and to share what we have with the less privileged.

We have seen Her Majesty visiting all the regions of this country through various organisations and partnerships donating food, clothes and even houses to the underprivileged," he said.

Hampers

Motsa said through the partnership with Liphupho, they had presented 500 food hampers to the elderly of the Kwaluseni community.

"Her Majesty's wish is to bring joy to all the elderly around the country by providing them with food over the festive season," he added.

He thanked the Deputy Prime Minister, Themba Masuku for the support and passion he has for the elderly.

He said Masuku has always stood up for the elderly even in Parliament, ensuring that they get the best of treatment and support.

Motsa also appreciated the support from OK Foods KZN, for partnering with, and supporting them since the inception of the initiative. He said they had contributed half of the food parcels which were distributed on the day.

He also appreciated the partner companies for their contribution towards the success of the event.

He said Premier Bakeries donated 500 loaves of bread while Swaziland Milling donated the water bottles.

United Holdings donated E5 000 in the form of refreshments for the elderly who were provided with meals on the day.

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DEMOCRACY WORKS FOUNDATION

DEMOCRACY WORKS FOUNDATION VACANCIES

Democracy Works Foundation is an organization committed to empowering citizens with the tools to make democracy work, in partnership with Freedom House in South Africa.

DWF seeks two (2) exceptional Program staff to play a leading role in the organization, coordinating and implementing the USAID supported Inclusive Policy Development and Dialogue (IPDD) Programme. Both positions will be based in eSwatini, with travel to South Africa and other country offices where the program is being implemented. These are fixed term contracts to the end of the program.

The objective of the programme is to strengthen democratic institutions and capacity of political parties in Botswana, Malawi, Lesotho, eSwatini and Zambia to better respond to and represent the needs of its constituents, with a particular focus on climate change and water and energy resource management in particular.

If you believe that you fit the requirements below, send your motivation letter, CV and 3 contactable referees to recruitment@democracyworksfoundation.org before the closing date of **02 January 2020**. Please specify the position you are applying for in the subject line of your email. The successful candidates will be expected to commence in February 2020.

Position: Program Coordinator

Reports to: Country Director

Position Summary:

The Program Coordinator will be responsible for all aspects to ensure on time delivery of the USAID Inclusive Policy Development and Dialogue (IPDD) Programme within budget and scope. This will include project planning, project implementation and evaluation in line with the organization's standards and donor requirements. The ideal candidate must be organized and detail-oriented; and comfortable working with diverse teams.

Duties and responsibilities (may include, but are not limited to):

- Coordinate planning, program development, review and evaluation processes
- Support planning and coordination of the program and its activities
- Support the completion of required reports by providing information in a timely and organized manner
- Support implementation of policies and practices
- Prepare budgets and monthly financial reports
- Schedule and organize meetings/events and maintain agenda and draft minutes of project related meetings
- Assume overall responsibility for administrative matters of a more general nature, such as registry and maintenance of project files and records

Qualifications

- BSc/BA in political science, international relations, or related field.

Skills and Experience

- Minimum of 6 years of directly related work experience in the NGO sector. With at least 3 years' experience on USAID funded projects.
- Familiarity with elections and electoral processes in eSwatini; SADC region an advantage.
- Demonstrable capacity to work independently and as part of a team.
- Strong project management and coordination experience
- Experience in organizing events, workshops, meetings and strategic planning exercises
- Ability to interact with people of all ages and cultural backgrounds
- Competent in MS Office Suite, and in particular Excel and Word
- Effective oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work flexible hours
- Ability to meet tight deadlines
- Must be in possession of a clean driver's license

Position: Country Director

Reports to: Chief of Party

Position Summary

The Country Director (CD) will provide overall leadership and strategic direction to the Inclusive Policy Development and Dialogue (IPDD) country program. The CD will lead and supervise all technical aspects of program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the IPDD program. The CD will also provide oversight of program administration and financial management and supervise all program staff in country.

Duties and responsibilities (may include, but are not limited to):

- Planning and delivering on projects, from design and inception to delivery and evaluation.
- Overseeing the implementation of the annual work plan for eSwatini.
- Ensure compliance with donor expectations to the highest standard.
- Establishing and maintaining close working relationships with key programme stakeholders and beneficiaries.
- Acting as DWF's main contact with partner organisations in eSwatini.
- Preparing and overseeing eSwatini project budgets in liaison with the Program Manager and Finance Department as required by the Chief of Party.
- Ensure effective implementation and compliance with all procedures required by contract agreement.
- Ensure the preparation, accuracy and timely submission of financial reports.
- Representing the regional program in eSwatini as the face of the USAID-DWF Regional Program in eSwatini.
- Acting as the focal point for any associate awards and/or partner relations under the program.
- Program reporting as per donor and DWF requirements
- Provide leadership support to Program staff and promote best practices in human resources management, including performance management.
- Ensure that DWF operates within the terms and conditions of all legal agreements with the eSwatini Government

Requirements

Education / Qualification

- Minimum Master's degree in social sciences/development studies/international relations, strategic/program management, management studies or other related discipline.

Relevant Work Experience

- Minimum 8 years demonstrated working experience in program development, implementation and evaluation; 4 of which should be at senior management level.
- Previous experience as a Country Director for an NGO in sub-Saharan Africa would be highly desirable.
- Experience managing USAID programs
- Familiarity with political and civil society landscape in ESwatini in particular and Southern Africa in general will be an advantage.

Key Skills / Knowledge/Competencies

- Strong people and financial management skills
- Ability to work in a politically non-partisan manner
- Well established and practiced organizational and planning skills; and extensive knowledge and experience of project cycle management including using project planning and management key tools (e.g. logical framework analysis, Gantt chart, etc.)
- Excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills, including ability to effectively lead and build a team, communicate a vision, make timely and transparent decisions, solve problems and manage conflict.
- Proven people management skills in a multi-cultural environment and strong track record of developing people.
- Demonstrated ability to undertake high-level representation and advocacy.
- Excellent communications skills, both oral and written (excellent report and proposal writing), including public speaking.
- Computer literate and proficient in Microsoft Office including Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook.
- Willingness and availability to travel as and when required.

Other key points to note

Democracy Works seeks to ensure that all qualified people have an equal opportunity to obtain a position. Applications from eSwatini citizens will be considered. The successful candidates must have demonstrable experience in democracy and human rights fields and expert knowledge and understanding of politics and political parties in eSwatini. **These are non-negotiable requirements for the positions.** DWF will consider all applications submitted prior to the advertised close date. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified for interviews. **If you have not heard from us within two (2) weeks after the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.**

govt for elderly grants increase



GIVE BACK: Her Majesty the Indlovukazi's representative Princess Phumelele joined by Chief Gija, DPM Themba Masuku, Prince Mbuyisa, OK Foods Director Lincoln Motsa and Minister David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala during the donation of food hampers to the elderly of Kwaluseni. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



LENDING A HAND: Bucopho Benkhundla from Mhlane, Pastor Fana Sihlongonyane and Kwaluseni MP Mabhanisi hand out the hampers to the elderly.



DINNER TIME: The elderly dishing out the good meals served on the day.

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FOCUS on DD cases

Man gets suspended sentence after 'unfair' arrest

A 33-year-old man was shocked by his arrest as he claimed that police officers ordered him to look after his friend's car.

He was later arrested for occupying the driver's seat while under the influence of alcohol.

Relaying his side of events before the court, Nhlanhla Vilakati of Thembelihle claimed that the car they were travelling in broke down near

Thembelihle.

"The car had broken down and the police came and took my friend who had been behind the wheel at the time, away. Before they took him away, the police asked me to stay behind and look after the car until they returned. After the police left with the car keys, the car was locked and the only unlocked one was the one by the driver's seat. When

they returned, the police officers ordered me to take a breathalyser test," Vilakati stated.

After recording a blood alcohol content reading of 0.41 mg/l, Vilakati was arrested and charged with occupying the driver's seat while under the influence of alcohol. He was further charged with failing to produce a driver's licence when requested to do so by police officers.

Upon hearing his mitigation, the court sentenced Vilakati to serve 14 months in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E1 400 for drunk-driving.

For failing to produce a driver's licence, he was sentenced to serve five months in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E500. Both sentences were suspended for a period of one year each, on condition that he was not to commit similar offences.



Reckless drunk driver slapped with E6 500 fine

STORIES BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

WITH barely a few days left before Christmas, a dd offender has to part with E6 500 after he was found to have caused an accident while driving under the influence of alcohol.

With the highest alcohol content reading recorded in Mbabane this past weekend, 25-year-old Melusi Mkhwanazi was slapped with five counts of contravening the Road Traffic Act, after he reportedly caused an accident on Saturday night at Police New Camp.

According to court records, Mkhwanazi was driving his Mazda Demio sedan while under the influence of alcohol

Here are some of those who appeared on Saturday and yesterday:

Saturday Name	Alcohol Content	Sentence
1. Busa Thwala	0.86 mg/l	E1 800/ 18 months
2. Sifiso Simelane	0.93 mg/l	E2 000/ two years
3. Vulindlela Kunene	0.60 mg/l	E1 600/ 16 months
4. Machawe Tsabedze	0.95 mg/l	E2 000/ two years
5. Mfundo Shabangu	0.59 mg/l	E1 500/ 15 months
Yesterday		
1. Melusi Mkhwanazi	1.88 mg/l	E5 000/ two years
2. Madoda Hlophe	0.89 mg/l	E1 800/ 18 months
3. Colani Mkhabela	0.96 mg/l	E2 000/ two years
4. Nkosinathi Ginindza	0.51 mg/l	E1 500/ 15 months
5. Nhlanhla Vilakati	0.44 mg/l	E1 400/ 14 months

along Jekwa Street, when he knocked from behind a Toyota Corolla sedan driven by Siyabonga Hlophe.

It was allegedly that Mkhwanazi was driving at an unreasonable speed and failed to maintain a safe following dis-

My sober driver left me – DD accused

WITH the highest recorded alcohol content reading on Saturday, one man pleaded with the court to be lenient in sentencing him as he wanted to go home for the Christmas holidays, and buy his family food.

After having been arrested in the early hours of Saturday morning, 27-year-old Makhosatsini Dlamini of Thembelihle told the court that he slept in the car until the early hours of the morning, only for him to be nabbed for drink-driving.

"My sober driver left me so I had no choice but to sleep the car until the early hours of the morning. When I woke up, I felt sober so I decided to drive myself home," Dlamini explained.

Dlamini was nabbed while driving under

"Utihlaze lani?" - court to only female DD offender

STORIES BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

UTIHLAZE LANI, which can loosely be translated to, "why do you embarrass yourself", was a question posed to the only female drunk driver who appeared before Magistrate Lucia Lukhele yesterday.

Thandeka Msibi appeared before the magistrate on a charge of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

She was arrested on Saturday afternoon along the 1st Avenue Road, near Eswatini Wire Industries

in Matsapha. Her alcohol content reading was 0.45mg/l, which exceeded the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

When asked why she contravened the Road Traffic Act, Msibi said she had been home on the day and enjoying her beverages. When she was arrested, Msibi said she was just coming out of Mobeni Flats, where she resides and was headed to Mahhala for the purpose of withdrawing some cash from an ATM. Magistrate Lukhele asked why she did not find other ways of getting to Mahhala, or even using online platforms to transfer the money to the person whom she wanted to give the mon In her

END-OF-YEAR PARTY ENDS ON SOMBRE NOTE

A drunk driver will remember this year's end-of-year party for more than the socialising part of it as he was also arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Banele Mngometulu was arrested yesterday morning along Stanley Street in Ngwane Park while driving a Nissan sedan with registration number ASD

250 AH. His alcohol specimen reading was 0.83mg/l, exceeding the legal limit of 0.38 mg/l.

When asked why he committed the offence, Mngometulu said he was from the party which he attended with his friends who usually met once a year.

He added that this year, they could

not have the party in one of their own's place so they resorted to meet at the newly established hangout spot in Ngwane Park; the X-Change Lounge and Shisanyama. When he was arrested, Mngometulu was from enjoying himself at the hangout spot.

He was sentenced to a year imprisonment with an option of E2 000 fine.

response, Msibi said she tried to use her FNB Application only for her to find

that she had exceeded her limit for the day. The female offender was sentenced

to one year imprisonment with an option of E2 000 fine.

TWO CANS OF MILK STOUT LAND MAN IN JAIL

A man startled the court when he said he could determine whether or not he was fit to drive after imbibing.

Eugene Motsa appeared before Magistrate Lucia Lukhele on a charge of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

He was arrested on Saturday night near Eswatini Wire in Industries Matsapha while driving a Toyota sedan, and his alcohol specimen reading was 0.75mg/l, exceeding the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

Motsa told the court that he was from dropping off his son who was hired as a deejay at an event in Matsapha when he decided to watch soccer on television. The man said he remembered that there were two cans of Castle Milk Stout in his fridge that were left by his friend.

Motsa said he drank the two beers after a meal. After some time, he had to go fetch his son from Matsapha and along the way stumbled on the police who arrested him.

Motsa added that he was shocked

after taking only the two cans of beers.

"I usually drink Heineken beer and after taking the same volume as the Stout, I would still feel fit to drive, and I'd know this by not feeling tipsy," he said. Surprised, Magistrate Lukhele asked what apparatus was used by Motsa to determine that his alcohol content in the blood system was below the legal limit.

He said he had never been arrested for such an offence before because he would have drunk the Heineken beer which was not problematic.

Other offenders:

1. Siboniso Dlamini	12 months imprisonment / E2 000 fine
2. Banele Dlamini	17 months imprisonment / E2 500 fine
3. John Sametlo	17 months imprisonment / E2 500 fine
4. Sabelo Shongwe	17 months imprisonment / E2 500 fine
5. Goina Nyembe	12 months imprisonment / E2 000 fine
6. Thulani Shongwe	12 months imprisonment / E2 000 fine
7. Bhekumuzi Sibiya	12 months imprisonment / E2 000 fine
8. Thandaza Culoethu Zwane	12 months imprisonment / E2 000 fine
9. Eric Eamshaw	12 months imprisonment / E2 000 fine

Magistrate Lukhele then asked why he did not buy the Heineken beer instead of drinking Stout, and in response, Motsa said he did not have

money because he used it all in purchasing a car battery.

He was sentenced to a year imprisonment with an option of E2 000 fine.

tance when the accident occurred.

When police officers subjected Mkhwanazi to a breathalyser test, he was found to have exceeded the legal alcohol content limit of 0.38 mg/l as he recorded a staggering 1.88 mg/l.

To add to his woes, Mkhwanazi was also accused of driving an unlicensed and unroad-worthy vehicle, as well as failing to provide his driver's licence when requested to do so by police officers.

In his appearance before Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi, Mkhwanazi pleaded guilty to all the charges placed.

Mkhwanazi explained that he was on his way home to sleep, thinking that if he were to drive he will not be nabbed by the police.

"I wanted to sleep and I thought that the police were not on the road yet. When the police stopped me, I panicked and it was then that I knocked the vehicle from behind," he explained.

With a harsh warning to desist from driving while under the influence of alcohol, the court sentenced Mkhwanazi to serve two years in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E5 000 for driving while under the influence of alcohol. For failing to produce his driver's licence and driving an unlicensed and unroadworthy vehicle, he was sentenced to serve five months, with the option to pay a fine of E500 for all three counts.

the influence of alcohol at Sidvashini, around 0210 hours. When a breathalyser test was conducted on him, he was found to have a blood alcohol content reading of 1.61 mg/l.

After finding him guilty as per his own plea, Dlamini was sentenced to serve two years in a correctional facility, with the option to pay a fine of E2 600.

MAN ARRESTED AFTER BABY MAMA DRAMA

DRAMA with the mother of his children was not the end of a male drunk driver's problems as he was nabbed for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Ngcebo Innocent Matse was arrested on Saturday night near Lusushwana in Matsapha while driving a VW sedan with registration number PSD 567 BH. His alcohol specimen reading was 0.95mg/l, exceeding the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

Matse told the court that he was arrested while on his way to fetch the mother of his children who had left him and the children after they had an argument over money.

He said after his partner had left their place of abode, he pleaded with her to return home to be with their children and she agreed. However, while he was on his way to fetch her, Matse said he was arrested and charged with contravening the Road Traffic Act.

Magistrate Lukhele, who presided over the matter, asked whether Matse had assaulted the mother of his children and he responded to the contrary.

The magistrate asked why then the woman had left him. Matse was adamant that it was monetary issues that were the cause of the argument.

He was sentenced to a year imprisonment with an option of E2 000 fine.

King grateful to Qatar's support to Eswatini

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO
KUNENE
Mbabane

HIS Majesty King Mswati III has thanked the government of Qatar for extending various forms of support to the Kingdom of Eswatini.

The King said Qatar has made a significant contribution in several sectors of the country's economy through joint operations the two countries have.

Speaking through Prince David during the Qatar National Day held Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre, His Majesty said the two countries have enjoyed a strong bond of friendship since establishment of the joint diplomatic relations in 2002.

His Majesty added that the country's pursuit of Vision 2022 would be in vain without the input of the bilateral friends and development partners.

"I would like to thank Qatar government for the warm and cordial relations that happily exist between the two countries and the numerous form of support that we receive from Qatar," the King said.

The King mentioned that he believed that as the two countries grow, increased partnership in terms of trade would be witnessed, offering



King's representative Prince David flanked by the State of Qatar Ambassador Ahmed Alsada and Minister of Tourism Moses Vilakati. This was during the singing of the national anthem at the Qatar Independence Day celebrations at Royal Swazi Convention Centre on Wednesday night. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

great opportunities for both countries.

Since the recent launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area, the King said Eswatini serves an ideal location for Qatar investors to set up a base for access into the African market, which is the world's largest single market.

Furthermore, the King said the celebration of Qatar National Day signifies a great milestone in the history of the people of that country built on a strong foundation laid by the late Jasim Bin Mohammed Al Thani on December 19, 141 years ago.

He congratulated the government and the people of Qatar for the unity and shared vision that has seen the country overcome challenges to develop into one of the most modern states of the world and pleaded for more peace.

"The Kingdom of Eswatini urges dialogue and a peaceful resolve to the new challenges that face Qatar today and the Arabian Gulf," he said.

The event was graced by Qatar's Ambassador to Eswatini Ahmed Alsada, Russian Ambassador to Eswatini Alexander Surikov, who is responsible for Mozambique, Indian High Commissioner, Cabinet

King invites Emaswati to visit Qatar, watch World Cup

SINCE the state of Qatar is in the verge of hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2022, the King has extended best wishes as they make final preparations for the event.

The King said from what he had observed, he strongly believes that people from all corners of the world will witness a remarkable unique experience in that country. He added that he looked forward to more locals visiting Qatar and attending the World Cup.

"We look forward to Emaswati flying out of the King Mswati III International Airport to Qatar for the FIFA World Cup and bringing back memorable experiences from their visit," he said.

The King added that the KMIII Airport offers a great business opportunity for Qatar Airways to explore, prior and beyond the World Cup.

ministers as well as members of the Royal family and government officials.



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International cooperation Thuli Dladla posing with the Qatar Ambassador Ahmed bin tajer Alsada and his deputy Hamad Al-Suwaidi on arrival for the ceremony.



The ambassador and his deputy with Sheriff who is a staff member and guests Mohamed Al Shimi and Amri Alshimi.

Woman attempts suicide after assault by hubby

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

AN assault by her husband nearly ended the life of a woman who doused herself with petrol.

"I took several pills to end the misery I suffered throughout my marriage." These words were uttered by a battered and abused woman who shook the entire courtroom to its core as she relayed her harrowing tale of abuse endured in her marriage.

Nompumelelo Shongwe told the court that after marrying 50-year-old Charles Nkambule, she suffered untold emotional and physical abuse at his (Nkambule's) and family members' hands.

"On the day the incident occurred, Nkambule and I had an argument about several issues we had encountered during the course of our marriage. Every time we spent time together, he would receive countless phone calls from different women and would always brush me aside when I confronted him about them. I then questioned him on why he chose to spend weekends away from me, instead of resolving our issues amicably," Shongwe said.

She stated that after several back and forth jabs at each other, Nkambule assaulted her with open hands and fists, then dragged and banged her head against the edge of a door.

She told the court that she was fortunate enough to escape from him as she headed outside to the edge of the fence on a rainy night.

She went to his car, took a container filled with petrol and proceeded into the house, locked the door and doused herself with petrol.

The matter was postponed to Friday for continuation of trial.

Widow's stokvel grocery stolen

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

WHAT was supposed to be a Merry Christmas for a widow, turned into a fairytale as her stokvel grocery was stolen.

Ntombiyembuso Maseko from Ka-LaDzimba at Buhleni is still reeling in shock after all her yearly savings in a stokvel went to waste. The widow, who lives with her three children, said she was from the last stokvel meeting where they shared their annual grocery when the incident happened.

Maseko said as usual they hired a car to ferry them to their various homesteads after sharing their groceries. When she got home at around 7pm she packed her groceries in another room and locked it.

She mentioned that when they went to sleep they even cross-checked if the room was properly locked. To her dismay, in the morning they found that the room with the groceries had

its door slightly opened.

"I heard one of my children saying the room wasn't locked as the door was opened. I didn't believe her and went straight to see for myself and indeed unlocked," she narrated.

She stated that when they came closer they found out that the door was damaged, she hurriedly went inside with the intention to look for her groceries and indeed found that they were stolen. Maseko said the break-in could have happened at the middle of the night as she didn't hear anything. The groceries included three 10kg rice, two trays of eggs, 10kg brown sugar, two 5 litres of cooking oil and two 10kg baking flour.

"I am still confused about the break-in and have already involved the community police to try and help me in this issue although I doubt it will be of any help," she said.

When quizzed if she contacted the Royal Eswatini Police Service, she said she was confused such that she even forgot to do so but only reported to the community police with the assistance of her neighbours.

STATE OF QATAR THANKS KING FOR WARM WELCOME

STORIES BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Ezulwini

THE State of Qatar Ambassador to Eswatini Ahmed bin tajer Alsada appreciated Their Majesties for the warm welcome in the country.

He was speaking at the celebration ceremony of the National Day of the State of Qatar at Royal Swazi Convention Centre recently.

The ambassador thanked Their Majesties, government and the entire Eswatini nation for cooperating with Qatar leadership. He also appreciated and commended their good cooperation with the embassy.

"We wish Eswatini people further progress, stability and prosperity. I have a pleasure to welcome you all for the National Day celebration of the State of Qatar established 141 years ago," he said.

He said the celebration of the day reflected the extent of their pride in the progress and accomplishments that the country had made towards building and achieving a strong homeland that was capable of overcoming great difficulties and challenges.

The ambassador added that the commemoration of the national day was rooted in linking and deepening the feelings of loyalty and national belonging in the hearts of the younger generations.

He said the Emir was keen to show his firm conviction that the future was built with the arms of the people of the country whom they were proud of. "More than two years ago we had an unfair blockade that was imposed on the State of Qatar which has resulted in creating a new reality clearly reflected in the booming economic situation and qualitative leap in various fields.

From the very beginning of the blockade, we have always confirmed that we in Qatar have demonstrated our readiness for open dialogue on the basis of respecting national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs, to show our respect to our values and traditions and also to prioritise the very best interests of brotherly relations between the peoples of the Arabian gulf," he said. The ambassador also



ITS AN HONOUR: King's representative Prince David flanked by the State of Qatar Ambassador Ahmed bin tajer Alsada and Minister of Tourism Moses Vilakati during the State of Qatar National Day celebrations at the Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre recently. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



PRESENT: Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations Thuli Dladla with Qatar Ambassador Ahmed bin tajer Alsada and his deputy Hamad Al-Suwaidi on arrival for the ceremony.

praised common bilateral relations between Qatar and Eswatini; the growth and development being witnessed in the joint cooperation between the two countries in the fields. He said this indicated the keenness of the two countries to further develop cooperation horizons between them and to continue to improve those relations increasing the framework of joint operation cor-

poration from all levels. Further, he expressed pride in the level of close coordination between the two countries towards regional and international issues of common concern. He also emphasised the importance of continuing to activate the mechanisms of regular and periodic consultation between the governments of both countries.

FIFA World Cup emblem unveiled

THE ambassador unveiled the emblem for the next FIFA World Cup that will be held in Qatar in 2022.

He said the tournament was going to be a unique version throughout history since this was the first international tournament to be held in any Arab soil.

"It will be an exceptional and successful in all standards. Qatar Airways has significantly strengthened its sports sponsorship recently by facilitating the services of travel arrangements and accommodation for fans from all over the world who will be visiting Qatar in 2022. We will provide services to facilitate entry visas, hotel reservations, car rentals and more," he noted.

The emblem was officially unveiled to the world in September. FIFA said it meant to embody the vision of an event that connects and engages the entire world, while also reflecting the culture in which the sporting event will take taking place.

The new swooping emblem is white with distinct maroon markings that are both floral and geometric. The figure is supposed to resemble the number eight for the number of stadiums that will host the soccer matches, and the infinity symbol, for the interconnected nature of the event.

According to FIFA, culturally, the symbol resembles a woolen shawl that is typically worn by the citizens of Arab and Gulf countries in winter, which is when the 2022 World Cup will take place.

The World Cup is normally held during the summer months. But world governing body FIFA decided to move the 2022 tournament to the Qatari winter, following fears over the intense summer temperatures in the Gulf state.



YUMMY: The cake well decorated with flags for both countries.

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'SHONGWE HAD EXHAUSTED ALL LEGAL AVENUES'

STORIES BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Manzini Magistrate's Court

WHILE in the country Shongwe is currently exploring all legal avenues to gain his liberation, back in South Africa it is a different story altogether.

It has been revealed that Shongwe had exhausted all legal avenues in respect of appealing his conviction and sentences as his case had been turned down even in the Constitutional Court. Principal Magistrate David Khumalo in his ruling indicated that all these considerations and circumstances at interplay could cumulatively be used to reasonably infer that Shongwe knew about his release and had given mandate to the one who drew and uttered the documents that facilitated his release. Khumalo said on the question of whether or not there is still an out-

standing sentence for Shongwe to serve in Barberton Correctional Services, it should be noted that it is not only a question of fact but also of law.

Khumalo stated that Section 139 (3) (a) of the Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998 as amended states that a prisoner serving a life imprisonment sentence can only be considered for parole after serving 20 years. Khumalo said it has not been disputed that in this case Shongwe had not been considered for parole at the time of his release.

Khumalo said this was because he had not served the necessary period for him to be considered for parole. This is because, according to Khumalo, the suspect started serving his sentence for the two life imprisonment in 2001 and when he was eventually released in 2008, he still fell far too short of reaching the 20 years for him to be considered for parole.

Witness' credibility cannot be used to determine matter

PRINCIPAL Magistrate David Khumalo has indicated that he is in agreement with the assertion that some of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions witnesses contradicted themselves, hence they cannot be regarded as credible.

Khumalo said he agrees with the crown that credibility cannot be used at this stage to determine the matter unless it can be shown that the

witnesses were so incredible so as to render the applicant (DPP's) case irretrievably shattered, which is not the position *in casu*.

Khumalo said he is satisfied that the crown has succeeded to make a prima facie case to warrant the respondent to come to his defence. The principal magistrate said this, therefore, means the application for absolution from the instance is dismissed.

NOTICE

We would like to inform our valued clients and stakeholders that our offices shall be closed for the Christmas holidays **from Monday, 23rd December 2019** and will resume normal business operations on **Tuesday, 7th January 2020**.

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year.*

SATISO

Sitsandza kwatisa emakhasimende efu, kutsi emahhovisi aka FINCORP atobe avalele emaholide akhisimusi, kusakela nge Musombuluko wangemashumi lamabili nakutsafu enyangeni ye Ngononi. Atovula ngemnyaka lotako, mhla tisikhombisa enyangeni ya Bhimbhidwane.

*Sinifisela khisimusi lomuhle nemnyaka
lomusha loyimphumelele.*



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DOC20646

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANZINI



NOTICE OF FESTIVE CLOSURE - LIMITED SERVICES

Dear valued stakeholder,

The Honourable Mayor, Councillors, Management and employees of the Municipal Council of Manzini take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and safe festive season.

Please note that Council will be taking a festive break at 12 Noon on Friday 20th December 2019 and normal business will resume at 8am on the 6th January 2020. Limited (essential) services such as waste collection, health inspections, burial services, pound services, filter clinic and Rates Hall services will be provided (normal office hours) during this period. You are encouraged to make use of Council's 24/7 Call Centre (800 2004/2505 7000) for purposes of reporting municipal service faults, road maintenance, noise, stray animals, burning of waste and other service delivery issues. Alternatively, you may use our 'Manzini News' Facebook platform.

Please dial the following numbers for the following service requirements;

- Health inspections, pound services, waste collection – 2508 5034/ 2508 5037/2508 5030/7802 3799
- Building applications & inspections, burial services, public transport permits – 2508 5052/7802 3798/79124379/76683271
- Rates Hall Services – 2508 5048/2508 5054/7602 2057

For other pressing issues you may send a message to 7802 3889.

As a Municipality we always value your support. Again, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe cross over and prosperous year 2020.

L.P. Dlamini
TOWN CLERK/CEO



manzini news

website: www.mncitycouncil.sz

Doc 20725



Merry Christmas

Eswatini Communications Commission would like to inform the Nation that the Commission offices will be closing on **Friday, 20th December 2019** at 12 noon. Operations will resume on **Monday, 6th January 2020**.

During this period, respective contacts points within the Commission Management will be available to attend to industry related issues that may arise.

The Commission wishes all its Stakeholders and the Nation a Merry Christmas & a Prosperous New Year.



*and a Prosperous
New Year*

DOC20347

SHISELWENI NEWS

...With

Starsky Mkhonta

Nhlanguano office

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Opposite SEDCO PremisesTel: 2207 5159 Cell: 7621 5081
Email: Starsky@realnet.co.sz

MP FEEDS OVER 300 FAMILIES

OVER 300 families from seven chiefdoms under Shiselweni I Constituency received food hampers as Christmas gifts from Member of Parliament (MP) Christian Ntshangase last Friday.

The MP, who has made a name for himself by taking care of the needy members of the constituency, visited the chiefdoms to distribute food hampers and was accompanied by members of the inkhundla team (indvuna yenkhundla and seven bucophos). The chiefdoms under the inkhundla are Mabonabulawe, Ezikhotheni, Dumenkhungwini, Manyandzeni, Hluhuma, Mchisweni and Eposini.

Apart from the food hampers, there are those who get a monthly salary from the MP, a first in the constituency's history. This is a programme the MP introduced when he was elected in 2018 and he committed himself that it will be for the duration of his term (five years).

The MP said it was his wish to see the needy catered for, especially at this period of the year. He said as some areas of the constituency were riddled by poverty, it was his responsibility to see how the families in these areas were assisted not only with food but also basic amenities of life. He was still to work out on a



Part of the food hampers distributed by Shiselweni I MP Christian Ntshangase to over 300 families from seven chiefdoms.

long term solution to deal with the challenges. "I don't want to see people always spoon fed but I wish for them to be empowered in starting income generating projects.

"Giving them food hampers is just for now as it is the period of giving. Otherwise, we need to work on a plan to see everyday being Christmas to the people. We have to see how we assist them start projects," said the MP, who is also minister of public service.

The MP thanked his friends and other sponsors for assisting him with the food hampers. He said there were more families who were desperate but those that have been left out should know that their turn would come.

"It's my duty to assist where possible. Donors and some of my friends have been of great help," said the MP.

Meanwhile, Indvuna Yenkhundla Sifiso Khumalo said the food hampers were estimated at over E20 000.

SA frequent travellers praise kombi driver

TRAVELLERS frequenting places like Johannesburg in South Africa have praised one of the cross-border kombi drivers for great hospitality.

In fact, most of the customers feel Siboniso 'Mgazi' Ntshangase deserves recognition for his good work. Others have even suggested that his employers should honour him as motivation. Ntshangase is employed by Shiselweni Kombi Association (SHIKA).

The association's vehicles service the cross-border routes, which is specifically the Nhlanguano/Johannesburg route. Some of the customers speak highly of Ntshangase and have vowed to organise for him a token of appreciation.

"You feel safe whenever boarding the SHIKA kombi driven by Ntshangase because he is an experienced driver. You are at ease throughout the journey because he is also skilled, so you know you will arrive safely in Johannesburg.

I frequent Johannesburg and it's been over a year now boarding the same kombi driven by Ntshangase. There has been not a single day there has been a complaint and some of the customers can attest to what I am talking about.

You can fall asleep from the (Nhlanguano) bus rank and you are certain to reach Park Station in Johannesburg safely,"



Siboniso 'Mgazi' Ntshangase who is employed by SHIKA.

regular customer Shumi Zulu said.

Zulu said it was important for the employers (SHIKA) to consider honouring Ntshangase for his splendid work. He was not the only one who has noticed how good Ntshangase was at his work.

He said since he was a regular user of the kombi, he was prepared to approach SHIKA to recommend that Ntshangase be honoured.

"If one is not familiar with Johannesburg, Ntshangase makes sure you are taken care of as he gives you all the directions or refers you to someone from that side. We now consider him as one of the best drivers for the cross-border vehicles.

The hospitality is what makes him popular to most of us. To make him aware

how much we appreciate the way he treats us, his employers have to honour him. It may be anything, including reviewing his salary," said another regular user of the SHIKA kombi who approached Shiselweni News to express his appreciation of the good work of Ntshangase.

On the other hand, Ntshangase told Shiselweni News that he wasn't aware that there were customers taking note of his work.

"I am happy to hear this and I have all along been doing what is expected of me as it is this job that puts food on the table for my family. I am humbled and honoured to hear that customers are happy. Actually, I am paid to make them happy," Ntshangase told Shiselweni News.

Fire boss leads by example

MAURICE Simelane, officer-in-charge at the Nhlanguano Fire and Emergency Station, has been praised for being a front-line player in all incidents the station has to attend.

The public and some of his subordinates feel Simelane is a true leader who does not believe in dictating to his colleagues.

They described him as hands-on whenever the station had to attend to any emergency. Others said if there could be a way of assessing performances of the fire stations, Simelane could emerge in the top spot.

"In any incident, be it fire, road accident or even drowning, he is there assisting.

Whenever there is an emergency, it is hard to know who between him and colleagues is senior or junior. You hardly hear Simelane screaming orders but you see him hard at work. He is the type of a leader who does not believe in taking a backseat or enjoying the comfort of his office but is always hands-on.

He is usually in the forefront of any activity or emergency," commented a member of the public when the department was found attending to a fatal accident near Thunzini on Friday.

This was an accident involving a Corsa bakkie and a truck where two passengers (travelling in the bakkie) were killed on the spot.

P&P Hair Beauty Salon to celebrate 15 years with customers

ONE of the leading hair beauty salon businesses in Nhlanguano specialising on dreadlocks is planning to celebrate its 15th anniversary with its valued customers.

P&P Hair Beauty Salon, which has customers from as far as Saudi Arabia and many places beyond the Kingdom of Eswatini, is co-owned by two young women, Phumla Dlamini and Phumlile Mahlalela and is located below the Nhlanguano Post Office building.

The two directors said they started the business 15 years ago and had customers who have been with them from the first year up to now.

"There has to be a way of honouring these valued customers who have been with us for the past 15 years. We are planning to celebrate our 15th anniversary and to honour these customers for being loyal for such a long time.

We will announce the date of the anniversary where we will dish out awards. Our overseas customers who normally visit us during holidays such as during the

festive will get tokens of appreciation to show how we value them. We have to celebrate our success together with them (customers)," said Dlamini.

Dlamini said their customers were from different backgrounds. She said P&P Hair Beauty Salon was the preferred choice for customers than any other salon in Nhlanguano.

"This should not sound like we are bragging but if the truth can be told; we are the only experts when it comes to dreadlocks. Experience also counts and this is what we also boast of. We are known for being professionals and this has also contributed to be known as a leading dreadlock specialists around," Mahlalela, the co-owner, told Shiselweni News.

The two business partners said what has also contributed to their business flourishing was the understanding they have. "We are more like sisters than business partners. This is what has made our business strong. We trust each other so much and know which button to press whenever there are challenges," said Dlamini.



P&P Hair Beauty Salon co-owners Phumla Dlamini and Phumlile Mahlalela joined by a friend Happy Dlamini attending to a customer.

People with disabilities feel neglected by DPM's office

BY KHETSIWE KHUMALO
Mbabane

PERSONS with disabilities have voiced concerns on being neglected by the deputy prime minister's office (DPM).

They have raised concerns that the Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku has neglected them and has prioritised the SODV Act instead of them.

According to Senzo Mhlanga of the people with disabilities, the DPM and

his office have mentioned several times that his office pays out disability grants every after three months but that this is far from true as they have never received any disability grant.

"We have never received any disability grant, people should know that there is no disability grant but a social grant which has different beneficiaries like the elderly and some disabled persons," said Mhlanga. Mhlanga added that persons with disability who received grants were lucky because this is picky and does not cater for all the needs of the

disabled people in the country. He further added that the DPM only pushing the SODV Act agenda instead. Mhlanga said the DPM and his office need to be taught more about people with disabilities and how their needs can be catered for.

Assistance

Concurring with Mhlanga was Lomhlangano Mkhabela of Manzini North Inkhundla who said she has not received any form of assistance following her disability some years ago. DPM Themba Masuku, responding,

said his offices were always open to anyone who has questions on how they work and remains ready to explain or offer assistance where they can.

Touch

"I am not sure what motivates Mhlanga's comments, but I can invite him or his organisation (FODSWA) whom we work closely with to get in touch so that I can understand the nature of his concerns.

The disability grant and the

Disability Act are real issues. Last month, the prime minister announced that the grant would be increased as of January just like the elderly grants," he said.

The DPM said it was true that he had prioritised amongst many of his activities the SODV Act because this was one law that affects all people, including the disabled, as they suffer in silence.

Masuku said he was open to engage and listen to anyone with whom his office deals with.

Unemployed man beats lover for coming late from work

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

AN unemployed man was arrested and charged with assaulting his girlfriend for coming home late from work.

Mandla Phumlani Mbhamali (29) of Esibayeni in Matsapha appeared before Magistrate Lucia Lukhele at the Matsapha Circuit Court on a charge of contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act.

Mbhamali's charge sheet stated that last Wednesday, he assaulted his girlfriend Nomvula Dlamini with fists on her face, and further used a stick to beat her on the forehead. When asked why

he committed the offence, Mbhamali told the court that he was irked by the fact that his lover had lied to him in that when he called her through her mobile phone, she said she was already in her house.

Mbhamali said Nomvula is employed by one of the textile factories in Matsapha and her knock-off time is 5pm. After Nomvula told him that she was already in her house, Mbhamali said he went there only for him to find that his lover was not there.

By then, Mbhamali said it was around 8pm.

Magistrate Lukhele asked if the accused person was aware of the SODV Act, and he responded to the affirmative. When she asked what exactly he knew

about it, the 29-year-old said, "ngati kutsi kuyaboshwana blind."

The magistrate then asked if Mbhamali assaulted his lover for the first time and he first denied it before eventually admitting. Magistrate Lukhele told Mbhamali that the SODV Act was meant to prevent domestic violence.

She said if Mbhamali was upset about being lied to, he should have talked to his girlfriend about it. If the two failed to reach common ground, the magistrate said the provoked party should then excuse him or herself from the relationship rather than resorting to violence.

Mbhamali was sentenced to two years imprisonment with an option of E2 000 fine.



Two shoplifters who were apprehended stealing various items from Boxer Supermarket last year.

Festive hype: 11 shoplifters apprehended in five days

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

WITH the festive hype at its peak, 11 individuals have been arrested for shoplifting at Boxer and other supermarkets in Pigg's Peak over the last five days.

The various shop lifters were arrested by security personnel who are stationed at the different outlets.

Speaking to this publication, security personnel at Boxer Supermarket said the suspects came in all ages.

Manager at Boxer Stores Jerry

Mkhonta confirmed the incidents and stated that he has since beefed up security to limit the ever growing number of shoplifters.

Also speaking to this publication was Asian businessman Ali Shafi who said he has also apprehended four shoplifters trying to help themselves to his goods.

"Last week I apprehended four women who had hidden smaller canned milk in their handbags.

I spotted the women stealing from my surveillance cameras. It is the festive season, hence criminal activity is very high," he said.

'Stop asking me for handouts'

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

PROSCRIBED entity leader Mlungisi Makhanya has lashed out to members of the public who have approached him for assistance various forms.

Makhanya says his organisation would not bend to a 'misplaced act of generosity'.

Makhanya is the same political activist who was reported by one of the local media houses to have established a lavish home at Sikhuphe under Malindza Umphakatsi.

Members of the public are said to have started flocking to the party leader to ask for financial assistance.

At least, this is what was derived from Makhanya's lashing out on social media where he minced no

words in stating that the political party would not be rendering any form of personal assistance to anyone, especially those who did not believe in the party's ideologies.

Part of Makhanya's statement posted on Facebook read: "Now I have taken a principled personal decision, those who think they can look down upon my movement and clandestinely approach me for their personal assistance must forget."

Makhanya went on to state that the 'misplaced act of generosity' will not apply going forward.

Makhanya's post received immediate reactions from hundreds of users of the social platform.

The reactions indicated that Makhanya's post was understood to mean that the proscribed party had been receiving appeals for assistance from people who did not believe in its ideologies.

Escort...



HEAVY ESCORT: Murder suspect Sipho Shongwe being heavily escorted after his appearance at the Manzini Magistrates Court last Thursday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Three granted E700 bail for stabbing another

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

WITH the festive hype gaining momentum, three men have been arrested for stabbing patrons at a local bar.

Bandile Shongwe (23), Eddie Mondlane (23) and Thando Dlamini (18) have been granted bail after they were arrest-

ed and charged with two counts of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

The three are reported to have on November 30 at Nkwadini Zone 4 assaulted Bongani Mthimkhulu with open hands and fists several times on his head.

They are said to have stabbed him once with a knife on his shoulder, with intent to cause him grievous bodily

harm. The trio is alleged to have, on the same day, proceeded to assault Sabelo Tembe with open hands, fists and kicks and beer bottles several times.

They are said to have further stabbed him several times with a knife on his head, with intent to cause harm.

The three appeared before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati while represented by Mabila Attorneys law firm.

MCEBO DOES RIGHT BY THE SIBIYAS

TOGETHER: Mcebo Simelane who is employed by the Eswatini Environmental Authority (ESRA) poses with his wife Nondumiso Sibiya, a teacher by profession and son Sivikelwe during the loba-la ceremony held at Phumelele in Lavumisa over the weekend. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



FAMILY: Nolwazi and Elisa flank the Simelanes.

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Mbabane

DOC:20963



POSE: The couple with the umyeni and a relative during the ceremony.



MEAT: Officer Ngcebo Verimaak stands next to a slaughtered cow.



NOTICE - PREMIUMS ADJUSTMENTS

United Health Insurance Ltd would like to notify her valued clients of the revision in the product offerings, including premiums with effect from 1st January 2020. Affected clients will be notified via SMS.

For further information please contact:

UHI Operations Manager Mr L Matsebula- 7802 4214
Toll Free: 800 1010

Mr. Mzingaye Ndlovu

Acting Chief Executive



INYAMA: The meat being prepared by gozolo.



SUPPORT: Mcebo's friends were there to support him.

FAMILY: The groom Mcebo and his aunt Hana Simelane.



ESWATINI INCORPORATED: 2022 & BEYOND

'MOVING FROM RHETORIC TO ACTION'

ISSUE NO. 108

WITHOUT HOPE
WE ARE DOOMED

THE Kingdom of Eswatini is a Christian country. In fact, some prophets have proclaimed the country to be the pulpit of Africa.

So to us December 25 has a significant meaning beyond the festivities of good food, new clothes, vacation and wine.

We understand that this day was declared and accepted the world over as the day in which Jesus Christ of Nazareth was born.

We also believe that during the Easter Holidays in late March and April He was crucified so that you and I can be saved.

In dealing with hope, I like this small passage from Suzanne Benner where she says: "Jesus came to bring hope."

She writes: "The Bible is not light reading. Using a cast of thousands, God unfolds a narrative full of brutal murders, sordid sexual affairs, manipulation, and extortion.

With story after story, we begin to see that evil has stained us all.

In fact,

...Governments are elected on the basis of giving people hope for a better future. As a Christian society, we must know better that Jesus died so that He can give us hope for a better tomorrow

ple have sinned and are therefore separated from God.

The Apostle Paul sums up our desperate situation, saying that were "without hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12). Hope for the future, that we will be redeemed.

Hope for the present, that we are not alone, but are loved and have pur-

pose. Hope even over the past, that our failures are not greater than God's power to transform.

When we as believers speak of hope, we don't mean a desire that may or may not be fulfilled. No, our hope is certain.

Our hope for forgiveness, for reconciliation with God and eternal life rests on the finished work of Jesus. Jesus — the sinless Son of God — died to pay the penalty for our sins and rose from the dead so that we too might have life."

As a kingdom, we align ourselves with the biblical teachings because they talk to a life we understand.

When Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 2 vs 1-7 speaks about the need to supplicate, pray, intercede and giving of thanks be made for all men and for kings and all in authority so that we may lead peaceable life in godliness and reverence, we understand.

We understand this because in Romans 13 vs 1 the Bible says: "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."

These authorities are appointed to give people hope.

We further elect our governments on the basis of a better future. Where there is no hope, there is doom.

Jesus gives us the hope that Suzanne spoke about - hope for the present that we are not alone.

Hope for the future that we will be redeemed. He gave us hope even over the past, that our failures are not greater than God's power to transform.

As a country we may have had a difficult decade - 2009-2019. So when we elected the new government last year we did so because



CHRIST: Jesus Christ was born to give us life.

we believe and trust in the leadership that God gave us. We have hope that the new decade will be better.

The fact that we have been through this difficult period, we need to praise God for keeping us together.

We also need to thank our public service for accepting our difficult situation and the realisation that we need to do better.

It was not easy and in many instances we can even put some faces into the many situations we have been through, but we believe in God's transforming power and in the raising of leaders who can usher us into the world His Majesty the King is envisioning.

This country needs leaders who will see what the King envisions. This picture of a prosperous kingdom must be illuminated in many people in leadership who will begin to start talking the talk and walking the walk.

Much of what is happening is because there are few people who don't share the vision, seemingly gaining voice and the louder their noise it will start to create doubt even amongst the larger populace.

Those in authority need to talk less and do more.

The challenges we have had in the past decade were because there were few people in leadership positions who focused on themselves, forgetting to work for the greater good of our people.

They used their proximity to the King to line their pockets and abused their positions, thereby creating dissent.

The voices of dissent gain currency when we have fewer jobs and government's capacity to deliver key services is compromised.

Clearly, we need to look all around us and see what we can do to change our situation.

We need to create decent jobs and improve government's fiscus in 2020 in order to contain the hopelessness in our people.

As individuals we need to be kind to one another. In fact in Mark 12 vs 30-31 Jesus gives us the two greatest commandments: "You shall love the

Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it is this 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.'

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we must remember those two great commandments and remember to give people hope. Angeke kuhlale kunje!

In closing, I would like to quote the following scriptures:

The king's heart is like a stream of water directed by the LORD; he guides it wherever he pleases. Proverbs 21:1

Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves... For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason.

They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.' Romans 13:2-5

EPHESIANS 2:12

Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

APPOINTED: His Majesty King Mswati III was appointed by God.

ON THIS DAY

...DECEMBER 23

2006 - Arnold Schwarzenegger in a skiing accident

2006 : Arnold Schwarzenegger has broken his leg while skiing with his family in Sun Valley, Idaho. The California Governor was taken to a local hospital for X-rays, which revealed he had fractured his femur. An Austrian, Mr Schwarzenegger is an experienced skier and frequent visitor to Sun Valley, where a piste has been named Arnold's Run after him. Three days later, in Santa Monica, he underwent surgery to repair the break.

2007 - Turkish planes bomb Iraq again
Turkish warplanes have again bombed Kurdish rebels along the border of northern Iraq. Jabbar Yawer, a spokesman for the Iraqi Kurdish security forces has said that the raid lasted more than three hours, but that 'there was no damage or loss of life.' Turkey has now carried out three air strikes on northern Iraq in the past week, as well as a small ground incursion. The PKK, which is designated a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the US, and the EU is thought to have about three thousand rebels based in Iraq. The Turkish government says that many of the rebels are holed up in the Qandil mountains.

2009 - Hoax Balloon Boy's parents given jail sentences

The man who triggered a major alert by falsely claiming that his son was adrift in a helium balloon has been sentenced to 90 days in jail, and his wife to 20. Richard Heene, and his wife Mayumi, said in October that their son had been carried off by the balloon. The boy was eventually found hiding at home.

Heene apologised to rescue workers and the community in the Colorado courtroom. The judge ordered four years of supervised probation for the couple and banned them from receiving any form of financial benefit from the case.

2011 - Chinese writer jailed for "subversive" writing

2011 : Chen Wei, a Chinese writer, was sentenced to nine years in jail after being convicted of "inciting subversion of state power". Chen Wei wrote many online essays in which he called for freedom of speech and a reform to the one-party system in China.

2012 - Pirate hostages freed

Somalian troops were able to free 22 hostages that had been taken by pirates almost three years prior. Sources stated that troops were fighting with the pirates for two weeks before being able to rescue the hostages.

2013 - Russia sends trucks to Syria

2013 : Russia has sent 75 trucks to Syria with the intention of helping clear chemical weapons in the war-torn country. They were flown into Syria and will be used to transport the chemical weapons.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Quincy Jones III
Swedish producer
December 23, 1968 (age 51 years)



Carla Bruni Sarkozy
December 23, 1967 (age 52 years)



WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Utsini umtsetfo

THE FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE ACT, 2019

(Act No. 16 of 2019)

AN ACT
ENTITLED

AN ACT to provide for the sustainable regulation and utilisation of fish resources and the development of aquaculture by giving effect to the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), 2006; to repeal and replace the Protection of Fresh Water Fish Act No. 75 of 1937; and to provide for incidental matters.

Enacted by the King and the Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2019.

(2) This Act shall come into force on a date to be determined by the Minister by Notice published in the Gazette.

INTERPRETATION

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires -

"aquaculture" means the cultivation of aquatic organisms in controlled or selected fresh water environments where the end product is raised in fresh water and where the earlier stages of the life cycle of these species may be spent in brackish waters or marine waters and where the cultivated stock may be privately owned and disposed of for commercial gain or for subsistence purposes;

"aquatic resources" means all living organisms located on shores of or in a body of water, including but not limited to -

(a) all organic or inorganic substances; (b) living organisms and their habitats including fish; and (c) habitats and their interacting natural ecosystems;

"Board" means the Fisheries and Aquaculture Board established under Section 8;

"citizen or permanent resident of Eswatini" means either -

(a) a citizen of Eswatini; (b) a permanent resident of Eswatini; (c) a legal entity where the majority of the issued share capital or interest, as the case may

be, is beneficially controlled by a citizen of Eswatini; or

(d) a trust where the majority of trustees and beneficiaries are Eswatini citizens;

"commercial aquaculture" means the production of fish for commercial sale whether domestically or for export;

"fish" means any aquatic plant or animal and includes the eggs, larvae and all juvenile stages;

"fish processing" means the process associated with fish and fish products between the time fish is caught or harvested up to the time the final product is delivered to the consumer;

"fish processing establishment" means any commercial vehicle,

vessel, premises or place where any substance or article is produced from fish by any method, including the work of cutting up, dismembering, separating parts of, cleaning, sorting, lining and preserving of fish, or where fish are canned, packed, dried, gutted, salted, iced, chilled, frozen or otherwise processed for sale in or outside the territory of Eswatini;

"fishing" means -

(a) searching for, catching, taking or harvesting fish or an attempt to undertake any such activity;

(b) engaging in any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the locating,

catching, taking or harvesting of fish;

(c) placing, searching for or recovering any fish aggregating device or associated gear; or

(d) any operation in support or in preparation of any activity described in this definition;

"fisheries observer" means an independent specialist who serves on board commercial fishing vessels, or in fish processing plants and other platforms and is employed by the fisheries observer program either by a government department or by a third party contractor;

"fishing activities" means -

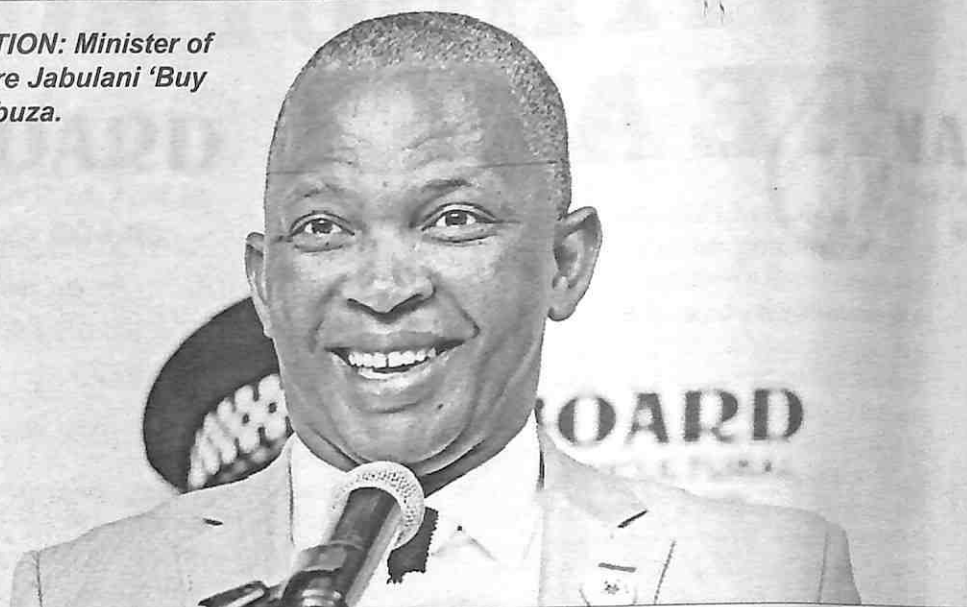
(a) storing, buying, selling, processing or transporting fish or any fish product taken from Eswatini waters;

(b) on-shore storing, buying, selling or processing of fish or any fish product;

(c) refueling or supplying fishing vessels, selling or supplying fishing equipment or performing any other act in support of fishing; or

(d) exporting and importing fish or any fish product;

REGULATION: Minister of Agriculture Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza.



"fishing vessel" means any craft ship which is used for, equipped to be used for or of a type that is normally used for fishing or related activities, and includes all gear, equipment, stores, cargo and fuel on board the vessel;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for fisheries and aquaculture;

"national water bodies" means any body of water, river or stream located either entirely or partly on privately owned land and includes those water bodies managed as dams by any Government department;

"Principal Secretary" means the Principal Secretary of the Ministry responsible for fisheries and aquaculture;

"recreation or sport fishing" means fishing for pleasure or competition;

"small-scale commercial aquaculture" means the farming of fish in ponds that produce more than 400 kilograms but not exceeding 10 000 kilograms of fish annually and is sold, bartered or exchanged for commercial gain or for goods and services;

"small-scale commercial fishing" means fishing where the majority of the catch is sold for commercial gain or in exchange for goods and services and a minority of the catch is used for subsistence purposes;

"subsistence aquaculture" means the farming of fish in domestic ponds for purposes of own-consumption;

"total allowable catch" means the total allowable catch determined by the Board in accordance with this Act; and

"total applied effort" means the total applied effort determined by the Minister in accordance with this Act.

Objectives and principles of the Act.

3. The Minister, a Government

department or official shall, in exercising any power under this Act, have regard to the following objectives and principles -

(a) the environmental principles set out in the Environment Management Act (Act No. 5 of 2002), in so far as they are applicable; (b) the need to achieve optimum utilisation and ecologically sustainable development of fish stocks and aquaculture;

(c) the need to conserve fish stocks for both present and future generations;

(d) the need to apply precautionary approaches and the utilisation of the best available scientific research in respect of the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture;

(e) the need to utilise fisheries and aquaculture to achieve economic growth, human resource development, employment creation and a sound ecological balance consistent with the development objectives of the Kingdom;

(f) the need to preserve environmental and fisheries biodiversity;

(g) the need to minimize, mitigate and prevent pollution (according to polluter pays principle) of water bodies; and

(h) any relevant obligation of the country in terms of any international agreement or applicable international law.

APPLICATION OF THE ACT

4. Unless the context indicates otherwise, this Act shall apply -

(a) to a person, a fishing activity, a fishing vessel, and an aircraft, including a foreign aircraft, on or in the airspace above the territory of Eswatini;

(b) to a fishing activity or aquaculture carried out in water bodies within the territory of Eswatini or in foreign or international waters by a vessel bearing an Eswatini flag or a person in possession of Eswatini license or permit; and

(c) to a fishing activity, vessel or aircraft bearing Eswatini national flag or such colors, emblem or depiction of national importance.

Achieving targets on energy



By: **Nathalie Ndongo-Seh**
Eswatini UN Resident
Coordinator

IN 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 17 SDGs call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. With only 10 years remaining to achieve these goals, countries are accelerating steps towards ending all forms of poverty, fighting inequalities, tackling climate change and ensuring that no one is left behind. Every month, the United Nations places one of the 17 SDGs under the spotlight, highlighting its purpose, target, indicators and outlining its criticality in advancing Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. The focus is placed this month on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all – SDG 7.

Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today. From job creation to economic development, from security concerns to the full empowerment of women, from poverty eradication to food security, health, education, sustainable cities, transport, and adaptation to climate change, energy lies at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed to by the world's leaders in September 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda.

In the words of former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: "Energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, increased social equity, and an environment that allows the world to thrive."

Renewable

Focusing on universal access to energy, increased energy efficiency and the increased use of renewable energy is crucial to creating more sustainable and inclusive communities and resilience to environmental issues such as climate change. Globally, 840 million people – one out of seven – do not have access to electricity to light their homes, refrigerate their food, or keep cool in rising temperatures. Around three billion people have to rely on dirty biomass fuels such as charcoal, coal and animal waste for cooking and are exposed to dangerous levels of air pollution. In Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, 20 countries have the largest gaps in electricity and clean cooking access. These regions are also represented in the 80 per cent of countries worldwide that do not have access to electricity.

Without access to clean, modern energy, it is impossible to achieve SDGs to reduce poverty, broaden education and improve public health. Without a stable electricity supply, countries will not be able to power their economies. A well-established energy system supports all sectors

...will help meet other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



from businesses, medicine and education to agriculture, infrastructure, communications and high-technology.

Without electricity, women and girls have to spend hours fetching water; clinics cannot store vaccines for children; many schoolchildren cannot do homework at night; and people cannot run competitive businesses. The health and the well-being of some three billion people are adversely impacted by the lack of clean cooking fuels such as wood, charcoal, dung and coal, which cause indoor air pollution. As an example, replacing outdated stoves and open fires would save the lives of 800 000 children who die each year from exposure to indoor air pollution. That is why SDG7 calls for action to close these energy gaps by 2030.

More specifically, SDG 7 calls for the "affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030. Its three core targets are the foundation for our work, which is, ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services; increase substantially the share of renewable energy in global energy mix and double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

Fortunately, progress has been made in the past decade on the use of renewable electricity from water, solar and wind power, and the ratio of energy used per unit of GDP is also declining. However, the challenge is far from being solved. More access to clean fuel and technology is required, and more progress shall be made towards integrating renewable energy into end-use applications in buildings, transport and industry.

While a greater focus shall be placed on regulatory frameworks and innovative business models to transform the world's energy systems, public and private investments in energy shall be increased. Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) research shows that investment for better electricity access falls far short of the spending needed to deliver universal access by 2030. For example, an estimated \$45 billion of annual investment is needed to achieve universal electricity access. Finance to fund clean cooking solutions in the 20 countries that need them most requires an investment of \$4.4 billion annually – it currently averages just US\$32 million a year. The outlook for renewables is also below par – despite revolutionary advances in renewable energy technologies, finance for off-grid

energy solutions amounts to only 1.3 per cent of all funds flowing to electrification. SDG 7 sets out to change these numbers and advocate for more investment in sustainable, renewable energy.

Countries can accelerate the transition to an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy system by investing in renewable energy resources, prioritising energy efficient practices, and adopting clean energy technologies and infrastructure.

Businesses can maintain and protect ecosystems in order to be able to use and develop hydropower sources of electricity and bioenergy, and commit to sourcing 100 per cent of operational electricity needs from renewable sources.

Plugging

As individuals, we can save electricity by plugging appliances into a power strip and turning them off completely when not in use, including our computers. You can also bike, walk or take public transport to reduce carbon emissions.

In its Energy Masterplan 2034, the Kingdom of Eswatini has identified renewable energy as the driving force of the country's energy transformation and sustainable energy as a priority area for support to the development results for the Kingdom. The key challenge facing the country's energy system is a lack of security of supply. Eswatini imports around 70 per cent of its power despite being well endowed with conventional and renewable energy resources, including coal, solar, hydro, wind and biomass residues from the sugar and forestry industries. These resources could meet the entire national electricity demand if fully exploited, and the excess energy provide export opportunities to Eswatini's neighbours.

The overall goal for the Eswatini energy system is therefore to reduce dependency on electricity imports. The country intends to increase renewable power generation technologies to 40 per cent of all electricity generation by 2020.

Following the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - or Rio+20 - which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 20-22 June 2012, Eswatini initiated the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL). Eswatini's SE4ALL Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis, together with an Action Plan for 2014 to 2030, were successfully completed in 2014 with support from

UNDP.

Eswatini has set the ambitious targets to increase electricity access for households from 80 per cent currently to 85 per cent in 2022 through the rural electrification programme. In this regard, the UN supports the government in its participation in the Global Environment Facility Clean Rural Electrification for African Countries (GEF CREAC) programme funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The programme seeks to develop a distinctive approach and accelerate the deployment of rural electrification utilising renewable mini-grids.

Technology developers and start-ups must be supported with research and development funding to make new energy technologies a reality. We also need to encourage entrepreneurship and grow small businesses providing innovative energy solutions. Financiers must innovate to provide appropriate finance for projects and enterprises and help build underserved markets.

For universal access to sustainable energy, long-term investment shall be attracted through the value chain. In the United Nations family in Eswatini, we encourage the government and stakeholders – such as sponsors, banks and investors – to support technology developers and start-ups with research and development funding to make new energy technologies a reality. We also encourage entrepreneurship and the growth of small businesses providing innovative energy solutions. Financiers must innovate to provide appropriate finance for projects and enterprises and help build underserved markets. We encourage the private sector to deliver energy and clean-cooking services; we support innovation that makes the greatest difference to people's lives and, as we enter the last decade of the SDGs, a 'decade of action and delivery', we build and strengthen partnerships that ensure that no one misses out on the wider opportunities presented by better access to affordable energy.

GOAL 7 TARGETS:

- By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.
- By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.
- By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.
- By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.
- By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing states, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support.



Wit is more necessary than beauty; and I think no young woman ugly that has it, and no handsome woman agreeable without it.
-William Wycherley

Wit ought to be a glorious treat like caviar; never spread it about like marmalade.
-Noel Coward

We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future.
-George Bernard Shaw

Wit consists in knowing the resemblance of things that differ, and the difference of things that are alike.
-Madame De Stael

Wit - the salt with which the American humorist spoils his intellectual cookery by leaving it out.
-Ambrose Bierce

Every witticism is an inexact thought; that which is perfectly true is imperfectly witty.
-Walter Savage Landor

The wit knows that his place is at the tail of a procession.
-Mark Twain

Wit is a dangerous weapon, even to the possessor, if he knows not how to use it discreetly.
-Michel de Montaigne

Great wits are to madness near allied And thin partitions do their bounds divide
-John Dryden

Wit is the salt of conversation, not the food.
-William Hazlitt

Nothing is more curious than the almost savage hostility that humor excites in those who lack it.
-George Saintsbury

Thy wit is a very bitter sweetening; it is a most sharp sauce.
-William Shakespeare

No matter how much restriction civilization imposes on the individual, he nevertheless finds some way to circumvent it. Wit is the best safety valve modern man has evolved; the more civilization, the more repression, the more need there is for wit.
-Sigmund Freud

Common sense and a sense of humor are the same thing, moving at different speeds. A sense of humor is just common sense, dancing.
-William James

Better a witty fool than a foolish wit.
William Shakespeare
Wit is educated insolence.
-Aristotle

Wit is a form of force that leaves the limbs at rest.
-George Eliot

Wit beyond measure is man's greatest treasure.
J.K. Rowling
Wit has truth in it; wise-cracking is simply calisthenics with words.
-Dorothy Parker

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	1.6%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	10%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	6.5%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E13.65 per litre
Replacement	E13.70 per litre
Diesel	E13.65 per litre
Paraffin	E 9.15 per litre
Engen Garage	

FARMERS DEMAND OVER 190 HOURS FROM GOVT

...hours amounting to about 80 hours date back to RDA period

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

WHILE others have cried foul over the disruption of the Tractor Hire Services, other farmers have revealed they are owed over 190 hours.

Information gathered is that farmers from Mahamba are allegedly owed about 194 hours which is equivalent to 80 hectares from the previous ploughing season.

This was revealed by Eswatini National Agriculture Union (ENAU) President Boy Matse during an interview.

He stated that the farmers paid for the government tractor hire programme service at the Mahamba/Zombodze Rural Development Area (RDA). He said the farmers were worried about the disruption of the service.

"This is not something new but we hope that



Agric PS Bongani Masuku.

these farmers will be compensated in due course," he said.

He added that this could negatively affect yields because they do not know when the problem would be fixed.

Matse said it was unfortunate that the service

was disrupted at a time when farmers were in need.

In a press statement released earlier this week, the NMC announced the disruption of the services under the government tractor hire programme, however assured farmers that they were working tirelessly to address the challenge in conjunction with the ministry of agriculture. When asked about the pending hours, Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture Bongani Masuku said farmers with pending hours should take slips to the RDA offices despite the year of payment.

"Farmers with such concerns should produce slips, the service is still open and we will address the issue.

"We are working with NMC to ensure the programme is addressed. The situation will normalise since some farmers have already paid for this season," added Masuku.

SA's Esor Construction nets over E12.3m EEC tender

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

SOUTH African Company Esor Construction has bagged a tender contract worth over E12.3 million by the Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC).

The Ferreira Lining Canal tender is worth an exact E12 364 388. 53.

The company scored an impressive total evaluation score of 97.83 per cent beating three other companies to the tender.

The other companies include HANCY Construction which tabled a E62 008 723.60 while Du Van developers and SA company TEICHMANN Structures failed to meet the minimum technical score of 70 per cent.

It was however noted that, in terms of Section 45(2) of the Act, the above contract award decision does not constitute a contract.

Further, in terms of Section 45(4), 46, and 47 of the Act, all tenderers who submitted bids are hereby notified that a period of 10 working days is hereby allowed for submission of any application for review from the above stated date of first publication of this notice.



DETAILS OF BEST EVALUATED RESPONSIVE TENDERS

Name	Esor Construction
Nationality	South African
Proposed Contract Price	E12 364 388. 53
Total Evaluation Score	97.83 per cent



ESWATINI ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

ESWATINI ELECTRICITY COMPANY TARIFF REVIEW APPLICATION FOR 2020/2021 AND 2021/2022

The Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority wishes to inform the public and electricity consumers that the Eswatini Electricity Company has filed an application for electricity tariff review for the financial year 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.

The review of the application is already in progress, and the important part of the process is to solicit public views on the application. The public and all interested stakeholders are, therefore, invited to submit their comments on the review before the Authority makes a final ruling.

The Authority will hold public hearings to gather comments on the review. Details of the public hearings are as follows:

Date	Town	Venue	Audience
04 January 2020	Siteki	Siteki Hotel	Lubombo Domestic Customers and SMMEs
06 January 2020	Piggs Peak	Red Cross Hall	Hhohho Domestic Customers and SMMEs
07 January 2020	Nhlangano	Nhlangano Park	Shiselweni Domestic Customers and SMMEs
08 January 2020	Manzini	The George Hotel	Trade Unions & Consumer Groups
09 January 2020	Mbabane	Mountain Inn	Business Groups / Business Community
10 January 2020	Mbabane	Thokoza Centre	Hhohho Domestic Customers and SMMEs
11 January	Manzini	CARITAS	Manzini Domestic Customers and SMMEs

Members of the public are encouraged to submit their written representations to be presented during the hearings, before the date of the venue where they wish to present their submissions. However, further comments can be submitted until the 15th of January 2020. Members of the public that wish to make written presentations may submit their details and copies of their presentations to:

Fax: +268 2404 8474
Email: info@esera.org.sz

Detailed information regarding the application and public hearings are available on ESERA's website at www.esera.org.sz or by calling +268 2404 2103/ 7802 0148, contact person is Mr Sikhumbuzo Nkambule.

These public hearings will be conducted in line with our guidelines for handling public hearings, which are available on our website.

VUSUMUZI MKHUMANE
CEO: ESWATINI ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

1st Floor, Rhus Office Park, Karl Grant Street Mbabane P.O. Box 7137 Mbabane H100
Tel: +268 2404 2103; Fax: +268 2404 8384; Email: info@esera.org.sz; Website: esera.org.sz

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 20 DEC 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.2182	14.2682
British Pound/SZL	18.5100	18.5751
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.6618	7.6880
Swiss France/SZL	14.5247	14.5713
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3152	1.3341
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.7949	9.8322
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.8263	10.8636
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	15.8071	15.8627
Gold	1,479.4400	
Oil	71.54	

For more information contact:
Standard Bank Global Markets Department
Direct Lines: +268 2404 1543 / 1544
Email: gmswaziland@stanbic.com



Standard Bank

MTN ACTIVATES HD VOICE ON 3G NETWORKS

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

MTN Eswatini has activated high definition (HD) voice on its 3G network which emulates real life communication because of its clarity.

This was revealed by MTN Eswatini Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lumphondvo.

The upgrade was rolled out last Friday.

Lumphondvo said the HD improves voice clarity as it uses a wider band of frequency as an upgrade from narrow band. The range of the human voice typically extends from 80 Hz to 14 kHz but traditional, voice band or narrowband telephone calls limit audio frequencies to the range of 300 to 3.4 kHz.

"HD voice transmits the voice over a wider range of frequencies, which makes it feel like real life communication like you are speaking face-to-face with the person on the other

end of the call," he said.

Lumphondvo advised MTN customers not to panic when they pick this difference in the quality and clarity of voice calls.

"This is said against the background that some of our customers have already noticed the distinct clarity. While some appreciate the upgrade, some have misinterpreted it as being bugged," he said.

"MTN Eswatini would like to assure customers that their conversations are still secure on our network. Additionally, we would like to assure the public that our network is ready to handle increased traffic during the festive season which sees some venues packed with an usually high number of subscribers in one geographical space," he added.

Moreover, Lumphondvo stated that MTN is committed to offer customers the latest technology to continuously improve their experience.

"We truly appreciate and value the



CONFIRMED: MTN Eswatini Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lumphondvo.

feedback we continue to receive from our customers," he said.

ABOUT HD VOICE

What exactly do you get with

Enhanced HD Voice? In a nutshell, the technology is designed to improve the bandwidth available for voice, decrease delay jitter, and help prevent packet-loss.

What this means for users is better sounding, clearer calls and smoother voice and video conferencing than ever before. The technology works across 4G and Wi-Fi calling connections.

Importantly, it's backwards compatible with the original HD Voice, so call quality will remain high even when using older handsets.

Starting with the improved delay jitter and packet loss capabilities, jitter buffer management (JBM) reduces the impact of variable transmission times and latency, ensuring that calls seem more consistent.

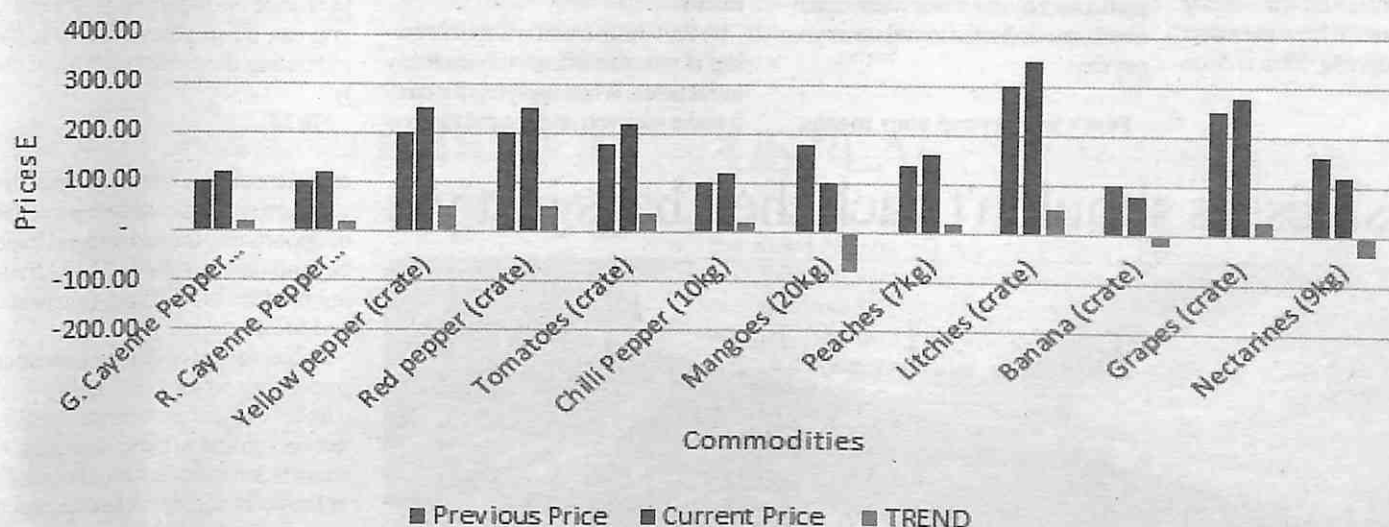
Concealment

There's also an error concealment mechanism to mask over any missed packets, so again calls should seem smoother even if your connection temporarily slows down or drops.

Enhanced HD Voice also works using a Source Controlled Variable Bit-Rate (SC-VBR) scheme.

This means that the amount of data sent over the network is determined by what's being recorded, such as lowering the bit-rate when there's silence, and the quality of your current LTE connection. The EVS codec supports a wide range of bit-rates, ranging from 5.9 kbps up to 128 kbps, across narrowband, wideband, super-wideband, and full band bandwidths.

Manzini Market price trends from previous week to current week



Manzini, Mbabane Markets show insignificant price change

BY BAHLE GAMA

ACCORDING to the ministry of agriculture and NAMBoard,

Manzini and Mbabane Markets show a significant price change.

The prices to the different produce at the markets either dropped or increased by E20 or more.

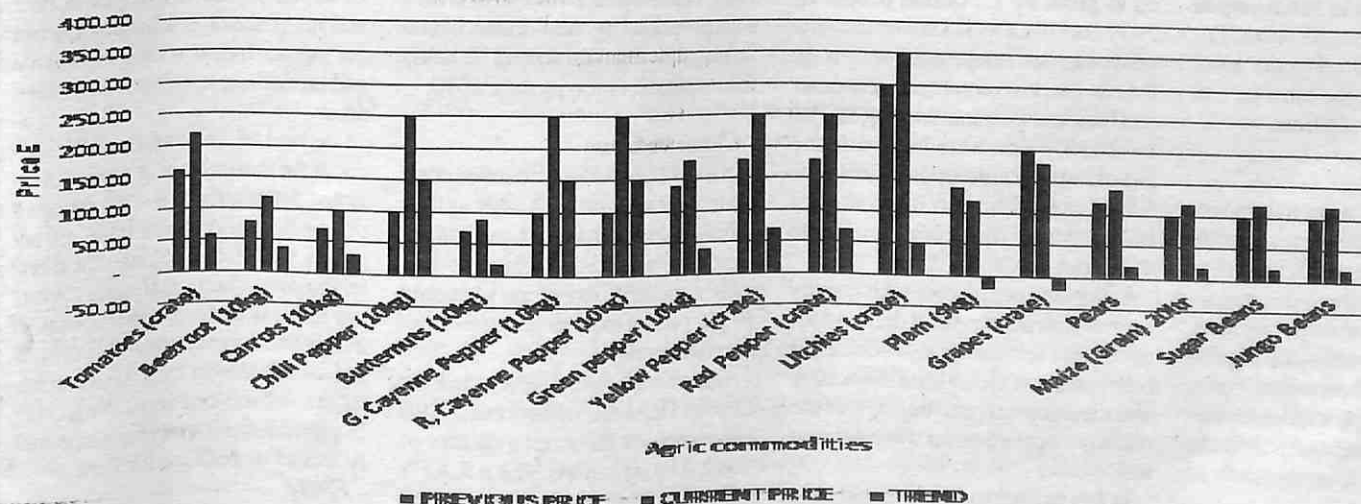
"A significant price change is either a fall/drop (negative) or rise/increase (positive) of E20 and above," reads the report.

Products

This is on products like toma-

atoes, cayenne pepper, mangoes, banana and more. At the Mbabane Market, chilli pepper (10kg) has a significant price change of E150, cayenne pepper at E150 and tomatoes at E60.

Mbabane Market price variation for different agric commodities from previous week to current week



'RELEASE PIC COMMISSION REPORT AS CHRISTMAS PRESENT'

JOHANNESBURG - The Public Servants Association wants President Cyril Ramaphosa to immediately release the findings of a judicial commission of inquiry's report into state asset manager the Public Investment Corporation "as a Christmas present".

In a statement on Thursday, the union said the immediate release of the report would help avoid leaks. Presidency spokesperson Khusela Diko told Fin24 on Friday that Ramaphosa would announce a way forward once he is done studying the report. "The president is still studying the report and will make his intentions known on how he will further process it when he is done," she texted via WhatsApp.

Ramaphosa appointed the commission last year to investigate allegations of irregularities at the the asset manager with regard to investments which did not yield results or broke laws. The inquiry was also tasked with assessing the quality of PIC's corporate governance and whether employees were victimised by superiors.

The PIC manages over R2.2trn in state workers' funds, and invests on behalf of the Government Employees Pension Fund and the Unemployment Insurance Fund, among others. The commission, which was chaired by Justice Lex Mpati, met its December 15 deadline to submit its final report to the president, after the deadline was extended three times. The PSA has criticised the delays, and has now asked for the prompt release of the final report. "The PSA is of the view that the release of the report would give majority of public servants, pensioners and beneficiaries a sense of relief and understanding on the state of the PIC where their hard-earned livelihoods are invested," the statement read. It said an immediate release would "curb ongoing speculations of the outcomes as well as leaks that are quite unfortunate and undermine the commission's process and integrity". *Fin24*

10 HANDY TIPS TO BE MORE CREDIT SAVVY

JOHANNESBURG - The way you manage credit can impact your ability to get future loans, like finance for a car, a bond for a house or even a cell phone contract, according to information provided by credit bureau Experian.

To be money-wise you should, therefore, manage your credit responsibly and keep on top of your payments.

To be financially responsible, a general rule is to live within your means and have your expenses not exceed your income. Remember, credit is not an additional income. Always ask yourself whether you really need something or not.

Experian offers 10 handy tips to manage your credit:

Pay on time

Ensure your instalments are paid on time. One of the most important factors influencing your credit score is your payment history. If you miss payments or are consistently late, that will be reflected on your credit report.

This can lead to a lower credit score, which can give rise to additional fees or higher interest and worse credit terms and rates when you apply for loans.

Avoid risky behaviour

Applying for credit at multiple lenders could be seen as risky behaviour. Each time you apply for credit, your bureau data is accessed, and an enquiry notice is recorded on your credit report.

Too many applications can affect your credit score negatively.

Review your credit report regularly

Managing your credit effectively requires that you keep up with what is happening on your credit report.

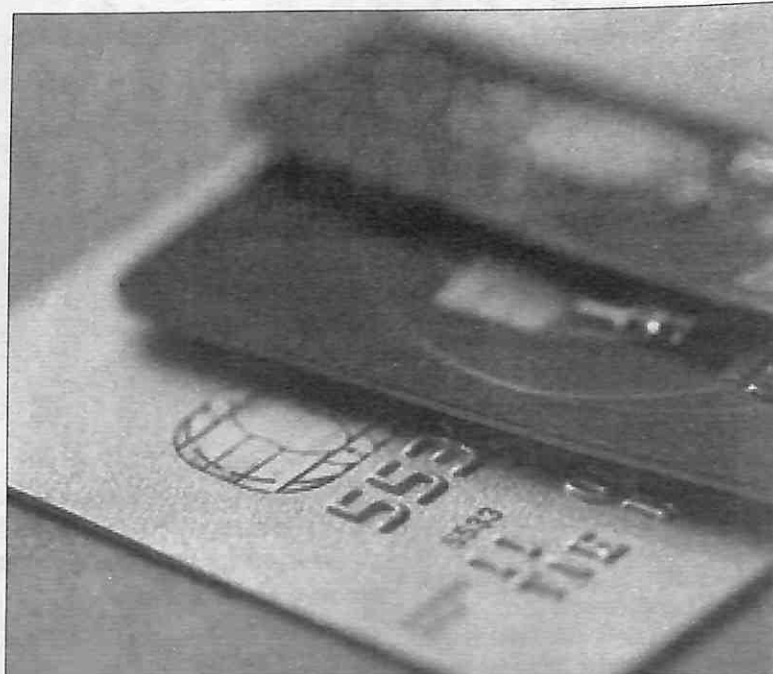
It's important to check your credit report at each bureau regularly to ensure there is no fraudulent activity in your name and that any errors can be fixed as quickly as possible.

Understand your credit report

Become familiar with your credit report and the information it contains. Regularly access your credit information to ensure that the information recorded is accurate and up to date.

Everyone has the right to dispute the data contained in their credit report if any of it is incorrect.

The credit bureau will investigate that data and remove it from the report if the dispute is upheld. This is done without charge.



Only use credit when you need it

It's important to track your credit card spending so that you avoid going over your limit.

Be cautious of becoming dependant on multiple short-term loans associated with high interest rates and in particular payday loans where repayments are deducted in full upon your payday.

Don't live beyond your means

You should know exactly how much is going in and coming out of your account each month. It's a good idea to keep your credit use less than 30% of your maximum limits.

Understand your monthly instalments

Never buy on credit without knowing if you can afford the monthly instalments. When applying for credit make sure you understand the pre-

agreement statement and quotation that indicates how much you will pay every month and what the total cost of the credit will be.

Calculate the credit repayments you can afford to pay off every month and if possible, repay more than your minimum monthly instalment.

Never use credit to pay off other debt

Paying off debt by using other sources of credit is the quickest way to land you in financial trouble. A debt spiral is difficult to get out of. Instead try to negotiate a better repayment deal with the credit provider.

Don't ignore payment notifications

It's important to respond to contact from the credit provider in relation to late or missed payments. Remember to make sure any call, email or SMS is genuine and not from a fraudster.

If you are unable to make payment due to unforeseen circumstances, call or write a letter to explain your situation and make alternative arrangements to pay what you owe.

Ignoring letters of demand or summons will have a serious negative effect on your credit score and profile.

Be careful of service providers offering to "fix" your credit report

There is never any need to pay someone to change anything on your credit report.

If there is information that you need to change or dispute on your report, you can do so yourself for free by contacting the credit bureaus directly.

Fin24

OPINION: Why SA businesses shouldn't pack their bags just yet

JOHANNESBURG - It's easy to consider packing for Perth when our national airline is in business rescue and persistent load shedding is said to have cost the South African economy R8.5bn, while political in-fighting lays the blame on anyone and everyone for the mess in which we find ourselves.

I've had so many people – both personal and professional connections – compare us to Zimbabwe or Venezuela. And while we may not be Singapore or the US or any of the Scandinavian countries, South Africa is not a basket case.

It's worth remembering that South Africa is a developing economy with many first-world characteristics. In fact, we climbed seven spots in the World Bank's Global Competitive Report for 2019, making us the second-most competitive economy in sub-Saharan Africa, after Mauritius.

We are a real gateway to the rest of Africa. We have advanced banking and telecommunications sectors and unsurpassed manufacturing capabilities compared with other major economies on the continent, including Nigeria and Egypt.

But that does not mean such assets cannot be run down and eroded over time.

Former President Jacob Zuma's administration shows just how easy it is to slide down the slippery slope to becoming Zimbabwe or Venezuela.

So possibly the solution for our economic doldrums is to look closer to



home for economic solace. After all the IMF has sub-Saharan Africa pegged at three per cent annual real GDP growth and the whole continent at 3.2 per cent, which is something we can work with, and benefit from.

Growing demand

Of course, Africa is not a homogeneous grouping; 54 different countries all operating differently, with different needs and varying economic strength as well as some offering more challenging governance and regulatory environments than others, but as the second most competitive economy on the continent, many African markets surely need us as much as we need them.

The continent's population is expected to grow by 1.7 billion people by 2030 and it's a well-known fact that consumerism on the continent is on the rise too, with combined consumer and business spending reaching \$6.7tn by 2030 – this time last year the Brookings Institute reported that consumer expenditure on the continent had grown at a compound annual rate of 3.9 per cent since 2010.

A growing population with money comes with an increased demand for goods and services. South Africa has both and some clever businesses have already been making the most of the lucrative opportunities the continent has to offer.

In January however, we should have

more clarity on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which was proposed by the African Union in July this year and should be ready for implementation by July 2020.

Closer to home

In a nutshell, African countries don't trade as much with each other as they should. According to Business Insider, almost two-thirds of African countries' exports go to Europe with only 17 per cent of exports going to other African countries.

And an analysis by the Trade Law Centre (TRALAC) shows that Africa only accounts for about a quarter of South African exports. The AfCFTA will make intercontinental trade cheap-

er and encourage more trading on the continent which means there's a world of opportunity for us to expand trade beyond our traditional SADC trading partners of Namibia, Botswana, and Mozambique.

Of course, it will mean cheaper imports for us too.

Enhanced intercontinental trade is not only going to benefit our banks, retailers and manufacturers, but smaller business and entrepreneurs too if they do their research to understand where the gaps in different markets are, and either fill those gaps or get into the supply chain that does.

In the medium-term, it is likely that South Africa's GDP growth will continue to be laboured.

Government needs to implement major structural reforms to stimulate greater foreign direct investment, economic competitiveness and productivity than a weak rand alone can provide. And, of course, most crucial for more than just economic growth, here and in Africa as our neighbours use our power too, is a clear, workable and immediate solution to the Eskom crisis.

I've worked successfully on the continent for many years. It's true, Africa is not for sissies but it's a place of possibility and easier trade agreements will ease the risks for those businesses – large and small – looking for new growth opportunities. If even a fraction of South African businesses succeed in their Africa strategy, we will see local economic growth, improved employment and hopefully less of us packing for Perth.

Fin24

Focus on Africa News

Continental News

MOZA OPPOSITION CALLS ON LEADER TO QUIT

MAPUTO - Mozambique's largest opposition party this past week called on President Filipe Nyusi to resign after allegations in a US court that he benefited from proceeds of a \$2-billion debt scandal.

The loans were acquired at a time when Nyusi was defence minister and preparing to run in presidential elections in 2014, but were not disclosed until 2016.

"We demand Filipe Jacinto Nyusi resign immediately as president of the Republic of Mozambique," Jose Manteigas, spokesperson for the RENAMO opposition, told a news conference in Maputo.

He also urged the attorney generals office to "investigate the truth and consequent civil and criminal liability of all involved in financial fraud".

Between 2013 and 2014, state-owned security companies borrowed about \$2 billion (1.75 billion euros) from



WANTED OUT: RENAMO President Ossufo Momade.

Credit Suisse and Russia's VTB Bank to buy military and fishing vessels from an Abu Dhabi based ship-building company, Prininvest.

But government only disclosed the debt in 2016 - a development that plunged the poor, donor-dependent

country into its worst-ever financial crisis.

The United States also alleges that at least \$200 million of the loans was spent on bribes and kickbacks to politicians and top officials.

AFP

Zim faces bleak festive season

HARARE - Zimbabweans are supposed to join the world in celebrating Christmas in a few days, but the mood remains sombre in the country with nothing to show that it is time to be merry.

With only two days to Christmas, workers, who spoke to NewsDay Weekender yesterday, said there was nothing to celebrate this festive season as the future remained bleak.

Several companies are failing to pay workers and to those who can, local banks are not able to avail cash, hence meandering queues being the order of the day around the country.

A survey by NewsDay Weekender last week showed desperation among Zimbabweans who queued for cash, fuel and struggled to plan for the holidays, amid speculation that schools were planning to raise fees.

The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) said 2019 had been a tough year for the workers and there was no joy this festive season. "It has been a difficult year for Zimbabweans. It has been one of the difficult years for workers.

We are not sure if the majority will be able to enjoy their festive

season. We are not sure if the majority of workers will be able to visit their loved ones. We are not sure the majority of workers will be able to pay school fees for their children come January," ZCTU Secretary-General Japhet Moyo said.

"The majority of people have not been able to access their money from banks and are resorting to buying money through EcoCash. It is really tough," he said.

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition spokesperson Marvellous Khumalo said there was nothing in the country and this was a desperate situation for Zimbabweans.

"There is nothing in the country, but unfortunately we are lacking leadership. The leadership is focusing on wrong things despite a myriad of challenges we have. In the current crisis, instead of leaders focusing on how to give a good festive season by addressing economic challenges, we are witnessing sideshows," he said.

"As we go into this festive season, prices of basic commodities have sky-rocketed. Early next year, we will be talking of school fees when children will be expected to go back to school." *News Day*

West African nations to reform, rename joint French-backed currency

PARIS - The French-backed West African CFA franc currency will be reformed and renamed to the 'eco,' in what Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara called a "historic" move over the weekend.

France, the ex-colonial power in the region, will withdraw from being involved in the committees of the West African joint currency.

The far-reaching reform affects the countries in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (known by its French acronym UEMOA), Ouattara said at a press conference in Abidjan, with French President Emmanuel

Macron by his side.

Ivory Coast, Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo are the countries using the joint currency.

The CFA's value is pegged to the euro. There are no plans for this to change.

For those countries that were French colonies, the franc was abolished as a currency after the end of World War II. After independence, the currency was changed to a franc of the financial community of Africa, or Franc de la Communauté Financière Africaine (CFA).

DPA

US PLACES NIGERIA ON 'SPECIAL WATCH LIST'

NEW YORK - The US government has added Nigeria to a 'Special Watch List (SWL)' of countries that have engaged in or tolerated "severe violations of religious freedom."

This is coming at a time many Nigerians and the international community have criticised the Nigerian government for its serial violations of court orders and the shrinking civic and media space in the country.

The inclusion of Nigeria in the religion violations list was announced by the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo.

"On December 18, 2019, the Department of State re-designated Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as Countries of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 for having engaged in or tolerated "systematic, ongoing, [and] egregious violations of religious freedom."

"The Department renewed the place-

ment of Comoros, Russia, and Uzbekistan on a Special Watch List (SWL) for governments that have engaged in or tolerated 'severe violations of religious freedom,' and added Cuba, Nicaragua, Nigeria, and Sudan to this list," Pompeo said.

According to Pompeo, the US also designated al-Nusra Front, al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula, al-Qa'ida, al-Shabab, Boko Haram, the Houthis, ISIS, ISIS-Khorasan, and the Taliban as Entities of Particular Concern.

The 2018 report of the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), which recommended Nigeria's designation as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC), noted that religious freedom trended negatively in 2018.

"Religious freedom conditions in Nigeria trended negatively in 2018. The Nigerian government at the national and state levels continued to tolerate violence and discrimination on the basis of religion

or belief, and suppressed the freedom to manifest religion or belief."

The report added that "religious sectarian violence increased during the year, with Muslims and Christians attacked based on their religious and ethnic identity."

Another case cited is the violation of rights of Shi'a members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN).

"The Nigerian military and government continued to violate the religious freedom and human rights of the Shi'a members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN). IMN leader Sheikh Ibrahim Al Zak Zaky remained in detention."

"However, in 12 Muslim-majority northern Nigerian states, federalism has allowed the adoption of Islamic Shari'ah law in the criminal codes.

The Nigerian constitution also establishes the roles of customary law and Shari'ah courts for Islamic personal law, family." *DPA*

BRIEFS

IMF approves \$2.9 billion bailout for Ethiopia

WASHINGTON - The International Monetary Fund's Executive Board approved a three-year \$2.9 billion financing package to support Ethiopia's economic reform programme, the IMF said. The agreement, supported by the Fund's Extended Credit Facility (ECF) and Extended Fund Facility (EFF), "aims to support the authorities' implementation of their ambitious reform agenda and catalyse concessional donor financing," the IMF said in a statement.

Reuters

France kills 33 militants in Mali raid

ABIDJAN/BAMAKO - French forces killed 33 Islamist militants in Mali over the weekend using attack helicopters, ground troops and a drone, near the border with Mauritania where a group linked to al Qaeda operates, French authorities said.

The raid about 150 km (90 miles) northwest of Mopti in Mali targeted the same forest area where France wrongly claimed last year it had killed Amadou Koufa, one of the most senior Islamist militants being hunted by French forces in the Sahel. *AFP*

Colonialism was a grave mistake - Macron

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron over the weekend said "colonialism was a grave mistake," and called for "turning the page" on the past during a visit to Ivory Coast, a former French colony in West Africa. Macron, speaking in Ivory Coast's main city Abidjan, said France was often viewed as having a "hegemonistic view and the trappings of colonialism that was a grave mistake and a fault of the Republic."

AFP

Belgian court jails Rwandan for 25 years

KIGALI - A Belgian court on Friday sentenced a former Rwandan official convicted of genocide for his part in his country's 1994 massacres to 25 years in prison. Fabien Nretse, an agricultural engineer, was arrested in France in 2011 and was found guilty of genocide and war crimes after a trial in the Brussels high court. RPresiding judge Sophie Leclercq said the 71-year-old had committed "an irreparable attack against the whole of humanity and shown himself at the trial to be without pity or remorse for his crimes."

DPA

Focus on World News

Global News



WE THREE (FUTURE) KINGS

LONDON - The Queen's Christmas holiday got off to a muted start on Saturday but hopes rose that the Duke of Edinburgh will be well enough to join her for this week's celebrations.

During a subdued day at the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk, the Queen is thought to have postponed her normal routine of visiting the Royal stud on the first day of her festive break.

The Queen normally tours the stud on the 20 000-acre estate soon after arriving from London to see her horses and the staff who care for them.

While staff appeared to be preparing for a Royal arrival on Saturday morning, the Queen seemingly did not visit.

In another apparent break from routine, there was no Saturday pheasant shoot, despite it being the height of the shooting season.

In recent years, Philip has watched shoots at Sandringham from the warmth of a Land Rover.

The start of this year's celebrations have been overshadowed by concern over the Duke's health.

Philip, 98, was flown by helicopter to hospital in London on Friday morn-

ing for 'observation and treatment' of an unspecified pre-existing condition. The dash followed a month of ill-health for the Duke, including a reported fall.

Philip 'doesn't want any fuss' in the wake of his hospital treatment for a 'pre-existing condition' and has told his family to 'carry on as usual' with their festive celebrations, an insider told the *The Sun* on Sunday.

"The Duke doesn't want any fuss", a source said. "He doesn't want the family coming to see him when he is in hospital".

Daily Mail

White House argues that Trump not officially impeached

NEW YORK - The White House may try to argue that President Trump has not, in fact, been officially impeached because Speaker Nancy Pelosi hasn't sent the articles of impeachment to the Senate yet.

Two sources involved with Trump's impeachment defence told CBS News that the White House is considering making that argument following a Thursday opinion piece written by Harvard Law professor Noah Feldman, a legal expert who testified for the House Judiciary Committee in early December and has advocated for Trump's impeachment and removal from office. In the Bloomberg opinion piece, Feldman wrote that

"Impeachment as contemplated by the Constitution does not consist merely of the vote by the House, but of the process of sending the articles to the Senate for trial."

The professor went on to note that "Both parts are necessary to make an impeachment under the Constitution: The House must actually send the

articles and send managers to the Senate to prosecute the impeachment. And the Senate must actually hold a trial."

The sentiment that Trump's legal team appears to have latched on to was Feldman's statement that: "If the House does not communicate its impeachment to the Senate, it hasn't actually impeached the president. If the articles are not transmitted, Trump could legitimately say that he wasn't truly impeached at all."

In response Feldman's piece, Fox News Chief White House correspondent John Roberts' tweeted that "If Pelosi holds onto them indefinitely, @realDonaldTrump would not be 'impeached, leading Trump to reply: "Plus, never did anything wrong. Read the Transcripts. A Democrat Hoax!"

Feldman's fellow Harvard Law Professor Laurence Tribe - co-author of *To End a Presidency: The Power of Impeachment* - refuted his colleague's statement, however.

Daily Mail



Trump bashes impeachment vote in front of screaming teenage fans

NEW YORK - Donald Trump on Saturday complained of the 'unfair' impeachment vote against him as he railed against 'crazy' Speaker Nancy Pelosi, claiming she hasn't sent the articles against him to the Senate because she has 'no case.'

The president, speaking to high school pupils and college students at a conservative gathering, started his remarks focused on Wednesday's vote in the House of Representatives.

And Republican Rep. Dan Crenshaw came up on stage and presented Trump with his voting card from that day - red to signal he was a no on impeachment. Green voting cards were a yes.

"It's a no vote on impeachment day," Trump said, waving the card in the air

before putting it in his suit pocket.

The room of over 1 000 teenagers went crazy at the president's one-liners and riffs, giving him multiple standing ovations, cheering 'four more years,' and wearing 'Make America Great Again' gear. During Wednesday night's vote on the two articles of impeachment against the president, many Republican lawmakers filled out paper ballots, which they then got back to keep as souvenirs.

"It's so unfair," the president said of the action. In his 73-minute speech, Trump praised the members of Congress who supported him by voting no.

"I have to say, what kind of great support did we have from those incredible congressmen and women this week?"

Daily Mail

POPE FRANCIS WARNS CHRISTIANITY

ROME - Pope Francis has used his Christmas message to warn followers that rigidly following the Christian faith is creating a 'minefield' of hate and misunderstanding.

The head of the Roman Catholic church spoke candidly to cardinals, bishops, priests and members of staff in the Sala Clementina in the Apostolic Palace, Vatican City, yesterday as he also sought to remind them that the church no longer enjoys the authority it once did. The papacy has been rocked by historical sex abuse claims and financial scandals this year.

And the Pope's leadership has been challenged after he called for married men to be ordained as priests, and was seen with a 'pagan' statue of a pregnant woman while in the Amazon.



During his Christmas message, which was also delivered at the Paul VI Hall, Vatican City, the pope also asked Vatican bureaucrats to consider embracing change. "Today we are no longer the only ones that produce culture, no

longer the first nor the most listened to," he said. "The faith in Europe and in much of the West is no longer an obvious presumption but is often denied, derided, marginalised and ridiculed."

Daily Mail

BRIEFS

Hundreds of fatherless brides tie the knot

NEW DELHI - Hundreds of fatherless brides have tied the knot in a mass ceremony in India. The event ran from December 21-22 and has seen 271 brides married off in Surat, a large city beside the Tapi River in the west Indian state of Gujarat. Among the girls chosen for the ceremony, five are Muslims and one is from Nepal. Two girls are from the state of Uttar Pradesh, five from Maharashtra and one each from Jharkhand and Odisha, according to local media. The event, which was held some 270 km from Ahmedabad, has run for eight years in a row and is funded by diamond tycoon Mahesh Savani, who believes that giving away brides is a blessing from God. *Daily Mail*

Iran's president to break Trump's sanctions

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has welcomed Japan's decision not to join a US-led naval mission in the Gulf. He also said over the weekend that he had had discussions on ways of 'breaking' US sanctions after returning from a trip to Tokyo, where he held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Friction between Tehran and Washington has increased since last year when US President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with six nations and re-imposed sanctions on the country, crippling its economy. *The Telegraph*

'Celebrate election win with victory tour'

NEW YORK - Donald Trump has invited Boris Johnson to celebrate his election win with a 'victory tour' of the United States next month - but the PM is 'in no rush to accept'. The president made the offer during his congratulatory call to Johnson after he won his 80-seat majority, telling the prime minister that he and girlfriend Carrie Symonds could 'go wherever they wanted' in the States. However, it is understood Johnson is reluctant to visit while the president's impeachment drama is playing out and before he has delivered Brexit on January 31. *Daily Mail*

Cuba names first PM since Castro's tenure

HAVANA - Cuba has named its first prime minister since Fidel Castro became president in 1976. Tourism Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz, 56, was handed the top job with his confirmation by the National Assembly which followed later. Marrero has been tourism minister for 16 years, presiding over a rise in visitors and a hotel construction boom that has made tourism one of the most important sectors of the Cuban economy. Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel cited Marrero's experience in negotiating with foreign investors as one of his prime qualifications, according to state media. *AFP*



Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

Meet whistleblower taking stand against Public Protector

JOHANNESBURG - Months before depositing to an explosive affidavit flaying the conduct of Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane, the man behind the revelations was part of a secret battle to hold Mkhwebane accountable.

The whistleblower, Tebogo Kekana, is a 41-year-old single father and admitted attorney, who has worked as an investigator with the office of the public protector since 2011. He was suspended four months ago.

Kekana confirmed the authenticity of the affidavit, which was submitted to the speaker of Parliament and The Presidency on December 13, and gave News24 and AmaBhungane permission to name him.

He would not comment any further, citing a clause in his suspension notice that effectively gags him. Kekana's affidavit alleges that Mkhwebane instructed him to insert a recommendation to alter the mandate of the Reserve Bank in her so-called CIEX report.

As we previously reported, the affidavit states that a State Security Agency official, Maiendra 'Mai' Moodley, handed the recommendation to Mkhwebane during a meeting in June 2017.

Kekana was in the room at the time and had worked exclusively on the CIEX report - which provided the basis for what the Reserve Bank later described as an assault on its independence. *News24*

Samaritan pays off bills of 363 people at PEP Stores

JOHANNESBURG - Christmas came early for 363 clients at a PEP Stores branch in Mossel Bay, Western Cape.

An unknown benefactor paid R337 000 to the shop to pay off people's lay-by items.

The man sent each of the people a note: "I am grateful that I'm [in a] position [to] settle your PEP Store lay-by. I know it's up to people to help people. It's just the decent thing for all of us to do, disregarding any religious beliefs. I also had lay-bys at PEP a long time ago."

He signed the note 'Grateful humanist'.

Kim Peterse said she got the news on Friday when she went to the store to cancel her lay-by. She injured her back, and can no longer work.

Earlier this year, she picked out two dresses for herself and paid a R70 deposit. As part of the lay-by agreement, she still owed R373.

"It was really painful for me to let the dresses go. The lay-by was the first time I was spoiling myself this year - because I always put my children first."

Peterse did not want to believe it when a shop assistant told her that somebody had already paid. "Ma'am, are you playing around? Do you take me for a fool? Is there a camera somewhere?" she said to the shop assistant. Suzette Wessels, PEP Stores' Regional Manager for the Outeniqua district, confirmed that the benefactor paid outstanding balances of between R10 and R1 300 for 363 clients.

City Press



NEW SECURITY ROLE FOR CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

JOHANNESBURG - President Cyril Ramaphosa will now have line of sight over the country's intelligence and security forces.

This comes after the Cabinet approved the re-establishment of the National Security Council.

Minister in the Presidency Jackson Mthembu said the council would be responsible for approving the national security strategy, the country's national intelligence priori-

ties and national intelligence estimates.

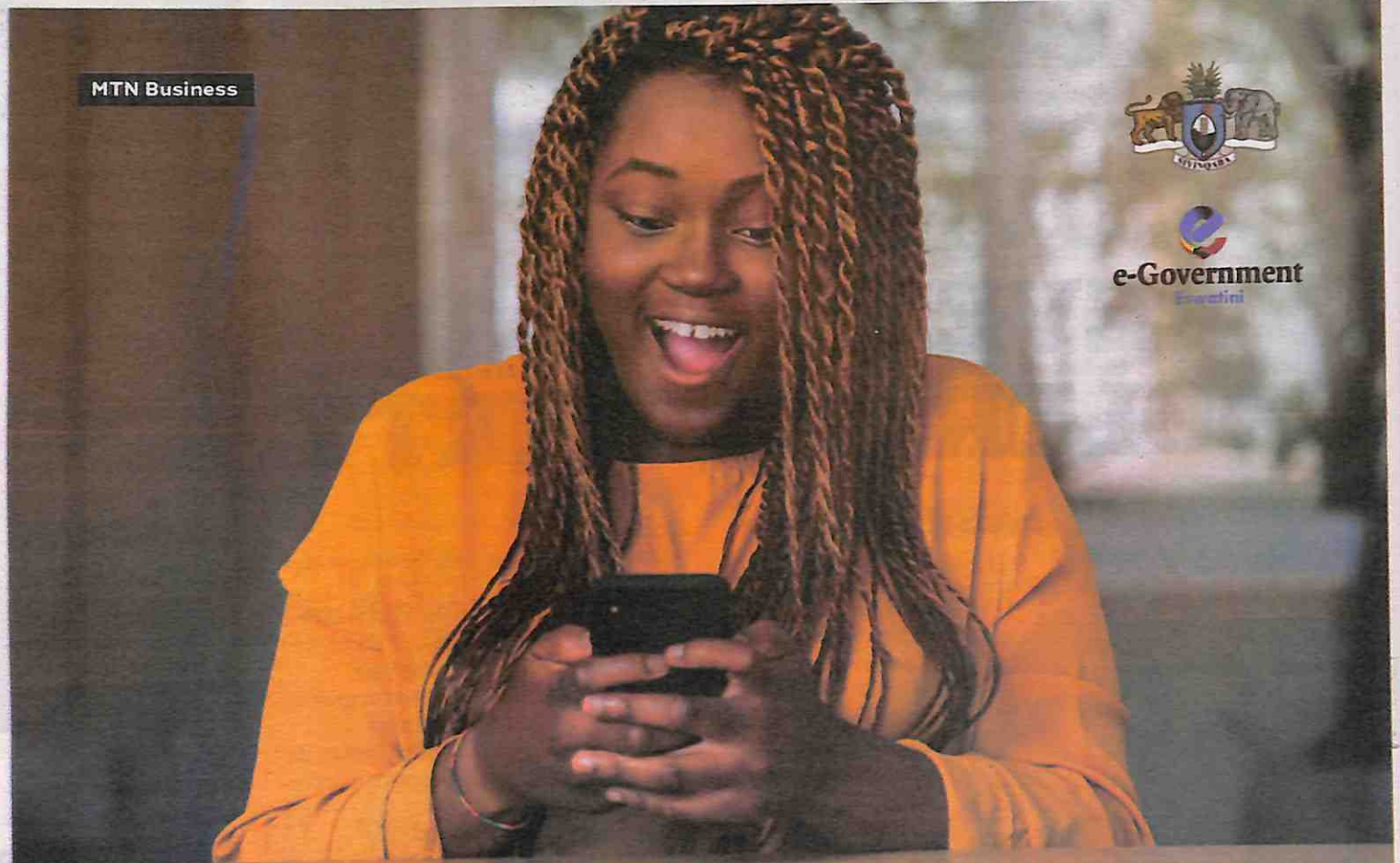
"The council will be chaired by the president in his capacity as the commander-in-chief of the armed and security forces," he said. Council members would include Deputy President David Mabuza and State Security Minister Ayanda Dlodlo.

The re-establishment of the council comes days after Ramaphosa said sabotage contributed to recent

load shedding, and 10 months after he announced, in his State of the Nation Address, that it would be reconstituted.

Mthembu said through the council, Ramaphosa would have "line of sight be it domestic or internal security matters." *Political Bureau*

NEW SECURITY: SA President Cyril Ramaphosa.



MTN Business



e-Government
Eswatini

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ESWATINI
Observer

ENTERTAINMENT

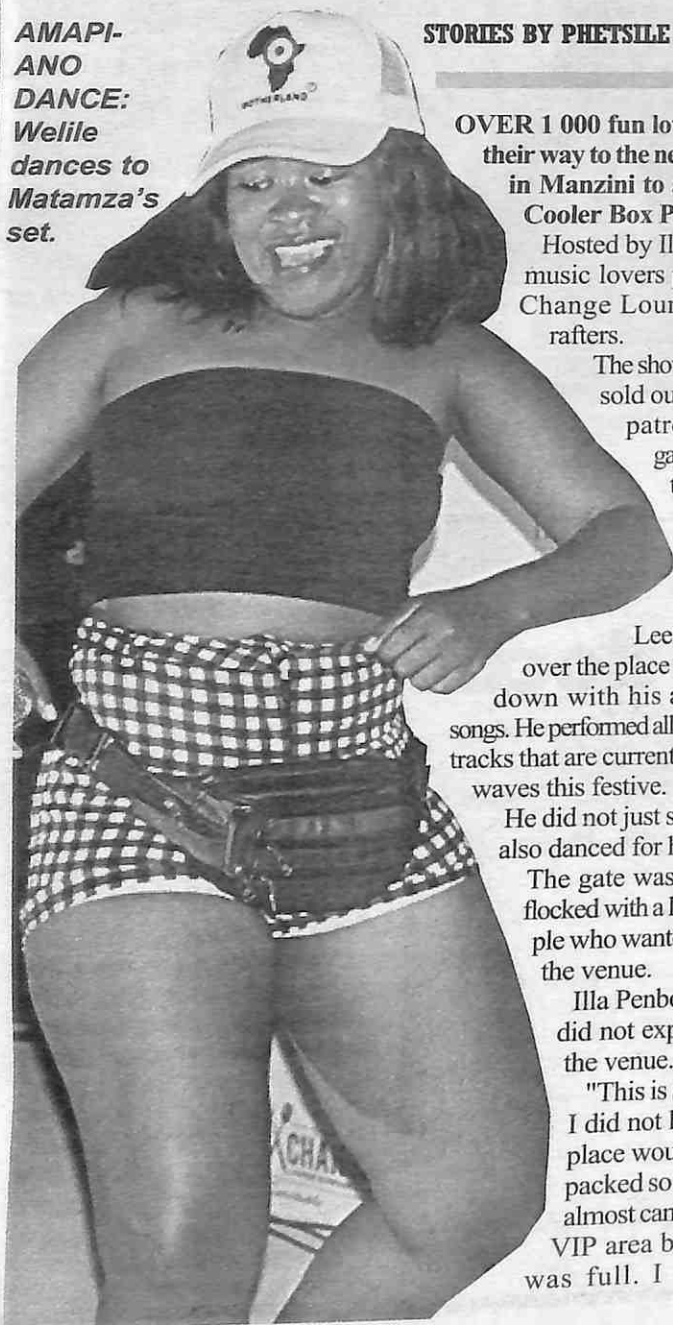
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HAPPY: Fun lovers enjoying themselves at the Cooler Box Party hosted by Illa Penboy at X-Change Lounge. (Pics: Phetsile Mamba)

OVER 1 000 REVELLERS AT COOLER BOX PARTY

**AMAPI-
ANO
DANCE:**
Welife
dances to
Matamza's
set.



STORIES BY PHETSILE MAMBA

OVER 1 000 fun lovers made their way to the new hot spot in Manzini to attend the Cooler Box Party.

Hosted by Illa Penboy, music lovers packed X-Change Lounge to the rafters.

The show was fully sold out such that patrons at the gate had to be turned back. South African entertainer Leehleza took over the place and shut it down with his amapiano songs. He performed all his famous tracks that are currently making waves this festive.

He did not just sing but he also danced for his fans.

The gate was area was flocked with a line of people who wanted to enter the venue.

Illia Penboy said he did not expect to fill the venue.

"This is shocking, I did not know this place would be this packed so much we almost cancelled the VIP area because it was full. I am still

shocked.

"As Emaswati, I appreciate the way we support for each other.

It is a good way to keep the local is lekker momentum going," he said. Illa added that the positive response made this year."

Fun lovers screamed, danced and sang along to all the songs he was performing.

Everyone was trying to push to get to the front to watch their favourite entertainer perform.

Entertained

Music lovers danced till the early hours of the morning.

This was X-Change's first big show since it was opened.

The crowd was also entertained by Mbali Wethu who was MC at the show. Eswatini DJs also made sure everyone was dancing till Leehleza got on stage.

People found at the gate said they were not going anywhere and were willing to wait in line till they allow them in.

"We are here for fun and we cannot go back now, we will wait until we are let in. There is going to be a lot of fun inside," said Rose Mangwe who was found queuing.

Another reveller said X-Change was the place to be and they were not going anywhere.

If needs be, they would enjoy proceedings from outside with their cooler boxes.

"It is about to go down, we are here for the fun and we want to dance with the performers," said Lindelwa Mkhonta. Leehlezi shared that he loved Eswatini as it was his third time in the country.

"I love the response I keep getting from Emaswati, also the way they sang along to every song I performed just overwhelmed me. The love here is too much," Leehlezi said.



SMILES: Eswatini National Youth Council CEO Makhosami Dlamini with Director of The X-change Lounge and Shisanyama Mxolisi Mabuza.



AMAPIANO KING: Amapiano king Leehleza performs.



EXCITED: A fun lover having the time of her life at the party.



ENJOYING: Too much fun saw this reveller sleeping on the floor.

X-Change to help reduce crime, sex work

THE X-Change Lounge Director Mxolisi Mabuza said they were working around the clock to fulfill His Majesty King Mswati III's vision of a town being a 24-hour city.

"This place hopes to be the first to achieve this. If people are working day and night it will reduce crime and sex work," said Mabuza. He said one of the reasons the spot was not in town was because it

attracts everyone, including tourists to come experience the township life

"I saw a gap in local artists not being supported so this will be a platform for local artists to showcase their talent. I support local talent, hence our cross over line-up will be strictly local. Not forgetting that we will be the first Shisanyama to display fireworks crossover," Mabuza stated.



A NIGHT OF WORSHIP: Thuli Kaledi and Prophetic Voice Mass Choir belting it out.

PRAISE, WORSHIP FILLS THEATRE CLUB

BY ANDILE DLAMINI

THULI Kaledi and the Prophetic Voice Mass Choir hosted a night of praise and worship under the theme 'Come let us adore Him' at the Eswatini Theatre Club on Saturday.

The show was directed by radio personality Gcebile 'White Hippo' Mvubu and featured poetry, ballet dancing as well as the performance by Prophetic Voice Mass Choir.

Prophetic Voice Mass Choir also sold their live DVD recording at the event and had the audience eating from the palm of their hands with their performance that lasted for over an hour.

The show also saw performances by Petra Kaledi who serenaded the audience with her music.

With her ballet piece of the song 'Be enthroned' playing in the background while Basetane rendered a poem about 'How great God is'.

Another performer of the night was Pastor Thuli Kaledi, who stole the show with her powerful worship set, where she prayed and urged the audience to surrender fully to the Lord.

During her performance, she also



IN SPIRIT: A section of the audience reacts during Thuli Kaledi's set.

shared how she gave her life to the Lord. "I recall when I first came into contact with the Lord, I did things I would have never done. I urge you tonight to forget about what people think and lose yourself in the Lord," said Kaledi.

The show was a great success such that members of the audience could not stop talking about it after it was over.

Speaking to a few audience members, they mentioned how they were revived by the show.

Balindi Shabangu said she enjoyed every bit of the show.

Another member of the audience Buhlebenkhosi Dlamini said she also could not decide what her favourite part of the show was; "Just when I thought this was my favourite part, something else happened. It just kept getting better and better," Dlamini said.

The annual event will take place again next year at a venue and date to be announced.

SIYABONGA MPONGOSE COMING TO ESWATINI

BY ANDILE DLAMINI

POET Siyabonga 'Imbongi' Mpongose is expected to grace the Poetry and Comedy Night show on January 3.

The show will be hosted by The George Hotel.

Top South African and Swazi poets are billed to PERFORM.

Mpongose expressed his excitement on his Facebook page about performing at the show as he was asked by his fans to come to Eswatini.

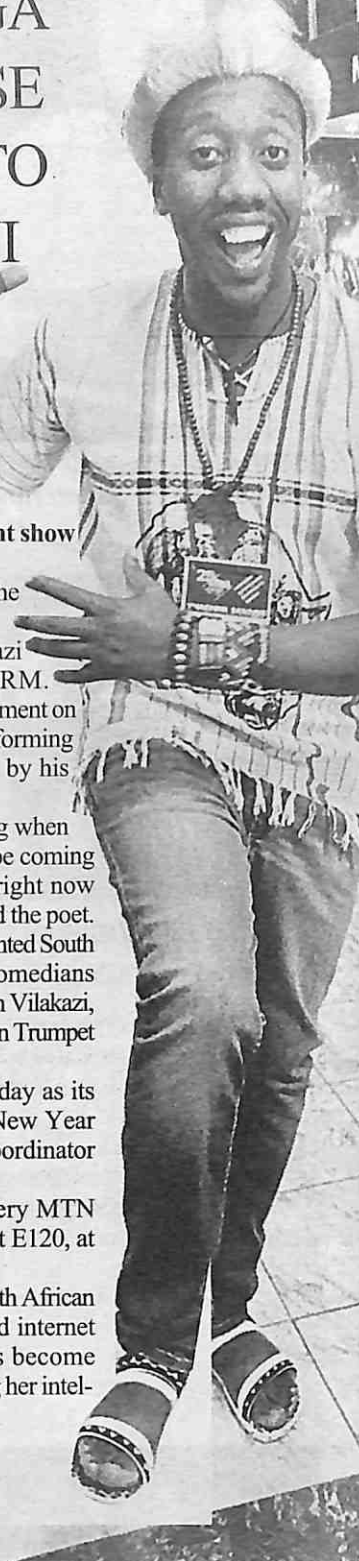
"Eswatini you've been saying when will I see you? My team will be coming down there. Get your ticket right now because they will run out," said the poet.

He will perform alongside talented South African poets and Eswatini comedians Smallz the Comedian, Xoli Zion Vilakazi, Scelo Mpongose, Gogo, musician Trumpet and many more.

"This show will be on a Friday as its sole purpose is to make the New Year more exciting," says event coordinator Sibusiso Mashwama.

Tickets are available at every MTN Service Centre with General at E120, at the door E150 and VIP E200.

Siyabonga Mpongose is a South African poet who is the father of child internet sensation Ibanathi, who has become famous for the videos depicting her intelligence.



Kelly K wages war against ongoing accusations in Senzo Meyiwa case

JOHANNESBURG - It's been a rollercoaster year for singer Kelly Khumalo, who has been on the receiving end of cyber-bullying and ongoing accusations over the murder of her ex-boyfriend, Senzo Meyiwa.

Senzo was gunned down on October 26, 2014 at Kelly's mom's house in Vosloorus during an alleged botched robbery.

To date, no one has been arrested for the killing and public pressure for justice to be served continues to mount. Kelly and her sister, Zandi who were in the house with several others at the time of the incident continue to receive major backlash amidst calls from fans for culprits to be brought to book. In March, the singer walked off stage during a performance at an EFF Rally in Durban after thousands of fans started chanting "Senzo," while some held up banners.

Kelly once again became the talk of the town in June after media

reports emerged, claiming that imminent arrests were on the cards for four celebs. The singer issued a stinging statement, making it clear that she would not let people "abuse" her. "I'm not going to sit back and let you abuse and accuse me of something I have nothing to do with. I have co-operated with the law, gave all the necessary information. If there's one thing I will never do is take the fall for something I know nothing about. I will fight till my last breath because that's who I am," Kelly said. Just last month during an interview on Real Goboza, Kelly said being called a "killer" was the most hurtful thing.

"I think that hurts, because I'm not a killer. I may be a hell lot of things, but I am not a killer."

Later in the month, Kelly said she was tired of defending herself because the court of public opinion she had already made a ruling against her.

Times Live

EL-WORLD MUSIC TO INVADE SOLANI'S

BY ANDILE DLAMINI

IT'S going to be an El-World experience in Eswatini this coming Friday.

Solani's Shisanyama would be hosting a show dubbed 'El-World Music experience' featuring artists signed under El-World Music, a label owned by South Africa's Sun El-Musician.

The show will be headlined by Sun El Musicians of 'Akanamali' fame, Simmy who was in the country in July at the same venue, South African based Swazi musician S-Tone, Mthunzi, Claudio x-Kenza as well as the newest member of the El-World Music, Sino Msolo, who debuted with the project 'Mamela'. The artists will perform alongside Solani's resident deejays Sgitha, Rhythmic Souls, Culolam, Bloss, Yung Yas, M'eugie and Aya City.

Tickets to the show cost E120.

The show is part of the El-World Music experience tour that began in May in Dobsonville, Soweto, South Africa.

S-Tone signed with El-World Music



and has songs with Simmy and Tenderness.

Simmy, born Simphiwe Nhlangulela, is a neo-soul and neo-folk music artist from Johannesburg, South Africa. Claudio x Kenza are signed under EL-World Music. The talented duo Claudio and Kenza have an album titled 'Circle of Life'.

Sun-EL is an electronic/disco/funk/soulful music producer and disc jockey from South Africa.

He won two SAMAs for his album 'Akanamali' featuring Samthing Soweto at the 2018 South African Music Awards. He owns El-World Music, the record label where all the headliners are signed under.



ON THE ONES AND TWOS: DJ Kish dishes Nigerian tunes.



TWINS OF A KIND: The Twins doing what they do best.



A MARVEL: Macbreezy kept revellers on the dance floor.



LET DANCE: Ye Mite dishes out great music.

AFRICA UNITES AT SOLANI'S

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

ESWATINI artists met Nigerian counterparts at the Lagos in Solani's hip-hop versus house show on Friday night.

Fun lovers came in their numbers to the venue to witness performances by Nigerian and Eswatini musicians, a show was initiated to give Emaswati a feel of Lagos.

People started showing up at around

9pm so as to not miss a moment of the event while having their drinks.

To give revellers great music from Nigeria were, DJ MAF, DJ Yemite, Scoobynero, DJ Banky Lue, Catro, Saddamapiee and from South Africa Banger Boys, Pride, Macbreezy and Dj Liz. Local's performers were, KB Da DJ, Bloss, Ayacity, Yung Yas, Dope Deep, Sgitha and Culolam to name a few.

Speaking to some of those who had attended the event, they stated that they had fun and it was their

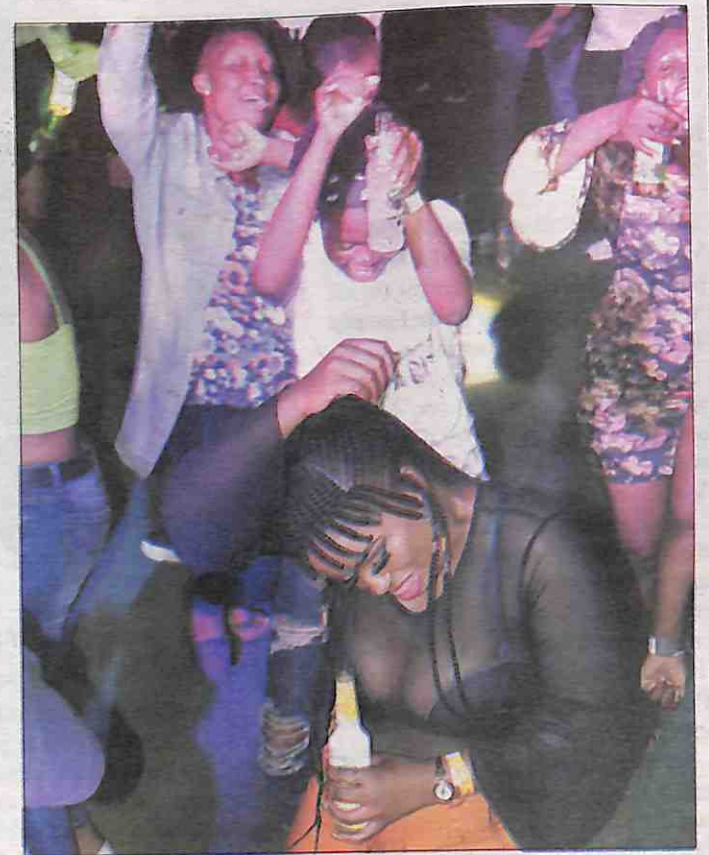
first time experiencing Nigerian and Eswatini Music at the same event.

According to Vikela Dlamini he had always loved Nigerian music, but to listen to it while chilling at his favourite spot was surreal.

"Solani's is always the place to be on Fridays.

You get to hang out with friends and network while dancing the stressful week you had off.

Other revellers testified that Solani's hosted one of the greatest shows on Friday.



IT'S TOO HOT: Patrons dance the night away.



MC: Freshest dancing.



THE CROWD: Fun lovers having fun during Aya City's set.



HAPPY: Sgitha feels the music during his set.



SHONA PHANSI: A fun lover showing off her dance moves.

THRONGS PACK COOLER BOX PARTY



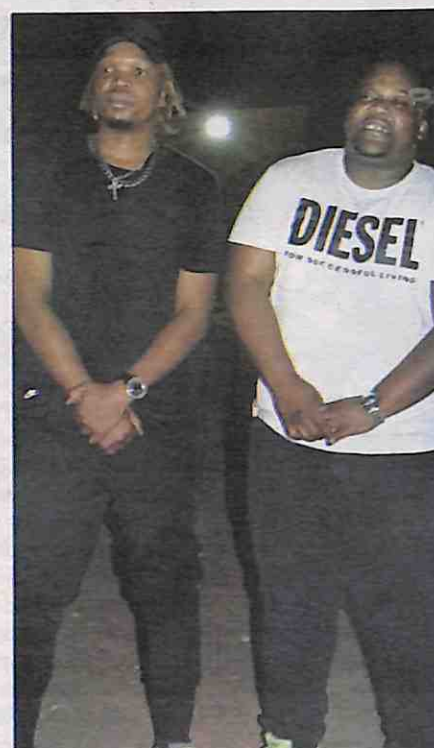
POSES: MC Welile with guest co-programme director Mbali Wethu.



ON THE DECKS: Mmatamza on the ones and twos.



IT'S LIT HERE: Some of the patrons enjoying themselves during the Amapiano Cooler Box Party. This was on Saturday evening at the X-Change Lounge in Ngwane Park.



SATISFIED: Illa Penboy with South African entertainer Leehleza.



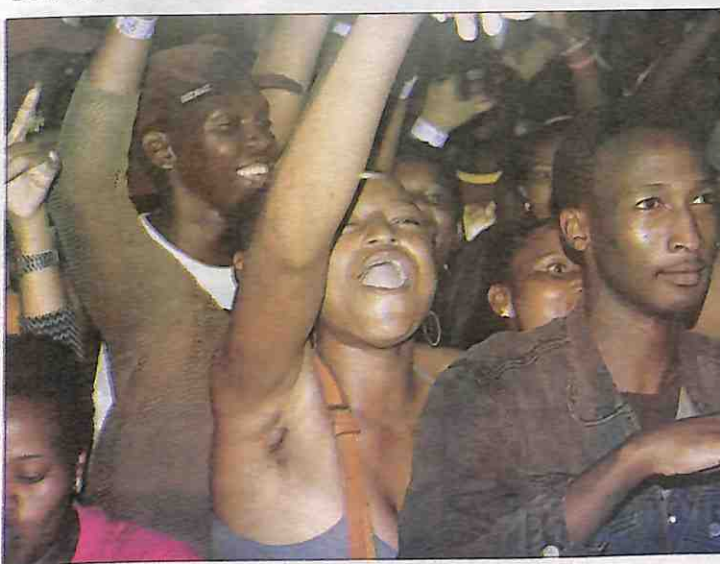
DANCING: Revellers dancing to Leehleza's set.



IN ECSTASY: A section of the revellers enjoying themselves.



SCREAMING: The crowd was taken to another level of pure unbridled joy.



HANDS-UP: Fun lovers singing along to songs.



DANCING: SWAMA award winner DJ Zulu D and KB dancing.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

Hilary Duff marries Matthew Koma in backyard wedding

LOS ANGELES - Hilary Duff just married Matthew Koma in a private at-home ceremony in Los Angeles TMZ has learned.

A source close to the newlyweds tells us friends and family were invited to the couple's home Saturday for the wedding we're told it took place in the backyard -- and was extremely intimate.

Hilary and Matt got engaged back in May after dating for several years. Duff gave birth to the couple's daughter, Banks,

in October of last year. She has a seven-year-old son, Luca, with her ex-husband Mike Comrie. Hilary has a busy year ahead it was recently announced that as part of it's new programming, Disney+ will be doing a reboot of "Lizzie McGuire" which she starred in from 2001-2004. Congrats!

(TMZ)

MARRIED: Hilary Duff and Matthew Koma.



NTSIKI MAZWAI'S EVENTFUL YEAR ON THE TL



CONTROVERSIAL: Poet Ntsiki Mazwai.

JOHANNESBURG - Poet Ntsiki Mazwai is as controversial as they come and this year, she did the most.

Ntsiki found herself on the trends list on several occasions and got into more than a few heated exchanges.

NTSIKI VS. MOJA LOVE

In August, after hosting a talk show called, Show Me Love, Moja Love distanced itself from Ntsiki Mazwai over comments she made about Leanne Manas. The poet made headlines and topped the Twitter trends list when she weighed in on a conversation about Leanne celebrating 15 years as a host on Morning Live. In a series of tweets, she said she did not think Leanne was doing an amazing job, but was white and "enjoying privilege".

She further claimed that the host was ignorant about black culture and called it "white privilege in action".

As social media users debated Ntsiki's comments, with many slamming the star, Moja Love issued an official statement distancing itself from her views. "The views expressed by Ntsiki Mazwai are not those of the channel and were expressly made by Ms Mazwai in her personal capacity. Moja Love values, loves and respects all South Africans and we celebrate all the diversity that enriches our country."

NTSIKI DRAGS MISS SA

While the country was excited about this year's pageant being on Women's Day, Ntsiki however, didn't share the same sentiments as she dragged Miss SA pageant organisers for giving a "false" notion of women empowerment. Sharing her feels about the pageant, Ntsiki took to Twitter and wrote, "The irony of #MissSA2019 being on Women's Day because what

it means to be a woman is to prance around naked and compete to be better looking than other women, well-done patriarchy you won this round."

While some praised her for pointing out what people were afraid to say aloud, others felt that she was being a "hypocrite".

NTSIKI SHADES BONANG'S INTELLIGENCE

In October, Ntsiki once again got tongues wagging on social media after she questioned whether Bonang Matheba "owns" her Woolworths lingerie line, or was just another "influencer".

Ntsiki, who is not one to mince her words, shared a tweet in which she questioned whether Woolworths was using B's name through her Distraction by Bonang lingerie line and her MCC range House of BNG.

(Times Live)

Burna Boy dropped from Afropunk concert in Joburg

JOHANNESBURG: Organisers of Afropunk festival in Johannesburg on Friday announced that Nigerian rapper, Burna Boy has been pulled from the lineup.

This comes hot-on-the-heels of Burna Boy being dropped from the Africans Unite concert last month amidst public outcry over his comments on xenophobic violence in the country a few months ago.

Burna Boy was set to perform at Afropunk, to be held later this month, but organisers announced the u-turn through a statement on social media.

They claimed that "now isn't the right time for him to come" and apologised to concertgoers for the inconvenience.

"Hey SA fam: After a joint discussion with Burna Boy's team, we are announcing that he will no longer be part of Joburg's 2019 lineup. We've agreed that now isn't the right time for him to come. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused to our community."

This follows a similar decision by the organisers of the Africans Unite Concert last month to withdraw Burna Boy from the concert and cancel its shows.

(Sowetan)



Mthunzi and Thembeke are teaming up.

"Don't expect anything... expect the unexpected," Mbangeni teases. (Sowetan)

THEMBEKA SHEZI BACK TO WREAK HAVOC ON SCANDAL!

JOHANNESBURG: The biggest TV villainess of this decade Thembeke Shezi is back.

Actress Masasa Mbangeni is reprising the love-to-hate role that turned her into a household name.

In 2016, after playing TV's most cunning woman for four years, Mbangeni broke the hearts of six million South Africans when she left Scandal!

After three and half years, she is ready to spread holiday cheer in the best way by wreaking havoc in the e.tv soapie.

"I'm so excited to be back. I was quite nervous too because I thought it has been years - a lot of things have changed, but a lot of things have also remained the same," Mbangeni says.

"Walking into the set the first time I was super nervous and it felt like the first time. But as soon as the camera started rolling it became familiar again."

"Contrary to popular belief, Scandal! and myself parted on very good terms. When I was asked to come back the timing made sense."

Mbangeni is making her return on December 31 and she's not the only troublemaker back in town.

Inxeba: The Wound actor Bongile Mantsai is making a comeback on December 30 after months off screen as Mthunzi Mayiza. Yes,

DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



Nonka on Uzalo.



Blade and Fezile sabotage Judas and Beauty's plan. Mandla wants to draw a big New Year's Eve audience for his tavern. Pam and S'khaleli are living their dream.



Lincoln announces his wife-to-be to the world. Sechaba and Phindile look to the future. On his return from home, Sibiya runs straight to his mistress.



Azwindini is suspicious of the hero that has just walked in on their lives. Sparks fly between Gugu and Qhawe, she is not sure whether she can work with him. Vho-Mukondeleli tries to mend the rift between Mpfareni and Vhangani.



Palesa gets a special surprise upon arriving at work. Tau will do whatever it takes to get the information his woman needs. Cosmo is a sucker when it comes to his crush.



A health scare causes tension in the Khoza mansion. Lesterina draws dangerous conclusions about Sthembiso's whereabouts on the night of their anniversary.



Nonka makes her decision about Khehla. MaNgobo revs up the fight against woman abuse. Mondli's buttons are pushed a little too far.



Xolile gets a little closer to the truth and Chumani struggles with the idea representing the Langas. Yvonne gets a shocking phone call. Kgosi and Kabza skate dangerously close to disaster.

Social media!

Sosha medya



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19
Is this the day you'll meet someone new? It's possible! The astral aspects are going to make it a lot easier for you. Given the wonderful energy you have at the moment, someone fascinating may be attracted to you. Take advantage of this wonderful day. It's tailor made for you!



Aquarius January 20 – February 18
You can expect to have a calm, efficient day. Whatever projects you've initiated in your public or private life should start taking on an interesting shape. Little by little, uncertainties will vanish. Have confidence in time, because it's currently working in your favour.



Pisces February 19 – March 20
A serious day lies ahead. It feels a bit lonely as all those around you concentrate on their own needs in silence and isolation. But you'll enjoy a great feeling tonight after you solved so many problems and gotten so much done. Ultimately, this will be a very positive day, one you will end feeling very proud of yourself!



Aries March 21 – April 19
You're cleaning, sweeping, and tidying up your relationships as never before. More remains to be done, but in the end, your relationships will take on completely different forms. Today, for example, someone in your group will back up your ideas. You're in the process of changing. Everyone who matters is going to support you.



Taurus April 20 – May 20
Great rivers are born from drops of water. Opportunity isn't lacking in your life at the moment. This is a great time to buckle down in your personal and professional lives. You've never shied away from hard work. You embrace it. You'll end the day feeling the satisfaction that comes from a job well done. Congratulations!



Gemini May 21 – June 21
Are you deeply satisfied with your love life? Several of the aspects will push you to take stock and develop some solutions if needed. A big issue could be your possessiveness. Try an experiment. Give your partner more freedom. It may seem risky to you, but it isn't. Loosen the reins a bit.



Cancer June 22 – July 22
Loving someone is no guarantee that one day that person won't leave. You must give your love freely and without strings. If you approach people always asking for guarantees or protection, you'll make them feel that you don't trust them. In turn, they won't trust you. It's a vicious cycle. The only way out is through giving your heart unconditionally.



Leo July 23 – August 22
You need a guide. This is a time to learn from the master of a domain, even if it means putting yourself in the role of disciple. This is a wonderful change for you, especially because you're often the one teaching others. This kind of exercise can do you a world of good. If there's a new subject you want to study, now is the time to embrace it.



Virgo August 23 – September 22
This is a meditative day. It will help you take stock of how you feel inside, which you haven't had time to do for a while. You're in the process of abandoning the burden of always doing your "duty." Miracle of miracles, you'll finally realize that you can't work all the time! Take a break.



Libra September 23 – October 23
Old demons and dreams are on the agenda today. Do you want to be an artist? Are you sure? If you're an artist, would you like to be more prominent or rich? Be wary of such daydreams because they take you away from enjoying your life. Live in the here and now. Embracing what you already have will ultimately give you the same satisfaction as those who are richer or more famous.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21
If your daily life seems disorderly, change it. Don't delay. You say that the hustle and bustle of life has you running in a thousand different directions. You'd really prefer to live in peace and quiet in the country. It's possible to make such a dramatic change. Take advantage of your great adaptive powers!



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21
You don't like to be held back. You can't wait quietly until you reach your objectives. Know that occasionally the unpleasant tasks have to be done before you can enjoy yourself. This is the case today. Fortunately, the day promises to be calm with periods of concentrated effort. Now you can prepare for the future.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES

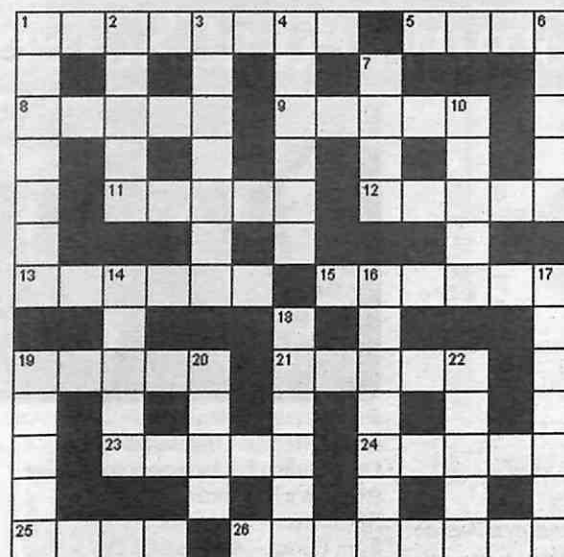


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PUZZLE CHOICE

CRYPTIC 10



Across

1. Mammal sounds like relative consumer (8)
5. Displayed furniture item also faded (4)
8. Discourage crude terms, essentially (5)
9. Festival idea found legally acceptable (5)
11. Rearranged horns and fleeced (5)
12. Found rock in last one (5)
13. Colossal veranda concealed serving tray (6)
15. Found drab sentence not there (6)
19. Renegade hiding in enclosure below (5)
21. Performer held in contract ordeal (5)
23. Refreshment in formula German beer (5)
24. Joint located in thin gear (5)
25. Meandering line in Egypt (4)
26. Writhing fish, so urgent (8)

Down

1. Sounds like a place to stay and something for her to wear (7)
2. Extra test contains grades (5)
3. Observe wordy change (7)
4. Extra vineyard conceals gorge (6)
6. Byword in Canada geese (5)
7. Various mountaineer pals climbed them (4)
10. Bee with monotone sound? (5)
14. Tag showed who viola belonged to (5)
16. Meat retailer cut herb for a change (7)
17. Trained to part exchange used property (5-2)
18. Raptor becomes ruffled creature (6)
19. Bird found in opera venue (5)
20. Will stick to unusual racing sled (4)
22. Remove froth from mandarin serving (5)

LOL

VERSION OF MARY

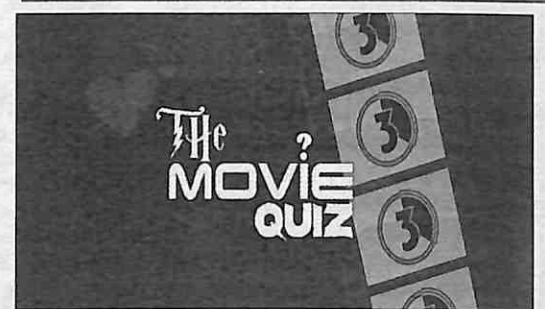
My 11-year-old takes his homework seriously. One question required him to write a sentence using

the word version. His sentence: "Have you heard of the version Mary?"

DID YOU KNOW

1. Cats can't taste sweet things because of a genetic defect.
2. Your fingernails grow faster on your dominant hand.
3. A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time—
4. Riding roller coasters might help you pass kidney stones.
5. Apple seeds contain cyanide.

MOVIE QUIZ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



FRIDAY'S QUIZ

Which actor received Oscar nominations for "Street Smart," "Driving Miss Daisy," "The

Shawshank Redemption and 'Invictus'?

Answers:

A Morgan Freeman

TODAY'S QUIZ

1. What was Molly Brown known as?

- A. Unshakable
B. Unsinkable



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NEWS



MUSIC SPECIALS ON DStv TO END 2019 ON A HIGH NOTE

WHETHER you listen to pop, rock, rap or the classics, we're bringing you the perfect soundtrack to celebrate the end of a decade.

The end of the decade has arrived, and our line-up of spectacular musical shows and specials are here to get the party started.

From stirring classical concerts to festivals of pop and rock, to MTV Base's annual top 50 countdown and celebrations of legendary artists, let DStv be the soundtrack for your countdown to 2020!

1. André Rieu: Christmas down under: Live from Sydney

This performance captures a magical evening of music and dance, featuring world-class sopranos, The Platin Tenors – all recorded live in Sydney's iconic Town Hall.

André Rieu will share this brand-new DVD with his fans worldwide, and it features 28 tracks including the most beloved Christmas tunes like 'The Holy City', 'Sleigh Ride', 'O Holy Night' and 'Jingle Bells'; romantic classics like 'Plaisir d'Amour', 'Auld Lang Syne', 'Highland Cathedral' and 'Can't Help Falling in Love.'

Tomorrow on kykNET (144) at 21:00

2. 2019 iHeartRadio Music Festival
Get ready for the real jingle bell rock! The ninth annual iHeartRadio Music Festival brings together an incredible line-up of music's biggest names all



on one stage.

Pop star Camila Cabello leads with a sultry performance, Miley Cyrus rocks the stage with some iconic cover versions, and award-winning rapper Lil Nas X, as well as T-Pain keep it fresh. Get nostalgic with a Backstreet Boys performance, rock legends Def Leppard's mind-blowing set and Hootie & the Blowfish.

Christmas Day 25 December on 1Magic (103) at 20:30

3. Elvis All-Star Tribute

We're all shook up at the prospect of spending Christmas in the company of a legendary all-star line-up performing some of Elvis Presley's most popular songs.

The King staged a legendary comeback in 1968, after not making a single live appearance since 1961, and the special event is still considered as one of the most magical moments in music history.

Country star Blake Shelton hosts music stars from every genre imaginable performing the exact set from that iconic evening including Ed Sheeran, Shawn Mendes, John Legend, Jennifer Lopez, Post Malone, John Fogerty, Josh Groban, Yolanda Adams, Alessia Cara and Adam Lambert. It's a fitting mix, as the 1968 special showcased Elvis' endless versatility and performances styles. "Elvis is one of the reasons that country music got to be so cool," Shelton told USA Today.

"Because he was a country guy, he

was a rock guy, he was R&B. It was a little bit of everything, and that's why everybody loved him."

Christmas Day on M-Net (101) at 21:00

4. A Secret Evening with Kylie

She's the original pop princess, and this memorable night celebrates not only her incredible career at the end of yet another world-wide tour, but also the dedicated fans whose lives have been touched by the icon's music and generosity.

Hosted by Alan Carr, the extravaganza features interviews, fan surprises and so much more.

Kylie Minogue said, "This was such an incredible show. It made me laugh, it made me cry. It was like time stood still and I was able to hear some amazing fan stories, reminisce and really take stock of the journey we've been on together."

Monday 30 December on M-Net (101) at 20:00

5. Chaka Khan: Keep on Holding On

Recently nominated for inclusion in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the legendary singer and civil rights activist's long and storied career is the focus of this musical documentary.

Her signature blend of jazz, gospel, soul, and funk vocals has made the ten-time Grammy winner a unique voice

and one of the most respected performers.

Monday 30 December on 1Magic (103) at 20:30

6. Royal Variety Performance 2019
Ring in the New Year like royalty! This year the star-studded annual two-and-a-half-hour special will include performances from Robbie Williams, Lewis Capaldi, Emeli Sande, Mabel and the cast of West End musical Mary Poppins. Representing the Royal Family are Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge.

31 December on M-Net (101) at 22:00

7. MVP Top 50

It's that time of the year where we start debating the biggest songs of 2019! Which track will see us into the new decade? Fans can have their say by voting for their top three picks, and your girl Farieda and her celeb friends will countdown the top 50 songs as the New Year dawns.

Tuesday 31 December on MTV Base (322) at 20:00

8. The Global Citizen Festival Concert

This home-grown New Year's Day special brings fans who missed out on seeing superstars like Beyoncé, Jay-Z and Ed Sheeran perform in last year's highly anticipated Global Citizen Festival in Johannesburg, the chance to share in the sensational performances. The annual festival is held in aid of the Global Poverty Project, and this show-stopping concert was dedicated to the memory of the late great Nelson Mandela, who would have turned 100 years old in 2018.

Wednesday 1 January on M-Net (101) at 21:00

Top DStv series nominated at Screen Actors Guild Awards

HAILED for its stylish simplicity, the Screen Actors Guild Awards (SAG) will honour the crème de la crème of the industry - including some of your favourite DStv series!

Taking place on 20 January 2020, the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards will pay homage and salute those who've made a mark on television and film alike. The awards will focus on both individual performances, as well as comedy and drama series ensembles.

From one legend to another, Leonardo DiCaprio will be presenting the greatest accolade, the SAG Lifetime Achievement Award to Robert De Niro. The two co-starred together in the 1993 drama 'This Boy's Life', where De Niro played DiCaprio's abusive stepfather.

DStv is also invited to the party with a total of 10 shows from its hub receiving nominations. Game of Thrones received three nominations, while dystopian drama The Handmaid's Tale, comedy Barry, The Act (in the same category) and Chernobyl all receiving two each. Watchmen, The Walking Dead, 'The Loudest Voice', 'This Is Us' and 'Big Little Lies' all scored themselves a nomination each.

Add Showmax to your DStv bill to stream these shows:

Chernobyl
Big Little Lies
Game of Thrones
The Handmaid's Tale
Barry
The Walking Dead
Watchmen

See all nominations Outstanding Performance By a Cast in a Motion Picture:

Bombshell
The Irishman
Jojo Rabbit
Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood
Parasite
Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role:
Cynthia Erivo – Harriet
Scarlett Johansson – Marriage Story
Lupita Nyong'o – Us
Charlize Theron – Bombshell
Reneé Zellweger – Judy
Outstanding performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role:
Christian Bale – Ford v Ferrari
Leonardo DiCaprio – Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood

Adam Driver – Marriage Story
Taron Egerton – Rocketman
Joaquin Phoenix – Joker
Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role:
Laura Dern – Marriage Story
Scarlett Johansson – Jojo Rabbit
Nicole Kidman – Bombshell



Jennifer Lopez – Hustlers
Margot Robbie – Bombshell
Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role:
Jamie Foxx – Just Mercy
Tom Hanks – A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood
Al Pacino – The Irishman
Joe Pesci – The Irishman
Brad Pitt – Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood
Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series:
Big Little Lies
The Crown
Game of Thrones
The Handmaid's Tale
Stranger Things

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Drama Series:
Jennifer Aniston – The Morning Show
Helena Bonham Carter – The Crown
Olivia Colman – The Crown
Jodie Comer – Killing Eve
Elisabeth Moss – The Handmaid's Tale

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Drama Series:
Sterling K Brown – This Is Us
Steve Carell – The Morning Show
Billy Crudup – The Morning Show
Peter Dinklage – Game of Thrones
David Harbour – Stranger Things
Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series:

Barry
Fleabag
The Kominsky Method
The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel
Schitt's Creek
Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series:
Christina Applegate – Dead to Me
Alex Borstein – The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel
Rachel Brosnahan – The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel
Catherine O'Hara – Schitt's Creek
Phoebe Waller-Bridge – Fleabag
Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Comedy Series:

Alan Arkin – The Kominsky Method
Michael Douglas – The Kominsky Method
Bill Hader – Barry
Andrew Scott – Fleabag
Tony Shalhoub – The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Television Movie or Limited Series:

Patricia Arquette – The Act
Toni Collette – Unbelievable
Joey King – The Act
Emily Watson – Chernobyl
Michelle Williams – Fosse/Verdon

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Television Movie or Limited Series:

Mahershala Ali – True Detective
Russell Crowe – The Loudest Voice
Jared Harris – Chernobyl
Jharrel Jerome – When They See Us
Sam Rockwell – Fosse/Verdon

Outstanding Action Performance by a Stunt Ensemble in a Motion Picture:

Avengers: Endgame
Ford v Ferrari
The Irishman
Joker
Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood
Outstanding Action Performance by a Stunt Ensemble in a Comedy or Drama Series:
Game of Thrones
Glow
Stranger Things
The Walking Dead
Watchmen.

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TERMS & CONDITIONS

Clients are advised to please check their adverts on the first publication day, for we will not be held responsible for any errors after the first day of publication. If it happens that you note any errors, please call 2404 3807 / 8671 immediately and it will be corrected as soon as possible. Failure to adhere to these terms, we assume no financial responsibility. Thanking you in advance for we assure satisfactory services.

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ESTATE LATE: TOBHI SARAPHINAH BHEMBE ESTATE NO. EL 99/2019

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.

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MATSAPHA
76056443

R/N 173414 Ds 23 DEC 2019

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MILAN - Romelu Lukaku scored twice to lead Inter Milan to a comfortable 4-0 win over lowly Genoa on Saturday night as they rejoined Juventus at the top of Serie A.

Roberto Gagliardini and 17-year-old Sebastiano Esposito were also on target as Inter pulled level with Juventus on 42 points from 17

LUKAKU AT DOUBLE TO PUT CONTE'S SIDE LEVEL ON POINTS

games.

Inter lead with the better goal difference although if teams finish the season level on points, the head-to-head rule is used.

The win was a relief for Inter, who had drawn their last two league matches and been knocked out of

the Champions League with a home defeat by Barcelona in between.

Inter went ahead when Antonio Candreva's cross was diverted into the net by a Lukaku header after 31 minutes and Gagliardini scored the second two minutes later with a deflected shot.

Genoa, 19th in the 20-team table, mustered their first shot on target on the hour when Antonio Sanabria's low shot was turned around the foot of the post by Samir Handanovic.

Esposito then added Inter's third from a penalty in the 64th minute, his first goal for the club.

Lukaku had the final say in the 71st minute when he collected the ball outside the area, moved forward, skipped past a defender and rifled a left-foot shot in off the crossbar for his 12th league goal of the season.

Daily Mail

Mbappe strikes twice

PARIS - Kylian Mbappe scored two sublime goals and found time to sign an autograph for a young fan as Paris St Germain crushed Amiens 4-1 on Saturday to go into the Ligue 1 Christmas break seven points clear of Olympique de Marseille with a game in hand.

Champions PSG took the lead when an Amiens attack broke down and a precise pass from Neymar found Mbappe, the 21-year-old French international sprinting forward and coolly chipping the ball past keeper Regis Gurtner in the 10th minute.

Gurtner pulled off a string of fine saves to keep his side in the game but the Amiens defence was breached immediately after the break as Mauro Icardi forced the ball in towards Neymar who rattled it home.

Mbappe's second came from another perfect pass, this time from Angel Di Maria, and he fired a superb first-time shot to make it 3-0 to the home side in the 65th minute.

With central defenders Abdou Diallo and Thiago Silva both substituted due to injuries, Stiven Mendoza found enough space to pull a goal back before Icardi struck six minutes from



STRIKES: Kylian Mbappe was on target twice to help Paris Saint-Germain beat Amiens in Ligue 1. (*Daily Mail*)

time.

Mbappe had time to hug a young fan wearing a Santa Claus hat who made it onto the pitch and produced a book from under his jacket for the World Cup-winning forward to sign as he was escorted off by security.

It took an own goal from Sofiane Alakouch to break the deadlock for Marseille against second-bottom Nimes, with Dario Benedetto and Dimitri Payet adding a goal each in a 3-1 win that kept them in touch with PSG at the top of the standings.

Wissam Ben Yedder struck twice in the second half as Monaco came back from a goal down to thrash Lille 5-1, a defeat which sent the visitors down to fourth in the table after Rennes beat visiting Girondins Bordeaux 1-0. There was more misery for bottom side Toulouse, who were hammered 3-0 by mid-table Nice, while Habib Maiga's late goal gave fellow strugglers Metz a 2-2 draw at Dijon that lifted them out of the bottom three to be replaced by Amiens.

Daily Mail

England's Cricket World Cup heroes to be recognised

LONDON - England's Cricket World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan and his team-mates will be recognised in the Queen's New Year honours list, according to *The Sun*.

The tournament hosts secured a dramatic victory over New Zealand at Lord's in July to seal a first-ever World Cup triumph.

Now Irishman Morgan, 33, will be handed a CBE as a reward for his efforts, while team-mates including Ben Stokes and vice-captain Jos Buttler are also in line for a gong. The pair combined for a vital stand that salvaged the final, before teaming up again to score 15 vital runs in the super-over while Buttler also completed the match-winning

run-out of Martin Gupthill.

Stokes has already claimed the BBC Sports Personality of the Year both for his World Cup efforts and his record-breaking displays for England in this summer's drawn Ashes Test series.

With the third Test - and with it the series - seemingly lost, Stokes smashed an incredible 135 not out to seal a near-impossible win at Headingley.

A source told *The Sun*: "The World Cup win was the sporting highlight of the year - not just the summer."

"Eoin captained the team to win a World Cup Final and only a handful of people have ever been able to say that."

Daily Mail



HEROES: England's Cricket World Cup winners are set to feature on the Queen's New Year honours list. (*Daily Mail*)

Qatar winning the right to host 2022 World Cup

DOHA - FIFA's ruling Executive Committee of December 2010 was a human smorgasbord of greed, corruption, self-interest and dishonesty and it is nine years now since those 22 men voted to send the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 event to Qatar.

In the weeks before they did so, I spent long days in conversation about their upcoming decision, first with a former Qatari bid insider turned whistleblower, Phaedra Almajid, and then with this newspaper's lawyers, to decide how much of what she told me we could print.

"I don't think Qatar will win," a brave but nervous Almajid told me. "I know Qatar will win."

And then, in great detail, she went on to explain how Qatar had bought access to and influence over an array of senior sports officials, including not just multiple FIFA ExCo voters but others who might shape the vote, including political figures.

She told me how Qatar had bought the support of multiple famous foot-

ballers, paying millions of dollars for the endorsements of, among others, Zinedine Zidane, Gabriel Batistuta and Pep Guardiola, then manager of Barcelona.

There is no implication of any corruption on the part of Zidane, Batistuta, Guardiola or any other footballers who endorsed the bid.

Crucially

She told me that Spain bidding for 2018 would be key to Qatar's success as part of a secret Qatar-Spain pact (against FIFA bid rules) that would help to deliver Qatar some European ExCo votes but crucially three South American votes from corrupt ExCo voters Ricardo Teixeira (of Brazil), Nicolas Leoz and Julio Grondona (Argentina), all on that infamous 22-man panel.

She also explained how Qatar had paid \$1.6m (£1.2m) to sponsor an African football conference, giving Qatar exclusive access to lobby Africa's ExCo voters and promise them 'assistance' in exchange for their votes.

Daily Mail

Daniel secures stunning second-round stoppage win

LONDON - Dynamite by name. Dynamite by explosion.

Daniel Dubois sent his Japanese opponent down and out for a fistful of 10 counts as he turned up the thunderous tone of his warning to the Big Three of heavyweight boxing.

Kyotaro Fujimoto hit the deck in the Copper Box arena with a sickening thud in the second round.

Referee Victor Laughlin spurned any count in preference for sending

distress signals for a posse of medics to come into the ring and to the rescue of Japan's first but already unconscious heavyweight of any note.

Not only would Joshua have heard the crash across London but also Fury and Wilder on the other side of the Atlantic.

'Here I come,' said Dubois in application for a world title challenge next year, at 22 and after just 14 wins, albeit three of them by KO. *Daily Mail*





City thrash in-form Leicester

LONDON- It is too early to say that the title race is back on but anyone tempted to argue that Manchester City's victory over Leicester City at The Etihad strengthened Liverpool's dominant position at the top of the Premier League would be wrong. There is only one team that can catch Liverpool now and it is not Leicester.

The numbers tell us even though Liverpool were away winning the Club World Cup in Qatar, their advantage at the top of the table remains at 10 points and they now have a game in hand. Leicester are their closest challengers and this defeat was a setback for them.

All the same, this victory for Pep Guardiola's revitalised side was at least a hint that Liverpool's advance on the title may not yet be a canter. This City victory was a reminder that the champions have not given up. It was a warning that if Liverpool falter, City will be there, ready to



pounce.

Jürgen Klopp's side may be kings of the world and princes of Europe but they are not yet rulers in their own land.

Brendan Rodgers' Leicester team are a fine side in their own right and their play on the counter-attack

here was quite dazzling. Jamie Vardy scored for the ninth game out of 10 and embarrassed City's defence with his pace and poise. But still City outclassed their opponents.

Liverpool have set such a fearsome pace at the top that it is hard

to see anyone catching them but City are the only ones who have a chance. Those who thought they had already ceded the title were mistaken. Those who thought they would lie down when Vardy put Leicester ahead with a sublime first half finish were given a rude shock.

City responded brilliantly. Riyad Mahrez was all but unplayable on City's right flank in the first half. In the second half, Kevin de Bruyne took over as the game's most dominant player. Some of his midfield play was breathtaking, particularly the way in which he set up City's third for Gabriel Jesus.

This was the champions back at their best. This was City in their pomp again. This was City drawing gasps from supporters with the range and the brilliance of their attacking options. This was City at their relentless, beautiful best.

Daily Mail

Ings praised Southampton's work rate

LONDON- In-form Danny Ings hailed Southampton's vital win at Aston Villa.

The forward scored twice in a 3-1 victory to lift the Saints out of the Premier League relegation zone.

Jack Stephens also netted and, while Jack Grealish's fine strike pulled a goal back, Southampton deservedly claimed the points.

The Saints are now 17th, three points above Villa who dropped into the bottom three, with Ings having scored 12 goals in his last 13 games.

"It's massive," 13-goal Ings told the club's official site. "We knew how important it was to come here, put in a big performance and get the points. 'I thought we did that. Take the goals out of the equation, the lads defended unbelievably well - you could see when the crowd were up and their team were building momentum, we shut that out quite well. 'Credit to everybody off the ball, because that was just as important as scoring the goals. 'Our defence, the midfield and Longy (Shane Long) working his socks off again... it means so much to the team. It's so important that we have that side as well as the quality on the ball.'" *Daily Mail*

'There is more to come at Newcastle'

LONDON - Miguel Almiron is confident there are more goals to come after finally opening his Newcastle account almost 11 months after his arrival on Tyneside.

The 25-year-old Paraguay international fired the Magpies to a 1-0 victory over Crystal Palace at St James' Park on Saturday, and the celebrations which greeted his strike were as much about the identity of the scorer as the points his efforts secured.

Almiron, a £21 million January signing from Atlanta United, was playing his 27th game for the club and he had repeatedly been frustrated in front of goal.

The end of that drought raised the roof at St James', and he told NUFC TV: "I was very happy. I thought about my family because they have supported me in the good and the bad times.

"It was lovely, actually, and it was very important for the team and the supporters because we are dealing with every challenge we have, especially at home, in a

good way.

"I believe many more are on the way." Almiron's intervention came seven minutes from time as he latched on to Andy Carroll's knock-down from a Fabian Schar cross to beat goalkeeper Vicente Guaita.

It was perhaps cruel on Palace, who had recovered from a timid start during which Newcastle looked likely to win at a canter to dominate much of

what followed, but crucially without being able to find a way past Martin Dubravka, who made fine saves from Wilfried Zaha, James McArthur and Christian Benteke.

If Almiron stole the headlines as the Magpies climbed to ninth place in the table, there was good news too for teammate Florian Lejeune, who played his first game since April after recovering from a second cruciate ligament injury.

Lejeune said: "The first three or four balls were important for me. To feel the tackle again, it is important for you in the head.

"After that, I didn't think about the injury and could just play. In the second half, it got easier for me. The first 15 minutes were difficult. The intensity was tough, but it was good." *Daily Mail*



Arsenal coach criticises Ozil

LONDON-Arsenal interim coach Freddie Ljungberg has criticised Mesut Ozil's behaviour after his substitution in the loss to Manchester City.

The German midfielder expressed his unhappiness at being taken off during the 3-0 loss to the Citizens last weekend and kicked his gloves in the air in

frustration.

Ozil was left out of the match day squad for Saturday's draw with Everton, with Ljungberg confirming it was for his behaviour last weekend.

"For me, I got asked after the game about Mesut," he was quoted as saying by Sky Sports.

"He walked off the pitch [in the Man

City game] and then kicked his gloves. The fans were not happy.

"I got asked about it and said, 'At Arsenal, that's not how we behave and not what we do'. I stand by that. Mesut was injured, but I would not have picked him for the squad because I want to make a stance that it's not what I accept from an Arsenal football player.

"That's my decision. I won't make the decisions again, but that's what I think." *Kick-Off*

Liverpool stars proudly show off their Club World Cup title

LONDON - After writing their names in the history books, Liverpool stars took a rest from their football duties by posing for the camera.

Liverpool clinched their first-ever FIFA Club World Cup title on Saturday after Roberto Firmino scored an extra-time winner to earn a 1-0 victory over Brazilian side Flamengo in Doha.

And after soaking up the celebrations on the pitch and in the changing rooms, Jürgen Klopp and his Liverpool players took part in a light-hearted photocall with the prestigious trophy.

Mohamed Salah was seen posing proudly with the gold cup, while captain Jordan Henderson was pictured kissing his winners medal alongside his manager. Georginio Wijnaldum opted for a more amusing pose by lurking behind compatriot Virgil van Dijk, while staring inquisitively at his face. James Milner, Divock Origi, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Co decided to flex their muscles as they also posed with the Club World Cup trophy. The Reds made the most of their celebrations after a hugely physical encounter against Copa Libertadores champions Flamengo. *Daily Mail*



Chelsea 'near to £120m Jadon Sancho transfer'

LONDON-Chelsea are looking to beat both Manchester United and Liverpool in the race to sign Borussia Dortmund star Jadon Sancho, according to reports.

The England international, rated at £120 million, is currently a man in huge demand after shining in Germany with Dortmund and a return to the Premier League could very soon be on the cards.

According to The Sun, Chelsea are now working on a deal which could see them fork out a club-record fee for one of the world's biggest talents. The Blues have reportedly emerged as the most likely destination for the 19-year-old winger after indicating they will match Dortmund's big-money valuation. Chelsea have confirmed to the Bundesliga giants that they are willing to find £100m-plus to sign him.

For the past year, United have tried to acquire the services of Sancho but Chelsea appear to have moved ahead of them in the race to sign him. Meanwhile, Liverpool - who won their first-ever FIFA Club World Cup title on Saturday - have been put off by Dortmund's hefty price tag.

After getting their transfer ban lifted, Chelsea Manager Frank Lampard is now desperate to replace Eden Hazard following his move to Real Madrid in the summer.

Daily Mail



'I'm available for Bafana'

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns defender **Tebogo Langerman** admits he is hurt not to be a Bafana Bafana player and still has a desire to transfer his club performances to the national team.

Langerman has been one of Masandawana's most important players in recent years and has won many trophies as a regular starter, but when it comes to Bafana Bafana he has been overlooked. The 33-year-old says he is still available to play for the national team should they feel they need his vast experience.

"I'm available for Bafana Bafana. I can play for Bafana Bafana anytime. Whenever I get a call-up, I'll honour it."

Rantie AWOL

JOHANNESBURG - Mamelodi Sundowns striker **Tokelo Rantie** has gone AWOL.

Sundowns coach **Pitso Mosimane** confirmed that he has not seen the self-destructive former Bafana Bafana, Orlando Pirates and Bournemouth FC striker in weeks and has no idea where he is. "Aaai Tokelo, I don't know. You must ask Yuges (Singh)."

"I haven't seen him, maybe you can locate him but we will see," said Mosimane.

Many questioned Mosimane when he took a huge gamble and signed Rantie on a three-year deal in September.

His career had been blighted by off-the-field issues with his fitness and discipline.

The Sundowns coach disregarded the fact that the player was released by former Cape Town City coach **Benni McCarthy** from his contract without kicking a ball in December last year. Mosimane said at the time he was determined to offer the player an opportunity to turn his life around and sent him to a

rigorous three-month assessment during the club's pre-season camp in Nelspruit in July.

He continued to have faith in him and said people cannot continue to base their views on Rantie's past mistakes. Rantie appeared to grab the lifeline and made an impression.

"I believe that we can't hold somebody to what he has done in the past," Mosimane said at the time. "We all know that he has had big challenges in the past but somebody has to give a helping hand and probably that somebody is me. What if he comes out right, we have nothing to lose. We assessed him and I like him. My recommendation to the club was to give him a chance because everybody deserves a second chance."

Rantie was looking to resurrect a career that has hit the skids but now faces a bleak future as Mosimane has shown in the past that he has no tolerance for players who destabilise the team with ill-discipline. *Sunday Times*



AWOL: Mamelodi Sundowns striker **Tokelo Rantie**.

Ramagalela launches beer

JOHANNESBURG - **Highlands Park** striker **Rodney Ramagalela** has explained why he launched a beer named after him.

The striker has been one of many footballers who have launched their brands off the field in clothing and retail shops.

The former Mamelodi Sundowns

striker hopes to give back to the community with the profit he will make from sales of the beer.

"When you start a beer brand you need to test the market and see how people respond to it," Ramagalela told MarawaTV.

"This is day one, already crazy as a lot of bottle stores want hun-

dreds of cases.

"We want to make it more by Rodney, we will start in Venda. The beer is not about making money but giving back to the community."

"We are more excited about getting it out to people and they taste it. This is just a simple lager. We wanted to make it an authentic African Beer."

The Citizen

Gabuza dreams of coaching Pirates

PRETORIA - **SuperSport United** striker **Thamsanqa Gabuza** says he would like to retire at **Matsatsantsa**.

Gabuza joined the Pretoria outfit from Orlando Pirates at the start of the season.

The Bafana Bafana striker revealed that he has discussed the possibility of joining the

Pirates technical team with Dr **Irvin Khoza** once he retires at United. "I will retire at SuperSport, I discussed that with Dr Irvin Khoza," Gabuza told MarawaTV.

"We spoke about how long I will be at SuperSport United for and he is the one who negotiated my contract with Stan Matthews. The plan is once I am done

and as soon as I finish with my playing career at SuperSport United then I will go back to Pirates and start my coaching career thereafter a brief discussing with Dr Khoza.

"I want to coach and take over as a coach once the time is right as I have discussed with Dr Khoza." *The Citizen*

Pirates coach calls for improvement

JOHANNESBURG - New Orlando Pirates head coach **Josef Zinnbauer** has called for his team to improve despite beating **Black Leopards** 3-1 in his first match in charge in South Africa's top-flight.

Innocent Maela gave the Buccaneers the lead in the first half before Gabadinho Mhango doubled their advantage just after the hour mark. Mwape Musonda pulled a goal back for Lidoda Duvha after the interval but Mhango made sure Pirates took all three points when he converted a penalty with less than 20 minutes remaining. It was the first match in charge of the Buccaneers for German mentor Zinnbauer and, while happy to collect maximum points, he was not satisfied with the performance. Zinnbauer told SuperSport TV after the game: "I think we have a good structure, we have a good team, we have a very good quality but the little things that we do now, is the things that works in football, you make this and you change a little bit the things and then you get more success." "You have more control about the game. In the first-half we had a lot of chances, we don't make the goals, that's the problem, you don't make the goals, the opponent is coming, they get one chance or two and they make a goal, that's football."

Tignyemb to lead chippa player exodus

JOHANNESBURG - After only six months with the club, **Patrick Tignyemb** is set to be released from his contract with **Chippa United**.

The 34-year-old goalkeeper has been with the Chilli Boys since July, having joined the Port Elizabeth outfit after parting ways with Bloemfontein Celtic. Following the emergence of Veli Mothwa, who has been impressive with his performances since getting his chance in coach **Norman Mapeza**'s team, Tignyemb is facing an uncertain future with the Eastern Cape outfit. The other players expected to leave Chippa include **Rhulani Manzini**, **Lerato Manzini** and **Frederic Nsabiymva**.

Meanwhile, last night Chippa hosted SuperSport United at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in their last match of the year. *Soccer Laduma*



KEEP UP: Orlando Pirates head coach **Josef Zinnbauer**.



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Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Should you not be contacted within **20 days** of the deadline (**Tuesday 31st December 2019**), please consider your application unsuccessful.

'HAMILTON DESERVES A KNIGHTHOOD'

LONDON - David Richards, the head of Motorsport UK, has called for F1 champion Lewis Hamilton to receive a knighthood in the New Year Honours.

Lewis Hamilton should be rewarded for winning his sixth Formula One world championship by receiving a knighthood in the New Year Honours, says the head of Motorsport UK.

Hamilton cruised to a third successive title and is now just one shy of Michael Schumacher's all-time record of seven championships.

The 34-year-old was awarded an OBE in 2008, following his maiden championship triumph, but David Richards, the head of British motor racing's governing body, believes it would be an oversight if Hamilton does not receive a higher honour this time.

Labour peer Lord Peter Hain has written to UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to declare his support for Hamilton to receive a knighthood, and Richards insists the Mercedes driver is worthy of the title.

"Naturally as the governing body of motorsport in the UK we wholeheartedly support Peter Hain," Richards told the Guardian.

"I can't think of anyone more worthy of that recognition than Lewis. It would be a major oversight if that is not recognised in the New Year Honours."

"Lewis is far more remarkable in that he did not come from a privileged background. He and his father worked incredibly hard to get into karting and up the steps of the ladder."

"It was sheer hard graft, not gifted to him on a plate. They made huge sacri-

fices and that makes his achievements even more extraordinary.

"He is a role model for underprivileged children in the UK to show them that anything is possible. I hope he uses that to help and leave a legacy for other children to show their ambitions are achievable."

foxsports.com



'I have a couple more gears'

NEW YORK - Novak Djokovic insisted there were plenty of positives to take despite losing to Stefanos Tsitsipas at the Mubadala World Tennis Championship.

The Serb was playing his first match of pre-season, and started strongly against the recently crown ATP Finals champion, but faded after the first set before losing 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4.

However, he says he is not worried, and in fact he is very happy with his performance given his shortened off-season due to representing Serbia at the Davis Cup last month. "It was a two-hour match and

there were a lot of great exchanges and great rallies," Djokovic told reporters after the match. "I'm actually very pleased with the way I'm moving on the court, but I still feel that I have a couple more gears I will be working on in the next couple of weeks. "The aim is to hit my best possible form just before the Australian Open or even for the ATP Cup. "The off-season wasn't that long, and I only recently started playing tennis again, so it was positive." Djokovic heads to Melbourne as the defending champion after beating Rafael Nadal in the final last year.

tennis365.com

CAF announce final nominees for African Player of The Year award

ABUJA - CAF have announced the final three nominees for the 2019 African Player of the Year award, although one player from Algeria's Africa Cup of Nations-winning side made the cut.

The final nominees short-list is cut from 10 players to three, with the award ceremony taking place January 7, 2020.

Liverpool star duo Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah have both made the final cut after their impressive year that ended with a UEFA Champions League title, UEFA Super Cup and most recently the Club World Cup.

Manchester City star Riyad Mahrez rounds off the nominees list after claim-

ing the AFCON title as well as the Premier League and League Cup with Manchester City.

The European-based players also dominated a number of the other awards, as Achraf Hakimi, Samuel Chukwueze and Victor Osimhen have made the short-list for the African Youth Player of the Year.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Mohamed Salah | (Egypt & Liverpool) |
| 2. Sadio Mane | (Senegal & Liverpool) |
| 3. Riyad Mahrez | (Algeria & Manchester City) |
| 4. Achraf Hakimi | (Morocco & Borussia Dortmund) |
| 5. Samuel Chukwueze | (Nigeria & Villarreal) |
| 6. Victor Osimhen | (Nigeria & Lille) |

Soccer Laduma



NOMINATED: Liverpool star duo Sadio Mane and Achraf Hakimi.

England 1966 World Cup hero Martin Peters dies aged 76

LONDON - England World Cup hero Sir Geoff Hurst on Saturday led tributes to his former team mate Martin Peters, who died following a battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Peters, 76, was one of three West Ham players who lifted the Jules Rimet trophy in Wembley Stadium in 1966.

He scored the second goal of the match which put England 2-1 up against West Germany.

Sir Geoff, who scored a hat-trick that day wrote on Twitter: "Today is a very sad day for football and for me personally."

"Martin Peters was one of the all-time greats and a close friend and colleague of mine for in excess of 50 years."

"A fellow World cup final goalscorer and my West Ham partner for years along with Bobby Moore."

Renowned as being the complete midfielder, Peters was good in the air, able to cross with either foot and possessed great movement, being able to drift into goal-scoring positions unnoticed by his markers which would later see him nicknamed 'The Ghost'.

Peters came through the West Ham academy, having signed as an apprentice in 1959 and went on to help the east London club win the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1965.

His former club West Ham confirmed the sad news earlier this afternoon in a statement.

"Everyone at West Ham United is deeply saddened by the tragic news that legendary Hammer Martin Peters MBE has died at the age of 76."

"The directors, management, players and staff wish to pass on our sincere condolences at this extremely sad time to Martin's wife Kath, his children Leeann and Grant, granddaughters Hannah and Meg, and all of Martin's family and friends."



RIP: Martin Peters famously scored England's second goal during the 1966 World Cup final. He is pictured, centre, along side fellow West Ham team mates Bobby Moore, left, and Geoff Hurst, right. (Daily Mail)

"A beloved husband, dad and granddad, and a kind, gentle and private man, we are devastated by his loss but so very proud of all that he achieved and comforted by the many happy memories we shared."

"We will be making no further comment and kindly ask that the privacy of our family is respected at this extremely difficult time."

Another former West Ham striker, Tony Cottee, said on Sky Sports News: "First and foremost he was a fantastic player."

"Obviously he was one of the three West Ham players who played in the '66 World Cup winning team. We've lost Bobby Moore and now we've lost Martin Peters."

"I'm really sad, I knew him well, he worked for the club and I got to know him as a friend. As a West Ham man it's really, really sad news."

Peters famously scored for England during the World Cup final - as the Three Lions beat West Germany 4-2 at Wembley.

A West Ham legend, Peters made 302 appearances and scored 81 goals during an 11-year spell at the club from 1959 to 1970.

He was famed for becoming Britain's first £200,000 player when he left the Hammers to join

Tottenham Hotspurs.

During his career he also played for Norwich City and Sheffield United.

Part of the West Ham trio which helped England win the 1966 World Cup, Martin Peters was never one to seek the limelight.

He following a battle with Alzheimer's, was the scorer of England's second goal at Wembley before fellow Hammer Geoff Hurst took centre stage with a hat-trick.

Indeed, it was very nearly Peters, on only his eighth appearance for his country, who had the honour of netting the winner after rifling home a deflected Hurst shot to put the hosts 2-1 up in the 78th minute. West Germany equalised in the last minute and Hurst went on score twice more in extra-time.

As the players walked up the 39 steps and England and West Ham captain Bobby Moore was presented with the Jules Rimet Trophy, Peters took a moment to wipe his hands on his shorts before meeting the Queen, not wanting to risk getting any mud on her Majesty's pristine white gloves.

A silver-service banquet for Alf Ramsey's triumphant squad followed at the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington.

Daily Mail



Chelsea hand Mourinho defeat in heated derby

LONDON - Jose Mourinho came up empty-handed against another former employer as his Tottenham Hotspur suffered defeat to Chelsea in a heated London Derby yesterday.

Spurs had fourth spot in their sights as Mourinho went with the usual attack of Harry Kane, Dele Alli and Heung-min Son as Christian Eriksen started on the bench again.

It was the visitors who got the breakthrough as Willian cut in from the left

before drilling the ball into the bottom corner from the edge of the box on 14 minutes. Spurs managed to carve out an opening over 10 minutes later when Kane broke the right before picking out Son, who blazed well wide of the target from close range.

However, the Blues were awarded a penalty just before the halftime break after the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) deemed that Paulo Gazzaniga had fouled Marcos Alonso. Willian stepped up and

made no mistake from 12-yards out to complete his brace and put the Blues two goals ahead. Things got worse for Mourinho's men on the hour mark when Son was shown a straight red card for violent conduct on Antonio Rudiger following a review from VAR. It was his second red card of the season. Spurs had a couple VAR moments of their own after appeals for a penalty, but they were unsuccessful as the frustration continued to grow for the home side. *Daily Mail*

ATLETICO GO FOURTH WITH WIN AT BETIS

MADRID - Atletico Madrid moved back into the top four in La Liga with a hard-fought 2-1 win at Real Betis yesterday as they recorded back-to-back league victories for the first time since the beginning of September.

Substitute Angel Correa put Atletico in front in the 58th minute, chasing down defender Alex Moreno and winning the ball back before rounding goalkeeper Joel Robles and passing into the net.

Striker Alvaro Morata doubled Atletico's lead in the 84th minute by turning in a cross from Correa with a back-heeled finish to get a confidence-boosting goal after hitting the

post in the first half and having a strike ruled out for offside.

Betis hit the woodwork in either half and finally scored in added time when Marc Bartra bundled the ball into the net from a crowded penalty area.

The win followed last week's 2-0 success over Osasuna and was the first time Diego Simeone's had strung two victories together in domestic competition since they won their opening three games of the campaign.

Atletico are fourth on 32 points after 18 games while Betis are 13th on 23.

Daily Mail

AmaZulu end 2019 with vital victory

BLOEMFONTEIN - AmaZulu will end the year three points above the relegation zone after defeating Bloemfontein Celtic 2-1 at the Dr. Petrus Molemela Stadium.

Both sides were eager to end their year with three points after Celtic suffered a 5-3 defeat at Kaizer Chiefs while Usuthu entered the clash winless in their last five matches.

Heading into the clash, Bonginkosi Ntuli was the only AmaZulu to score a league goal this season but he turned provider after 20 minutes to pick out Jabulani Ncobe, who was unable to convert from 10-yards out. Usuthu were made to rue that miss as Celtic broke the deadlock in the 30th minute, with Luthuli bagging his first goal for the Free State outfit with a close-range finish.

Kick-Off

Chiefs slayer denies AmaKhosi three points

PIETERMARITZBURG - Judas Moseamedi came back to haunt Kaizer Chiefs yesterday afternoon, as the ABSA Premiership leaders dropped points at Maritzburg United.

AmaKhosi head coach Ernst Middendorp made three changes to the side that thrashed Bloemfontein Celtic, as Siyabonga Ngezana started ahead of Reeve Frosler while Khama Billiat and George Maluleka both returned.

Chiefs were on the front foot in the opening exchanges, but they had to wait until the 21st minute for the opening goal. Lebogang Manyama found the back of the net with a diving header that deflected off Rushine De Reuck.

However, a mistake by Willard Katsande nine minutes before the break sent Judas Moseamedi clear on goal, as he slotted home

the equaliser between the legs of AmaKhosi goalkeeper Daniel Akpeyi.

The visitors almost profited from an error at the back by Maritzburg in the closing minutes of the first stanza but Eric Tinkler's charges recovered in time to stop the danger posed by Nurkovic and Leonardo Castro.

A tough afternoon continued for Katsande in the 66th minute as he conceded a penalty after bringing down Keagan Buchanan, but his blushes were saved, as Akpeyi saved Daylon Claassen's spot-kick.

However, Billiat had a glorious chance to restore the lead for AmaKhosi with 12 minutes remaining after being sent clear on goal by Manyama, but his low curling shot lacked power to beat Ofori. *Soccer Laduma*



Pogba returns as Man Utd suffer embarrassing loss

Manchester United had a day to forget after suffering a 2-0 defeat to bottom-of-the-table Watford at Vicarage Road yesterday afternoon.

Pogba returned to the league match day squad for the first time since the 1-1 draw with Arsenal, although he was only named among the substitutes.

The visitors were certainly missing Pogba's influence, as they struggled to carve out any clear-cut openings despite enjoying most of the possession in the opening 20 minutes.

United should have broken the deadlock at the midway point

after Jesse Lingard was sent clear on goal, but the midfielder's attempted lob sailed over the crossbar.

While the home side struggled to offer much going forward in the first half, they got the second half off to a flying start as Ismaila Sarr opened the scoring with the help of a handling error from David de Gea.

Watford were then awarded a penalty in the 52nd minute when Aaron Wan Bissaka committed a foul in the box, which allowed captain Troy Deeney to step up and convert to double the home side's lead.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer responded with a change six minutes later as Daniel James made way for Mason Greenwood before Pogba replaced Lingard just after the hour mark.

The changes did improve the Red Devils' approach, although they were unable to find a way back into the contest as former United goalkeeper Ben Foster pulled off a couple fine saves.

Nevertheless, United failed to claw their way back into the contest and now remain in eighth spot after dropping points for yet another week.

Daily Mail





MTN Premier League 2019/20



MOVE: Mbabane Highlanders utility player Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze attempts to go past Mbabane Swallows' Richard McCreesh during the MTN Premier League match at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. The game ended in a goalless draw. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



TUSSLE: Paito Dube and Josep Lekata in a tussle for the ball.



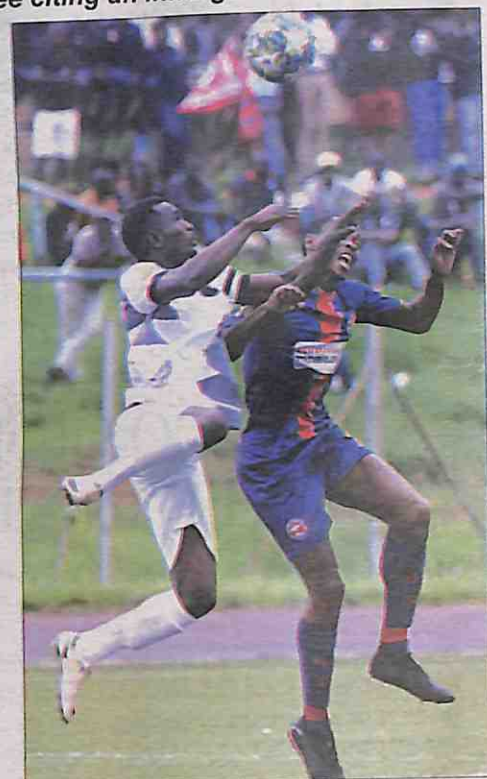
IT'S INSIDE: The Highlanders goal which was disallowed by the referee citing an infringement.



CHALLENGE: Kingu Pemba challenges Phumlani Ngwenya.



WATCHING: Mbabane Highlanders boss Ally Kgomongwe (l) in full concentration with other officials at the VIP Box.



HEADER: Highlanders' Jimmoh Moses and Swallows' Sandile Hlatshwako in a heading duel.



ONE MAN DOWN: Patrick Mashele wins the ball from Colani Magagula.



PROGRESS: One of Swallows directors MP Robert Magongo in a conversation with chats with Chairman of the team Archbishop Bheki Lukhele.



FIFA FAIR PLAY: Highlanders coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati chats with Swallows players Sifiso Mabila and Sandile Hlatshwako after the game.



EISH: Swallows supporters react after their side missed a scoring opportunity.



WELL DONE: Swallows chairman addressing the players after the match.



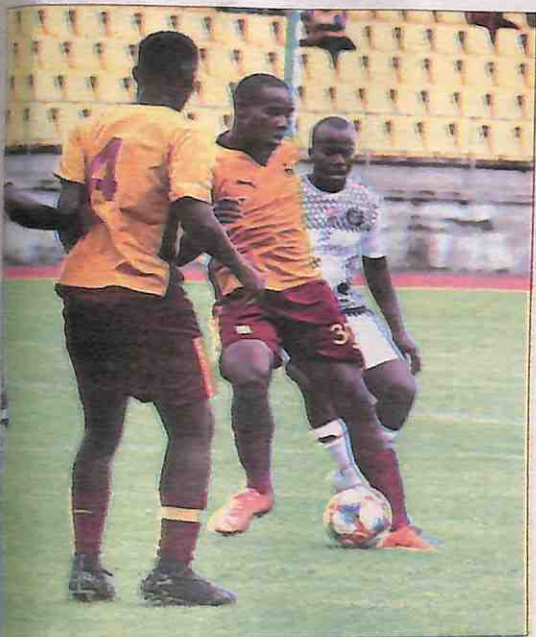
GWAZA NKUNZI: Highlanders supporters cheering the players on.



MTN Premier League 2019/20



ONE IN THE BAG: Young Buffaloes players and officials in a jovial mood after receiving their E350 000 replica cheque from MTN Senior Manager Consumer Meshack Maseko and Premier League Executive member Sicelo Mkhonta. This was after beating Moneni Pirates 3-1 at the Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday. (Pics; Nomalungelo Phiri)



GIVE WAY: Buffaloes midfielder Siboniso Ngwenya passes the ball.



NO WAYS: Pirates midfielder Nhlanhla Nkosi closes down Buffaloes' Siboniso Ngwenya.



WRONG SIDE: Buffaloes striker Phiwa Dlamini trying to dribble Pirates goalkeeper Romanus Igidimba.

SAVE: Moneni Pirates goalkeeper Romanus Igidimba makes a save during the match.



OOPS: Buffaloes striker Phiwa Dlamini celebrates after scoring the teams' third goal.



BEST DRESSED: MTN Brand and Sponsorship Manager Thandiwe Mashinini presents Moneni Pirates' best dressed fan Nkululeko Dlamini with his prize.



ME TOO: Buffaloes best dressed supporter Banele Hedzane receives his prize from Mashinini.



IN NUMBERS: Moneni Pirates supporters came in their numbers to support the team.



CELEBRATE: Young Buffaloes players all smiles after their first goal scored by Allie Matse.

FOOTBALL TALK

All your latest WORLD FOOTBALL News

● Chelsea will beat Manchester United and Liverpool to the signing of England winger Jadon Sancho, 19, because they are willing to meet Borussia Dortmund's £120m asking price. *(Sun on Sunday)*

● Mikel Arteta agreed to become Arsenal head coach after failing to get assurances from Manchester City that he would be Pep Guardiola's successor as manager at Etihad Stadium. *(Sunday Mirror)*



● Tottenham Hotspur have held talks to sign Flamengo midfielder Gerson and want to sign the 22-year-old Brazilian before the January transfer window opens. *(90min)*

● Spurs also want to bring in French defender Issa Diop, 22, who is valued at £50m by West Ham United. *(Sky Sports)*

● Manchester United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer says the club are willing to work with agent Mino Raiola to land 19-year-old Norway striker Erling Haaland from Red Bull Salzburg. *(Sunday Mirror)*

● Raiola also represents United midfielder Paul Pogba, 26, and has been told by Real Madrid that they will not be making a bid to sign the France international in January. *(Marca)*

● Tottenham's 27-year-old Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen is set to turn down a move to Manchester United in January, despite being out of contract in the summer. *(Daily Star Sunday)*

● Chelsea have agreed a deal to sign Norway Under-17 forward Bryan Fiabema from Tromsø and the 16-year-old will go into the academy at Stamford Bridge. *(Metro)*

● Arsenal, Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich are all interested in signing 32-year-old Belgium forward Dries Mertens from Napoli for £8.5m. *(Calciomercato)*

● Sheffield United want to sign Norwegian midfielder Emil Bohinen from Stabæk. The 20-year-old - who is the son of former Nottingham Forest, Derby and Blackburn midfielder Lars Bohinen - has also held talks with Leeds United. *(Teamtalk)*

● Blades Manager Chris Wilder says he is targeting "two or three" new signings in the January transfer window. *(BBC Sheffield)*



● Manchester United, Everton and Southampton are among the clubs interested in signing Barcelona's 19-year-old French defender Jean-Clair Todibo for £17m. *(Sport)*

WAKIE, MACHAWE WIN BIG IN FINAL PMC GOLF TOURNEY

BY JONGILE XUBA

GOLF - WAKIE Lawrence won the last Project Managers of Choice (PMC) Golf Tournament whilst Machawe Maziya won the PMC Champ of Champs Tournament played at Manzini Golf Club on Saturday.

There was a field of 38 golfers on the day playing 18 holes and Lawrence managed to score an impressive 39 points win his first PMC title. He was followed by Richard Dlamini on 35 points on the count back. Veteran golfer Peter Dlamini came in third on 35 points also as John 'The Best in Town' Fakudze finished fourth on 34 points. Rounding up the top five was Dale Masilela with 33 points. Novelties were also awarded

PMC GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

1. Wakie Lawrence	- 39 points
2. Peter Dlamini	- 35 points c/b
3. Richard Dlamini	- 35 points
4. John Fakudze	- 34 points
5. Dale Masilela	- 33 points
6. Ben J Simelane	- 32 points
7. Raymond Dlamini	- 32 points
8. Simon Motsa	- 31 points
9. Sifiso Zubuko	- 31 points
10. Eerfaan Dada	- 29 points

PMC Champ of Champs

1. Machawe Maziya	- 36 points
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Novelties

Nearest to Pin	
Richard Dlamini	- 7/16
Peter Dlamini	- 9/18
Longest Drive	
John Fakudze	

as Richard Dlamini got nearest to the pin 7/16 with Peter Dlamini getting nearest to the pin 9/18. Longest drive award went to John Fakudze. Winning the champ of champ's competition was Machawe Maziya who scored 36 points

to ensure he finished ahead of all this year's winners of the tournament.

Speaking on behalf of the sponsor, John Mngomezulu thanked all the golfers for playing well throughout the year and added that they were looking forward to a continued partnership. "We firstly would like to congratulate all the winners and thank everyone who participated in this year's competition. We are willing to continue with our partnership next year and our offices are always open for anyone looking for assistance," he said. The PMC Golf Tournament was a monthly competition played at Manzini Golf Course on the last Saturday of every month. It was sponsored by Project Managers of Choice and the winners took home golf bags worth E3 500.



PMC Golf Tournament December winner Wakie Lawrence accepts his prize from PMC representative and Manzini Golf Club captain John Mngomezulu during the prize presentation at Manzini Club on Saturday. (Pics: Jongile Xuba)



PMC Champ of Champs winner Machawe Maziya won a golf bag on the day.

'WE WANT TO BUILD A FORMIDABLE SQUAD'

BY COLISILE SACOLO

NETBALL - ESWATINI National Netball Association (ENNA) Vice-President Nkabinde Shabalala said the association was looking forward to assembling a strong squad for the 2022 Netball World Qualifiers.

The VP revealed this during an interview with the publication where he outlined that their plan for next year is to work on grooming the national team squad that has been already picked for the World Qualifier championship.

He they currently have a 20 woman squad which they believe will grow as a team and represent the country once the international competitions start.

"We will groom the squad and make sure that during the World

Cup in 2023 they will be fit enough. This will start next year and we believe the 2021- 2022 World Cup Qualifiers will help them to prepare for the World Cup finals as they will be training and attending international games," he said.

He was hopeful that association will be financially stable next year as they usually lack funds when the national team needs to attend international games. He further stated that they hoped this will not affect them during their preparations.

We will groom the squad and make sure that during the World Cup in 2023 they will be fit enough

Jarius Floating challenge champion

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

POOL- GIFTED pool star Jarius Mhlanga is the new Floating Trophy Challenge champion after he defeated Wandile Ndzinisa 9 - 6 in a tense match played at Mbabane Express Car Wash on Friday.

After the victory, Mhlanga walked away with E1 000 and a trophy, effectively taking over the championship from Nathi 'Bhubhesi' Sihlongonyane.

Coming to the match, at one time the two players were locked in a 3-3 stalemate. However, Mhlanga broke away at interval and led 6-3. He eventually won the match 9-6 much to the joy of his supporters who were cheering him.

Mbabane Express Car Wash coordinator Sicelo Mndzebele congratulated the new champion and said the attendance was impressive.

"It was good to see such a huge number of people watching the match which was filled with entertainment on Friday. Congratulations are in order for the new champion Mhlanga and better luck next time to Ndzinisa who gave him a good challenge," he said.

Mndzebele added that the tournament would continue this coming Friday where Mhlanga will have to face his next opponent.

Other players who participated in the tournament previously are veterans, Flag Nxumalo, Dodge Matsebula and Sikhatsi Dlamini, to mention but only a few.

CHILD SAFETY A BIG PRIORITY AT MTSA

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - MPHUMELELO Talent Soccer Academy Director Mphumelelo 'Flamingo' Gamedze has emphasised on the importance of child safety.

The director was speaking to parents and guardians during a presentation at Caritas Hall in Manzini on Saturday.

MTSA is an academy run the by the former Manzini Wanderers star who was in the country with the view of signing up local youngsters to his Pretoria academy.

Gamedze mentioned during his remarks the importance of making sure that child's safety is always prioritised, which is why they have dedicated and qualified staff to work with the children. "Our academy does not just focus on playing sports alone but we look at the child's complete care.

We have staff that cooks and cleans, tutors to help them with their studies and even psychologists to counsel those who need it.

Having worked with children in sports for a long time, I know the importance of ensuring all their needs are taken care of which is what we will do," he said. The director further said they could work with any child of any skill, depending on whether the child is willing to learn. "Our programmes are designed to assist anyone who is willing to put in the time and effort in training into a proper athlete.

It does not matter if you are a beginner or have been playing for some time as long as the child has the passion we can help them improve," he said. The MTSA offers various programmes which include a full-time boarding school and holiday camps.

Our programmes are designed to assist anyone who is willing to put in the time and effort in training into a proper athlete

ARCH BISHOP LUKHELE WATCHES MBABANE DERBY

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - MBABANE Swallows President Arch Bishop Bheki Lukhele watched the team for the first time since taking over the club four months ago.

Lukhele witnessed the capital city derby between his team and rivals Mbabane Highlanders which ended on a barren draw yesterday at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

Excitement

The flamboyant 'man of the cloth' arrived at the Stadium during the second half and he was welcomed by excitement and cheers from the delighted Swallows fans who stood up and chanted 'All Nations' when he walked into the royal box joining other dignitaries.

Lukhele was accompanied by his wife Gugu and his brother Kabasa.

When interviewed after the match, Lukhele said he was very impressed with the performance of the two crowd pulling teams.

"Even though I did not watch the first half, both teams were played good football and had the same chances to score goals. Overall, the game was



Mbabane Swallows President Arch Bishop Bheki Lukhele.

fair and both teams gave their best," he said.

"When I took over, I stated it clearly that I am committed to other work but as soon as I sort everything out I will support my team more," he added.

Lukhele further stated that they would continue working hard despite their failure to win the MTN Premier League E350 000 first round incentive and

further congratulated the eventual winners Young Buffaloes.

"We will not despair but correct our mistakes and come back stronger in the second round," he further said.

Meanwhile Minister of Sports Culture and Youth Affairs Harris Madze Bulunga said the standard and quality of the game was good and fair.

'I wish we could play Swallows more' – 'Koki'

BY MELUSI MLOTSWA

SOCCER - Capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders head coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati says he wishes his team could play Mbabane Swallows more in the MTN Premier League.

Vilakati said this soon after watching his side play to a goalless draw against their bitter rivals at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

"Soccer is sometimes a funny sport. I wonder what my players were doing all this time judging on the good performance they displayed in this derby.

I wish we could play, Mbabane Swallows every weekend," he said. Vilakati further congratulated Mbabane Swallows for giving them a good game. He said supporters were also happy about the match.

The former, Manzini Wanderers gaffer also mentioned that their game plan was to cut down Mbabane Swallows supply. "This match was to give our opponents a run for their money. Unfortunately, we only managed a draw," he said.

Vilakati also stated that the red card to defender Peter Dlamini killed their momentum in the second half.

Team captain, Jimoh Moses who also got the Man of the Match award, said it was a tough match

and that they were expecting a win.

The former Matsapha United defender said they would go back to the drawing board and rectify their mistakes. Meanwhile, Mbabane Swallows coach, Honour Janza said it was a tough match, saying it was a see saw game as at some point, their opponents pressed them harder. "Congratulations to our opponents as they were well prepared for the encounter.

The draw is a fair result for both teams," he said.

Janza also did not rule out that he would beef up his squad in the January transfer window.

Swallows Captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze also admitted that the match was tough.

"Playing against Mbabane Highlanders is always difficult. However, the draw is a fair result for us," he said. Tsabedze added that they were not aiming for the first round carrot but the league.

"This the match was to give our opponents a run for their money, unfortunately, we only managed a draw"

TAM BUTI, WANDERERS SHARE SPOILS

BY JONGILE XUBA

Tambuti FC..... (0)2
Manzini Wanderers..... (0)2

SOCCER - HUB giants Manzini Wanderers gave away a two-goal lead to share spoils with Tambuti during an MTN Premier League match at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

With the first round of the league coming to an end both teams needed good results.

Wanderers looked to be the team most likely to win in the opening 10 minutes as Johnson Mensah and Mike Dombo were a constant threat but none of their chances were converted. Wanderers started the second half with the same energy and urgency as the first half and they were rewarded for the effort. Congolese midfielder Mike Dombo broke through the backline after a defence splitting through ball from Mpendulo Ngidi to make it 1-0 three minutes into the restart.

Tambuti's Mcebo Mdluli could have equalised had it not been for some good goalkeeping from Ncedo Mamba in the 52nd minute.

They were punished for the missed chance in the 66th minute when substitute Mhlengi Mngomezulu got on the score sheet for Wanderers' second.

He tapped in a cut back pass from Johnson Mensah to round up a brilliant counter attack.

Tambuti managed to pull one back four minutes later through Siboniso Khumalo, who rose highest to nod in the cross.

Wanderers took their foot off the pedal defending more in the last 10 minutes.

They would rue that decision as Tambuti found the equaliser five minutes before full time through a Machawe Khumalo header which came from a Ishmael Zwane cross stunning the over 300 'Weslians' faithful.

THE TEAMS

Tambuti

Thubelihle, Machawe, Andile, Melusi, Mbusiseni, Siyabonga, Wandile, Sanele, Ishmael, Siboniso, Reagan

Wanderers

Ncedo, Sifiso, Menzi, Sihle, Lwazi Abboudou, Johnson, Mpendulo, Mike, Mduduzi M, Manqoba

WINNING CARROT A BONUS - DOMINIC

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - YOUNG Buffaloes coach Dominic Kunene said securing 30 points in the first round was more important to them than winning the E350 000 MTN Premier League first round cash incentive.

Kunene said this after Young Buffaloes were awarded their prize following their 3-1 win against Moneni Pirates at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday. The coach said they were obviously happy with winning the carrot but ensuring they were safe from relegation by having enough points

was more important. "The carrot for us was always a bonus and not part of our target at the beginning of the season. We wanted 30 points because experience has shown you need that amount to survive. The boys did well throughout the first round and congratulations to them," he said. Kunene further thanked the team's president and management for taking care of the team which made it possible for them to win the E350 000. "I would like to thank the team's management especially the president for giving us everything thing we needed to win. If it were not for their support we would not have been able to do so well," he said.

Coming to the match Kunene said they had studied Moneni prior to the match which made it easier to prepare. He also applauded his charges for doing well against a good Moneni team. Meanwhile Moneni Pirates coach Geina 'Magiyane' Dlamini said his team had managed to do well against a strong opponent. "We were not up to our full complement with some of our players out of the squad. This hurt our confidence and we did not play like we usually do," he said. Dlamini added they would be looking to step it up against the so called big teams in the next round as they look to continue resurrecting the sleeping Moneni giant.

'Nyanga' pleased with team performance

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - Manzini Wanderers coach Nyangazizwe 'Crooks' Hlophe says he is happy with his team's performance but disappointed with the draw against Tambuti in their MTN Premier League match yesterday.

The two sides met yesterday at Mavuso Sports Centre.

Hlophe said it was a good display by his players who only had a few days to train.

"We only had three days of training but I think the boys did really well despite the little time we had to prepare.

Of course the draw is disappointing especially after leading by two goals at first.



Manzini Wanderers coach Nyangazizwe 'Crooks' Hlophe.

This shows a lapse in concentration which we will work on," he said.

He added they missed a lot of chances in the first half that would have seen them win the match comfortably.

"We really should have won this game in the first half but we missed about six clear chances.

We need more training and we will regain our confidence as we eliminate all the psychological and physical fatigue," he said.

Meanwhile, Tambuti coach Terisayi Changara said he was happy with his team's performance and the match had given them a lot of experience.

"The boys did well to come from behind and equalise against such a good team.

We have learnt a lot from the match and my boys played really well as a team today," he said.

RESULTS

MTN Premier League		
Malanti Chiefs	1-4	Green Mamba
Milling Hotspurs	3-3	Sea Birds
Black Swallows	1-3	Royal Leopard
M. Peacemakers	0-0	Denver Sundowns
Manzini Wanderers	2-2	Tambuti
Moneni Pirates	1-3	Young Buffaloes
Mbabane Swallows	0-0	Mbabane Highlanders
MTN National First Division		
Seven Dreams	3-1	Tycoons
Tinyosi	1-1	Ilovo
Citizens	1-0	Madlenya
Rangers	1-2	Vovovo
Callies	3-0	Young Movers
Umbelebele	0-1	Killers

Eswatini Observer Sports

Your Dedicated Sports Feed

Monday December 23, 2019



BY JONGILE XUBA

Moneni Pirates.....(0)1
Young Buffaloes.....(1)3

SOCCER - YOUNG Buffaloes won the MTN Premier League first round top finisher carrot in style after they beat Moneni Pirates 3-1 to claim the E350 000 incentive.

'Amathole Ezinyathi' put on a confident display and had the attribute of champions as goals from Ali Matse, Fanelo 'Order' Mamba and Phiwa 'Shwabelwabe' Dlamini secured the dangling carrot.

Pirates rightback Lwazi 'Shumi' Mamba scored the consolation goal for the 'Sea Robbers'.

The match was always going to be tense with Buffaloes needing a win to guarantee they took home the prize as Mbabane Swallows were also in the running and were up against Mbabane Highlanders at Somhlolo National Stadium.

Fast breaks and quick counter attacking football was the order of the day in the high intensity match and it was Buffaloes who broke the deadlock in the 16th minute, thanks to Ali Matse.

The former Manzini Wanderers midfielder did so with a monstrous first time shot from 30 yards that rifled into the top corner to beat Romanus Igidimba in goal. Inspired by the lead, Buffaloes continued to threaten with Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze almost doubling their advantage but was denied by the keeper. Moneni also had a chance or two with Menzi 'Magawugawu' Simelane's free kick testing Nhlanhla Gwebu in goal. The half ended with 'Buffs' in the lead and in control of the match.

The second half saw the Dominic Kunene-led charges step it up a notch and Fanelo 'Order' Mamba capped off the good display with a goal

BUFFS E350 000 RICHER

● Army side puts three past 'Sea Robbers' to outfox Birds
● Finishes first round on 32 points



in the opening 15 minutes. 'Order' headed in a goal at the far post from a cross on the right wing as his team went into cruise control. Buffaloes put the final nail in the coffin in the 65th minute this time through Phiwa 'Shwabelwabe' Dlamini. It was another headed goal and the supplier was Wandile Maseko who floated in a beauty and Dlamini latched onto it. To their credit, Moneni were not dis-

heartened by the third goal and kept pressing until they pulled one back in the 77th minute.

Lwazi 'Shumi' Mamba shot the ball from outside the box to stun Nhlanhla Gwebu in goal who had a relatively quiet day. That goal made the last 10 minutes of the match more interesting as Pirates looked to get more goals. They were unable to find the goals and Buffaloes won the match, much the

MTN Premier League log:

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Young Buffaloes	13	10	2	1	34	8	26	32
Mbabane Swallows	13	9	3	1	24	6	18	30
Royal Leopard	13	8	3	2	19	9	10	27
Moneni Pirates	13	7	3	3	19	12	7	24
Green Mamba	13	6	2	5	20	10	-10	20
Mbabane Highlanders	13	3	8	2	9	8	1	17
Manzini Wanderers	13	4	4	5	14	19	-5	16
Denver Sundowns	13	3	5	5	12	17	-5	14
Tambuti	13	2	8	3	16	25	-9	14
Mhlume Peacemakers	13	3	4	6	13	12	1	13
Milling Hotspurs	13	2	6	5	11	18	-7	12
Sea Birds	13	3	3	7	13	22	-9	12
Black Swallows	13	3	1	9	13	27	-14	10
Malanti Chiefs	13	2	0	11	6	23	-17	6

elation of the technical bench and their fans. They ended the first round with 32 points and took home the E350 000 cash incentive for their efforts.

The teams

Pirates

Romanus, Thabo, Mthunzi, Samkelo, Menzi, Takawira, Muzi, Nhlanhla, Lwazi, Njabulo, Lizwe

Buffaloes

Nhlanhla, Sifiso, Wandile, Sihlangu, Lindo, Siboniso, Ali, Sandile, Phiwa, Wandile, Fanelo

10 men 'Bull' dent Birds first round hopes

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

M.Swallows.....(0)0

M.Highlanders.....(0)0

SOCCER -TEN men Mbabane Highlanders dented rivals' Mbabane Swallows hopes of clinching the E350 000 incentive after holding their sworn rivals to a goalless draw in front of an impressive crowd yesterday at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

The result came as a bad omen for Swallows as they needed a victory to boost their chances of winning the top finisher first round incentive that was eventually won by army side Young Buffaloes.

Despite failing to end Swallows three-year dominance over them, Highlanders were able to display a brave showing under the tutelage of their prodigal son Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati, who was up against his former employers.

The match was also watched by Mbabane Swallows Chairman Archbishop Bheki Lukhele and Mbabane

Highlanders boss Ally Kgomongwe, who were both part of over 7 000 football lovers that cascaded the local football Mecca to witness the biggest match in the land.

Both coaches 'Koki' Vilakati and Honour Janza made some changes in their usual starting XI.

Cautious

South African pair Josef Lekata and Patrick 'Nandos' Mashale were given the nod by Vilakati while Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko started on the bench for Swallows. The two sides were cautious in their play in the first half as there were no meaningful chances created for prolonged stages of the match.

Mbabane Highlanders midfielder, Menzi Sithole's header went wide in the eight minute.

Midway in the match, lanky striker, Sandile Hlatshwako's shot wide after receiving a pass from the maturing Sizolwethu 'Nunu' Shabalala.

The first half ended without a goal from either side.

The second half saw Mbabane Swallows going forward in search for a goal.

Highlanders were dealt a blow two

minutes into the restart when central defender Peter Dlamini was showed a red card by referee Theminkosi Dlamini following a rough challenge on Siphamandla Dhlamini.

The visiting side's coach 'Koki' introduced defender Simphiwe Manana for Menzi Sithole after the hour mark to defuse the pressure from the opposition.

Stability

Swallows continued to launch some incisive attacks in the match.

Tony 'TT' Tsabedze's shot at the edge of the box went wide in the 68 minute.

Sensing danger, Highlanders introduced their crowd favourite Lindani 'Rio' Matsenjwa for Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze.

The changes brought stability among 'Koki's charges as in the 73 minute 'Rio's well taken free kick at the edge of the box was parried for a fruitless corner kick by Mbabane Swallows goal keeper Sandanezwe Mathabela.

Highlanders supporters moment of joy was short-lived when South African born import striker Josep Lekata's glancing header was ruled offside by the referee.

This was after he connected a corner kick from 'Rio'.

Mbabane Swallows coach Honour Janza made a double substitution a moment later.

'Samba Jive' and Thabiso Mokenkoane came in for Sizolwethu Shabalala and Siphamandla Dhlamini, respectively.

Mbabane Highlanders goalkeeper Khanyakwezwe Shabalala was called to make a good save from 'Samba Jive's' rasping shot at the edge of the box towards the end of the match.

In an attempt to boost their strike force, Swallows brought in youngster Nhlanhla Ngwenya for Richard McCreesh.

Swallows supporters hearts skipped a bit shortly before fulltime after Nando's missed the target by few inches. There was no goal scored until the FIFA accredited whistleman Theminkosi Dlamini ended the contest at the end of regulation time.

The teams

Swallows

Sandanezwe, Colani, Mncedisi, Pemba, Sifiso, Paito, Siphamandla, Richard, Sandile, Sizolwethu, Tony

Highlanders

Khanyakwezwe, Ndimiso, Vukile, Peter, Jimoh, Menzi, Phumlani, Sabelo, Josef, Sithole, Patrick

