

**'SEXUAL  
HARASSMENT  
AN OLD BUT  
NEW  
PHENOMENON'**

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# Swazi OBSERVER

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**MINISTER  
READS  
TEACHERS  
RIOT ACT**

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FRIDAY MAY 24, 2019

REVIVED, RELIABLE AND READ

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**BAYETHE:** Praise singing champion Mfundo 'Mabhamulane' Dlamini on his knees as he received his trophy from His Majesty King Mswati III during the prize presentation of the Ingwenyama Cup at Mavuso Centre on Wednesday evening. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

**BRING  
YOUR FIRE**



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**IN LESS THAN SEVEN MONTHS OF EXISTENCE...**

# SODV CASES STATISTICS

● MPs almost  
fell from their  
chairs when  
figures revealed

STORIES ON  
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# SHOCKER

● Kusonywa kumnandzi -  
SWAGAA boss Nonhlanhla  
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**NEW BROOM:** Matsapha Town Interim Council led by Chairperson Alice Russo (seated centre) who is flanked by CEO Lucky Sukati and Gordon Mbuli representing government. This was during their swearing-in ceremony at the council chambers yesterday. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

## New Matsapha councillors sworn-in, warned to uphold confidentiality

**STORIES BY SIFISO NHLABATSI**  
Matsapha

**MATSAPHA** Town's new councillors have been officially sworn-in into office.

The swearing in ceremony took place yesterday at the Matsapha Town Council chambers. Those who were sworn-in included; Alice Russo, Olaf Toepfer, Steven Motsa, Dumsani Phumuza Gadlela, Zwakele Dlamini, Olga Monalisa Figueredo and Nkululeko Dlamini.

The interim council, which was sworn-in, was appointed by Housing and Urban Development Minister Prince Simelane this week.

The eight-member interim council was appointed in terms of Section 110 of Urban Government Act of 1969 for a period not exceeding the life of the

current term of councillors after the gazette dissolving the town council led by Sandlane Zwane.

A Finance Committee was elected soon after the swearing-in. The committee is led by Dumisani Gadlela, who is the Chairperson and Olga Figueredo, who is Deputy Chairperson.

### Warning

The Alice Russo-led council was given a stern warning by Gordon Mbuli, who was representing the ministry of housing and urban development.

Mbuli warned the councillors that matters of Matsapha Town Council, which happen at the chambers, must stay at the chambers.

Mbuli said what happened to the outgoing councillors is an open secret, as everybody knows what happened that led to the minister of housing to intervene.

Mbuli said such must never happen again. He said the ministry of housing and development has since introduced a delegation of powers that will explain clearly on the task of each council member.

### Books

During the swearing-in ceremony, the finance committee was given books which it was supposed to familiarise themselves with.

The committee was informed that after a week, it will meet with the ministry and deliberate on the financial documents.

Mbuli further warned the new councillors that government has since introduced a performance assessment that will look at whether the councillors did their work well or not and if they fail to perform their duties diligently, they will suffer at the end of their term.

## Let's work together - Russo

**MATSAPHA** Town Council Chairperson Alice Russo has urged the councillors to work together with respect and put first the interest of the ratepayers.

Russo urged the councillors to take Matsapha to greater heights where it

belongs and also rebuild the trust in the town council.

The chairperson also requested that matters discussed at the chambers must stay within the chambers; she said such matters must be treated with great confidentiality.

commission were that the Urban Government Act (UGA) of 1969 is now not in line with the Constitution of The Kingdom of Eswatini and needs to be reviewed.

### Recommendations

The recommendations were that the ministry should commence a process of reviewing and aligning the UGA to the Constitution.

The commission further pointed out that there are no laid down mechanisms within the council policies and proce-

dures on how conflict of interest is declared or monitored and it was recommended that the Matsapha Town Council Standing Orders be reviewed and must include a code of conduct for regulating declaration of interest.

The ministry was also blasted by the commission for not acting timeously when reported of maladministration under Section 27 and request for approval of the delegation of duties.

The ministry was urged to enforce a doctrine of responsiveness.

# 2 900 SODV

...The shocking statistics were revealed by Mbongeni Mlangeni, a police officer working at the Domestic Violence and Child Protection Unit in the Royal Eswatini Police Service

**STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI**  
Ezulwini

**IN a shocking revelation, the country has recorded 2 900 cases related to the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act in a space of seven months.**

The shocking statistics were revealed by Mbongeni Mlangeni, a police officer working at the Domestic Violence and Child Protection Unit in the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS).

This was during a workshop for MPs on the SODV Act 2018, which was held at Royal Swazi Convention Centre in Ezulwini.

What Mlangeni revealed shocked all the MPs who had attended the workshop, and it made them realise that the country had a problem that needed urgent attention.

Mlangeni was one of the resource persons who were teaching about the SODV Act.

### Cases

Other resource persons included Principal Crown Counsel Lomvula Hlophe, who heads the Sexual Offences Unit in the DPP's Office and SWAGAA Director Nonhlanhla Dlamini. Mlangeni said many cases that were reported at the police stations were that of domestic violence, which were 2 068.

Domestic violence included abuse of all forms, which included physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, mental and economic abuse.

Other offences that were reported during the period included rape (430), murder (29), kidnapping (3),

flashing (2), sexual harassment (123), unlawful stalking (4), inspiring a belief of sexual assault (1), abduction (57) and sexual grooming (1).

Other cases that were reported included maintaining sexual relations with children (23), people who compelled children to have a desire to have sexual intercourse, and those who committed sexual assault (75).

Mlangeni said it was unfortunate that he did not have the statistics of the past two years with him. Those, according to the police officer, were shocking.

### Embrace

He urged the MPs to embrace the SODV Act because it was there to protect everyone in the country, because it had been noted that people, especially girls and women, were no longer safe.

He further promised that as police officers, they were going to investigate cases before they made arrests, because they knew how painful it was to be arrested for nothing.

He further said from last week, police officers were undergoing vigorous training on the Act, so that they could be able to understand the contents of the law.

He said station commanders and desk officers were also in line to be trained on this law from next week onwards.

He further told the MPs that the law also compelled the police to exercise responsibility, so that they would not appear as people who were not applying themselves in doing their work.

## Regulations of the law needed

**THE government is supposed to table regulations of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act of 2018.**

This was said by Clerk to Parliament Nduna Dlamini during the SODV Act workshop in Ezulwini. Dlamini said this was in accordance with Section 195 of the SODV Act of 2018.

The Act says the responsible minister could table regulations of the Act before Parliament on a certain matter regarding a number of issues stipulated in the Act.

Dlamini further called upon the law to be administered without fear or favour.

He said the law did not allow prostitutes to ply their trade, yet the 'ladies of the night' continued to do their work without being called to book.

He further stated that he noted that the MPs were very much interested in the law and this was the first of a series of workshops to follow. He said many workshops were going to be done so that MPs fully acquainted themselves with the law.

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# Cases in seven months

## Kusonywa kumnandzi – SWAGAA's Nonhlanhla

SWAZILAND Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) Director Nonhlanhla Dlamini sent MPs and those present to stitches when she confessed that it was nice to be courted (*kusonywa*).

This was during the workshop organised for MPs by Parliament at the Convention Centre in Ezulwini.

Dlamini, the former Ludzidelu MP, said this while trying to allay fears among those present regarding *kusoma*. Dlamini said there were ways of courting a girl, such that she would feel amused even though she would not consent to a male's proposal.

"It is nice to know that there is a certain man somewhere who loves you as a girl, even though you know deep down that you will not consent to his advancement. It is not true that people are now not allowed to court because Section 10 (3) (c) of the SODV Act does allow that. When courting a person, tell him or her that you approach them in terms of Section 10 (3) (c)," Dlamini said.

The director advised those courting,



**KUMNANDZI: SWAGAA Director Nonhlanhla Dlamini.**

especially men, to court in a nice way, like buying roses or talking in a sweet manner so that their approach could not be taken negatively.

"There is nothing wrong with respectfully telling that particular person that you love them and do some little thing to show that, like buying a rose," she

said.

She said what was wrong was to exercise violence when courting like bragging when approaching a girl and swearing at that particular girl. This, according to the director, was very wrong and punishable by law.

"Do not brag in front of the girl and tell her that you always compel a girl to give in when courting her. Stay away from swearing at that girl, making her to live in fear just because she did not give into your proposal," she said.

Dlamini said as SWAGAA, they were in a campaign, where they were teaching about this Act. They had now included even the boy-child in their campaigns because they realised that there was a gap in terms of education between girls and boys. She even stated that they wanted to rope in their media in their teachings. The problem was that the media had made this law a monster, so there was a need to make it clear that this law was not a monster, but was there to protect everyone in the country.

## MPs AFRAID OF VICTIMISATION

AS much as Members of Parliament (MPs) understand the importance of the law, they now fear that they would be targets of victimisation.

The legislators expressed their concerns during the SODV workshop yesterday held at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre in Ezulwini.

They said the problem was that they were MPs in their constituencies, and they won the elections because they competed with other people, who were not happy with their triumph.

Deputy Speaker Phila Buthelezi said the law was clear and straight to the point and they understood its intention. The challenge was that it was easy for police officers to arrest anyone based on this law.

He stated that in 2023, during the next national elections, many people would be targets for victimisation, based on this law.

### Careful

He urged his fellow MPs to be careful, because even if they were to be

acquitted, the people in the constituencies would not care about that.

All they would know would be that a certain politician was arrested because of the SODV Act. He urged the police to take that into consideration and investigate to arrest, not the other way round.

Manzini North MP Macford Sibandze also urged more workshops from police officers so that people could not be wrongly arrested.

He also stated that the law did not have any problem, as members of the public perceived it to be.



**CONCERNING: Deputy Speaker Phila Buthelezi, Mtfongwaneni MP Roy Fanourakis and Manzini North MP Macford Sibandze.**

## MP Madala makes fun of Fanourakis

MHLANGATANE MP Madala Mhlanga made fun of Mtfongwaneni MP Roy Fanourakis, when posing a question about the law.

Mhlanga heard that it was an offence to appear being a person you are not, just because you want to have sex with the person to whom you appear.

"I apologise for making an example with MP Fanourakis. If Fanourakis appears before a lady and he speaks English, that lady will believe she is speaking to a non-Liswati. If then the

lady suddenly realise that Fanourakis actually speaks SiSwati and is LiSwati, will that lady not be convinced that Fanourakis was out to have sex using fraudulent means," Mhlanga asked.

It is worth noting, though, that Mhlanga's joke was not taken in a bad way by his Mtfongwaneni counterpart, who also laughed upon hearing the joke.

Mhlanga wanted to ask how safe people, like Fanourakis, were in terms of this Act.

Mbongeni Mlangeni from the police

**If Fanourakis appears before a lady and he speaks English, that lady will believe she is speaking to a non-Liswati**

service said it was important for a person to be sincere about his or her particulars to another person so they are known.

## Sorry for delays in elderly grants - DPM's office

BY NOKUZOLA THWALA  
Mbabane

**THE deputy prime minister's office has apologised for the delay in payment of some elderly grants.**

The apology was communicated by the DPM's Office Principal Secretary Khangezile Mabuza yesterday.

She said mostly affected by the delays are those who are paid through the banks, and revealed that this was so because of the verification exercise, which is still being finalised by the DPM's office, to ensure that the money reached the intended beneficiaries.

Mabuza acknowledged that their office had committed to pay those who are paid through the banks on the 20th of every month, however, this month it is not the case.

"We are in the process of cleaning the data that we already have from the elderly as per the white forms submitted as at the end of April this year. We have already done so with account holders at Standard Bank and Nedbank, we are on the three other banks," the

PS disclosed.

The principal secretary said so far the banks have been instructed to delete all non-existent beneficiaries, resulting in unclaimed funds.

Following this process will be inputting of the new information furnished by the elderly confirming their existence and correct account numbers as articulated above.

Mabuza urged the nation to continue bearing with them as the processes might be a bit slower than initially projected. This is due to the fact that there are only 80 social workers who are verifying a population of 88 000 elderly people, which means that the ratio is 1 is to 1 100.

"We are doing all we can that the situation is normalised as soon as possible, and that the bank payment transactions for the elderly are effected latest June 3. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the elderly for their patience during the verification exercise. The next process, informing the June payment, will be reflective as all the new information will already be furnished," she said.

## Minister reads Riot Act to teachers

BY COLISILE SACOLO  
Mbabane

**EDUCATION and Training Minister Lady Howard-Mabuza has sternly warned all teachers that the ministry will not tolerate any kind of disorderly behavior around schools.**

The minister said this during a press briefing yesterday in her offices. Mabuza said teaching and learning is very important, and it is the right of every child to be afforded quality education at all times.

She warned against committing any misconduct, which is found in the Teaching Service Regulation of 1983.

The minister said Regulations 15 (a) provides that a teacher who misconducts in a way which interferes to a material extent with the efficient operation of a school; uses or attempts to use for purposes unconnected with the services information which he/she may have gained in the course of duties; disobedient or insolent in the course of duties; negligent or lazy in the performance, renders to be unfit for duty by reason of the intoxicants or drugs and guilty of immoral conduct.

She highlighted that any teacher who does attempt to do anything which is likely to bring the service into disrepute and uses or attempts the position in the service to further the ends of a political party and also if that certain individual tries to use a position in the service to encourage hatred or contempt towards the Government of Eswatini, the ministry will deal with that teacher.

The minister noted that the ministry makes this statement to set the record straight concerning the dis-



**STERN WARNING: Minister of Education Lady Howard-Mabuza briefing the media at the ministry of education offices yesterday. (Pic: Colisile Sacolo)**

ciplinary of teachers who do not perform their duties as expected by her ministry.

She said any teacher who is found or commits any of the above stated acts of misconduct shall be liable to disciplinary action.

Mabuza stated that disciplining a teacher for any act of misconduct is not tantamount to victimisation, as it is perceived in the case of the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) President Mbongwa Dlamini.

"We will not delve into the merits of this action, as it is a matter between an employer and employee based on the adherence to professional standards by any teacher regardless of their affiliation or position. To all concerned, please note that schools are public spaces that are meant to provide quality service and teaching and learning to all learners, this service should not be disrupted by anyone," she warned.



# 'Sexual harassment an old but new phenomenon'

STORIES BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI  
Ezulwini

**PRIME Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini's wife, Portia says sexual harassment is an old but new phenomenon.**

She said it is old in the sense that it has been silently happening overtime and new in that as the business sector grows, more people looking for jobs are being taken advantage of by their employers. "It's also new in the sense that, as a country we conducted the first study on sexual harassment in 2017 and passed the SODV legislation in 2018 addressing these two issues," she said. The PM's wife was speaking during the sexual harassment and corporate bullying symposium yesterday at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre.

She said the symposium was well timed and delivered when the PM had just launched the five-year Strategic Roadmap for Eswatini which provides guidelines and strategic pillars to revive the economy. Dlamini added that it must be noted that sexual harassment is a human rights issue as it violates Sustainable

Development Goal No.8, which stipulates the need for providing decent workplaces for all irrespective of context.

Moreover, she highlighted that in the study conducted by the Eswatini Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (ESERPAC) it was discovered that there are many definitions and they decided to adopt the definition made by ILO in (2005). However, sexual harassment occurs when one employee makes continued, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature to another employee, against his or her wishes.

"Implying that accepting a sexual favour granted once, does not mean it will always be welcome and there is need to understand the cut offline.

Examples of common forms of sexual harassment are when a sales clerk makes demeaning comments about female customers to his co-workers and when an office manager is made

uncomfortable by co-workers who regularly tell sexually explicit jokes," she said. Dlamini mentioned that a perpetrator can be anyone, such as a client, co-worker, a parent or legal guardian, relative, a teacher or professor, a student, a friend or a stranger or even a witness. She added that, however, the perpetrator may be completely unaware

that his or her behaviour is offensive or constitutes sexual harassment. Adding on to that, Dlamini made it clear to the gathering that a perpetrator does not have to be of the opposite sex.



**WISE WORDS:** Wife to the Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini, Portia, delivering her speech as a guest speaker at the event.

## Don't feel guilty about quitting a bad boss – PM's wife

ON the other hand, Portia said people should not feel guilty about quitting a job where one was being sexually harassed by their boss.

She said instead they should draw comfort from the fact that they have left a bad boss. She said sexual harassment should be discouraged at the workplace and not accepted as a norm. The premier's wife also said there many forms of sexual harassment people were subjected to in the workplace.

Addressing bullying, Dlamini highlighted that often bullying is known to be an issue in schools yet studies have revealed that there is a lot of bullying in the workplace, which is not considered.

"Bullying is old as it can be articulated in the Bible, the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4:7 and also in the story of Joseph and his brothers in Genesis 37," she said. She stated that the matter on sexual harassment is new because the first work done on this issue was a study done by Leynman in 1996, where he concluded that bullying is a social interaction where one is attacked

by another or others at least once every week for six weeks, causing the victim psychosocial, psychosomatic and social misery.

Another statistic that was added by Dlamini was that of Adenuga of 2009 which involved repeated incidents or patterns of behaviour intended to intimidate, degrade, offend or humiliate.

She highlighted that different authors could not come up with one definition, but they agree that for a behaviour to be defined as bullying it must have three characteristics being: its repetitive, not once-off, and there is power imbalance.

Dlamini added that it was clear that these two issues were new in the country. "I want to take this opportunity to challenge scholars to undertake further research on these issues so that Eswatini businesses respond to what applies in our context. I would like to urge all companies represented in this symposium to go back to their workplaces and share what we are learning here. And develop relevant policies to address these issues," Dlamini said.

## 'SODV Act not properly implemented'

TALKING on behalf of traditionalists Bongani 'Sgcoko' Dlamini said he was happy about the SODV Act, but feels it was not properly implemented.

"The Act was not neatly implemented to the nation and an example was the one of talking. I think it should be addressed if it was in good or bad faith," he said.

He highlighted that he was against men abusive their women or vice-versa.

Dlamini added that on the issue of kusoma was the norm for Swazi men and if that is said to be a sexual offence, the Act is also stripping the rights of women from being married but allowing them to bring home violent men.

He further touched on the matter of married women being allegedly raped by their spouses, and that when the husband is arrested and

released from jail, the situation at home will not be conducive anymore. "The law should not divide the nation, but bring the people together. Let's not allow the law to replace the values, traditions and customs of the nation," he said.

**The Act was not neatly implemented to the nation and an example was the one of talking. I think it should be addressed if it was in good or bad faith**



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There will be a compulsory site inspection on **Thursday 06<sup>th</sup> of June 2019**. Tenderers are advised to assemble at the site office by **10 am**. Tenderers who will not attend the site inspection will not be evaluated.

Tender bids should be returned no later than **10 am on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2019** to the tender box located at Site Office and must be addressed as follows:

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# EMMANUEL COLLEGE, UBUNTU INSTITUTE DONATE E16 000 TO ESWATINI

BY OBSERVER REPORTER

**THE** Ubuntu Institute is hosting a group of students from a faculty in Emmanuel College, Boston, USA in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

The students arrived last Sunday and will leave on Sunday. This is part of the International Youth Inbound Programme, whereby Ubuntu Institute hosts university students from abroad to conduct service learning (volunteer) work in the Kingdom of Eswatini in communities that need it.

This is Emmanuel College's students' fifth time visiting the Kingdom of Eswatini and bringing their students to assist Eswatini communities in various fields. The group being hosted this year consists of 14 students and their Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Josef Kurtz. Their service learning theme for this year is around health and child

## Invaluable

"The opportunity for Emmanuel College students to see what they learn in the classroom, actually occurring on the ground, in another country is invaluable. There is no doubt this will change their lives, and encourage them to go forth to make the world a better place," said Emmanuel College Professor Kurtz. Half of the students are based at Lobamba Clinic, and the other half are based at the Lobamba Neighbourhood Care Point, a child care centre that looks after disadvantaged young children between the ages of 3 – 6 years. The students working at the Lobamba Clinic have been assisting the staff in the various departments, such as Dental, ART, Ante-Natal Care, Pharmacy and HIV Testing Services. The students working at the Lobamba Neighbourhood Care Point have been doing service work consisting of cooking the children's two daily meals, washing dishes, mopping floors, clearing the grounds, tilling the garden, and most importantly being teacher assistants during class times.

"The opportunity to serve and learn in such a rich and vibrant culture has given me much more than I could ever offer back," said Kate Parisi, one of the Emmanuel College students.

On Monday morning, before commencing their volunteer work, the students and faculty paid a visit to the Director of Health Services in the Ministry of Health Dr Vusi Magagula, who expressed his sincere gratitude to the university for selecting the Kingdom of Eswatini to send students to conduct their service work.

He wished them well as they give back and learn at the Lobamba Clinic. Emmanuel College, in partnership with Ubuntu Institute, has donated E10 000 to the Lobamba Clinic. The university was also welcomed at the Lobamba Neighbourhood Care Point by the Director, Nonhlanhla Dlu. **Described**

The director and Principal Zodwa Bhembe detailed the history of the Lobamba Neighbourhood Care Point, and its importance to the Lobamba community, as it looks after and teaches over 100 children of the community with very little resources and is 100 per cent dependent on donations.

She further described a recent incident, where they had received a donation from an organisation abroad to upgrade them from using open pit latrine facilities to safer and closed pit latrine facilities, that would cater for both children and staff, only to find that the newly-built toilets infrastructure collapsed even before they could begin enjoying the new facilities, due to the poor construction of the structure bulity. But despite the difficult circumstances, they still soldier on and continue to serve the community. Emmanuel College, in partnership with Ubuntu Institute, also donated goods and services to the value of E6 000 to the Lobamba Children's Care Point. Ubuntu Institute Chief Operations Officer, Princess Celenhle Dlamini along with her Ubuntu Institute Eswatini alumni, Kwezwwe Khumalo, Alex Dlamini and Phumlile Hlatshwayo) are hosting the students whilst in the kingdom. For more information on the Ubuntu Institute Visit [www.ubuntuinstitute.com](http://www.ubuntuinstitute.com)



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## PLANNED POWER OUTAGE NOTIFICATION

Kindly note that there will be power interruptions on our electricity lines due to routine maintenance as per the following schedule:

DAY:	DATE:	MANTAINANCE BY (DEPOT):	AFFECTED AREAS:	DESCRIPTION OF WORK:	PERIOD:
Saturday	25 May	Mhlume	Zinyane, Ntsinni High School, Lonhlanane, Mhlangatane Inkhundla, Mhlangatane MTN, Zinyane Primary School	GIS Installation	8:00am – 5:00pm
		Stonehenge	Mbabane Government Hospital, Blood Bank Building and surrounding areas.	Fault Prevention	8:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday	26 May	Matsapha	ESWC, Mathangeni area, Kandlandia area, President Grocery Store	Transformer Upgrading	9:00am – 4:00pm
		Stonehenge	Mbabane Government Hospital, Blood Bank Building and surrounding areas.	Fault Prevention	8:00am – 5:00pm
Monday	27 May	Mhlume	Ntabezimpisi Primary School	Combi Unit	10:00am – 12:00pm
		Mhlume	Ntabezimpisi Hammer Mill	Combi Unit Installation	12:30am – 2:30pm
Tuesday	28 May	Matsapha	Mbhuleni area, Mbikwakhe area, Mbikwakhe Clinic, Mbikwenkhe FEA Church, Ekuphileni General Dealer	Closing Span	9:00am – 4:00pm
		Matsapha	Sibuyeni area - Sigombeni	Routine Maintenance	10:00am – 4:30pm
		Nhlangano	Gege Border, Bethesta, Mahlabatsini and surrounding areas	Routine Maintenance	9:00am – 5:00pm
		Madlangempisi	Buhlebuyeza, Mabhibha, Madvudvula Primary School, Eswatini Mobile, Eswatini MTN, Buhlebuyeza area	Re-Conductoring	9:00am – 4:30pm
		Manzini	Luhlokohla, Moyeni, Ntabamhoshana	Routine Maintenance and MR3 Line Relocation	9:00am – 4:00pm
		Mhlume	Shoka, Nkalashane Primary and High School, Sidloko Primary School, Pentecostal Mission, Timbutini, Nkalashane Hammer Mill	Dual Line Stringing	10:00am – 4:00pm
		Mhlume	Nkambeni Business area, Shume, Makalane, Skhunyana High School, Ermandishini, Balekane Prison, Ingayizivele Farmers, Balekane Cattle Breed, Nkambeni, Makalane	Conductor Uprating and Pole Replacement	9:00am – 4:00pm
		Elangeni	Mantenga towards Guava Gallery	Routine Maintenance	8:00am – 5:00pm
		Stonehenge	Mbabane Clinic, Mobeni South, Checkers, Ok Building The Bridge, Sandla, Magawozi, Manzana Zone 3, ESCOT, Sidwashini Prison, Qobonga	Routine Maintenance	9:00am – 4:00pm
		Big Bend	Mndobandoba, Ncandweni at Intamakuphila	Routine Maintenance	9:30am – 4:00pm
Wednesday	29 May	Matsapha	Nkonyeni Pre-Cast, Luke Commission Pump House, Nkonyeni Golf Estate Phase 1 & 2, Nkonyeni Club, JJ Rudolph Premises, Ridder Ranch Pump House	Line Dismantling	10:00am – 4:30pm
		Matsapha	Zinyane, Ntsinni High School, Lonhlanane, Mhlangatane Inkhundla, Mhlangatane MTN, Zinyane Primary School	Routine Maintenance	9:00am – 4:00pm
		Madlangempisi	Nkululeko Farmers, Nyakatfo area	Re-Conductoring	9:00am – 4:30pm
		Mhlume	Zinyane Primary School and surrounding areas	Combi Unit Installation	12:00pm – 2:00pm
		Mhlume	Masilela Hammer Mill, Part of Machibini area	Combi Unit Installation	9:00am – 11:00am
		Mhlume	Mpofu Hammer Mill, Part of Mpofu	Combi Unit Installation	9:00am – 4:45pm
		Mhlume	Zinyane, Ntsinni High School, Lonhlanane, Mhlangatane Inkhundla, Mhlangatane MTN, Zinyane Primary School	Conductor Uprating	9:00am – 4:00pm
		Stonehenge	Gobholo, Corinthe, Msunduza, Hlobane	Re-Conductoring	9:00am – 4:00pm
Thursday	30 May	Nhlangano	Cinisweni, Thunzini, Makhonza	Closing Span	9:00am – 4:00pm
		Manzini	Nkiliji, Bhekinkosi, Mahhonwane	Routine Maintenance	9:00am – 4:00pm
		Stonehenge	OL Mobeni, Mobni Kuyehlela, Corporation	Routine Maintenance	9:00am – 4:00pm
Friday	31 May	Big Bend	Nisela Safaris, Ndzevane, Gamula, Gangakhulu, Mdalandombi Farms, Nisela Farms at Matata	Routine Maintenance	9:30am – 4:00pm
		Stonehenge	Ngwenya Village, Ngwenya Police, Ngwenya Town Board, Mahangeni	Project	9:00am – 4:00pm

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## Eswatini first African country to submit National Action Plan

**THE Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati said Eswatini is the first country to submit its ASGM National Action Plan.**

The minister said this during the official opening of the workshop on lessons learned in developing national plans for reducing mercury use is ASGM activities.

Vilakati lauded the team that was working on the project, saying enacting the national plan from all regions was a directive from the Minamata Convention of 2016. The minister said Eswatini was actively involved in a number of activities geared towards creating an enabling environment for the effective implementation of this convention.

He said although the activities were ongoing, information gathered so far indicated that mercury and mercury containing products are used in various sectors of the economy in the country, yet the impacts of this substance on human health were grim. Vilakati alluded to the fact that government was cognisant of the effects of mer-

cury, hence its involvement in this regional project. "The country is confident that the implementation of the project on the development of the national action plan for the ASGM sector will go a long way in protecting the health of citizens of the kingdom from the harmful effects of mercury and its compounds," he said.

Further, Vilakati said Eswatini was at an advanced stage in the project implementation, and that it was working on the finalisation of the action plan which participants were allowed to review and critique. The minister passed his gratitude on behalf of His Majesty's government, to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implementing partners, UN Environment and Africa Institute, for the continued financial and technical support in the implementation of this project. To Eswatini Environmental Authority, Vilakati said they needed to tabulate what they needed government to do to assist in the project. He said their suggestions would be included in the country's strategic roadmap going forward.

# Govt fails to tax E54m

**STORIES BY BONGIWE DLAMINI**  
*Manzini*

**THERE is E54 million made from artisanal and small-scale gold mining that government does not tax.**

This was revealed by findings of a survey that was conducted by the National Consultant for ASGM in Eswatini. Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) is a method used to separate gold from soil and sediments without using advanced technology.

The report was presented by the consultant's Sipho Mamba during a workshop on the lessons learnt on the development of a national action plan for reducing mercury use in ASGM activities.

Eswatini undertook the survey in order to prepare and implement the national action plan as directed by Minamata Convention of 2016.

According to the Minamata Convention, ASGM is defined as gold mining conducted by individual miners or small enterprises with limited capital investment and production.

When making his presentation, Mamba said the survey, that was conducted in the Hhohho region, in 13 sites that overlap into South Africa, showed that Pigg's Peak miners made the highest yearly income of about E14 million. Some of



**REMARKS: The Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Moses Vilakati, delivering his speech. (Pic: Bongliwe Dlamini)**

the ASGM sites on Eswatini part are said to be in Mhlosheni, Horo, Ngwenya, Ntfontjeni, Emvembili, Phophonyane, Lomati and Hawane.

This money is said not to be taxed since their mining is illegal in the sense that the miners do not possess permits for extracting the natural resources.

Likewise, with this kind of production, it means that the miners of Pigg's Peak

used more mercury in their gold mining process. Out of the 800kg of mercury that all the ASGM areas used, Pigg's Peak is said to use about 250kg annually. In eight months, Pigg's Peak is said to use up to 211 000 grammes of mercury to extract gold. The street value of sponge gold is said to range between E400 and E550.

The end product of the gold is then said

## Son beats mother with broken bottle

**BY VUYILE DLAMINI**  
*Mbabane Magistrate's Court*

**IN what can be characterised as a wild turn of events, a man who stood accused of assaulting his mother with a broken bottle, had his sentence suspended for three years by the presiding magistrate.**

Mfundu Nyoni (21) of Siphocosi is counting his lucky stars after Magistrate Lenhle Zulu ascertained that his mother, Ntombikayise Ginindza, had forgiven him for the incident, and that he conducted himself in a responsible manner since the incident.

According to his charge sheet, Nyoni was found to have contravened the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act after he was said to have, on January 7, 2019, wrongfully, unlawfully and intentionally assaulted his mother Ginindza with a beer bottle once on her chest.

It is said that Nyoni pleaded not guilty to the offence.

During the continuation of his trial yesterday, in its closing summations of the case, the Crown informed the court that it had presented three witnesses to present its case, one of them being Ginindza.

In her testimony, Ginindza claimed

that during an argument with Nyoni, he assaulted her with a beer bottle on her thigh to scare her off.

The Crown's second and third witnesses, Lungile Mncina (being a sister to Ginindza), and Fundo Dlamini, corroborated the testimony presented by Ginindza.

### Cross Examine

The Crown then informed the court that when Nyoni was given an opportunity to cross examine each witness, he did not deny the facts of the case.

However, the only qualm he had was with the body part he had assaulted. Therefore, the Crown applied for Nyoni to be convicted and found guilty.

However, when Magistrate Zulu gave Nyoni an opportunity to present his own defence, Nyoni waived his right to defend himself, compelling the magistrate to question him on why he would contradict himself.

"Although you have pleaded not guilty, you are contradicting yourself as you refuse to defend yourself in this matter," the magistrate questioned, to which Nyoni responded that he would like to change his plea to that of guilty, as he had made peace with his mother.

After the magistrate recalled Nyoni's mother, Ginindza and confirmed Nyoni's claims that mother and son were reunited, she sentenced Nyoni to serve three years in a correctional facility, with the option to pay a fine

of E3 000.

Nyoni's sentence was then declared suspended, which meant that he was liberated on condition that he did not commit a similar offence within a period of three years.

**During the continuation of his trial yesterday, in its closing summations of the case, the Crown informed the court that it had presented three witnesses to present its case, one of them being Ginindza**

**AHF ESWATINI**

### VACANCY - NURSING ASSISTANT

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### PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL CONSENT IN TERMS OF THE MANZINI TOWN PLANNING SCHEME OF 2013

I/We Phindile C. Sihlongonyane the owner(s) of the property in question, hereby make a Public Notice in terms of Clause 1.5 of the 2013 Manzini Town Planning Scheme that I/We wish to apply SPECIAL CONSENT to establish (description of development) a **GUEST HOUSE** On **Plot 504 Township Coates Valley**. Any one having objection to this application may lodge their objections, in writing, with the Municipal Council of Manzini at P.O. Box 418, Manzini M200.

SWAZILAND not later than (date) **31 May 2019**, that is 21 days from the late publication of the notice namely on (date) **21 June 2019**.

## High Court back in session next week

**BY VUYILE DLAMINI**  
*High Court*

**THE High Court of Eswatini will resume its business next week.**

This is according to the final second session roll released by acting Deputy Registrar of the High Court Xolile Nkambule on Monday.

According to the second session roll, the Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala has determined the period between May 27 to August 16 to be the dates for the Second Session of the sitting of the High Court.

The court had been closed for recess after the first session, which began in February.

However, urgent applications had been heard by the High Court while on recess as duty judges were attending to those brought before them.

The roll highlights the much-anticipated commencement trial of Rex vs. Sipho Shongwe, which is slated to commence on May 28, 2019 before Justice Mbutfo Mamba.

The highly-anticipated trial of Shongwe will see South Africa's top legal guns duel before Justice Mamba.

The Crown has hired senior counsel Michael Hellens, who represented former South African president Jacob Zuma during his corruption trial, to ensure that Shongwe remains behind bars.

He also represented Zuma's son Duduzane in his culpable homicide trial and has also represented the controversial Gupta family in South Africa. Meanwhile, Shongwe has hired another top South African lawyer, Laurence Hodes, in his bid to escape a murder conviction.



# from illegal mining

to be sold mostly outside the country to neighbouring South Africa, Mozambique and Asians, among other nationalities. In the ASGM mining, Emaswati are said to be the most people involved in the industry, with 65 per cent, followed by South Africans and Mozambicans with 26 per cent and seven per cent respectively.

Other nationalities which are about one per cent and Asians (2 per cent) are believed to be also customers of this industry. Overall, Eswatini is said to have about 700 miners operating in the ASGMs, where 80 per cent of them are men, while the 20 per cent make up women and children in the industry. For the reason that in this sector the miners are exposed to mercury, Mamba said there was an urgent need for a national adoption of an action plan. He said the inclusion of miners and traditional authorities in the stakeholders'

meetings, where they would be educated and trained on the dangers of open burning amalgamation and safer alternatives to be used. Furthermore, Mamba said the relevant stakeholders would be engaged in a national dialogue, which should have started in January 2019. However, he said by the end of June this year, he hoped the national working group (NWG) would have been put in place to allow for the national dialogue.

When responding to the amount of money that is generated by the miners, Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati said government needed to do something to tap into this money. He said it would not be likely that the miners would be taken to task for this, but they might be allowed to continue with their mining activities in order for them to be part of the economy generating process.

## Angry Nkoyoyo mob beats up suspect thieves

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE  
Mbabane

**ANGRY** Nkoyoyo residents attacked and beat up five men who are accused of committing a string of crimes around the area.

Two of the suspects are fighting for their lives in hospital, while one was treated and discharged. The other two escaped from the wrath of the angry residents.

The residents took the law into their own hands after they were fed up about the rate of crime in the area, which was said to have grown at an alarming rate. On Wednesday morning, the residents conducted a raid that led them to the five men who are accused of turning Nkoyoyo into a crime hub. One of the residents, who preferred to remain anonymous, said the men were known to some resident but they needed to be sure first. On this fateful day, the residents came together to form a search party. They searched for these men at their places of abode. It was not long before they came across the thugs in one of the houses located in the area. Initially, the suspects were five, but the residents were only able to apprehend

three of them. Firstly, they were interrogated concerning the numerous criminal activities in the area. The men were accused of house-breaking and theft.

Some of the residents said they were even afraid to send their children to the shops because the thugs would forcefully take money from them (children). Walking at night at Nkoyoyo has become a nightmare since residents said the men were camping in nearby bushes waiting to pounce on innocent passers-by and take their belongings. After a thorough interrogation by the residents, the suspects failed to give answers, which led to the residents losing their temper and thoroughly beat them. The three men were beaten until police were called and arrived to rescue them.

When police officers were called to the scene, they took the suspects to hospital. Currently, the two men are fighting for the lives in hospital.

Chief Police and Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that police officers were called to Nkoyoyo and took the men to hospital after they were badly beaten by the residents of Nkoyoyo.

## Teacher amongst the terror gang

**ONE** of the two men who outran the furious crowd is a teacher in one of the schools situated in the northern outskirts of Mbabane.

This was revealed by residents after they were outran by the two men, who were wanted for a string of crimes committed at Nkoyoyo.

It is alleged that the five men belong to one of the notorious K-9 gangs, who were creating havoc in Ezulwini.

The residents further alleged that these were the same boys creating havoc at Mahwalala in Mbabane.

"I know that two of the boys stayed in Ezulwini, but they later relocated to Mahwalala in Mbabane.

I was surprised a few days back when I saw them around Nkoyoyo. I knew then that they should be connected to the crime," said one resident.

## Pupils caught in the act at a teacher's funeral

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI  
Manzini

**KANDINDA** community police had to thrash pupils who were imbibing and engaging in sexual activities while at a funeral.

The incident is said to have happened the previous weekend during the vigil of a late Mvimbeke High School teacher. Information gathered is that the pupils from the school had gone to 'pay their last respects' to a deceased teacher where they also met some pupils from another school in Mbabane, from where the late teacher's child is enrolled.

The school will not be named because the principal could not be reached for comment.

Sources said while the community police were patrolling the area to ensure that all was in order, they came across youngsters engaging in sexual activities in the open, thinking that they would not be noticed because it was dark.

Some of the Mvimbeke pupils are alleged to have used *emahiya* to sleep on when they were in the act with their partners from the Mbabane school.

### Caught

Others were said to have been caught near homesteads, in dark corners, where they are believed to have thought it was safe from the public's prying eyes.

This was confirmed by some residents, who also happen to be parents to children at the school.

They said they were drawn to the sites where the children were found after noises of shouting people were heard in the still of the night.

Furthermore, other pupils are said to have been caught while at it in cars that were parked within proximity of where the funeral service was held.

As if that was not enough, witnesses who attended the funeral, said the pupils from the two schools were also imbibing, as alcohol containers and their schoolbags were found where they were caught by the community law enforcers. "They showed us a wine container which they said was found where some of the pupils were nabbed," said a witness.

To break-up the sordid acts that the pupils were engaged in, the community police are said to have beaten them



**CANNOT SAY MUCH:** Mvimbeke High School Principal Alfred Khanyile.

up there and there.

This was confirmed by one of the senior community police Mkotoba Dlamini. He said although he was not present when this happened, he was informed of the incident.

He said it was hurting that minors were to be found in compromising situations, but he also mentioned that since they were still young, the pupils needed to be constantly driven towards the straight and narrow path by elders.

### Reports

When sought for comment, Mvimbeke Principal School Alfred Khanyile confirmed that KaNdinda community police reported to him that some of his pupils were caught drinking alcohol at the funeral. He said after receiving these reports, he then conducted his own investigation, only to find that the drinkers were from the Mbabane school.

"The school bags that were found there turned out to have items belonging to the Mbabane pupils, so I deduced that the imbibers were not my pupils," Khanyile said.

When asked about those who were caught having sex, Khanyile said he could neither confirm nor deny that Mvimbeke pupils were involved.

"This part of the incident was not reported to me, but I cannot say much about it because, although I also was at

the funeral myself, I wouldn't know what my pupils were up to," he said.

Mvimbeke once made headlines in 2017, when it was reported that over 30 pupils were pregnant at the school. Again in 2018, it was reported that a former student teacher at the school wore the school's uniform and reportedly wrote a Phys-Chem paper for one of the pupils.

Manzini Regional Education Officer Mlimi Mamba said the matter was never reported to him. However, he said sometimes principals did not have to report everything in their schools, especially if they managed to deal with issues amicably.

As if that was not enough, witnesses who attended the funeral, said the pupils from the two schools were also imbibing, as alcohol containers and their schoolbags were found where they were caught by the community law enforcers



**FOR THE LOVE:** A tourist takes some shots of the beautiful flowers he saw while taking a walk around the Mountain Inn Hotel yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



# MTN Bushfire Schools Festival ends on high note



**SCHOOLS FEST:** Pupils having a great time at the House on Fire in Malkerns during the MTN Bushfire Schools Festival. (Pic: Setsabile Nkambule)

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

MTN Bushfire Schools Festival yesterday ended on a high note as pupils from various schools were taught different kinds of art.

Held at House on Fire, the event saw Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku in attendance who stated that he was grateful that the festival gives an opportunity to pupils to learn more about the arts.

He said they had made a significant input in ensuring that government implements its social protection responsibility.

He thanked the European Union not only for supporting in terms of the MTN schools festival but also backing the deputy prime minister's office through the social protection project.

"We are gathered here today to take stock of our collective efforts on the measures we have undertaken under the theme 'Child social protection'.

"As a nation we have learnt that it is acting in wisdom when invest in protecting our children while they are still young," he said.

He said the use of arts as a gateway to unlock the innovative potential in children was evident, and resonates fully with the spirit of the primary schools festival.

Dlamini said it was this innovative potential that exists in abundance in children, which they must collectively continue to stimulate, nurture and develop.

Also speaking at the same event, EU Ambassador Esmeralda Hernandez Aragonés acknowledged being part of such gatherings as children unleashed their creativity through singing, dancing, poetry and many other forms of art.

She said the well-being of children is a priority to them as children are the future leaders of the world.

"Like last year, our message again this year is about child protection. As one grows up they need to be protected from violence, exploitation and abuse," she said.

Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga said they were proud that the festival had grown to be among the leading music and arts festivals in the world. He said it was a festival synonymous with excellence and charisma, which continued to draw artists and audiences from all corners of the world.

"The massive international appeal of the festival serves as an ideal platform to expose our artists and their talents to the world.

It further provides the necessary proof of the substantial potential held by the Kingdom of Eswatini to be the global centre of creative expression and as such, the ministry is committed to helping this festival and the entire arts industry in our country grow," he said.

"Indeed, this weekend's Bushfire Festival will once again prove to all that Eswatini is ready to host Africa and the world."

The minister urged all those who would be attending the festival to enjoy themselves in the right way. MTN Bushfire Schools Festival ambassador Themba Masuku stated that he was excited on how the event had helped pupils embrace their talent.

He said over the years art was not as taken seriously as it is now.

"I am grateful to have been part of the Bushfire Schools Festival.

In seeing arts grow in the kingdom, I also learnt a lot along the way and matured in many respects too. I look forward to what next year has for the children in terms of teaching them more about the arts," said Mthethwa.

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We are gathered here today to take stock of our collective efforts on the measures we have undertaken under the theme 'Child social protection'



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## Govt cashflow problems still affecting EWSC - Mashwama

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI  
Mbabane

**ESWATINI Water Services Corporation (EWSC) Managing Director Jabulile Mashwama says government's cashflow problems have affected the implementation of EWSC's capital projects.**

Mashwama said the corporation was now banking their hopes on government's strategic roadmap which will see a turnaround in the economic situation.

Making her remarks in the company's newsletter, which was released on Wednesday, Mashwama said the last fiscal year had its challenges. She said on the positive side, the country has been blessed with good rains resulting in major dams filling up close to capacity, allaying fears of water shortages in the coming dry season.

She said, however, on the economic side, growth in the medium to short term is expected to be stagnant as the fiscal situation remains a challenge.

She said government's cashflow problems still impact negatively on the business environment, especially with the reduced capital expenditure and the accumulation of fiscal arrears. She said this has affected the implementation of EWSC's capital projects.

The managing director said these projects were key drivers for meeting Sustainable Development Goals and business growth as well as their working capital which is critical for sustaining business operations.

Mashwama said their business environment is further challenged by the tariff increase freeze, amidst increases in input costs whilst the performance of their debtor's book still shows no improvement. She said, however, with the ongoing implementation of government's renewed turnaround strategy they are very hopeful that they would see positive spin-offs in the short to medium term.

On the operations side, Mashwama said as EWSC they note that the increasing demand for water in Manzini, Matsapha and surrounding areas has posed challenges for EWSC in terms of supply in particular areas.

She said limited funds to support recapitalisation of their major treatment plants have exacerbated the supply challenge in these areas.

### Challenges

"This quarter we are investing funds to address these challenges by increasing storage and pumping capacity through the construction of new reservoirs and investing in bigger pumping infrastructure," Mashwama said. Mashwama further urged all employees to remain committed to EWSC's strategic objectives and support all improvement initiatives being implemented by the corporation despite all the challenges.

She said as a corporation, they need to move forward and remain resilient as they have done so in the past.

"Our financial resources may not be sufficient to do all what we set to do in our strategy and budget, but if we control our costs, reduce wastages and increase efficiencies in all our business processes, we will yield meaningful gains which will help us stay afloat during these difficult times," Mashwama said.

The MD also pointed out that the government of Eswatini has made it a priority to provide clean water for all by 2022 as stated in the National Development Strategy (NDS) and the ministry has ensured that all approaches to meet this target are inclusive in nature where no one is to be left behind.

## Aspiring principals to undergo compulsory financial course

STORIES BY SABELO MAJOLA  
Matsapha

**THE high number of financial mismanagement cases has forced the ministry of education and training to introduce a compulsory financial management course for aspiring principals.**

Principals raised the concern that the Procurement Act of 2012 has a section which states that principals should have a certificate in accounting but the ministry was not fulfilling that requirement. "The ministry should ensure that accounting background is a necessity for every principal to avoid the cases of financial mismanagement in schools," said one principal.

In response, Ministry of Education and Training Principal Secretary Dr Sibongile Mtshali said it was not the ministry that appoints principals out of the blue but they were asked to apply and later give excuses that they were not knowledgeable on handling of funds, an excuse which the ministry will not tolerate hence the compulsory course.



**YOURS:** Eswatini Principals Association General Secretary Thembi Nxumalo presents the minister with a gift during the Eswatini Principals Association workshop held at the Esibayeni Lodge on Wednesday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

"We want the excuse that one was not well-informed on handling of finances to be a thing of the past, hence we are introducing this course which will not be easy. If an aspiring principal

doesn't pass it, they won't be shortlisted for any principal post," she said. The issue was raised after it emerged that half the report from the auditor general has issues of financial mismanagement from the education department.

## PENSIONERS NO LONGER

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE  
Mbabane

**PUBLIC Service Pensions Fund Pensioners Association (PSPFPA) no longer wants the Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) to be categorised.**

This was said by the association's Secretary General Dominic Nxumalo during the monthly meeting held at Mbabane Library on Wednesday. He said categorising the fund does not free them from vultures yet their aim is to let the fund operate freely.

"After careful deliberations and consultations we discovered that changing the category of PSPF is not effective or beneficiary to us," he said. Nxumalo said removing PSPF from a category A to B parastatal will not give them complete control of the fund.



**PSPFPA Secretary General Dominic Nxumalo.**

Initially, when the fund was formed in 1993 it was an independent entity. In 2014, the PSPF was then changed to a parastatal. The pensioners unanimously agreed that the fund needs to revert back to its original state, which is an independent entity.

Nxumalo further quoted the Public Pensions Order 1973 Section 3 which states that it should be an independent entity.

Section 5 of the same Act also states that all assets which were purchased or obtained using PSPF's funds belong to the entity.

It further states that PSPF money should be exempted from income tax.

The secretary general stated that the PSPF has acquired a lot of assets which rightfully belong to them. It is for that reason that they want full control of the fund as the profits made do not benefit them at all.

## HOUSE BURNS, TWO MINORS ESCAPE UNHURT

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI  
Manzini

**TWO minors were lucky to escape unhurt after the house they were sleeping in caught fire.**

The incident is said to have happened at around 6:30am at Mangwaneni in Manzini yesterday. Information gathered was to the effect that the children aged seven and three, had been left by their parents who were at work.

According to the children's father Njabulo Mbuyisa, he left the house at around 5:30am to do some work at a place not very far from home. He said the children were left with their mother who was also to leave for work.

Mbuyisa said usually, the children were left with an adult who is a neighbour. However, yesterday the children's mother had an early shift at work so she left early. The dejected father said on this day, his wife locked the children inside the house and took the key to the neighbour whom she told to keep an eye on the minors until they left for school.

The father also said when his wife left, she had already bathed the children and prepared their uniform and



**ASHES:** Remains of the burnt house. (Pic: Bongiwe Dlamini)

clothes that they would wear before leaving the house. "While I was working, I was shocked to see a smoke coming from my home's direction though I did not think that my house had caught fire," he said.

Nonetheless, Mbuyisa said he rushed back home only to find that his children were being assisted out of the house by concerned passers-by.

"The fire was started by the three-year-old who is said to have burnt tissue paper that was left on the table," Mbuyisa said.

He further stated that his seven-year-old son informed him that he was asleep when this happened but was woken up by the smoke as a

result of the fire.

"If it were not for the neighbours who forced their way into the house to rescue my children, we would be relaying a different story as we speak," Mbuyisa narrated.

The children were taken to hospital for check-ups.

However, he was worried by that his one-room flat was badly burnt and his family had nowhere to sleep. He also mentioned that everything that was in the house, including uniforms, clothes and food, was also destroyed by the fire.

For this, he appealed to members of the public for assistance with food, clothes, uniforms and anything that

could be of help for his family in this difficult time.

This incident follows one where children dodged death when the house they slept in was petrol bombed. This happened on Sunday morning at Macetjeni where there are chieftaincy disputes. The father of the children said he was attending a funeral when the house where the children slept was set alight.

When sought for comment on the cause of such incidents where children are left at risk by their parents, the Director of Social Welfare in the deputy prime minister's office Moses Dlamini, said this was child negligence and abuse at its highest level.

He said by law, children were not to be left without the care of an adult and if found to have done so and further placing the children at risk, parents must be arrested.

He said social workers would follow-up on these cases and if need be take the children to safety and the careless parents arrested.

This was emphasised by the Principal Secretary of the DPM's office Khangeziwe Mabuza. She said no matter the dynamics that parents may cite to have led them to leaving their children on their own, it was a crime to do so.



Mtshali said 14 schools were audited in the last two years and findings suggest that E40 million is not accounted for and the ministry has been given until Monday to have the lost funds recovered.

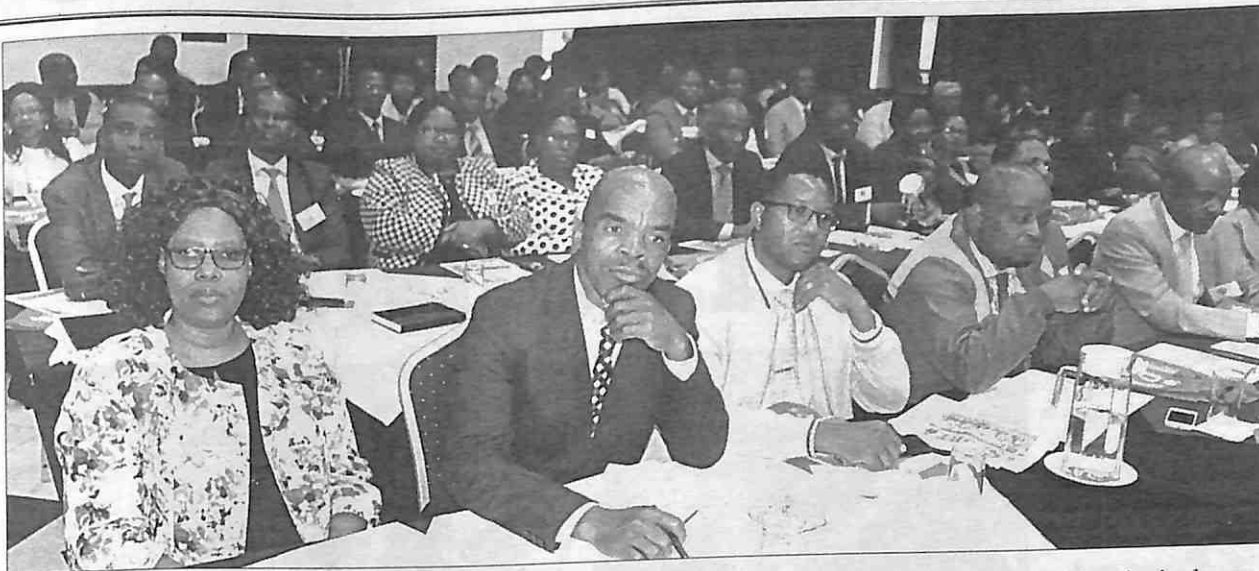
## PS PAYS E1 400 FROM OWN POCKET FOR FINANCE FAULTS

FOR each case of negligence on financials the controlling officer, who in this case is the principal secretary, was made to pay a maximum of E1 400.

When the auditors find fault in finances, it is not the principal that they put at fault but it is the controlling officer who then has to liaise with the principal for answers on those cases of negligence on finances.

Ministry of Education Principal Secretary Dr Sibongile Mtshali said when each school has 14 cases of this nature, she had to pay 14 times the amount from her own pocket.

"It is the duty of the regional education officer who has to hand over to a newly appointed principal and the school committee but cases of negligence of finances come back to haunt the ministry and it is the controlling officer that the



**BOTHISHELA NHLOKO:** A section of the principals who were present listening to presentations.

auditor general's office finds at fault. However, that would be reviewed and it would be upon all of us to pay for negligence on finances, the punishment will hit across the board," she said.

This came after principals said they are not well-informed on their responsibility during the hand-over, especially when they are new to the task of being a principal.

Among the things that the principals were

advised against is the issue of rewarding teachers using the public funds which had negative implications when the auditors review the financials of that school. Mtshali urged the principals to employ other means to reward teachers not using the school's funds.

**Some of the faults discovered by the auditors in schools:**

● Unsupported expenditure

- Unauthorised expenditure of more than E2 000
- Electronic fund transfers lacking supporting documents
- Salary registers not signed by teachers, resulting to a reflection of ghost employees
- Prolonged term of office of the school committee
- Analysis cashbook not properly maintained
- Petty cash not properly maintained

# WANT PSPF CATEGORISED

Nxumalo also revealed that trade unions would join hands with them as they challenge the categorising of PSPF.

The trade unions will help financial-wise and their visibility during the court cases will mean a lot, he said.

The trade unions expected to join hands with PSPFPA are Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT), Swaziland Nurses Association (SNA), National Public Service and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU) and Swaziland National Association of Government Accounting Personnel (SNAGAP).

This is because all members of these organisations will soon join the PSPF and be affected by the issues that are currently faced by the PSPFPA.

## Govt accused of looting PSPF monies

**THE Public Service Pensions Fund Pensioners Association (PSPFPA) has accused government of looting PSPF monies.**

The pensioners voiced their concern following millions of the fund that were used to purchase shares and loaned to various companies within the country.

What irked the pensioners was the fact that returns of those loans and dividends paid were not reflected in the financial statement of the fund.

The pensioners said a lot of institutions who were eager to assist them were turned back and some were refused access to files. The

pensioners pointed out that the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) was turned back and persuaded to withdraw the court case against government following the monies that were taken from the fund.

The companies who are allegedly involved in the looting include Montigny. It is alleged that E500 million was looted from the fund to purchase shares at Montigny.

Other companies who supposedly took loans from the fund that have not repaid in full include Old Mutual, African Alliance, Eswatini Electricity Company and Eswatini Sugar Association, amongst others.

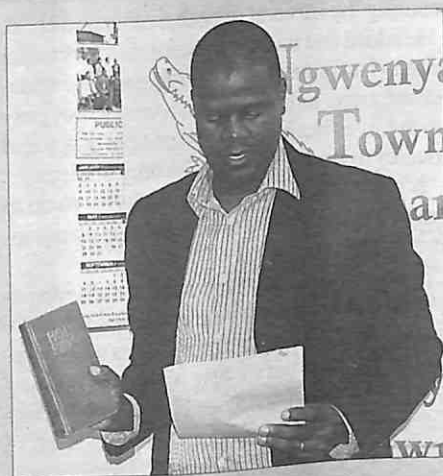
## 'It's crazy to exclude pensioners from grants'

**PENSIONERS have labelled whosoever said members of the PSPFPA should be removed from the government grant as crazy.**

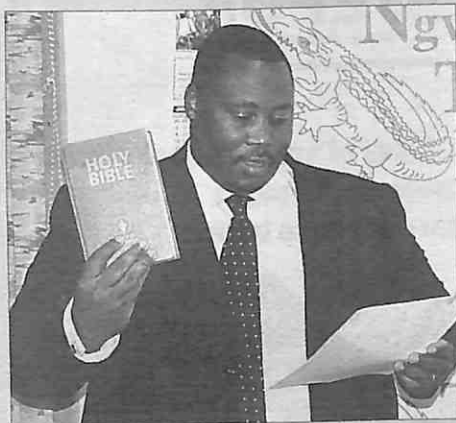
The pensioners said they were the sole beneficiaries of the fund but they were surprised by current reports they saw in the media that some government officials were saying they will be stopped from the government grants.

The pensioners said they were the ones who asked for elderly grants from King Sobhuza II.

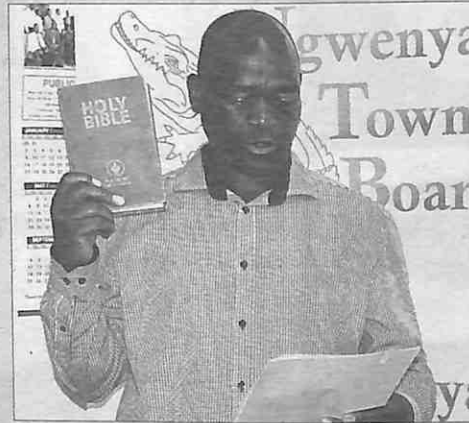
The King then suggested that they include every elderly person in the country in the grants. It was said that surprisingly, people who are not even well-versed on how the grants came to be were saying pensioners from PSPF should be ousted as beneficiaries.



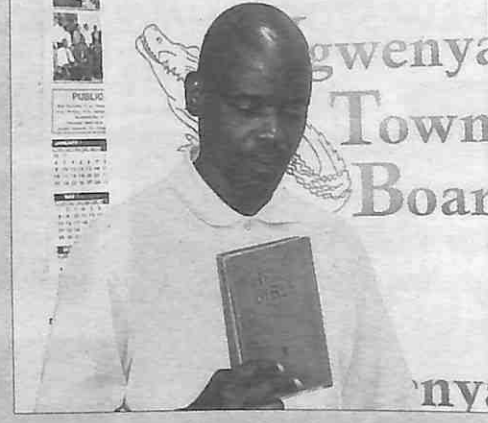
**Chairperson Phiwa Ginindza**



**Deputy Chairperson Dumsani Mazibuko**



**Finance Chairperson Sipho Hlophe**



**Finance Member Vusi Lukhele**

## NGWENYA TOWN BOARD RETAINS LEADERSHIP

**BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI**  
Ngwenya

**"SO far so good, you deserve another chance."** These were the words of the Ngwenya village councillors when they re-elected the entire leadership of the board led by Chairperson Phiwayinkhosi Ginindza.

This was during a board meeting on Tuesday morning at the Ngwenya Town Board offices. According to Town Clerk Phumzile Tshabalala, the re-elected board leadership has been doing a great job in their previous term and one could

always assume that because of that reason they would be given another chance of helping the town develop.

"The re-election of the leadership led by the chairperson is a good thing because electing new leaders and then teaching them on finer intricacies of their tasks is a hassle," she said.

Observing that the elections were going well was Station Commander of the Ngwenya Police Post Sithembile Dlamini. Dlamini encouraged the board to work diligently and with honesty, not forgetting to respect the people who put them in the positions they were in.

"You need to work as a team to ensure devel-

opment of the small town of Ngwenya," she said.

The town clerk also alluded to that as she noted that development of the town was part of the strategic plan of the ministry of housing and urban development towards reaching vision 2022.

**Re-elected councillors:**

- Councillor Phiwayinkhosi Ginindza - Board Chairperson
- Councillor Dumsani Mazibuko - Vice Chairperson
- Councillor Sipho Hlophe - Finance Committee Chairperson
- Councillor Vusi Lukhele - Finance Committee



**Board Member Makhosazana Shongwe**

Member  
● Councillor Makhosazana Shongwe - Ordinary Board Member



# 'Consider naming health facilities after midwives'

STORIES BY NOKUZOLA THWALA  
Ezulwini

**SWAZILAND Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) General Secretary Sibusiso Lushaba says government should consider naming certain health facilities using midwives' names, who had a tremendous impact.**

He said midwifery is an important career with Nana Masinga, who was the first midwife in Eswatini followed by Eva Mthethwa who took it to greater heights.

"It is important to note their efforts, so why not have maybe a memorial library? As we progress, we should name a ward or hospital after them.

"We also appreciate the Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU) for their Bachelor's Degree in Midwifery. We should also appreciate ourselves as less babies and mothers die in our hands," he said.

Lushaba was speaking on Wednesday at the commemoration of the day of the midwife, funded by the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) at Happy Valley Hotel.

It was themed 'Midwives: defenders of women's rights.' Lushaba said it's impossible to separate nursing and midwifery, saying he was still to meet a nurse called to the profession. He acknowledged nurse-midwives who are dedicated in rendering services, even under unfavourable circumstances.

He urged government to provide proper structures so that they practice under an enabling environment, adding that the public blames them as nurse-midwives, not government, when anything wrong happens.

Meanwhile, acting Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) Programme Manager Zandile Masangane



**Midwifery Lecturer at UNESWA Mbabane Campus Ntombifuthi Gama pictured with her students Msebenzi Dlamini, Midwifery Technologist Phetsile Thwala and Nkosinathi Hlatshwako who is also a student during the commemoration of the day of the midwife held at Happy Valley Hotel yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)**

said the actual commemoration day was May 5, but Eswatini decided on May 22 to celebrate the day this year.

She said this day was to acknowledge, celebrate, appreciate and motivate midwives to provide quality and accessible midwifery care to women and their families during pre-conception period, antenatal, labour, delivery and post-

partum period at different levels of the health-care system.

"Objectives of this important day include the sensitisation of midwives on the importance of promoting a friendly environment when providing midwifery care, alerting midwives about women's rights and celebrating the contribution of midwives on MNCH care in the coun-

## Midwives doing a commendable job

**ACTING Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) Programme Manager Zandile Masangane says the ministry of health has achieved a lot because of committed midwives on the ground.**

About 88 per cent of health facilities in the country are now within a radius of eight kilometres, which contribute to the sustenance of women during pregnancy, labour and delivery. The ministry, with help from various partners, also upgraded its maternity wings to contribute to healthy mothers and babies post-delivery.

She added that during the confidential enquiry on maternal death reviews, it was noted that some health facilities recorded zero maternal deaths, which is a plus for the country as it moves towards a reduction in maternal mortality rate by 2030.

"We also have high-skilled birth attendance at 88 per cent, 87.8 per cent hospital delivery rate, 98 per cent attended antenatal care and 89 per cent coverage of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT). I urge all midwives to continue to do the great work of providing quality services in order to make it to 2022," he said.

Meanwhile, Head of the Midwifery Department at SANU Winnie Magagula applauded commended midwives for being the backbone of the health system, and making sure that every woman's right to privacy and updated information is not violated.

"Every woman has a right to be recognised, respected and supported by healthcare practitioners. They also need supervision by equitable midwives in an enabling environment so that they function well."

UNFPA's Dr Bongani Dlamini said midwives are indeed a force behind the great success in maternal new-born care.

He said out of 30 000 deliveries, there are 88 per cent skilled birth attendance and institutional deliveries, high ART intake at 90 per cent and low mother to child transmission (MTCT) at five per cent.

Dlamini said midwives were a bridge between communities and health facilities, as they deliver vital maternal health services that are key to ensuring the survival of both mother and child.

He added that midwives make childbirth safer even in hard situations, including remote underserved areas in humanitarian crises, not only saving lives but also empowering women and couples to make informed healthy choices.

"It's only midwives who know what to do in emergency deliveries, where there is no equipment.

"They are the ones who successfully resuscitate a woman with severe eclampsia, knowing the pain of losing the mother or a new-born. Please note that only a few will come and say 'thank you, you tried your best and the situation was beyond your control. Let us learn to tell our untold stories as the media mostly promotes sensationalism,'" Dlamini said.



Every woman has a right to be recognised, respected and supported by healthcare practitioners. They also need supervision by equitable midwives in an enabling environment, so that they function well



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# Family assists herd-boy obtain documents, arrested

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

**Family members who were adamant in assisting their herd-boy obtain his birth certificate have been arrested after they submitted false declarations towards his application to the ministry of home affairs.**

Thomas Mkhwanazi (66) of Nkoyoyo and Sibongile Dlamini (66) of Ngculwini are said to have discovered that their uneducated employee, Joseph Mkhwanazi (43), had never obtained an identity document and birth certificate, thus taking it upon themselves to assist him to do so.

The trio was charged for contravening Section 31 as read with Section 34 (2) of the Births, Marriages and Death Registration Act of 1983.

In addition to that, Joseph was also charged for contravening Section 16 (1) (f) of the Identification Order of 1998.

During their appearance before the Mbabane Magistrate's Court on Wednesday, Thomas claimed that as Joseph was employed as a herd-boy at his home, he wanted to take him to South Africa, where he had another farm, so

Joseph could look after his cattle there. When Joseph informed him that he did not and had never had a travel document to cross the border, Thomas claimed that he took it upon himself to enquire further.

"After deeper introspection, Joseph informed me that he did not have a PIN number, thus he was unable to obtain a birth certificate and other documents such as an ID.

## Duties

"I took it upon myself to assist Joseph in obtaining these documents, as I also needed him to assume other duties, such as driving my van, which needed him to have a driver's licence," Thomas admitted.

Thomas explained that he knew that what he did was breaking the law; however, he just wanted his uneducated employee to obtain these documents so he could also go to school, as he had never set foot in a classroom at his age.

According to their charge sheet, when Thomas and Dlamini approached the Ministry of home affairs last Thursday, with Joseph in tow, they are said to have acted together in furtherance of a common purpose, and did wrongfully, unlawfully and intentionally make false declaration and false statements relating to

the particulars of the birth of Joseph to an immigration officer, Theresa Ntuli, which they knew to be false and misleading, for the purpose of obtaining a birth certificate.

Joseph was separately charged with a second count, where he is said to have unlawfully given out incorrect particulars in an identity document and certificate of particulars of birth as correct to immigration officer Ntuli.

Thomas and Joseph pleaded guilty to the charges placed before them, whereas Dlamini pleaded not guilty, to which Magistrate Zulu acquitted and discharged her. As the magistrate presiding over the case, Magistrate Zulu informed the court that she would appreciate time to ponder over her decision over this special case before passing judgment, to which she adjourned the court for 10 minutes.

Upon her return, Magistrate Zulu informed Thomas that he was sentenced to spend 20 days in a correctional facility, in the event that he was unable to pay a fine of E50, much to Thomas' visible relief.

On the other hand, Magistrate Zulu informed Joseph that he was to serve five months in a correctional facility, with the option to pay a fine of E500.

## Asihlumisane donates E20 000 to Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross

BY NONGCEBO DLAMINI  
Mbabane

**HIS Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) savings and credit cooperative, Asihlumisane, in full recognition of saving lives and empowering communities, has donated E20 000 to Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross.**

This was during a presentation held at the cooperative's offices, Ekongeni House at the Matsapha Correctional College on Tuesday.

The cooperative, which is formed by correctional officers, having made an assessment countrywide, joined hands with the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross, to help assist in its core mandates programmes comprising Disaster Management, Health and Social Welfare Services, as well as First Aid Programme.

## Challenges

Chairman of the Cooperative Alexious Nkonyane, who spoke on behalf of the commissioner general's office, said they could not afford folding their hands as if nothing was happening on some of Emaswati's welfare, amongst other challenges, but took it as their initiative to assist in saving lives.

"Actually, this is part of our social responsibility, thus encouraging the spirit of giving to the less privileged," he said.

Such programmes of the cooperative here seen the lives of elderly people in various parts of the country being improved through better housing structures constructed by the cooperative.

The spirit of charity has permeated to all officers and other structures of the department, as

demonstrated by Asihlumisane. Receiving the cheque was Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross, Manzini Division Coordinator Wonderboy Ginindza, who lauded the cooperative for the kind gesture.

## Suffering

He said such a donation will help Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross to support people who are facing any form of suffering in the country.

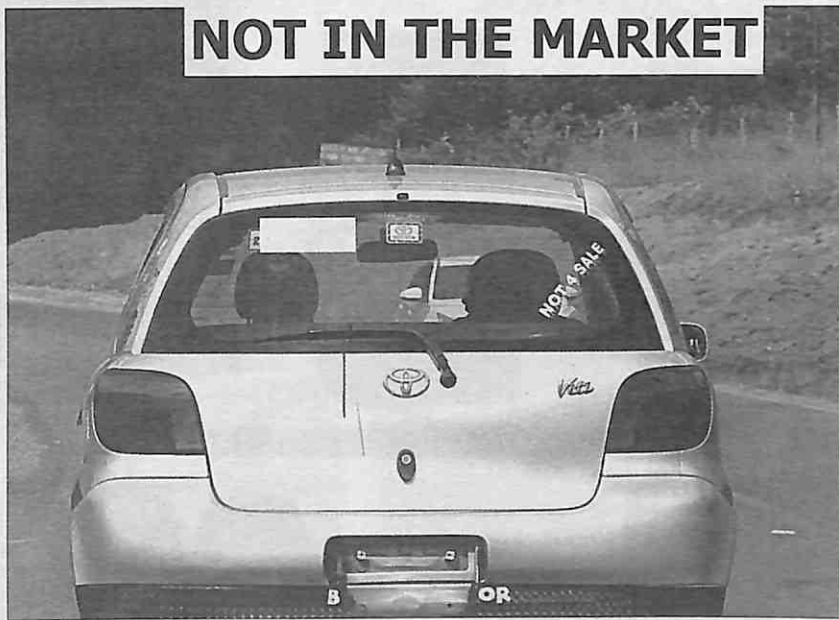
Ginindza said Baphalali was mainly focused on protecting life and health, ensuring respect for human beings, while promoting mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all people.

He said they had already identified a homestead in Motshane, that would eventually benefit from the fruitful relationship between the two societies.

Ginindza was of the idea that since the society was saving lives, changing minds, as well as empowering communities to sustain themselves, such a donation would play a mammoth role in the society's on-going programmes.

Such programmes of the cooperative here seen the lives of elderly people in various parts of the country being improved through better housing structures constructed by the cooperative

## NOT IN THE MARKET



**DON'T DARE:** The owner of this Toyota Vitz decided to put the 'Not For Sale' sticker at the back of his car after being troubled by potential buyers. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

## Woman fined E700 for gun-spraying another

BY MELUSI TSABEADZE  
Eswatini National Court

**A 27-year-old woman of Bulandzeni in the Hhohho region has been fined E700 for assault.**

Silungile Dlamini wrongfully and purposefully sprayed Ayanda Chiya with a spray gun in the face, chest and eyes with the intention to cause her grievous bodily harm.

The incident happened at Mahwalala on Sunday. Dlamini pleaded guilty to the offence.

Chiya told the court that she was not

related to the defendant, adding that they met at a bar.

"I was at Ka-Ngisana Bar in Mahwalala. I was drinking alcohol with my friends. Dlamini then entered the shop in the company of her friends and one of her friends called one of my allies and asked that they speak outside the bar," she said, adding that the two shared a man.

Chiya further told the court that when she went outside the bar to check on her friend, she discovered that they were fighting. The plaintiff said she tried to talk them out of fighting, and Dlamini intervened and further called her a prostitute.

Chiya added that Dlamini hurled more insults at her, calling her poor.

The complainant added that Dlamini left only to return later and assaulted her with the spray gun.

Chiya said Dlamini sprayed her and she could not see properly. She added that because she could not see, she was spinning around.

She was then taken to hospital, where she was injected and her eyes were cleansed. In court, Dlamini refuted the complainant's claims.

The accused was then sentenced to seven months in custody with a fine option of E700.

## Man granted E5 000 bail for theft of Rolex watch

BY VUYILE DLAMINI  
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

**A man, adamant on capitalising off another hard working man's sweat, has been granted bail of E5 000, after he was found to have stolen E32 000 worth of items.**

Clifford Junior Smith (23) of Malkerns was arrested and charged with the offence of theft, after he was said to have stolen items belonging to Mawethu Magagula.

According to the charge sheet, Smith is said to have, on Sunday at Mantenga near Ezulwini, wrongfully and intentionally stolen a Samsung S9 phone valued at E18 000, a Rolex wrist watch valued at E14 000 and a Burberry wallet valued at E200.

These items were valued at E32 000.

During his appearance before

Mbabane Magistrate Lenhle Zulu on Wednesday, the Crown applied for Smith to be remanded into custody until next week Thursday for his trial set for July 5, 2019.

In his bail application, Smith claimed that he would appreciate time out of custody to prepare his evidence towards his case, and claimed that he had a child that he needed to go home to, who needed his full attention as the minor was of school going age.

Smith also claimed that as he was a resident of Malkerns, he was not at all a flight risk and would be back to attend to the matter leading up to his trial in July.

As the Crown had informed the magistrate that Smith's bail application would not be opposed, Magistrate Zulu granted him bail set at E5 000 to gain his liberation.



# RESIDENTS WANT ZCC MEMBER ACCUSED OF WITCHCRAFT EVICTED

BY STARSKY MKHONTA  
Nhlalanga

A man who is believed to be a member of the Zion Church of Christ (ZCC) might be evicted on suspicions that he practices witchcraft.

The man who is a resident in one of the areas under Mbangweni Umphakatsi in the Shiselweni region, allegedly frequents homesteads dur-

ing ungodly hours. The matter is now deliberated by the authorities at the umphakatsi and it is most likely that the man might soon be evicted from the area.

According to some of the residents, the man has been found on several occasions moving up and down in other homesteads while owners or occupants were asleep.

"This issue is so serious that he might be evicted from the area. He

is accused of witchcraft because he has been nabbed several times loitering in residents' homesteads.

## Ungodly

The man has been grilled at the umphakatsi where he was asked to explain why he sneaks into people's homes during awkward hours.

Some of the residents now want to take the law into their own hands as they feel such ungodly visits in Swati culture are associated with witch-

craft," one resident said.

There are suspicions that the man might soon be given an ultimatum to either leave the area or face the wrath of the community.

## Denies

"There are slim chances that he will be allowed to stay in the area. When asked about his questionable visit to the people's homes, he denies everything.

"The residents want him evicted. Others feel that if he has a church in the area, it should also be closed down," narrated another resident.

On the other hand, Indvuna of Mbangweni Umphakatsi Mandla Mkhonta confirmed that the matter was brought to their attention.

"It's a sensitive matter which is still under serious deliberation. The man is a member of the ZCC and fingers are pointing at him as the one fre-

quenting homesteads during ungodly hours.

"We have shelved the matter at the moment due to the ongoing harvesting of emabele in the royal fields at Mbangweni," said Mkhonta, who did not want to delve much on the issue.

There are slim chances that he will be allowed to stay in the area. When asked about his questionable visit to the people's homes, he denies everything. The residents want him evicted. Others feel that if he has a church in the area, it should also be closed down

## Residents want indvuna removed

BY STARSKY MKHONTA  
Nhlalanga

RESIDENTS of Vimbizibuko, one of the mini-chiefdoms in Lavumisa, want their Indvuna Gadhla Phakathi removed.

Phakathi is accused of imposing laws on the residents. They also claim that he is making their lives miserable.

Phakathi is one of the junior headmen for the mini-chiefdoms of Chief Gasa WaNgwane.

Gasa WaNgwane's main royal residence is Qomintaba where the senior Indvuna is Elias Fanalakhe Ndzinisa.

## Managing

The residents said Gasa WaNgwane should deal with Phakathi as the way he was managing the area of Vimbizibuko it was like he was running his own farm. They are accusing Phakathi of a number of things which have also led to many residents boycotting activities at the chieftom.

"We do not know if he has the mandate of the chief in this. People are now fined for things we never thought are wrong, take for instance, if you have a female lover for over four days at your home, you are penalised.

## Service

"There are people who have been fined goats for being with their lovers in the area for more than four days," one resident said.

Others said Phakathi has also made it mandatory that anyone seeking help at the chieftom should produce the relevant documents such as an identity card or documentation that reflects one as from the area.

"There are those that have been residents of the area for the longest time but they don't have those documents due to a number of reasons.

## Activity

People are turned away when they come to the umphakatsi without an ID. As a result, even if there is an activity organised at the umphakatsi, the turnout is always poor," said another resident.

There are a number of issues that the residents have cited as reasons for appealing to the chief to get rid of Phakathi. "We were against his appointment from the beginning, but the leadership imposed him in the area.

People have now decided to shun any activity organised at the umphakatsi because of the measures that have been introduced which are harsh," another resident said.

## Aware

Meanwhile, Senior Indvuna of Qomintaba Elias Fanalakhe Ndzinisa said he was not aware of any concern raised by the residents of Vimbizibuko against Phakathi. "I am not aware that there are residents who are unhappy with the way Phakathi is managing Vimbizibuko, I will follow up on that," said Ndzinisa.

On the other hand, Phakathi said it was advisable that if the residents have a genuine complain about the way he executed his duties as Indvuna of the area, they should report him to his superiors.

He said he was ready to give reasons or defend himself on anything that the residents were complaining about.

"Every house has its rules. If they feel I am oppressive, they are free to approach the leaders. Going to the media will not help them.

"They should also know that some of the decisions have been taken for valid reasons.

"For those who have grievances, there are channels they must follow in lodging complaints and the media is not one of those," said Phakathi.

## PICTURE THIS



HOW ABOUT THIS: Two ladies taking pictures outside Eswatini Mobile offices (Madlenya House) yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

## Zombodze Emuva residents itching for new chief

BY STARSKY MKHONTA  
Nhlalanga

RESIDENTS of Zombodze Emuva are eagerly waiting for their new chief who was reportedly long identified.

It is said the chief now must be forwarded to Their Majesties with other candidates from various communities.

Zombodze Emuva has been without a leader for many years after the demise of Masenjana Sibandze.

According to sources in the ruling household, Masenjana's successor will be christened Chief Silele once he is installed and given the instruments of leadership.

## Blessing

"He is one of those whose name will be forwarded to Their Majesties for blessings as he was long introduced to the community," said a source in the ruling household.

During the time when Zombodze Emuva was without a chief after the demise of Masenjana, the late

Chief Khondlo of Mahlalini who was the father of Mbabane Highlanders soccer star Xolani was considered acting chief.

The two neighbouring areas are now both without leaders.

At Zombodze Emuva, there are concerns that when the next chief takes over, he would have a lot to deal with, as land is presently allocated anyhow by people who claim they have authority.

## Tension

"There is tension in the area and the mushrooming structures are now a cause for concern," one resident said.

Others said there are certain individuals who have allegedly imposed themselves as leaders and also claim to be the rightful authority in charge of Zombodze Emuva.

"A certain individual goes around misleading the people that he is a leader in the absence of the chief. This has divided the community, and some residents are confused as to who exactly they should report to.

"Unauthorised people are going around asking the residents to forward cows and we are not sure where they are taking the cows to," said another insider in the ruling household.

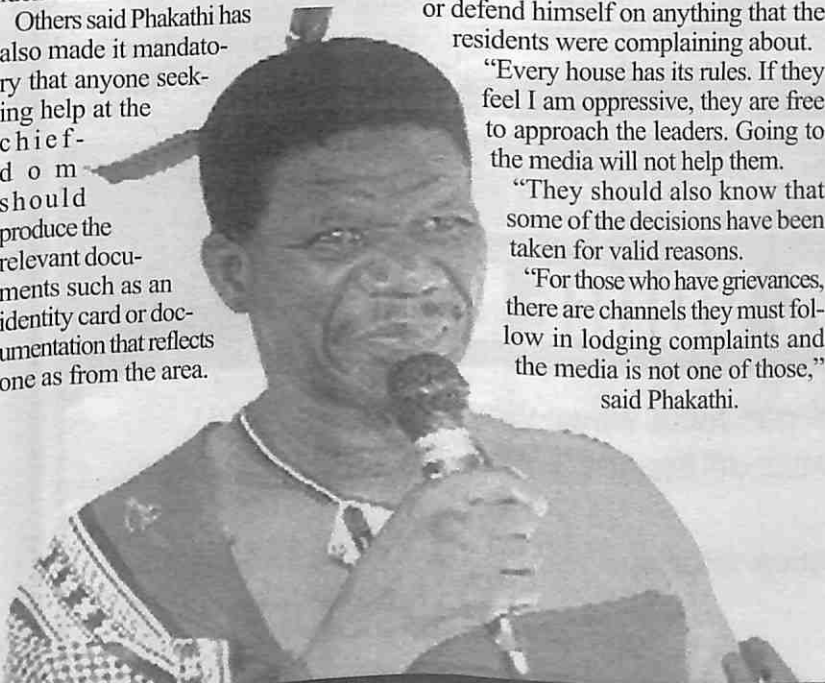
## Imposed

It is said a meeting is likely to be called soon where some of the issues, including that of certain individuals having imposed themselves as leaders, will top the agenda.

"A meeting has been proposed for June 1 where some of the burning issues which have caused division will be discussed," one source revealed.

On the other hand, Indvuna of Zombodze Emuva Mbabazeni Nkonyane asked not to be drawn to comment on anything as he was bereaved.

"I am still mourning the passing on of my son. I can't comment on any issue to do with the leadership or anything pertaining to the umphakatsi at the moment," said Nkonyane.



DO SOMETHING: Chief Gasa WaNgwane.





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# POSTAL & TELECOMS on Observer



## AFFORDABLE ADSL, CONNECTING ESWATINI TO 2022



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...EPTC shares His Majesty the King's vision off attaining first world status by 2022 and has also heard consumer's calls for more data and more affordable communication and has since proceeded towards satisfying those needs



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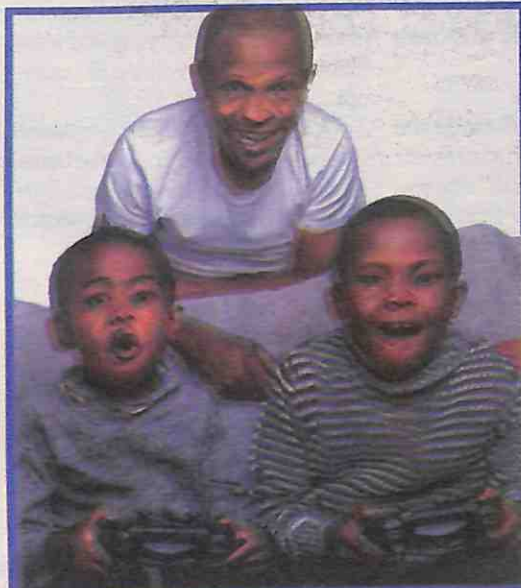
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What's in Your Mind

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## Features &amp; Opinions

Refresh What You Think

## MY BODY MY RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

**WHOEVER** you are, wherever you live, you have the right to make these choices without fear, violence or discrimination.

The sad reality is that people are bullied and discriminated against simply for making choices about their bodies and their lives. A woman is refused contraception because she doesn't have her husband's permission or she is not given the freedom to choose whether to use contraceptive or not by her husband as he is the one who makes such decisions.

In the Kingdom of Eswatini, women and girls should make reproductive choices on matters affecting their bodies and fully enjoy their rights, and it is for that reason that Women and Law-Eswatini supports a campaign for sexual and reproductive rights.

Women's sexual and reproductive health is related to multiple human rights, including the right to life, the right to be free from torture, the right to health, the right to privacy, the right to education, and the prohibition of discrimination.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) have both clearly indicated that women's right to health includes their sexual and reproductive health.

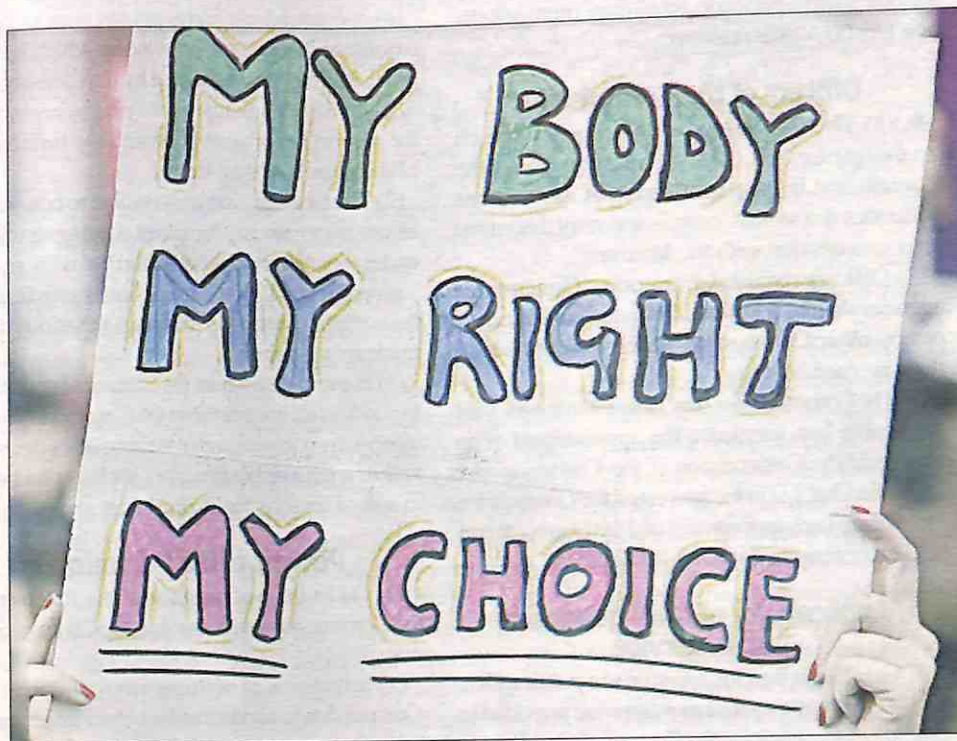
This means that States have obligations to respect, protect and fulfill rights related to women's sexual and reproductive health.

The Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health maintains that women are entitled to reproductive health care services, goods and facilities that are: (a) available in adequate numbers; (b) accessible physically and economically; (c) accessible without discrimination; and (d) of good quality.

Despite these obligations, violations of women's sexual and reproductive health rights are frequent.

These take many forms including denial of access to services that only women require, or poor quality services, subjecting women's access to services to third party authorisation, and performance of procedures related to women's reproductive and sexual health without the woman's consent, including forced sterilisation, forced virginity examinations, and denial of medical abortion in terms of the Constitution where they are victims of rape.

Violations of women's sexual and reproductive health rights are often deeply engrained



in societal values pertaining to women's sexuality.

Patriarchal concepts of women's roles within the family mean that women are often valued based on their ability to reproduce.

Pregnancy, or repeated pregnancies spaced too closely together, often as the result of efforts to produce male offspring because of the preference for sons, has a devastating impact on women's health with sometimes fatal consequences.

Women are also often blamed for infertility, suffering ostracism and being subjected to various human rights violations as a result.

CEDAW (article 16) guarantees women equal rights in deciding "freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights."

CEDAW (article 10) also specifies that women's right to education includes "access to specific educational information to help to ensure the health and well-being of families, including information and advice on family planning."

The Beijing Platform for Action states that "the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence."

The CEDAW Committee's General

Recommendation 24 recommends that States prioritise the "prevention of unwanted pregnancy through family planning and sex education."

The CESCR General Comment 14 has explained that the provision of maternal health services is comparable to a core obligation which cannot be derogated from under any circumstances, and the States have the immediate obligation to take deliberate, concrete, and targeted steps towards fulfilling the right to health in the context of pregnancy and childbirth.

The human rights relating to sexual and reproductive health typify unmet human rights needs in the African region.

Despite drawing sustenance from international human rights jurisprudence, their realisation at a domestic level is often precarious.

In developing countries, especially, the domestic political, legal, economic, social and policy environment has often appeared particularly unwilling to yield to the imperatives of respecting sexual and reproductive health and rights in all their manifestations.

In the Kingdom of Eswatini, there are good reasons to take the challenge of realising rights for protecting sexual and reproductive health seriously.

There is ample evidence to suggest that such rights are being denied on a significant scale.

The region's current challenges in effec-

tively realising sexual and reproductive health for its people include: unmet needs in access to contraception; high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity, including mortality and morbidity from unsafe abortion and lack of access to obstetric care; the persistence of pandemic levels of HIV; early and/or coerced marriages; harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation; sexual violence and exploitation; and endemic discrimination on the basis of age, marital status, disability and other vectors of discrimination.

Though unmet sexual and reproductive health and rights are experienced across the gender divide, it is women who are at the receiving end of most deprivations.

It is essential to transcend the rhetoric of rights so as to ensure that sexual and reproductive rights are in practice secured for all. Commitments made by governments to respect, protect and fulfil sexual and reproductive health under human rights instruments as well as non-treaty global and regional consensus statements are meaningless without effective implementation at the domestic level.

Where there is a failure to implement, there must be state accountability. As part of promoting accountability, it is essential to engage in concerted efforts to ensure that governments that have not committed themselves to respecting, protecting and fulfilling rights related to sexual and reproductive health are persuaded and, ultimately, required to do so.

This purpose can be achieved partly through optimal utilisation of available human rights systems, including the regional system.

Catch this Campaign at the 2019 Bushfire Festival.

Come join the pledge to not have any prejudice against any person different to you.

**“The Beijing Platform for Action states that “the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence”**



# Women and Law

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# WHAT THE LAW SAYS

*Utsini umtsetfo*

## PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT, 2006

### Establishment of the Commission

3 (1) There is established an independent Anti-Corruption Commission which consists of a Commissioner and two Deputy Commissioners

(2) The Commission shall have such other officers as may be appointed in terms of section 8.

### Appointment of Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners

4. (1) The Commissioner shall be appointed by the King on the advice of the Judicial Service Commission and shall hold office for a period not exceeding five years and may be re-appointed for a single term, on such terms and conditions as may be determined.

(2) A Deputy Commissioner shall be appointed by the King on the advice of the Judicial Service Commission and shall hold office for a period not exceeding five years and may be re-appointed for a single term, on such terms and conditions as may be determined.

(3) The Commissioner shall be responsible for the proper administration of the Commission.

(4) In the performance of their functions and in the carrying out of their duties the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioners shall be independent and shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.

(5) The salary, allowance, gratuity or pension of a member of the Commission shall not be varied to the disadvantage of that member.

### Qualifications for office of Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners

5. (1) Subject to subsection (2)(a) a person shall not qualify for appointment as Commissioner unless that person qualifies for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

(2) A person shall not qualify for appointment as a Deputy Commissioner unless that person;

(a) is of high moral character and proven integrity; and

(b) possesses considerable experience and demonstrated competence in the conduct of public affairs; or (c) has acceptable academic qualification and experience in law, economics, accounting, criminal investigation, or any other related profession relevant to the functions of the Commission.

### Vacation of office of Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner

6. (1) A member of the Commission may -

(a) resign office by written notice addressed to the Chairman of the Judicial Service Commission; and

(b) be removed by the King from office for inability to perform the functions of the office whether such inability arises from infirmity of body or mind or any other cause or for stated misconduct.

(2) The statement of misconduct referred to in subsection (1)(b) shall be referred to the Judicial Service Commission which shall investigate the matter.

### Acting Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner

7. (1) Where the office of the Commissioner is vacant or the Commissioner is absent from duty or unable for any other reason to perform the functions of his office, any of the Deputy Commissioners shall on nomination by the Minister act as the Commissioner.

(2) Where the Commissioner and a Deputy

Commissioner are absent from duty or unable for any other reason to perform the functions of their office the King may, subject to sections 4 and 5, appoint another person to act as the Commissioner or a Deputy Commissioner.

### Officers of the Commission

8. (1) The Commission shall appoint such investigating and other officers to assist the Commission in the performance of its functions under this Act as the Commission may determine after consultation with the Minister.

(2) Officers recruited from other Government agencies shall be transferred from the public service or any other Commission without prejudice to their accrued benefits.

(3) The Commissioner may, subject to the relevant applicable law, terminate the appointment of an officer of the Commission if the Commissioner is satisfied that it is in the interest of the Commission to terminate such appointment and the Commissioner shall give reasons for such termination.

### Applicability of laws governing public service

9. An office in the Commission is a public office, and accordingly, except as otherwise provided in this Act or Regulations, the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners and other officers of the Commission are subject to such laws and regulations as are generally applicable to officers of the public service of the particular designation.

### Functions of the Commission

10. (1) The functions of the Commission shall be to-

(a) take necessary measures for the prevention of corruption in public and private bodies including, in particular measures for-

(i) examining the practices and procedures of public and private bodies in order to facilitate the discovery of corrupt practices and secure the revision of their methods of works or procedures which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, may be prone or conducive to corrupt practices;

(ii) advising public and private bodies on the ways and means of preventing corrupt practices, and on changes in the methods of work or procedures of those public and private bodies compatible with the effective performance of their duties, which the Commissioner considers necessary to reduce the likelihood of the occurrence of corrupt practices;

(iii) disseminating information on the evil and dangerous effects of corrupt practices on the society;

(iv) enlisting and fostering public support against corrupt practices;

(v) receive and investigate complaints of alleged or suspected corrupt practice made against any person, and refer appropriate cases to the Director of Public Prosecutions;

(c) investigate any alleged or suspected offences under this Act, or any other offence disclosed during such an investigation;

(d) investigate any alleged or suspected contravention of any of the provisions of the fiscal and revenue laws of the country;

(e) assist any law enforcement agency of the Government in the investigation of offences involving dishonesty or cheating of the public revenue;

(f) investigate the conduct of any public officer which in the opinion of the Commissioner may be connected with or conducive to corrupt practices;

(g) instruct, advise and assist any person, on the request of that person, on ways in which corrupt practices may be eliminated by that person; and

(h) do all such things as may be necessary for the prevention of corruption and the furtherance of the objects of this Act.

(2) The Commission may decline to conduct an investigation into any complaint alleging an offence under this Act or to proceed further with an investigation if the Commission is satisfied that the complaint is trivial, frivolous, vexatious or not made in good faith.

(3) In every case where the Commission declines to conduct an investigation the Commission shall inform the complainant in writing of its decision, within a reasonable time, but shall not be bound to assign reasons for so declining.

### Powers of the Commission

11. (1) In the performance of the functions of the Commission under this Act, the Commissioner may

(a) authorize in writing any officer of the Commission to conduct an inquiry or investigation into alleged or suspected offences under this Act;

(b) require any public officer or person to answer questions concerning the duties of any other public officer or person and order the production for inspection of any orders, directives, office instructions relating to the duties of such other public officer or person;

(c) require any person in charge of any Ministry, Department or other establishment of the Government or head, Chairman, Manager or Chief Executive Officer of any public body or private body to produce or furnish within such time as may be specified by the Commissioner,

any document or a certified true copy of any document which is in the possession or under the control of that person and which the Commissioner considers necessary for the conduct of investigation into alleged or suspected offence under this Act.

(2) In the performance of the duties under this Act, the Commissioner or, if acting under the authority of a warrant issued for that purpose by or on behalf of the Commissioner, an officer of the Commission, shall have-

(a) access, where necessary with a court order, to all books, records, returns, reports, data stored electronically on computer or otherwise and any other documents relating to the functions of any Government Ministry, Department or other establishment, or parastatal, public body or private body;

(b) access at any time, where necessary with a court order, to the premises of any Government Ministry, Department or other establishment, or parastatal, public body or private body, or to any vessel, boat, train, aircraft or any vehicle if the Commissioner or officer has reason to suspect that any property acquired in contravention of this Act has been placed, deposited or concealed in that vessel, boat, train, aircraft or vehicle.

(3) Any person who accompanies or assists the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner or any officer of the Commission to enter into any premises or upon any vessel, boat, train, aircraft or any vehicle, as the case may be, shall enjoy the

same immunity as is conferred upon the Commissioner or an officer of the Commission in terms of section 17.

### Special powers of investigation

12. (1) Where it appears to the Commissioner that an offence under this Act may have been committed by any person, the Commissioner may for the purposes of an investigation of that offence authorize an investigating officer to exercise the following powers, that is, to-

(a) investigate the acquisition of any property (whether movable or immovable) in or outside Swaziland by or on behalf of that person, during such period as may be specified in the authority;

(b) require that person to furnish and produce all relevant information and documents in respect of-

(i) all expenditure incurred by that person personally or in respect of the spouse, children or parents of that person;

(ii) all liabilities incurred by that person, the agent or trustee of that person and specifying in respect of each such liability whether it was incurred jointly (and, if so, with whom) or

severally;

(iii) any money acquired or sent outside Swaziland during the period as may be specified in the authority;

(c) investigate and inspect any bank account or other account of whatever description or kind and any banker's books or company books of, or relating to, the person named or otherwise identified in the authority;

(d) require from any person production of any accounts, books or company books of, or relating to, the person named or otherwise identified in the authority and the disclosure of all or any information relating to those accounts, books or documents;

(e) take originals or certified true copies of any accounts, books or documents or any relevant entry in those accounts, books or documents;

(f) require any person who is being investigated to furnish the investigating officer with a sworn statement containing any information referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b).

(2) Any person, who has been lawfully required under subsection (1) to disclose any information or to produce any accounts, books or documents to an investigating officer shall, notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, comply with that requirement.

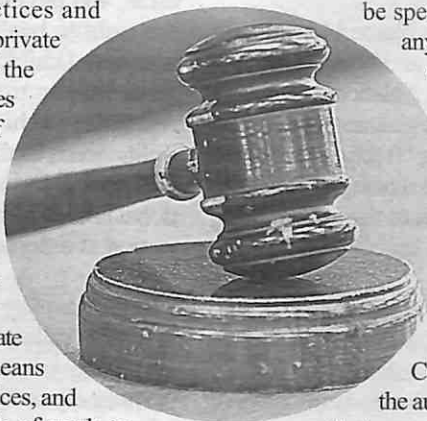
(3) Any person who-

(a) without reasonable excuse fails or neglects to disclose any information or to produce any accounts, books or documents required by an investigating officer under subsection (2); or

(b) obstructs an investigating officer in the execution of an authority made under subsection (1), commits an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand Emalangeni or to imprisonment not exceeding five years or to both.

(4) Where, in any proceedings for an offence under Part III, it is proved that the person charged with the offence refused to furnish a sworn statement required in terms of subsection (1)(f) when requested to do so that refusal shall, unless reasonable cause is shown, be treated as supporting any evidence given on behalf of the prosecution, or as rebutting any evidence given on behalf of the defence, regarding the manner of the acquisition of the property mentioned in paragraph (1)(a).

(5) The information referred to in paragraph (1)(f) shall be admissible as evidence during trial of that person and if that person submits to be a witness, that information may be used in cross-examination and for purposes of impeaching the credibility of that person.







BY MARIANNE MERTEN

# ANC factional bombs detonate in full view

**WITH a pledge to be the president for all, not just the governing ANC, President Cyril Ramaphosa on Wednesday put his stamp on a stuttering day of political explosions.**

Watching from the president's bay in the public gallery was the politician at the centre of one such bang — outgoing Deputy President David 'DD' Mabuza, who had bowed out from being sworn-in as MP.

Wednesday was a day that saw the backroom machinations of the governing ANC dovetail with parliamentary procedure and ceremony.

When President Cyril Ramaphosa stepped to the podium of the National Assembly after being elected unopposed, it was the moment he would set the tone for his presidency. And his call was for co-operation, collaboration and working together to meet the aspirations and expectations of all South Africans.

"I will be the president of all South Africans," he said on Wednesday, later adding: "I will, like Madiba did, walk with kings... and queens and captains of industry and all and sundry without losing the touch of the common people."

It was a tone that stood markedly different from the past decade when ANC election wins were touted triumphantly. And it was a tone that offered room for opposition parties in recognition of the 8 May election outcome to work for "a common mandate" to build South Africa.

Earlier, EFF leader Julius Malema, in a clear reference, although without naming ex-president Jacob Zuma, cautioned Ramaphosa not to surround himself with yes-men.

"You need someone who's honest with you. Those who failed were told 'You are right' even when they were wrong... and they were told they were wrong by the Constitutional Court and the Public Protector," said Malema in a clear reference to the debacle of the R249-million taxpayer-funded security upgrades at Zuma's Nkandla rural homestead.

"Be the leader our country needs at this crucial time," urged IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, while DA leader Mmusi Maimane pledged his party's support for decisions taken in the interest of South Africa.

But it was a long day before getting to this point. And many of the finer intrigues on the ANC side of the House must still play out — in Parliament, but also the governing party's Luthuli House head office.

Just two hours before the swearing-in of the 400 MPs, Ramaphosa, wearing his hat as

ANC president, announced that Deputy President David 'DD' Mabuza would "postpone" his swearing-in as MP so he could address allegations before the ANC Integrity Commission of having prejudiced and brought into disrepute the governing party.

That 20-odd names had been flagged when the ANC election lists were referred to the commission after a public outcry over some inclusions has been in the public domain since April. But the ANC National Executive Committee (NEC) has yet to deal with the Integrity Commission report.

Saying Mabuza's swearing-in as MP was postponed pending the Integrity Commission processes is kicking for touch and a face-saving description for what effectively is Mabuza's departure from the Union Buildings. Having applauded the move because of Mabuza's "dictates of conscience" and "respect for ANC processes and institutions," Ramaphosa would not appoint him to one of the two Cabinet posts he can fill from outside the parliamentary benches.

Later on Wednesday an internal ANC message making the rounds clearly indicated the governing party was arranging that Mabuza's parliamentary seat was allocated to someone else. That means Mabuza, while he remains ANC deputy president, is off the public representatives lists and will remain off for at least a year when the next window period comes for political parties to change their lists, in line with the Electoral Act.

## Emerging

That detail in the leaked message about Mabuza's replacement on the ANC benches emerged alongside the replacements for Malusi Gigaba and ex-Speaker Baleka Mbete, who the ANC indicated in a statement on Tuesday had withdrawn from being ANC MPs, without providing reasons. Both would imperil their pensions and perks, respectively, as minister and Speaker, whose remuneration is pegged at the level of deputy president.

Daily Maverick is reliably informed Mabuza as ANC deputy president could head to Luthuli House.

and that an announcement may be expected over the weekend. However, when approached for comment as he was leaving the president's bay in the National Assembly's public gallery, Mabuza simply said: "No interviews."

Outgoing Cabinet minister Nomvula Mokonyane's withdrawal as MP came as more of a surprise, it is understood, particularly as Monday's special ANC NEC announced her as 'chair of chairs.'

The official ANC announcement came as Wednesday's swearing-in of the 400 MPs was already under way, and it was brief: "... due to family responsibilities and her being in mourning currently, she (Mokonyane) believes she would be unable to diligently and with commitment, fulfil her duties at this stage". Mokonyane, who now keeps her ministerial pension and perks, is headed to Luthuli House in an unspecified capacity.

But in the ANC's factional politicking, Mokonyane declining the move to Parliament is a setback for the grouping around party Secretary-General Ace Magashule.

## Unpopular

Bluntly put, Mokonyane would have been the block to the other, Ramaphosa grouping's, initiatives, and the counter to ensure measures unpopular in the Ramaphosa grouping, such as a draft law to nationalise the South African Reserve Bank, would be pushed through.

The 'chair of chairs' is a strategic, powerful position as it oversees and directs the committees where Parliament does the majority of its work, from legislation to oversight. It also includes managing the funding for committees, including travel and conducting public hearings.

The political machinations of the governing ANC have yet to fully unfold.

More clarity can be expected with the announcement of Cabinet, expected from Sunday when after final consultations, the would-be ministers can be expected to be called in for that traditional chat. Until the official announcement it's just speculation driven by various factional interests that put three women up for the deputy president's post

— Minister in the Presidency Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, International Relations Minister Lindiwe Sisulu and Higher Education Minister Naledi Pandor.

Coincidentally, all seems to tie back to the ANC 2017 Nasrec national conference: Dlamini-Zuma narrowly lost to Ramaphosa after Mabuza played kingmaker, while Sisulu was on Ramaphosa's ticket as his deputy after Pandor, a surprise announcement in November 2017, only to be dropped later.

Whether the political bombs of Mabuza and Mokonyane dropping out is a first sign of Ramaphosa cleaning up in the party — ahead of a clean-up in Cabinet — remains to be seen. Wednesday's power play may well have created a factional split between Ramaphosa and government against Magashule and Luthuli House. Like at the ANC Nasrec conference, Mabuza may just be the key.

But on Wednesday it was all about paddling furiously below some choppy political water while maintaining calm, dignity and decorum. Optics are key.

And that's why Mabuza sat in the president's bay in the National Assembly public gallery for the whole day. He was flanked by ANC Treasurer-General Paul Mashatile. ANC Deputy Secretary-General Jessie Duarte was also there, joined at one stage by Magashule.

Below, on the floor of the House, Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng administered the oath of office — to be faithful to South Africa and the Constitution — to groups of MPs.

## Erupted

The EFF *vosh*ed to the mikes. The DA benches erupted into bleats when Good party leader Patricia de Lille, once the DA's Cape Town mayor, walked up to take her oath, returning to represent her third political party after the Independent Democrats and the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC). It was a very different sitting on Wednesday from the previously bruising scenes that have played out in the House. Heckles, yes, some sharp political commentary, yes, but none of the acerbic and terse volleys. And the ANC factional battles were well obscured. Those optics from the House were crucial. While the big bang ceremony is tomorrow's inauguration at Loftus Versfeld, the tone and measure of the Ramaphosa presidency was set in the National Assembly where he was elected to head South Africa's government.

"Please be assured of my personal commitment, and the commitment of the incoming Executive, to fulfilling these obligations of seeking consensus, collaborating, working together to find solutions to all the challenges that our country faces," said Ramaphosa. **DM**



"Happiness is the meaning and the purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence."

— Aristotle

"Maybe the truth is, there's a little bit of loser in all of us. Being happy isn't having everything in your life be perfect. Maybe it's about stringing together all the little things."

— Ann Brashares, *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*

"Stop comparing yourself to other people, just choose to be happy and live your own life."

— Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

"There is nothing more rare, nor more beautiful, than a woman being unapologetically herself; comfortable in her perfect imperfection. To me, that is the true essence of beauty."

— Steve Maraboli, *Unapologetically You: Reflections on Life and the Human Experience*

"Do not set aside your happiness. Do not wait to be happy in the future. The best time to be happy is always now."

— Roy T. Bennett

"Name one hero who was happy."

I considered. Heracles went mad and killed his family; Theseus lost his bride and father; Jason's children and new wife were murdered by his old; Bellerophon killed the Chimera but was crippled by the fall from Pegasus' back.

"You can't." He was sitting up now, leaning forward.

"I can't."

"I know. They never let you be famous AND happy." He lifted an eyebrow. "I'll tell you a secret."

"Tell me." I loved it when he was like this.

"I'm going to be the first." He took my palm and held it to his. "Swear it."

"Why me?"

"Because you're the reason. Swear it."

"I swear it," I said, lost in the high colour of his cheeks, the flame in his eyes.

"I swear it," he echoed.

We sat like that a moment, hands touching. He grinned.

"I feel like I could eat the world raw."

— Madeline Miller, *The Song of Achilles*

"I don't know what's worse: to not know what you are and be happy, or to become what you've always wanted to be, and feel alone."

— Daniel Keyes, *Flowers for Algernon*

"Happiness is an accident of nature, a beautiful and flawless aberration."

— Pat Conroy, *The Lords of Discipline*

"Those who are not looking for happiness are the most likely to find it, because those who are searching forget that the surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

"The more you feed your mind with positive thoughts, the more you can attract great things into your life."

— Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*





# BUSINESS UPDATE

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## VITALS

Prime Rate	10.50%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	1.8%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	10.25%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.0%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E12.80 per litre
Replacement	E12.85 per litre
Diesel	E12.80 per litre
Paraffin	E 9.15 per litre
Engen Garage	

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 22 MAY 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.4000	14.4500
British Pound/SZL	18.2858	18.3493
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.6443	7.6688
Swiss France/SZL	14.2349	14.2829
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3306	1.3467
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.8971	9.9344
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.7367	10.7707
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	16.0625	16.1183
Gold	1,273.5850	
Oil	73.93	

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Standard Bank

# ESWATINI SIGNS RESOLUTION FOR JOINT COMMITTEE WITH TAIWAN

BY BAHLE GAMA

MINISTER of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo and Taiwan's Economics Minister Shen Jong-chin signed a resolution for the establishment of the joint committee under the Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA) between Taiwan and Eswatini, which took effect in December 2018.

Taiwan and Eswatini established a joint committee on Wednesday to push for bilateral economic cooperation.

"With the economy in Africa growing, Eswatini is aggressively integrating itself with the region economically and enjoys preferential tariff status with more than 20 counterparts in the region and the African ally is expected to serve as a base for Taiwanese companies that have set their sights on the growing African market," Shen said.

Eswatini is one of Taiwan's 17 diplomatic allies and the only one in Africa.

Shen said many Taiwanese exporters have expressed interest in working with Eswatini to extend their reach in the African market, and if necessary, the ministry of economic affairs (MoEA) will organise delegations to visit the country and facilitate bilateral cooperation.

### Expansion

"Currently, some Taiwanese textile companies function very well in Eswatini and for an expansion of economic ties, the MoEA is planning to provide assistance to Taiwanese companies to develop agriculture and food processing businesses there," he continued.

According to Shen, textile maker Tex-Ray Industrial Co. has established a sound foundation in Eswatini in its core business, and Tex-Ray Chairman Lin Jui-yueh is even planning to grow avocado pears.

He further stated that he has invited I-Mei Foods Co, one of Taiwan's leading food brands, to team up with Tex-Ray in a bid to explore the agriculture and processing food market in the African country.



**SIGNED:** Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo and Taiwan's Economics Minister Shen Jong-chin with the signed resolution for the establishment of the joint committee under the Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA) between Taiwan and Eswatini. (Pic: Focus Taiwan News Channel)

Addressing the ceremony for the establishment of the joint economic cooperation committee, Khumalo said his ministry aims to take advantage of Eswatini's investment policy to help the country's agriculture business become more export-oriented and strengthen its competitiveness.

On the back of the ECA and the joint economic cooperation committee, Khumalo said he expected bilateral economic ties to grow quickly.

Khumalo led a three-member delegation to Taiwan on Sunday and the visit ended yesterday.

**As a developing country, we still look at the textile and apparel as well as manufacturing to expand our export power.**

According to the Bureau of Foreign Trade, bilateral trade between Taiwan and Eswatini totalled US\$10.54 million in 2018, up from US\$7.6 million in 2017.

### Standards

"We are all aware that it is becoming increasingly difficult for national standards bodies to cope with the growing number and complexity of various industries, human demands, and trade regulations. Despite these, Taiwan has shown capacity to steer its complex mandate in Eswatini," he said.

Khumalo further stated that the Kingdom of Eswatini through the ECA will continue to increase and strengthen its capacity to address the need for sustainable and transformative change in the way systems of the food related industry operate, for the benefit of human health and development of food trade, and ultimately help eliminate hunger around the world.

"Eswatini holds our long-standing friendship in very high regard and in this respect will continue to lend a supportive voice in international fora for the inclusion of Taiwan

in cross-cutting discussions on the global welfare of the world's health, financial and climate systems for the betterment of humanity in its entirety, especially in the promotion and respect of Taiwan's self-determination," he said.

He also disclosed that the ministry's aim is to formulate trade/investment policies that help create sustainable increases in agricultural productivity, the competitiveness of the products produced, and improvements in the supply and availability of food and other products from the crop, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors.

"As a developing country, we still look at the textile and apparel as well as manufacturing to expand our export power. We are also taking leaf from the Taiwan success stories, hoping to use the ECA to improve the agriculture and agri-processing industry for the local market and export. We are striving to be a self-sustainable country that will produce and process enough to feed the nation and the world over," he added.

## NERCHA AWARDS OVER E2M CONTRACT TO DG NURSE

BY BAHLE GAMA

NERCHA has awarded DG Nurse a tender worth E2 664 000 for the provision of health laboratory samples courier services.

The requesting entity is Eswatini National Health Laboratory Services (MoH) and the procuring entity is the National Emergency Response Council on HIV and AIDS (NER-

### DETAILS OF BEST EVALUATED RESPONSIVE TENDERERS

NAME	DG Nurse
NATIONALITY	Swazi
PROPOSED CONTRACT PRICE	E2 664 000 per annum
BID PRICE AS READ OUT	E2 664 000
TOTAL EVALUATION SCORE	87.40 per cent

CHA).

DG Nurse was competing with KEV Logistics, a Swati company that had a total evaluation score of

55.25 per cent, whereas the minimum qualifying technical score was 70 per cent.

DG Nurse is a Swati company

and an autonomous body which was established by the Nurse and Midwives Act No. 16 of 1965.



# MTN Eswatini invests E200m on network improvement

BY SIFISO DLAMINI

**MTN Eswatini has invested E200 million towards network improvement.**

This was disclosed by the Vice President of the MTN Group in Southern African, Eastern and Ghana region Ebenezer Sante. The VP is in the country accompanied by the company's representatives from within the region for the now globally famed MTN Bushfire event taking place this weekend.

He mentioned that the company is in the country for the long haul which was attested by their continued investments in improving service delivery to their customers. He said in the current year, MTN has invested over E200 million towards network improvement. The company has invested a total of E500 million over the past two years towards improvement of service delivery to their customers.

"I can tell you now that MTN Eswatini's network has been rated as one of the best in the Southern African region. Further we are excited that coverage is slightly over 99 per cent, which is a huge milestone for this



**INVESTMENT: MTN Eswatini Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Luphondvo making his remarks. (Courtesy pics)**

great nation," said Sante.

He said as an operation, they have contributed to the creation of business opportunities through their procurement pipeline and in the last quarter they had slightly over 7 000 Mobile Money and airtime vendors.

"The company is looking forward to coming up with innovative ways and means to contribute to the cre-

ation of 10 000 jobs per year over the next five years through their telecommunications and Mobile Money ecosystems," he continued.

The vice president said as responsible corporate citizens, they remain committed to ploughing back to local communities and also support cultural initiatives as it unites the nation. He added that since they started work-



**POSE: Jerry Soko, who is regional manager, Vice President Ebenezer Asante and MTN Acting CEO Sibusiso Nhleko.**

ing in this market, they have invested over E35 million through corporate social investment initiatives in the areas of education, health as well as youth enterprise development.

He further disclosed that they remain grateful to their valued customers for their support and loyalty over the years. "As a company, we believe everyone deserves the benefit of a connected life, something we have demonstrated by consistently making communication affordable," he said.

**As an operation, they have contributed to the creation of business opportunities through their procurement pipeline and in the last quarter they had slightly over 7 000 Mobile Money and airtime vendors**

## Huawei users urged to remain patient

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI

**FOLLOWING news that Google parent, Alphabet has suspended business with Huawei, many users of fast-growing mobile products are worried that their cellphones will no longer function as they used to when they purchased them.**

Reports were to the effect that Huawei will lose access to smartphone operating system updates as the global tech firm is suspending the transfer of all hardware and software between the two companies, including its Android smartphone operating system and apps.

The Huawei ban by the United States of America has created uncertainty not only for the company and its growth ambition but also for its customers.

The US Commerce Department has granted a 90-day relief for Huawei but there is a lot of uncertainty on what will happen thereafter.

The ban on Huawei, according to reports, came as a result of the year-long US-China trade war, in which Huawei has been used as a major bargaining chip.

According to CNN, restrictions of the ban have seen a slight lift for 'rural American network providers that use Huawei equipment.'

The suspended business relationship between Huawei and Google's par-



ent company, Alphabet Inc, means that hardware and software transfers between the two companies, as well as a partnership on the Android operating system, will cease.

Reports state that Apps like Google Play must have a legal relationship in place in order to run on Android, despite being an open-source software that anyone can use.

Huawei users in the country were

already anticipating that maybe they will have to return their gadgets to retailers in a hope to get refunds.

However, consumers have been assured that none of the handsets that are already out or are in the stores will be affected by the hardware changes, it is said they will only be affected by the software changes.

A questionnaire was sent to Huawei Eswatini officer Thulile Dlamini on

**According to reports this is how Huawei users will be affected for the time being:**

- Nothing will change on the P20 or P30 in the near future.
- Google confirmed that Huawei devices currently in use will have access to Google Play in the meantime.
- Critical security patches and app updates will still be rolled out for the time being.
- Users will not see an impact on Google Play, so long as the app is functioning normally.
- There will be no YouTube, Google Maps or Gmail for new Huawei phones as there will be no access to Google Play on new devices.
- Security updates at a system level for phones outside of China were delivered by the Google-Huawei partnership. The suspension of this relationship means a suspension on the delivery of security updates, meaning that security fixes from Google will not be available to current Huawei devices.
- Huawei phones will not be receiving the Android Q update anytime soon.
- Huawei could stop supporting Google Play apps on its current devices, if future access is cut off, eventually making them unusable.

what will be the impact of this new development for consumers in the country. The response was that it is business as usual as nothing will change for now.

Dlamini shared Glen Schloss, Huawei Vice President of Corporate

Communications' interview, when addressing CNBC Africa on how the Huawei ban impacts African consumers. Schloss urged consumers to remain patient as the company is positive that the issue will be resolved soon.



# PWC SOUTHERN AFRICA APPOINTS 1<sup>ST</sup> WOMAN CEO

**JOHANNESBURG** - Accounting firm PwC said on Wednesday it had appointed Shirley Machaba as its new chief executive officer for Southern Africa effective from July 1, the first black African woman to be appointed in this role.

Machaba will take over from Dion Shango, who held the post from July 2015 but has now been elected as CEO for PwC Africa.

"PwC believes Shirley has the leadership skills, experience and influence to lead PwC Southern Africa in the coming years," Shango said in a statement.

"We believe that Shirley is an

excellent choice to lead our local firm, especially as the business continues to explore new areas of growth and development across Africa."

Machaba, a chartered accountant (CA) and chartered director southern Africa, has been a partner in PwC's assurance services division for over 15 years and has over 26 years of internal and external audit, risk management, compliance and governance experience within the private and public sectors.

In 2013 she was a finalist in the 'Africa's Most Influential Women in Business and

Government' awards and was honoured by African Women Chartered Accountants as 'Audit Partner of the Year' in 2016.

She was honoured by the South African Professional Services Awards as the 'Big 4 Professional of the Year', as well as being named the overall 'Woman Professional of the Year' in February 2018. She is also a nominee for the 2018 'Business Women of the Year' BWA award to be announced before the end of the year.

PwC has a presence in 34 Africa countries, with an office footprint covering 66 offices. *ANA*



**LEADER:** PwC Southern Africa's new Chief Executive Officer Shirley Machaba.

## Major shake-out in global equity markets looms

**JOHANNESBURG** - A major shake-out in global equity markets is looming.

The big "R" will make landfall sooner than later and no, it is not President Cyril Ramaphosa or the rand. The next stage in the global business cycle is most probably a recession.

While some global economic indicators are still pointing to a modest expansion underscored by the services sector, evidence continues to point to diminishing economic growth globally.

Weak international trade flows as a result of US protectionism, the Sino/US trade war and Brexit worries have without doubt brought the risk of contraction phase forward.

While protection ring fenced the US economy to some extent, new evidence suggests that the countdown for a US recession has begun.

The US is past the cycle peak in the business cycle. Spare capacity in the US economy is rising faster than employment. Most analysts and economists focus on the inverse of the yield curve, where longer-term government bonds fall below short-term rates as a precursor to a recession. The ratio of spare capacity to employment in fact tends to lead the yield curve by between three and six months, while it peaks six to nine months before economic downturns.

### Recession

Worst of all is that the US is in a fix, no matter what the Federal Reserve or President Donald Trump do. The US is still near full employment, the highest in 50 years.

With idle capacity increasing it means that business will be reluctant to expand. The vicious circle of a downswing/recession is about to begin, regardless of a truce in the Sino/US trade war. Capital goods orders are likely to come under pressure. Company profits come under pressure. Jobs will be lost. Value will be destroyed in equity markets and business and consumer confidence will come under pressure.

The eurozone finds itself in a similar situation. In the eurozone capacity is also rising faster than employment, while, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, Germany fell into recession in the fourth quarter of last year.

Yield curves globally are likely to rise - not as a result of improved economic growth down the line, but due to shorter-term interest rates falling faster than long-term rates. It will be the confirmation of the next cyclical downturn. Quantitative easing will be the order of the day as central banks aggressively ease monetary policies.

A surge in business confidence similar to after Ramaphosa's election in 2017 is in the offing for South Africa.

*Business Report*

## Coca-Cola SA reformulates beverages following tax

**JOHANNESBURG** - Coca-Cola South Africa has cut the sugar in its drinks by a quarter (26 per cent) since government introduced a tax on sugary drinks, according to Camilla Osborne, Head of Communications for Coca-Cola Southern and East Africa.

On April 1, 2018, Treasury imposed a Health Promotion Levy of 2.1 cents per gramme of sugar on all sweetened drinks but made the first 4g of sugar per 100ml exempt from taxation as an incentive for manufacturers to cut the sugar content.

"In South Africa, over a two-year period, we had reduced average sugar content across our portfolio by 26 per cent, ahead of industry commitments of 15 per cent," Osborne said.

"We recognise that too much sugar isn't good for anyone and support the current recommendation by several leading health authorities, including the World Health Organisation (WHO), that people should limit their intake of added sugar to no more than 10 per cent of their total energy/calorie consumption," she said.

"We have launched a range of



no-sugar and low-kilojoules options and have shifted marketing investments, including in-store, to lead with our no- or low-sugar options.

### Pricing

"To aid portion control, we offer different pack sizes too. We are also offering preferable pricing for no-sugar products in South Africa."

When asked about the sales of these reduced sugar products and how consumers are responding to the smaller bottles, Osborne said: "While we cannot disclose detailed sales figures since the sugar tax was introduced, what we can say

is that more South Africans are choosing no- and low-calorie options across our portfolio and we remain committed to helping our customers make informed dietary choices as part of a balanced lifestyle."

Over the past few years, a range of countries, including Mexico, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Portugal, France, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as well as some US states, have introduced a tax on sugary drinks.

Coca-Cola recently reported a five per cent growth in global income for the first quarter of 2019, bring-

ing its net revenue to US\$8 billion - despite its claims that taxes on sugary drinks imposed by a growing number of countries would harm the company and cause job losses.

### Content

The company experienced the biggest growth in Latin America although Mexico was one of the first countries in the world to tax the sugar content of sugary drinks. Coca-Cola's net revenue in Latin America grew by 10 per cent, while operating income - the amount of profit after deducting operating expenses such as wages, depreciation, and cost of goods sold (COGS) - grew by 13 per cent.

Europe, the Middle East and Africa are grouped together as one region (with sugar taxing countries including the UK, the UAE and South Africa), and here Coke reported a five per cent increase in net revenue and seven per cent growth in operating income. In North America, where a number of US states have a sugar levy, the company's achieved a 1 per cent net revenue growth and 16 per cent growth in operating income.

*Health-e News*

AFTER FIVE DAYS AT CHINESE MINE

## NUM MEMBERS END UNDERGROUND SIT-IN

**ORKNEY** - The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) confirmed on Wednesday night that all mineworkers who staged a sit-in underground at the Chinese African Precious Metal Company (CAPM) in Orkney, in the North West since last weekend, have resurfaced from underground after their salary demands were met.

At least 69 NUM members staged an underground sit-in at No. 7 Shaft on Saturday morning, demanding an eight per cent salary increase that had allegedly been taken off the table, that the company ensures that job grading is linked to positions and workers be given a living out allowance.

In a statement, the NUM said that all the workers resurfaced at 6.30pm

on Wednesday night singing and chanting slogans.

"They spent five days underground. The NUM can also confirm that they are still healthy and strong. They made it clear that they want management not to take disciplinary action against them," the union said in a statement.

The union said that parties have agreed to an eight per cent salary increase that will be paid to all workmen in category four - eight, based on their current salary.

The increment will be backdated to January 1, 2019. The NUM said management has agreed to effect a job grading exercise with the involvement of organised labour not later than June 30, 2019.

*ANA*

## Consumer prices in SA surprise on downside

**JOHANNESBURG** - South Africa's consumer prices in April surprised on the downside with inflation easing to 4.4 per cent from 4.5 per cent in the prior month - below the SA Reserve Bank's (Sarb) mid-point target range of three percent to six per cent.

Market expectations were of a 4.6 per cent increase.

Annual core inflation rate, which excludes cost of food, non-alcoholic beverages, fuel and energy, slowed to 4.1 per cent from 4.4 per cent, the lowest core inflation since March 2018, attributed to low food price growth which countered petrol and diesel price hikes.

Portfolio manager at PPS Investments Luigi Marinus said although inflation remained contained a rate cut was unlikely. "At a time when South Africa is experiencing a disappointing economic growth rate, a high level of unemployment and inflation that appears to be contained, con-



sumers could feel justified in expecting a rate cut at the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting," Marinus said.

In April the MPC reiterated its preference for the inflation, to be closer to the midpoint of three percent to six per cent target range. The committee will today announce its interest rate decision, with the markets anticipating that it would keep the benchmark repo rate steady at 6.75 per cent.

Emerging markets economist at Capital

Economics Virág Fórizs said that policymakers were more likely to cut rates later this year.

"With weak growth and inflation fixed below the 4.5 per cent target midpoint, we expect that the key policy rate will be cut from 6.75 per cent to 6.50 per cent in the last quarter of 2019," Fórizs said.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) this week said rising food and electricity prices put moderate upward pressure on inflation.

The OECD further said if inflation expectations continue to be moderate, Sarb could consider slightly increasing the degree of monetary accommodation to support growth. FNB economist Matlodi Matsei said softer headline inflation was due to base effects from 2018 value added tax (VAT) increases outweighing higher petrol prices.

*Business Report*



# RAMAPHOSA'S CABINET: WHO, WHAT'S NEEDED TO END SA'S MALAISE

**SOUTH Africans recently went to the polls in a national election which the African National Congress (ANC) won by a wide margin.**

The incumbent President Cyril Ramaphosa will shortly appoint a Cabinet after Parliament officially declare him president. Thabo Leshilo asked Mzukisi Qobo, Cheryl Hendricks and Seán Muller what he should focus on.

**GIVEN THAT RAMAPHOSA PROBABLY HAS LESS THAN FIVE YEARS IN THE JOB, WHAT CABINET POSTS SHOULD BE HIS TOP PRIORITY?**

**Cheryl Hendricks:** He needs to leave a legacy and live up to his promise of a new dawn. He, therefore, needs to concentrate on a few things that will make maximum impact.

These include changing the conditions that generate high levels of inequality, as well as those that have made South Africa's state institutions dysfunctional and have reduced its international standing.

So his top priority cabinet posts should be: basic education and higher education, economic development, finance, trade and industry, rural development and land reform, public enterprises, international relations and science and technology.

Finally, he needs to attend to the representation of women. South Africa has lost a lot of ground in the struggle to translate gender representation into gender equality and women's peace and security.

**Seán Muller:** There are four main dimensions that could be considered: strategic institutions, policy direction, effectiveness of the state and institutions for delivery. Ideally, Ramaphosa needs to pursue major improvements on each of the four dimensions in parallel.

What will be crucial in the context of rolling back the influence of state capture on strategic institutions will



**NOT FREE:** South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa won't have free reign when choosing his Cabinet.

be who he appoints to justice and correctional services, police, state security, as well as the economics cluster (notably finance and public enterprises).

Then there are the posts that will be important in determining policy and delivery of social services. These include social development, health, education, water and sanitation, transport and human settlements.

Many of these are also important for economic services, along with departments like energy, mineral resources, communications, telecommunications and postal services, tourism and agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Finally, there are departments that should play a key role in the effectiveness of the state itself. These include the departments of public service and administration, and cooperative governance and traditional affairs. Within the presidency, there's performance monitoring and evaluation.

To the extent that prioritisation is necessary, Ramaphosa has to ensure

that reform of critical institutions is placed first – for the simple reason that everything else will be compromised if this fails.

**Mzukisi Qobo:** There are limits to Ramaphosa's reform agenda in the next five years. For him to succeed, he will need to rely on highly-competent technocrats to drive change within government, take bold and decisive action in reforming institutions early on, and take measures that may make him unpopular but have good results. For this to happen, he will have to stare his party down and be his own man. The last time he put his cabinet together, his party constrained his options. The result was a watered down compromise. He can't afford that this time.

But it will be hard for him to find capable ministers. This is true even in the economic cluster, apart from Tito Mboweni in the finance ministry and Pravin Gordhan in the department of public enterprises.

Yet the economy is an area that will likely define the next five years of his

term (if he completes it). With unemployment at 27.6 per cent, economic performance and job creation, in particular, will be yardsticks against which his success will be measured.

**WHAT ATTRIBUTES SHOULD HE BE LOOKING FOR IN THESE KEY POSITIONS?**

**Cheryl Hendricks:** People with integrity, people who have leadership skills and people who have a vision for the positions they will be stepping into. People with fresh ideas to deal with old challenges and who are willing to do the hard work it will take to rebuild the country. He needs a Cabinet with a healthy mix of experience and youthfulness and gender balance.

**Seán Muller:** A common error is to think that ministerial positions should be filled on the basis of area-specific expertise. This reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of the role of ministers relative to senior officials (like the director general of a department). Ministers serve a political function and need not have any particular expertise in an area.

What matters is a general level of competence, commitment to their mandate and the public interest, and respect for the separation between political and bureaucratic competence. A minister's core functions are arguably to ensure that the officials leading the department are the best – technically and ethically – and that they are allowed and enabled to do their job.

Public confidence in the integrity of members of Cabinet is an intangible factor that is also important. But there's tension between this and the challenges Ramaphosa faces within his own party. It is these that are likely to lead to the greatest compromises in Cabinet appointments. Ultimately, it will do the country little good if he appoints the best Cabinet possible without factoring in party political considerations, only to then be so weakened within his party

that he and his appointees cannot pursue the public interest.

**Mzukisi Qobo:** The Cabinet is a reflection of the quality and depth of the governing party's leadership bench, whose heft has been in decline over the years. Even the best of its parliamentarians will struggle to bring renewed energy to the job. Many of them are recycled, as they were part of the political arrangements in the last nine years of corruption and institutional decay under former President Jacob Zuma.

And, there is no evidence that they did much to ameliorate its damage. Some, such as Jeff Radebe, have been in government for two decades. There is no evidence of innovative thinking in their approach to governance.

Under such circumstances, Ramaphosa may find himself relying a lot on informal networks, especially business links, outside of government. But this could undercut his credibility among constituencies within the governing tripartite alliance.

Success requires a combination of experience, competence, integrity and fresh ideas. This is, particularly, true in ministries such as the National Treasury, and those that interface with critical sectors of the economy such as agriculture, telecommunications, mineral resources, energy, and transport.

Since early 2018 there have been strong indications that Ramaphosa will overhaul the current structure of cabinet as part of institutional reconfiguration of government.

The low-hanging fruit will be to reduce the size of the Cabinet. Even a country like China, 20 times larger than South Africa, has a cabinet with 24 ministers compared to South Africa's 35. There is more emphasis on quality and meritocracy and less on viewing cabinet positions purely from the view of dispensing patronage.

Ramaphosa has a very difficult task ahead. Constitutionally, he can only appoint two individuals who are not members of parliament to his cabinet. That means he has to choose his cabinet from the list of MPs who are political fossils and were, by and large, part of the problem during Zuma's administration.

The reality is that most MPs have a poor grasp of their oversight roles, are often out of depth on how government works, are under-prepared, and many see themselves as no more than deployees of the ruling party.

**The Conversation**

## SA HAS A NEW PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY UNIT

**SOUTH Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa is establishing a unit in the presidency, which he hopes will improve policy development and coordination.**

This is an important initiative designed to help him address the huge challenges facing his incoming government.

There is no question that strengthening the government's policy capacity is a priority. South African Cabinet ministries are often individualistic and departments tend to operate as silos. There tends to be poor alignment, let alone coordination, of policies and programmes within national government and between the spheres of government.

The president has some power to impose discipline. But this power depends on being very well-informed

and well-briefed by his team.

The unit – called the Policy Analysis and Research Services – will be headed by Busani Ngcaweni, a seasoned mandarin in the Presidency. Ngcaweni was Chief of Staff when Ramaphosa was Deputy President. He had, remarkably, occupied this senior and sensitive post for four consecutive deputy presidents over a 10-year period.

### Topics

Over the decade he also managed to publish around eight books of essays by himself and other writers on serious South African topics such as AIDS. Before becoming chief of staff he also served as a policy researcher in the presidency during the Thabo Mbeki era. There is no doubt that he is a committed and able intellectual, and a skilled political manager.

What is the unit intended to achieve?

Can it be compared with the unit that operated during the Mbeki and Kgalema Motlanthe presidencies?

### Priorities

The unit's priority areas will be 'the economy, infrastructure planning and development, agricultural development and government service delivery'.

It will also lead on the National Health Insurance initiative which is designed to provide health care to all South Africans.

**Ngcaweni is quoted as saying that the unit's mandate will be:**

- ✓ Policy analysis and co-ordination across government and working with the forum of directors general and the Cabinet;
- ✓ The co-ordination of presidential advisory councils and working groups;

- ✓ The provision of research support to the president's advisory councils and working groups; and
- ✓ The provision of research support to the president's advisers and co-ordination of strategic programmes like the NHI.

The unit's role is expected to evolve over time as capacity is developed.

This is all reminiscent of the role played by a unit set up by Mbeki called the Policy Coordination and Advisory Services. I served as its chief economist and deputy head between 2002 and 2009.

But there are some differences. The earlier unit had additional responsibilities. These included preparing advisory memoranda for the president for Cabinet meetings, developing a five-year strategy at the beginning of each term of government and

monitoring its implementation.

It also published reports on development indicators, on policy outcomes and on political scenarios. The unit worked in close cooperation with the Cabinet office which manages cabinet processes. Top officials attended cabinet or cabinet committee meetings. Former president Jacob Zuma dismantled the unit in 2009. This was for two reasons. The first was that the unit was an Mbeki creation.

The second was that he wanted to rid himself of Joel Netshitenzhe, its powerful head and a brilliant communicator for the African National Congress (ANC) in exile.

The unit's various responsibilities were devolved to other parts of government. For example, the Department of Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation was given some of the research advisory tasks.

**The Conversation**



# Focus on SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

THULI MADONSELA FOR DEPUTY PRESIDENT?

## IT'S A 'HELL YEAH'

... FROM SOUTH AFRICANS

JOHANNESBURG - South Africans have thrown former public protector Thuli Madonsela's name into the ring for deputy president, after David Mabuza requested a postponement of his swearing-in to the position.

Taking to Twitter, hopefuls said because of the work she had done to expose corruption and state capture between 2009 and 2016, Madonsela would get the house and its members in order.

The former public protector's name jumped to the Twitter trends list after radio host Bruce Whitfield interviewed Business Leadership SA COO Busisiwe Mavuso.

"I hear then name of Thuli Madonsela has been mentioned (for deputy president). We think she would be a brilliant, brilliant appointment," said Mavuso. Even though Madonsela's name was the number one suggestion, in terms of Section 91 (3) of the Constitution, the president has to select a deputy president from the existing members of the National Assembly.

Timeslive



IT'S A YES FROM ME: Former public protector Thuli Madonsela.

## MABUZA PLAYING HIS POLITICAL CARDS CLOSE TO THE CHEST

JOHANNESBURG - ANC Deputy President David Mabuza has done it again, leaving SA guessing about his next political move - while he consolidates his power.

The country was left with many questions yesterday morning when President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his capacity as ANC leader, announced that Mabuza had asked not to be sworn in as an MP as he wanted to first clear

his name before the ruling party's integrity commission.

"In the meantime, he has decided nevertheless to follow the dictates of his conscience and postpone his swearing in..." Ramaphosa said.

The president applauded Mabuza for 'his resolve to put the interests of the ANC first'.

According to a City Press report a month before the May 8 elections, Mabuza is among 22 ANC leaders, whose nomination as parliamentary candidates was 'flagged as problematic' by the com-

mission.

Other high-profile leaders on that list were party national chairperson Gwede Mantashe, outgoing women minister Bathabile Dlamini, head of the ANC presidency Zizi Kodwa and former minister Nomvula Mokonyane.

It is not clear why Mabuza has been the only one on the list who has decided not to take up his parliamentary seat until his name is cleared.

His spokesperson, Thami Ngwenya, said Mabuza's decision was in line with the party's new approach where it requires those who are accused of corruption to clear their names before taking up positions of responsibility.

"Remember, there is an issue of renewal here and therefore these

processes must be followed," said Ngwenya.

ANC sources close to Mabuza claimed he first told party officials he was removing his name from the list but they advised him to merely postpone his swearing in until he has had a chance to speak to the integrity commission.

Mabuza's decision has sparked speculation that when Ramaphosa announces his new cabinet on Monday, Mabuza would be replaced either by outgoing higher education minister Naledi Pandor or minister in the presidency Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

It has also raised questions whether a new power struggle has begun in the ruling ANC, even before Ramaphosa has taken office under a fresh popular mandate. *News24*

## New KZN Premier Sihle Zikalala vows to fight graft in provincial govt

PIETERMARITZBURG - Newly-elected KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala has identified crime and corruption as a key priority for government in the next five years.

He was delivering his acceptance speech immediately after being elected in a sitting presided over by KZN Judge President Achmat Japie at the KZN Legislature on Wednesday. Zikalala thanked the voters who supported all the polit-

ical parties in the province, saying that elected leaders were the 'credible and collective voice of the people in the province'. "In the coming five years, we shall continue to work together to improve service delivery, fighting poverty, unemployment, crime and corruption," Zikalala said. He also highlighted the need to revamp both the health and education systems which were the two biggest spending items for provincial government. *News24*

## Zuma forced to retract 'scandalous, untrue' claims against Billy Downer

DURBAN - Former president Jacob Zuma has agreed to strike out a number of his sworn accusations against the lead prosecutor in the corruption case against him - including that Advocate Billy Downer was a liar, too driven by his own hatred to be objective about the case.

This means that these claims, which include Zuma's contention that Downer was nostalgic for apartheid-era prosecutions, will not be considered by the judges deciding Zuma's application for a permanent stay of prosecution.

Downer had asked the Pietermaritzburg High Court to 'strike' or remove more than a dozen 'scandalous and vexatious' and 'untrue and unwarranted' statements Zuma made about him in his application for a permanent stay of his corruption prosecution.

"First, without any substantiation, Zuma alleges that I hate him ... I am blinded by an obsession with his conviction ... I seem nostalgic about the manner in which apartheid prosecutions authorities deal with those they considered guilty or undesirable ... and persons within the NPA may have apartheid withdrawal symptoms," Downer states.

He adds that the "state is prejudiced by (these) parts of Zuma's replying affidavit ... because they amount to reckless and odious posturing apparently aimed at condemning the public's perception of the integrity of the NPA and particularly the person responsible for conducting the prosecution in court (ie me)".

## EFF accuses former councillors of diverting party funds

DURBAN - The EFF in KwaZulu-Natal said it is pursuing fraud and corruption charges against five of its former councillors in eThekweni Municipality who were expelled from the party on allegations that they embezzled party constituency funds.

EFF Provincial Chairperson Vusi Khoza told Independent Media that the party had laid charges against the proportional representation (PR) councillors and that 'police are investigating'.

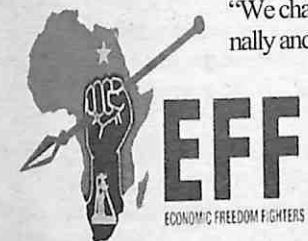
"We are talking in the region of about R480 000 which was constituency money that came from the eThekweni council meant to be handed over to the party, but it was diverted to their personal accounts.

"We charged them internally and we found them guilty. The process of expelling them started six months ago and it ran until last month," said Khoza.

Khoza said the alleged fraudulent activities started after the councillors were sworn in after the 2016 local government elections.

"We have since replaced them, and the new councillors would be sworn-in on May 29. There was no need for by-elections since they were PR councillors," said Khoza.

News24



## Cop killed while chasing house robber on Stellenbosch farm

JOHANNESBURG - A policeman was killed while pursuing a house robber on a Stellenbosch farm, Western Cape police said yesterday.

The constable, aged 31, had been part of the Stellenbosch Crime Prevention Unit, said police spokesperson Captain FC van Wyk. On Wednesday, police received information about the

planned house robbery but they didn't know the name of the farm. They patrolled the area and spotted a group of people who appeared suspicious. While pursuing the group at around 21:50, the constable was shot and killed. "It was then established that the house robbery was indeed committed at 20:00 at a farm near Vloetburg.

Times Live



WATCHING YOU: David Mabuza.





**RESTING PLACE:** A total of 1 214 Jewish victims from the Nazi ghetto in Brest were laid to rest in the city cemetery on Wednesday after builders uncovered a mass grave beneath a construction site in January this year. (Daily Mail)

## REMAINS OF 1 200 HOLOCAUST VICTIMS LAID TO REST

**BELARUS -** Belarus has buried more than 1 200 Jewish Holocaust victims whose remains were unearthed earlier this year after builders uncovered a Nazi mass grave beneath a construction site.

Soldiers were called to the site in Brest city centre in January and spent weeks exhuming a total of 1 214 bodies of victims from the site of the former Brześć Ghetto, which existed from 1941 until 1942.

The remains were placed in 120 blue caskets embossed with the Star of David and then reburied two-deep and 10 abreast in the city cemetery, watched by 300 mourners in a solemn ceremony led by a Rabbi.

Belarusian soldiers gave a gun salute as mourners, including the Israeli ambassador, took it in turns to throw soil over the coffins before they were fully covered.

"The soul goes up to heaven through this process, so it was very important for the Jewish community that it was all done with Jewish custom," said Israel's Ambassador in Belarus, Alon Shoham.

Up to 28 000 Jews are thought to have been kept at the Brześć Ghetto during its year of existence, in what was then Nazi-occupied Poland.

Some 17 000 people are known to have been shot in October 1942 near Bronnaya Gora railway station, with thousands more presumed dead - though their exact fate is unknown.

Historic accounts say victims were ordered by Hitler's forces to strip naked before being shot. The mass grave was uncovered by chance in January as builders were laying the foundations for an upmarket housing development, prompting an operation to exhume their remains.

Some of the skulls they found bore bullet holes, suggesting victims had been executed by a shot to the back of the head. Soldiers also found personal effects such as leather shoes that had not rotted.

Historical records said many of the victims were forced to strip naked before being murdered.

"I have mixed feelings," Jewish community member Regina Simonenko said after the funeral. She said she had been shaken by the sheer horror of the events, but that it was important that they had been remembered.

"If we don't remember, then things like this can happen again." *Daily Mail*



**FAREWELL:** The skeletal remains were packed into blue coffins bearing the Star of David and then covered with a shroud before 300 onlookers took it in turns to throw soil on the caskets.



**LAST RESPECT:** Volunteers of the Jerusalem-based ZAKA International Rescue Unit, an Israeli humanitarian organisation, pray over coffins at the Severnoye cemetery before they are buried.



### National Emergency Response Council On HIV/AIDS

#### VACANCIES

A vacancy of Head of Programs exists in the Response Leadership and Coordination Division requiring replacement. Any interested Employee with the requisite requirements as stated in the advert below are requested to submit their CV, Motivation Letter and Certified Academic Certificates to the HR Office through email; [recruitment@nercha.org.sz](mailto:recruitment@nercha.org.sz).

#### Job Title: Head of Programs

**Division:** Response Leadership and Coordination Division

**Department:** Response Leadership and Coordination

#### Key Function:

To lead strategic and technical Programmatic Interventions for the multisectoral HIV and AIDS Response as defined in the National Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS. The role is to facilitate National HIV and AIDS Programming which includes National HIV Prevention Management and Implementation, HIV and AIDS Operational Research, Programme Monitoring and Evaluation, Joint Planning, Technical Partnership Management, Programme Policy development and Coordination, Programme Systems Strengthening, Sector and Regional HIV and AIDS Coordination, and Programme Resource Mobilization.

#### Key Performance Areas:

- I. To lead the Coordination of Program implementation for the multisectoral.
- II. HIV management and programming
- III. Support sustainable financing of National HIV Programs
- IV. Provide strategic information to National HIV Programs
- V. Support Operational joint planning and systems strengthening
- VI. Comprehensive National HIV Programmes developed and implemented
- VII. Partnership and Stakeholder Relationship Management
- VIII. National Resource Mobilisation for National HIV Programs
- IX. Planning and budget management
- X. Risk Management, Business process management, policies and procedures development
- XI. Global epidemiology and disease surveillance

#### Skills:

- Strong Strategic leadership and management
- Analytical especially disease burden analysis, EPI analysis and modelling
- Global and national HIV strategy development
- Stakeholder Relationship Management
- Conflict Resolution and problem solving
- Networking and Communication
- Negotiation, motivation and target focused
- Presentation and reporting
- Community engagement

#### Required Education/Qualifications:

#### Minimum:

- Master's in Leadership and Management or
- Master's Degree in Health Science Management

#### Added Advantage:

- Post graduate certificate in Change Management
- Public health administration certificate

#### Required Experience:

#### Minimum:

- At least 4 years' experience in public health leadership and management of which 3 years should be at senior management level

#### Added Advantage:

- At least 3 years' experience in donor funding or government environment at management level

**Closing Date: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

A vacancy of National HIV Prevention Specialist exists in the Response Leadership and Coordination Division requiring replacement. Any interested Employee with the requisite requirements as stated in the advert below are requested to submit their CV, Motivation Letter and Certified Academic Certificates to the HR Office through email; [recruitment@nercha.org.sz](mailto:recruitment@nercha.org.sz).

#### Job Title: National HIV Prevention Specialist

**Division:** Response Leadership and Coordination Division

**Department:** National HIV Prevention

#### Key Function:

To facilitate the implementation and management of National HIV prevention response by providing joint planning, monitoring, guidance and design of prevention programming. The position has to facilitate harmonised service delivery and equitable distribution of HIV prevention programmes targeting priority groups aligned to NSF and vision of the country.

#### Key Performance Areas:

- I. Multisectoral HIV prevention coordination.
- II. Joint planning for National Prevention response
- III. Prevention Programmes development
- IV. Targeting high impact groups and alignment of prevention programmes to National HIV Prevention Policy and other related policies.
- V. Resource mobilization
- VI. Planning and Budget management
- VII. Reporting - produce and submit monthly, quarterly, annually operational reports.

#### Skills:

- Research and Analytical
- Communication, network and interpersonal skills
- Stakeholder relations management
- Conflict resolution and problem solving
- Presentation and writing report
- Community engagement
- National HIV Strategy Development

#### Required Education/Qualifications:

#### Minimum:

- Degree in Public Health or Health Science Management

#### Added Advantage:

- A Certificate in Tropical diseases, epidemiology
- Certificate in Programme planning or project management or Policy analysis
- Master's Degree in Public Health or Behavioural Science

#### Required Experience:

#### Minimum:

- 5 years' experience in HIV prevention

#### Added Advantage:

- 3 years' experience in Donor funded environment or Government environment.

**Closing Date: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

A vacancy of Director Coordination exists in the Response Leadership and Coordination Division requiring replacement. Any interested Employee with the requisite requirements as stated in the advert below are requested to submit their CV, Motivation Letter and Certified Academic Certificates to the HR Office through email; [recruitment@nercha.org.sz](mailto:recruitment@nercha.org.sz).

#### Job Title: Director Coordination

**Division:** Response Leadership and Coordination Division

**Department:** Response Leadership and Coordination

#### Key Function:

To direct and provide strategic and technical leadership and partnership management for the multisectoral HIV and AIDS Response. The role includes oversight of HIV prevention management, Strategic Information, HIV Research, Monitoring and Evaluation, HIV and AIDS Programming, Joint Planning, Policy development, Response Coordination, Systems Strengthening, Communication Information and Knowledge Management, Regional HIV and AIDS coordination and Resource Mobilization

#### Key Performance Areas:

- I. Strategic Leadership, operational joint planning and systems strengthening HIV management and programming
- II. Partnership and Stakeholder Relationship Management
- III. Global epidemiology and disease surveillance
- IV. Response management,
- V. Response Management, Strategic Information, research and coordination
- VI. National HIV Prevention Management
- VII. National HIV Programming
- VIII. Support National Resource Mobilization efforts for HIV and AIDS response
- IX. HIV and AIDS Information and Knowledge Management
- X. Internal Planning and Budget Management
- XI. Risk Management, Business process management, policies and procedures development
- XII. Reporting
- XIII. Staff Management

#### Skills:

- Analytical especially disease burden analysis, EPI analysis and modelling
- Global and national HIV strategy development
- Strategic leadership and management
- Stakeholder Relationship Management
- Conflict Resolution and problem solving
- Networking and Communication
- Negotiation
- Presentation and reporting
- Community engagement

#### Required Education/Qualifications:

#### Minimum:

- Master's in Leadership and Management
- Master's Degree in Health Science Management or Epidemiology

#### Added Advantage:

- Post graduate certificate in Change Management
- Public health administration certificate

#### Required Experience:

#### Minimum:

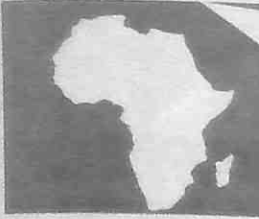
- At least 8 years' experience in public health leadership and management of which 5 years should be at senior management level

#### Added Advantage:

- At least 5 years' experience in donor funding or government environment at management level

**Closing Date: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019**





## Focus on Africa News

## Continental News

# MOZAMBIQUE WELCOMES EX-MINISTER'S EXTRADITION

MAPUTO - Mozambique on Wednesday welcomed South Africa's decision to extradite former finance minister Manuel Chang to Maputo, rather than the United States, over a government corruption scandal.

"This is a free and sovereign decision," Foreign Minister Jose Pacheco said in an interview with the Mozambican daily O Pais.

Chang, 63, was arrested in South Africa in December at the request of US authorities over alleged involvement in fraudulent loans to Mozambique state firms worth US \$2 billion (1.76 billion Euros).

In the US, Chang faces charges of conspiracy to commit electronic fraud, financial security violations and money laundering.



**EXTRADICTED:** Former Mozambique Finance Minister Manuel Chang.

Mozambique has accused Chang of receiving US \$17 million in kickbacks in a scam, which creamed off hundreds of millions of Dollars.

The charges against Chang relate to loans taken out by the government in Maputo when he was head of treasury between 2005 and 2015.

When the hidden debt was revealed, Mozambique - which relies on donor aid and is one of the world's poorest countries - was plunged into the worst financial crisis in its history.

Renamo, the main opposition party in Mozambique, said on Wednesday it doubted whether Chang would ever face justice in his home country over the allegations.

Mozambique has arrested several other suspects linked to the scandal, including the son of ex-president Armando Guebuza, and senior intelligence officials.

In January, three former Credit Suisse workers were arrested in London and charged over the allegations.

AFP

## 'Not everything in Africa is for sale'

CAPE TOWN - The Zimbabwe Elephant Foundation will be joining forces with international NGOs for a silent protest over the export of wild baby elephants.

It has been reported that a total of 108 baby elephants were sold by Zimbabwe to zoos in China and the UAE since 2012. The protest is set to take place today at the Chinese Embassy in London. "What China needs to understand is that not everything in Africa is for sale," said protest organiser, Noma Dube of the Zimbabwe Elephant Foundation. Dube wrote an open letter to Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa, calling on the country to stop selling the animals. "Seeing the wildlife as something which can be uplifted and sold like a ripe fruit off a tree into a terrifying chasm. So huge is this demand that we could sell or kill every single living thing in Zimbabwe, it would be like one drop of water going into an ocean."

AFP

## US unhappy with SA's decision to extradition

PRETORIA - The United States of America on Wednesday expressed disappointment with Pretoria's decision to send home former Mozambique finance minister Manuel Chang, who has been held since December on a US arrest warrant, to face corruption charges in Maputo.

"The US Embassy in Pretoria notes with great disappointment the media statement issued by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services (Michael Masutha) indicating that the Republic of South Africa, despite having received our formal extradition request before that of the Republic of Mozambique, has decided to extradite former Mozambican minister of finance Manuel Chang to Mozambique," said US Embassy's Spokesperson Robert Meakle.

"We urge the government of South Africa to send Mr Chang to the United States to stand trial for these alleged crimes, which victimised US citizens and robbed the government of Mozambique of over

US \$700 million.

"Meakle said Chang is accused of carrying out a US \$2 billion (nearly R28 billion) fraud in a money laundering scheme 'that took advantage of the US financial system and defrauded US investors'.

### Loan

"It is because of Chang's alleged involvement in these financial crimes that the United States sought Chang's arrest and extradition," he said.

Chang, 63, was arrested in South Africa in December last year, on the strength of an Interpol Red Notice issued by United States authorities seeking Chang's extradition.

He was finance minister between 2005 and 2015, under the presidency of Armando Guebuza.

During his tenure in Maputo, Chang oversaw the signing of several secret loans valued at US\$2-billion to fund a coastal protection plan finalised between 2013/14 with the creation of three companies called Empresa Moçambicana de Atum (Ematum), Proindicus and

Mozambique Asset Management (MAM).

The procurement of the loans, effectively driven by the country's security services, bypassed all regulatory oversight.

The debt was kept secret by Guebuza's successor, Filipe Nyusi, who had also served as minister of defence in Guebuza's Cabinet until 2016.

The hidden debt plunged impoverished Mozambique into crisis, with debt rising to 112 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) by the end of 2017.

This hidden debt led the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to suspend lending to Mozambique and all 14 donors and funding agencies that used to provide direct support to the Mozambican state budget, and the IMF also suspended all disbursement.

On Tuesday, Masutha announced that South Africa was extraditing Chang to Mozambique to face the corruption charges.

AFP

## Somalia and Kenya tensions rise in visa row

SOMALIA - Somalia has raised 'great concern' with the Kenyan government, accusing it of detaining and confiscating the passports of Somali ministers, trying to enter the country.

The Somali foreign affairs ministry contacted Kenyan authorities on Tuesday, in a letter authenticated by AFP, complaining about the treatment of MPs and cabinet ministers who were forced 'to return to Mogadishu'.

The ministry 'notes with great concern the recent decision of the government of Kenya to restrict the issuance of entry visas', the letter said.

Somali radio reported that a deputy minister and two Somali senators, holding diplomatic passports, were barred from entering Kenya on Monday.

Monica Juma, Kenya's cabinet secretary for foreign affairs, on Tuesday declined to comment on the specific case but said visitors with valid visas would not be denied entry.

"I'd be very surprised if anybody was turned away with a visa," she said.

But one of the Somali senators concerned, Ilyas Ali Hassan, told AFP he and colleagues were barred from entering Kenya.

"I was personally coming from London and my colleagues from Mogadishu when we have become stuck at the Jomo Kenya Airport," Hassan said.

"This was actually quite confusing because we used to come to Kenya and never had similar experience," he added.

In the letter, the Somali foreign affairs ministry also raised concerns that Kenya has reinstated a mandatory stop at Wajir, near the border between the two countries, for a security check on all flights from Somalia.

The practice was discontinued in 2016.

Relations between Mogadishu and Nairobi deteriorated earlier this year after Somalia decided to auction off oil and gas blocks in a disputed maritime area.

Nairobi recalled its ambassador from Mogadishu in February in the row over which of the east African neighbours controls access to the lucrative deposits. A disputed triangle of water, which stretches over an area of more than 100 000 square kilometres (40 000 square miles), is believed to hold valuable deposits of oil and gas in a part of Africa only recently found to be sitting on significant reserves.

AFP

## BRIEFS

### Bleak first quarter of 2019 for mining firms

BULAWAYO - Mining houses in Zimbabwe experienced a bleak first quarter of 2019 as delays and the non-payment of foreign currency earnings by the Central Bank stifled production. Chamber of Mines Chief Executive Isaac Kwesu said on Wednesday at a media briefing that preliminary figures indicate that most key minerals recorded negative growth. "The systematic challenges across most minerals have a lot to do with delays in allocation of foreign exchange." Subscribe to Fin24's newsletter here In the first three months of the year, Zimbabwe's gold output was 6.5 tonnes, down 10.95 per cent from 7.3 tonnes over the same period a year ago. Fin24

### Armed gang kills 18 in Nigeria

MAIDUGURI - An armed gang killed at least 18 people in the north-west Nigerian state of Katsina, police and residents said on Wednesday, as unrest spreads across the region and into the president's home state. Hundreds of people have died in Nigeria's north-west since the beginning of the year, in attacks the government attributes to bandits, a loose term for gangs of outlaws carrying out robberies and kidnappings. Despite military and police operations to quell the conflict, the death toll continues to rise, along with incidents of kidnapping and robbery. Security experts say Nigeria can ill-afford more instability, with the country already struggling to contain Islamist insurgencies. Reuters

### MTN pays off bulk of \$1.5 billion

ABUJA - South African telecoms giant MTN has paid more than three-quarters of a record US \$1.5 billion dollar fine levelled by Nigeria for failing to disconnect unregistered subscribers, the government said. Africa's biggest wireless operator was initially fined US \$3.9 billion in October 2015, after failing to disconnect 5.1 million subscribers - amid concerns the lines were being used by Boko Haram insurgents. After series of negotiations, the fine was reduced to US \$1.5 billion, or 330 billion Naira. "MTN has so far paid 275 billion Naira to the federal government," the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) said in a statement.

AFP

### Commuters ride on bus roofs

HARARE - The Zimbabwe Passenger Company (ZUPCO) has taken over some transport routes in Harare and Bulawayo at reduced prices to bring relief to commuters hit hard by a massive fuel price hike in the country. This was revealed on state television by finance secretary George Guvamatanga after the government announced a 50 per cent fuel hike, which directly affects public transport as well as goods and services. "The austerity measure we have done is to have Zupco charging US \$0.50 now [so] that you can save the other US \$0.50, so you have extras to buy for basic commodities," he said.

AFP



# Focus on World News

Global News

## BRITISH PM THERESA MAY'S PREMIERSHIP HANGS BY A THREAD

**LONDON** - Theresa May's premiership is hanging by a thread as a high-profile Cabinet minister quit and a growing revolt over Brexit looked set to force the British leader from power.

Andrea Leadsom resigned late on Wednesday, saying she no longer believed the government's approach will honour the result of the 2016 referendum. May said she was "sorry" Leadsom had quit, while rejecting her reasons for doing so. The premier's office said she would stay focused on delivering Brexit.

Leadsom and other ministers spent much of Wednesday in private talks plotting to kill May's last-gasp plan to use a possible second referendum to get her divorce agreement through Parliament. As the pro-Brexit faction within May's Cabinet discussed how to coordinate their revolt, the most senior rank-and-file members of her Conservative Party held a crisis meeting to weigh up whether to throw her out. The pound fell as investors braced for the prospect that a pro-Brexit hardliner will succeed May, and could rip Britain out of the European Union with no deal to cushion the blow.



**HANGING BY THE THREAD:** Theresa May.

Wednesday was a day when May's authority appeared visibly to drain away.

As she spoke in the Commons, May's colleagues paid little attention to what she said. Many did not even show up to watch the prime minister set out her "bold" new plan for Brexit.

Yesterday the UK held a set of elections for the European Parliament that the premier hoped she'd never have to

hold, and her party is bracing for a drubbing.

With May's time in office drawing to a close, the fate of Brexit looks set to be decided by her successor.

The trigger for the unrest was the prime minister's announcement on Tuesday of a package of measures aimed at getting her Brexit deal through Parliament. The proposals, which included a temporary customs union and the possibility of a second referendum to ratify the divorce deal, shocked pro-Brexit ministers who complained it wasn't what they had agreed to in Cabinet.

"I do not believe that we will be a truly sovereign United Kingdom through the deal that is now proposed," Leadsom wrote in her letter to May.

"I have always maintained that a second referendum would be dangerously divisive and I do not support the government willingly facilitating such a concession."

According to people familiar with the matter, there is no chance the Cabinet will now back the Withdrawal Agreement Bill in its current form.

AFP

## Trump outraged after Pelosi accusations of being 'engaged in coverup'

**WASHINGTON** - Donald Trump erupted in fury Wednesday at unrelenting probes into his links to Russia, as the top Democrat in Congress accused the president of a "cover-up" that could be an impeachable offence.

A livid Trump abruptly shut down a White House meeting with Democratic leaders Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer, announcing he could not deal with them on policy until "phony investigations" are brought to a close.

The clash marked a dramatic escalation in Trump's war of words with congressional opponents seeking to bring him to account for what they say is presidential wrongdoing.

Trump's ire was seemingly triggered by House Speaker Pelosi, his nemesis in Congress, who declared following an emergency meeting with lawmakers earlier on Wednesday: "We believe that the president of the United States is engaged in a cover-up."

"I don't do cover-ups," Trump shot back at a hastily arranged Rose Garden press event moments after the aborted White House talks.

"So get these phony investigations over with," Trump said -- warning a failure to do so would spell gridlock on issues like fixing the country's infrastructure, on which the two sides had hoped for a breakthrough on Wednesday.

"You can't investigate and legislate

simultaneously," he added. "It just doesn't work that way."

A two-year investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller into Russia's interference in the 2016 US election concluded there was no hard evidence Trump's campaign colluded with Moscow.

But the prosecutor said he could not rule clearly on whether Trump obstructed justice, leaving it to the Trump-appointed Attorney General, Bill Barr, to declare there was no obstruction.

The Democrats' decision to pursue the grey areas of the investigation -- and their open discussion of whether to pursue the politically perilous process of impeachment -- has enraged Trump.

News24

## Modi claims India poll win, vows 'inclusive' future

**NEW DELHI** - India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed victory yesterday in the country's elections, promising an "inclusive" future after his Hindu nationalist party appeared headed for a landslide win.

According to Election Commission data based on votes counted so far, Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is on course to win around 300 of 543 elected seats in India's lower house, surpassing its 2014 victory and crushing the opposition Congress party's hopes of a comeback.

"Together we grow. Together we prosper. Together we will build a strong and inclusive India. India wins yet again!," Modi tweeted after votes counted so far pointed to a BJP landslide.

The BJP has been accused by critics of discriminating against India's religious minorities, in particular its 170 million-strong Muslim population.

Under Modi, lynchings of Muslims and low-caste Dalits for eating beef and slaughtering and trading in cattle have risen.

Several cities with names rooted in India's Islamic Mughal past have been renamed, while some school textbooks have been changed to downplay Muslims' contributions to the country.

Modi ally and BJP party boss Amit Shah tweeted that the election results, which are yet to be finalised, were a victory "for all of India".

"This result is India's verdict against the propaganda, lies, personal attacks and baseless politics of the opposition," he added.

"Today's mandate also shows that people of India have entirely uprooted casteism, nepotism and appeasement to choose nationalism and development."

AFP



**CONGRATULATIONS:** India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## 13 years after he took office

**TOKYO** - What's the name of the Japanese Prime Minister? Chances are that even international politics experts and trivia buffs have been getting that one wrong for 13 years.

Tokyo is taking the opportunity of the dawning of the new Reiwa (beautiful harmony) era that began this month with the coronation of Emperor Naruhito to ask media in

the rest of the world to call the leader they have known as Shinzo Abe by his right name, Abe Shinzo.

"I plan to ask international media organisations to do this," Foreign Minister Taro Kono said.

"Domestic media outlets that have English services should consider it, too," the foreign minister added.

Daily Mail

## BRIEFS

### Pakistan calls for peace with India

**ISLAMABAD** - Pakistan has signalled a willingness to open peace talks with India as Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears set to return to power in New Delhi after an election fought in the shadow of renewed confrontation between the nuclear-armed enemies.

#### Weapons

But in a possible warning to India, Pakistan also announced that it has conducted a training launch of a Shaheen II, surface-to-surface ballistic missile, which it said is capable of delivering conventional and nuclear weapons at a range of up to 1 500 miles.

Reuters

### US state to legalise human composting

**WASHINGTON** - Washington on Tuesday became the first US state to legalise human composting after its eco-friendly governor signed a bill to that effect in a bid to cut carbon emissions from burials and cremations. Under the new law that will go into effect in May of next year, people who die in the state will have the option to have their bodies transformed into soil suitable for use in gardening. The process is called recomposition.

"Recomposition offers an alternative to embalming and burial or cremation that is natural, safe, sustainable."

AFP

### Asian stores shun trade-ins

**MANILA** - Mobile phone retailers in some Asian countries are refusing to accept Huawei devices for trade-ins, as more consumers look to offload their device on worries Google suspending business with the Chinese firm will disrupt services. Google has said it will comply with an order by US President Donald Trump to stop supplying Huawei, meaning current owners of Huawei phones face being cut off from updates of the Android operating system from late August. Against this backdrop, some customers in Singapore and the Philippines have rushed to sell their Huawei phones, according to retailers and online marketplace data. Reuters

### American climber dies on Everest

**EVEREST** - An American has died on Everest, his expedition organiser said yesterday, as a rush of climbers marked one of the busiest days on the world's highest mountain. Donald Lynn Cash, 55, collapsed at the summit of the 8 848-metre (29 029-foot) peak on Wednesday as he was taking photographs. "Our two Sherpas helped him gain consciousness but he died close to the Hilary Step as they were bringing him back," Pasang Tenje Sherpa of Pioneer Adventure told AFP. His death came as more than 200 climbers were heading towards the summit on both sides of Everest on Wednesday as the weather cleared, with complaints of a traffic jam close to the top.

AP



# Observer Entertainment

New Reviews Star Signs Celebrity Watch Cartoons

## BRING YOUR FIRE

COMPILED BY AYANDA DLAMINI

**THE MTN Bushfire festival is finally here! Four stages in one arena, It's about to go down at House on Fire from tonight until Sunday!**

Kids, teenagers and adults please come out of the house and have some fun this weekend.

Winner of the African Responsible Tourism Awards Most Sustainable Event Award in 2017, the MTN Bushfire was also hailed in 2016 by CNN as one of the 'Seven African music festivals you really have to see' and listed by BBC as a 'Top African festival'.

More than a festival, MTN Bushfire is a living, breathing ecosystem deeply rooted in African soil, yet inclusive and welcoming to guests from all over the world. MTN Bushfire 2019 will continue to reflect the festival's distinctly African ethos, with a strong focus on regional music, culture and arts. Less talk, see for yourself where and when to have fun this weekend.

### TONIGHT!

#### MTN BUSHFIRE FESTIVAL

**Where:** HOF, Malkerns

**Time:** Noon

Get your dancing shoes ready for the Bushfire fest.

This year's festival will see Mr Eazi, Moonchild, Black Motion, Trompies, Nana, Mahube, DJ Cybos, Sampa the Great, Asa, Tsepho Tshola, Lindogo, Meaute and many more performing.

The fun starts tonight and ends on Sunday evening.

There is also 'The Barn,' a place of soulful and intimate music and poetry. Your MCs at the main stage are Anakhonzza and Phiwokuhle Dhlamini.

Just bring your fire.

#### ZULU D & NYD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH SIMMY

**Where:** Solani's Shisanyama

**Time:** 6pm

'Umahlalela' hit-maker Simmy is making her way to Solani's Shisanyama tonight as 'Mr 4 tours' will be celebrating his birthday party. MegaSound crew, Solani's Shisanyama resident spinners, Milotion, Mavava and M-Nation will provide perfect tunes for the night. Entry fee is E100.

#### SPARKS BANTWANA'S QOLO LAMI TOUR

**Where:** Déjà Vu Cocktail Lounge

**Time:** 6pm

The 'Wola lapho' hit-maker will be launching

### ● It's Bushfire weekend!



MAPANSULA: Trompies.

his new project dubbed 'Qolo Lami' tonight at Esibayeni Lodge. DJ Wicked, Tempt, Lungster, Menzi, Mistosoul, Spice and Mavava will on the turntables doing the most. Entry fee is E70 before 10pm to E100 thereafter.

#### THE FIRE WEEKEND

**Where:** Maps Town Shisanyama

**Time:** 3pm

Maphiveni will come alive tonight as DJ Kish will be hosting the The Fire Weekend show and on the turntables will be Mazwelany and Supreme X. The entry is free.

#### TOMORROW

##### WINTER SCARF & BOOTS PARTY

**Where:** Emfuleni Lifestyle

**Time:** 1pm

South African amapiano specialists Tall Arse Tee, Katgee Da King, DJ Macflowlen and Lungster Da Deepster will be making their way to Emfuleni Lifestyle tomorrow. Amapiano will be the order of the day. Supporting acts will be Illa Penboy, Msizi, Symphony and Popzin. Entry fee is E150 for general and E350 for VIP tickets.

#### MATSAPHA CREW FIRST ANNUAL SPINNING SHOW

**Where:** Riders Ranch, Sidvokodvo

**Time:** 2pm

Spinning fanatics are heading to Riders Ranch tomorrow for the Matsapha Crew's Annual Spinning Show. Entry fee is E120 at the gate and E50 for kids.

#### URBAN SATURDAY WITH BOKKIE ULT

**Where:** Solani's Shisanyama

**Time:** 4pm

Bokkie ULT will be rocking the stage at the Urban Saturday with cool tunes alongside Solani's resident DJs Bloss, Dope Deep, Ayacity, Culolam and M'Eugie to mention a few. Entry fee is E40 after 10pm.

#### SUNDAY

##### SIN SUNDAY FEATURING MAANDA, GAPIANIST

**Where:** Solani's Shisanyama

**Time:** 4pm

DJs Ntombz, Zulu D, Crooks and Simo will be rocking the decks on Sunday. Make your way this Sunday, bring your family and friends and enjoy cool music and good food with Bloss, Dope Deep, Ayacity, Culolam and M'Eugie to mention a few. Entry is free.

#### SAVE THE DATE THE EPIC GIG

**Where:** Mavuso Trade Centre

**When:** June 29



COMING: Tsepho-Tshola.

#### SWAZI MOBILE FESTIVAL XPLOSION

**Where:** Dwaleni

**When:** July

**When:** July

27



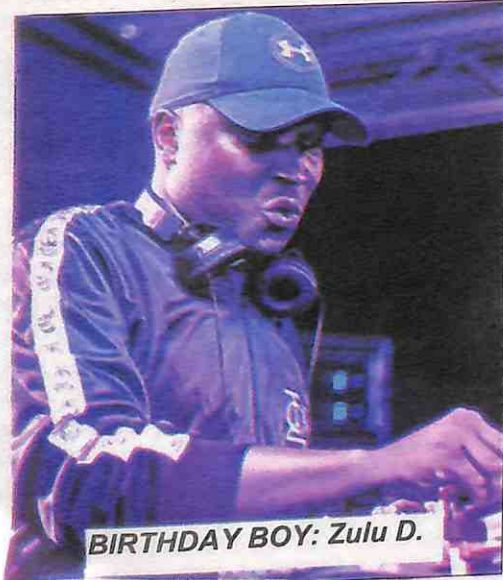
LINED-UP: Asa.



DRUM KINGS: Black Motion.



AMAPIANO SPECIALIST: Tall Arse Tee.



BIRTHDAY BOY: Zulu D.



UMAHLALELA: Simmy.

TO LIGHT THE FIRE: Moonchild.

#### STANDARD BANK LUJU FESTIVAL

**Where:** Malandelas, Malkerns

**When:** August 3



# Saxophonist Zwile comes out of shell

BY DELISA THWALA

**SAXOPHONIST** Zwile Bhembe is set to host a one-man show on July 26 at the Jazz Gallery in Mbabane.

This was confirmed by Founder of the Into Music Society, also known as the Jazz Gallery, Nelisa Lawton.

She said they were looking forward to seeing him finally flourish as they took him under their wing and have mentored him ever since.

"He is a hard worker, we are pushing

greatness for him, and we cannot wait to see him headline the show," said Lawton. The one-man show is an Afro jazz that will be headlined by Zwile and accompanied by a four-piece band.

The piece will include a drummer, guitarist a pianist and the music producer. Bhembe will be performing most of his composition while rendering some popular hits known by his music fanatics.

Speaking to Bhembe, he said he had prepared a guest guitarist who will be a surprise act.

He also expressed how he was looking forward to the show and cannot wait to give relaxing music to his fans and everyone in attendance.

"I cannot wait to perform for my wide range of fans, as I serve the younger and older crowd with my saxophone," said Bhembe.

Zwile has also had a chance to collaborate with Itallo.

He has also played alongside international acts, the most recent one being last weekend, where he opened for the 'Abraham Mennin Trio'.



COMES OUT OF SHELL: Saxophonist Zwile Bhembe.

# GET EDUCATION FIRST, SAKHILE TELLS ARTISTS

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

**SWAZI Jive Founder and Director Sakhile Nkambule** has advised artists to acquire education before anything else.

After a Tweet from the Knowledge Institution advertising an available scholarship, Nkambule re-tweeted the tweet and said one couldn't be the best in the entertainment industry without education.

"You can't be the best in the game without the right knowledge. I had to complete IGCSE, IB Diploma and a business degree before living like a rock

star. To all students who require study loans check the knowledge institution page," he said.

According to Nkambule, education is extremely important, as it gives people the knowledge required in the specific journey they decide to take in life.

"To be the person I am today, I went to every music class, every film class, and every business class because of my natural interests in those fields. I wasn't strong in everything else. I suffered a lot, but I kept focusing on my strengths and picking courses that

would make me a better leader, a better brand manager and a better film maker," said Nkambule during an interview with the Entertainment Desk yesterday.

Nkambule advised people to educate themselves in the fields they want to be good at even though talent opens up doors.

Being educated helps one not only in sharpening their talent, but also to help them in making a business with their talents.

EDUCATION FIRST:  
Sakhile Nkambule.

# Ezulwini Day-culinary affair next Saturday

AYANDA DLAMINI

**THE country's tourism hub, Ezulwini, will come alive next week Saturday, as it hosts a culinary themed event to showcase various food and drinks together with entertainment.**

The event, themed Ezulwini Day-Culinary Event, will be hosted by the Ezulwini Municipality in partnership with Galp Swaziland and the Wine Boutique.

The outdoor event, which includes a cooking competition, will be held at Greyhound Hall.

The event will commence at 9am until 6pm and entry is free for all attendees, with only entry fees for competition participants.

Ezulwini Municipality Chief Executive Officer Vusi Matsebula said the Ezulwini Culinary event would offer a family friendly environment for residents, corporate companies, micro businesses and socialites to network and promote local businesses, while experiencing good food, drinks and entertainment.

"This is a fun day for the whole family, as we will also have a children's corner. For the culinary skilled, the event will feature a cooking competition, will feature a cooking activity, will put which, as the main activity, will put chefs in an open kitchen but under extreme pressure to produce great food. We invite residents and the public to support this interesting event," he said.

The cooking competition will be in two categories; Professional Chefs and Family duos. The entry fee for the com-



petition is E100 for a professional chef and E70 for a family duo (adult and child).

There are prizes up for grabs, with E5 000 for the professional chef and E2 000 prize for the winning family duo.

Explaining how the competition would work, a press release from the municipality states that professional chefs will be given a mystery basket and allowed to produce any dish using the contents of the mystery basket.

Home cooks, on the other hand, will be asked to simply prepare and present their best dish. This competition will showcase skills from our local chefs, which will be judged by a panel of food experts.

There will be cash prizes for the win-

ners in both categories as aforementioned.

There will be other prizes to be won by competition entrees, including wine and wine-tasting vouchers from the Wine Boutique.

Activities of the day include exploring a wide variety of stalls, which will also comprise food carts from your local favourite restaurants, modern as well as traditional Eswatini cuisine.

The event will also showcase various health and wellness products, and cooking equipment for the modern-day cook. There will also be a children's corner with a number of fun activities.

For entry details and stall bookings, you can contact the municipality at 2416 2531 or email [zwakeled@ezulwini.co.sz](mailto:zwakeled@ezulwini.co.sz).

# 'Brutus' to celebrate Father's Day in Eswatini

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

**THEMBA Ndaba, affectionately known as Brutus on Mzansi Magic's soapie; The Queen, will be celebrating Fathers' Day in the kingdom.**

Ndaba will be sharing his life experience at the Gentlemen's Convention slated for June 22 at the Happy Valley Hotel.

Hosted by Semusa Networks under the directorship of Sisusa Dlamini, approximately 200 men are expected to attend the conference.

"There's been a huge outcry from men, as we have successfully held women empowerment events. They felt left out as their partners got groomed, empowered and motivated, hence the decision to do something for them.

"I would like to encourage men to dress up on this day. Please dress to kill. The line-up is pretty cool.

"We will unpack it as the days approach. All I can say is that it will be a life-changing event," said Dlamini.

All men are invited,

including aspiring fathers are welcome.

Adding on, Dlamini believes converging men under one roof in a relaxed environment will give them an opportunity to address the day to day challenges they come across.

The approach of this platform, according to Dlamini, is interactive and value-adding in the sense that it seeks to provide men with a forum to express their experiences of being men in the 21st century and in an environment that is enabling.

Spicing up the event will be DJs Mixmash and Judah, who will dish out good music for the attendees.

Tickets to the seminar will be out as of next week Tuesday at Galitos outlets. The guest speaker, Ndaba, is a family man with strong family values. He is a father, a husband, a mentor and a businessman. He is creating a legacy in the arts industry in South Africa and he is rated as one of the best and talented actors. Themba is an intelligent man who holds a BA in Economics and rallies behind the importance of education.

Worth noting is that he did his high school in St Mark's and worked for the Barclay's Bank here in Eswatini before moving to South Africa.



COMING:  
Themba Ndaba  
aka Brutus.

There's been a huge outcry from men, as we have successfully held women empowerment events. They felt left out as their partners got groomed, empowered and motivated, hence the decision to do something for them

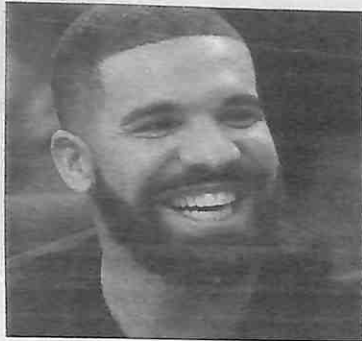


# Celebville

## International Celebrity News

### Drake called out by Bucks coach

**NEW YORK** - Drake's courtside antics during Game 4 of the Eastern Conference Finals has Bucks head coach Mike Budenholzer in his feelings. The six God did all but actually suit up for the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday, yelling during free throws, laughing when Giannis Antetokounmpo missed said free throws, and even giving Toronto coach Nick Nurse a back rub. Budenholzer weighed in on the Raps' ambassador Wednesday, and he ain't happy with Drizzy seemingly getting special access to the hardwood. "I see it in some timeouts, but I don't know of any person that's attending



**CALLED OUT: Drake.**

the game that isn't a participant in the game a coach -- I'm sorry, a player or a coach that has access to the court," Budenholzer says. *TMZ*

### Elizabeth Warren explains why Bran shouldn't have won

**LONDON** - You all know that meme about Bran Stark not contributing anything to the group project, but still getting an A? Well, Elizabeth Warren is here to tell you why that's 100 per cent correct.

We got the Massachusetts Senator and presidential hopeful on Wednesday on Capitol Hill, where she elaborated on why she thinks Bran was totally the wrong choice for the crown, an option no one seems happy with, other than meme creators, of course.

Senator Warren explains it rather simply - Bran was boring as hell in the series and didn't actually offer much of anything to the action OR the story, (unless you count a lineage discovery (that didn't go anywhere, ultimately) as mighty important.



**EXPLAINS: Elizabeth Warren.**

Even if he did serve as solid representation for the disability community, Warren says that alone just doesn't cut it as far as development and arc over the whole series. *TMZ*

### DJ Zinhle stays slaying with two major moves

**PRETORIA** - DJ Zinhle's slaying in the music game, but is rocking just as hard away from the decks, announcing two massive moves this week.

Zinhle is not one to flex on social media but couldn't help herself on Tuesday when she took to Twitter to share some good news with fans. She first revealed that she had flown to Cape Town for her interior decorating biz, Jiyane Atelier, to discuss launch dates and an upcoming trip to Belgium.

She also hinted at Jiyane Atelier starting a new project after having an offer accepted. But, like that episode of Oprah, that wasn't all.

Sis also revealed that her watch range, ERA by DJ Zinhle, had just scored a massive deal with jeweller American



**SLAYING: DJ Zinhle.**

Swiss. While she was tight-lipped on the special project she was working on with the retailer, she did spill a little tea, explaining that it has to do with the upcoming Africa Day and features African designs of her gear. *Sowetan Live*

### Dove ad featuring woman with albinism is 'misleading'

**SANDTON** - Model and radio host Refilwe Modiselle has questioned the inclusion of a person living with albinism in an ad campaign by Dove, explaining that the brand's products are harmful to people with the condition.

Dove launched a campaign to break down stereotypes around beauty, encouraging women from around the world to share their pictures under the hashtag #ShowUs.

The campaign has featured dozens of women from all walks of life, including those with skin conditions such as vitiligo.

It was Dove SA's decision to include



**MISLEADING: Refilwe Modiselle.**

a model with albinism in the advert for the campaign that drew the attention of Refilwe, who lives with the condition. *Sowetan Live*

### Dennis Rodman accused of slapping man

**NEW YORK** - Dennis Rodman allegedly slapped a man at his own birthday party in Florida last week, and cops say the key witness in the case is DAVID LEE ROTH! It's all spelled out in the police report obtained by TMZ, in which the Delray Beach Police Dept. describe an alleged battery on May 17 at the Buddha Sky Bar.

The alleged victim is 30-year-old Jeff Soulouque -- who says he was hanging at the party when Dennis 'unprovoked turned around and smacked him,' right in the face.

Soulouque claims Rodman imme-



**ACCUSED: Dennis Rodman.**

diately began apologising for the incident and invited him out to dinner the following night in an attempted peace offering. *TMZ*

### Kim Kardashian takes North West to Disneyland

**LAS VEGAS** - Kim Kardashian and North West are getting their party on before Memorial Day Weekend, hitting up Disneyland for a best friends' birthday bash!

Kim and her oldest daughter spent their Wednesday at the Happiest Place on Earth, cutting loose on some rides, hanging out with Mickey Mouse and grubbing down on some Mexican food.

KK's pushing a stroller, but newborn baby boy Psalm West isn't the one getting an assist from mama. Guess the latest addition to Kim and Kanye West's growing brood isn't quite ready for his first trip to the Magic Kingdom.

Hey, Psalm wouldn't be able to go



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Kim Kardashian.**

on the fun rides anyways. Sorry little buddy, Kim and North are having all the fun this time.

*TMZ*

### Papa Penny is a big, big dreamer

**SOWETO** - While people are busy deciphering Papa Penny's English and making a mockery of his lack of fluency in the language, the reality superstar is busy getting his money. And with all his passion projects in the pipeline, there's no stopping him! Papa Penny Ahee fans realised during Wednesday's episode that the Tsonga disco legend was one of the most ambitious people they had ever seen. No dream is too big for the 57-year-old and last night he shared his bucket list items. There are a lot of things he's passionate about. Among them, Papa Penny wants to be a soapie star, he plans on owning an avocado orchard (so he can give the people afro-avos) and he believes it's time to invest prop-



**BID DREAMER: Papa Penny.**

erly in Papa Penny funeral cover. Tweeps couldn't believe it as Papa Penny passionately spoke about his dreams. They realised that nothing - not his age or English pronunciation - is going to hold him back. *News24*

### Pearl Thusi has fans staring HARD

**AUCKLAND PARK** - Pearl Thusi was the talk of social media on Wednesday after her interview with Masechaba on the hit TV talk show, Behind the Story. Pearl is host of the show, which features celebs who have been making headlines over the past few months. Babes Wodumo lit up screens with her appearance on the show last week and this time it was Masechaba's turn.

The former Metro FM DJ is the current host of The Big Secret and has been an advocate for women and the fight against their women abuse. Masechaba's advocacy led



**TALK OF THE TOWN: Pearl Thusi.**

to her quizzing Babes Wodumo during a live radio interview last year about claims she had been assaulted by her boyfriend, Mampintsha. *Times Live*

## WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST



TODAY



**CONFRONTED: Judas.**

Faced with the realities of their situation, the wives struggle to decide how best to keep the family together. S'khale's intervention appears to have delivered results for Ntandane. Beauty and Judas find themselves confronted with an opportunity and a terrible choice.



TODAY



**STRUGGLING: Lungi.**

Zandre gets one step closer to finding his biological father, while Anja gets one step further away from reality. Lungi struggles to let go of the past. Sibiya thinks going back to school is cool.



TODAY



**HIDES: Imani.**

Vho-Makhadzi threatens to expose Mpho's secret which could destroy her marriage. Imani hides her new secret lover from Gugu. Waterside finally comes back to its feet.



TODAY



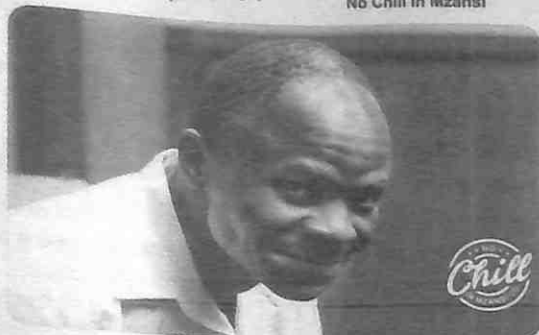
**TRUTH: Puleng.**

Puleng carries the bitter truth of Suffo's affair, Dumi calls Mapula from juvenile detention



Who else noticed that drumsticks got toothpicks?

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No Chili in Mzansi



## TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

### CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19

Today is a day for healing and reconciliation. You may have been feeling abused and mistreated lately by someone (or a few people) in your family over the past few weeks. You're now ready for a new start, because you were able to work things out and you've learned something from what happened. Take the time to savour the moment, and spend some time with the people you love.



### AQUARIUS JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18

You may feel living your life is like crossing a desert, but fortunately, Aquarius, today brings your oasis. Take advantage of it! Some people you've met over the past few weeks could turn out to be more interesting than you originally thought. It's up to you to change those parts of your personality that have been holding you back.



### PISCES FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 20

Certain questions about your family life aren't as cut and dried as you might think, Pisces. This can be the case when emotions are involved. Yet more than anyone else, you need to be careful not to hurt anyone's feelings. Today something could happen that will let you control the situation while controlling your emotions.



### ARIES MARCH 21 – APRIL 1

Aries, you may have had some confused emotions about your relationship or family over the past few days. You may not have been able to fully express your worries to others. But today these emotions will find a way to come out. Look around you. There might be someone right next to you who can help with your problems.



### TAURUS APRIL 20 – MAY 20

If every day were like today, life would be heaven, Taurus! This is potentially a wonderful time for you. You may find the answers to problems that have been bothering you for a few weeks. Keep your eyes and ears open in all conversations. You could come across the piece you've been waiting for.



### GEMINI MAY 21 – JUNE 21

Gemini, you don't have to be at everyone's beck and call all the time. This is exhausting, and you lose contact with yourself. You should try to take some time out today. Take a good look at your life to see where you're going. Go for a walk or take a long bubble bath. Things will be much clearer after a relaxing day of reflection.



### CANCER JUNE 22 – JULY 22

Is it possible you're too demanding, Cancer? Today's planetary aspects may be asking you this question. You're choosy about the people you spend time with, and you have a tendency to ask them to go too far for you. Sometimes you have trouble knowing your limits where other people are concerned. You might want to think about this.



### LEO JULY 23 – AUGUST 22

Today's a day to daydream, although this may not be an activity you usually do. You may even feel as if you're on vacation. Let's just hope people don't ask you a lot of difficult questions, because your answers will be anything but clear. But you shouldn't have to carry the weight of the world on your shoulders every day, Leo.



### VIRGO AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22

If you have someone special in your life, Virgo, today is a perfect day to stop playing at being your partner's parent, as you sometimes seem to do. Reverse roles, and let other people take care of you. The world won't fall apart if you let go for a while. No matter what happens, a day like today should open your eyes.



### LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 23

You won't be able to fix your indecisiveness, Libra. You just need to give yourself some time. The direction your life is taking isn't clear at the moment. There are great changes going on inside you. So, even though it may sound like strange advice, don't do a thing about it! Let the situation get clearer before you act.



### SCORPIO OCTOBER 24 – NOVEMBER 21

You have a strange and wonderful day ahead, Scorpio. Once you've finished your work, you may want to either draw or write something that will help you remember today for a long time. You're beginning to see the results of recent changes in you, and you're looking for a way to express them. It may be difficult to find just the right words. But aren't you a natural-born writer?



### SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21

You have a nice day in store, Sagittarius. People may seem more attentive to your needs and generally very pleasant. You may not be used to this kind of treatment! You feel more outgoing and sociable than ever. You could take advantage of the day's tolerant atmosphere to meet people you may have been too afraid to introduce yourself to. They will surely have some new things to teach you.



## BABY BLUES



## BUCKLES

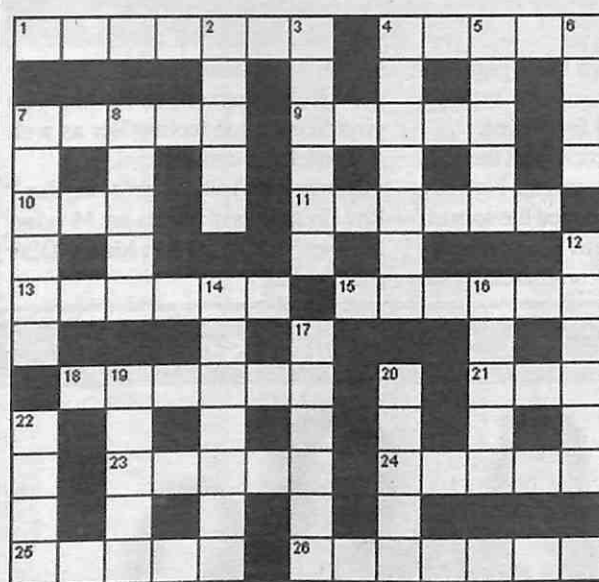


## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## PUZZLE CHOICE

### THEMED CROSSWORD



Down  
2. Marine mollusks served in chowder (5)  
3. Sticky confection (6)  
4. Small piece of toasted or fried bread (7)  
5. Food prepared by processing in a blender (5)  
6. Food grain (4)  
7. Breakfast food (6)  
8. Dairy product (5)  
12. Aromatic herb (6)  
14. Pasta strips (7)  
16. Cake topping (5)  
17. Basic food (6)  
19. Firm-fleshed green-skinned pear (5)  
20. Escargot (5)  
22. Consomme (4)

Across  
1. French variety of green bean (7)  
4. Pickled flower buds used as a relish (5)  
7. Baking chocolate, milk and sugar (5)  
9. Powdery substance used in cooking (5)  
10. Cereal grass seed (3)  
11. Main course (6)  
13. Edible nut (6)  
15. Plant grown as a salad (6)  
18. Well-seasoned stew of meat and vegetables (6)  
21. Hostelry (3)  
23. Bourbon, sugar and mint over crushed ice (5)  
24. Sponge without egg yolks, cake (5)  
25. Oval smooth-skinned fruit (5)  
26. Oblong cream puffs (7)

## LOL

Laughing Out Loud

## MY AUNTS

My old aunts would come and tease me at weddings, "Well Sarah? Do you think you'll be next?"

We've settled this quickly once I've started doing the same to them at funerals.

## DID YOU KNOW

1. Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.

3. Human birth control pills work on gorillas.

2. A person can live without food for about a month, but only about a week without water.

4. You can't kill yourself by holding your breath.

## MOVIE QUIZ

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## The MOVIE QUIZ

### Yesterday's Quiz:

1. Who plays the body-swap mother and daughter in Freaky Friday. (2003)?

Answer:  
A. Jaime Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan

### Today's Quiz

1. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar features as a co-pilot in the hit 1980 comedy Airplane! For what was he better known?

Answer:  
A. As a Pilot  
B. As a star performer in NBA basketball.





## PORSHA DEBUTS FIRST LOOK OF HER BABY! - RHOA

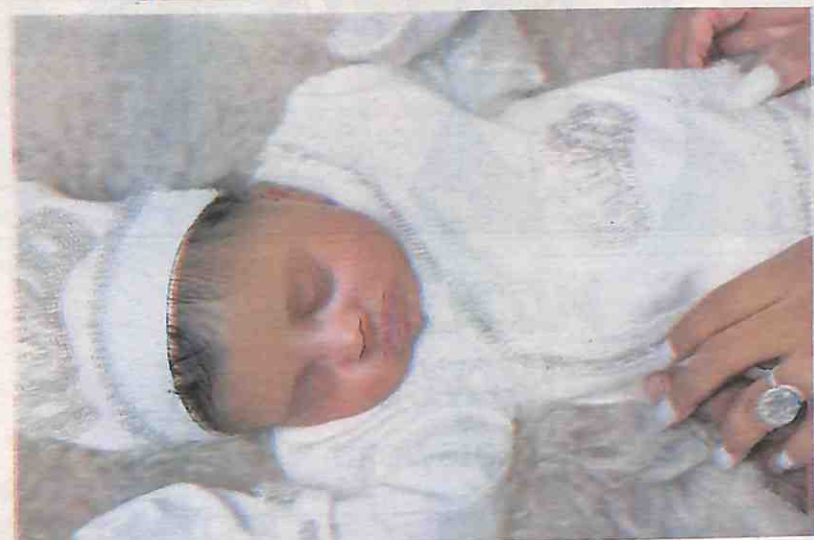
**PORSHA has given us an awe inspiring into her life as a new mother!**

She lets us see parts of her life that most of us keep under wraps.

And Porsha Williams stayed true to her ways when she recently delighted fans with clips of her daughter, Pilar Rhena.

The first time parent already created a separate Instagram account for her bundle of joy, but followers have only been treated to rare sightings of little fingers here, and little toes there. On Sunday, Ms Williams introduced her new baby to her already impressive 136K followers, a number most of us can only dream of!

Followers of the Real Housewives of Atlanta would have been familiar with Porsha's journey to motherhood. The 34-year-old hasn't been shy about her nerves around impending motherhood, her relationship with fiancé Dennis "Dinley", as well as her ongoing feuds with some of the girls - a list that connected Nene Leakes. It all paid off when



she awarded her own three part special that will document the exciting road to motherhood for Porsha.

As can be imagined, not all the girls were happy about the special. Not least Nene Leakes, who shaded the spin off within an inch of its life. "They've given her a three episode commercial", she

said in live Youtube video. "I know she's feeling herself, so I'd like you guys to continue feeling her as well and watch her commercial."

Guess we can't all just get along then? Real Housewives of Atlanta airs Mondays to Thursday at 18:00 on 1 Magic, DSTV channel 103.

## Riana and Majozi to put on a spectacle! – The Voice SA

**GET set for stunning performances from our resident vocal power-house, two-time SAMA-nominated co-coach and the Quava Vocal Group**

The reviews are in and our first Live Show of the season left the masses on a high. With Mi Casa shaking things up and debuting a brand-new record LIVE you know we're all set to deliver thrills on the same level so this week, it's another double whammy.

Hitting the stage will be Riana Nel, the Afrikaans songstress with a formidable three-and-a-half octave range. She's also an incredible composer and songwriter in addition to being a Voice SA Coach and mentor with a passion for nurturing the nation's finest talent.

Technically, Coach Riri has already treated us to her musical genius before managing to weave together random words from the audience and turn them into music at the drop of a dime.

She's also flaunted her pipes to win over some of the talent she's scored for her team over the months. It is particularly because of this latter reason that we are super-excited

to see what she delivers when she's actually going all out and holding nothing back!

Keeping it in the Voice SA family, we'll also have two-time, SAMA-nominated Indie-Pop artist, Majozi gracing the stage and much like Riana, he's no stranger to our audience helping to coach and hone the skills of the talent on #TeamVanCoke. Joining him on stage are a breathtaking, Classical and Jazz chamber choir known as the Quava Vocal Group.

In an age of morbid and nihilistic music, Majozi's fresh and upbeat perspective on the world around him is a true delight and we're so keen to see how he adds some sparkle to what's sure to be another knockout show.

Upping the entertainment factor even further will be #TeamRiana who take the stage alongside their Coach with #TeamVanCoke also giving their best to make sure they secure that all-important safe spot. It all goes down this Sunday at 17:30! Join us?

The Voice SA airs on Sundays at 17:30. Join the conversation on our Facebook page, and on Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag #TheVoiceSA.



### WHAT'S ON DSTV



**Real**

**Tonight 18:00 on BET**

A daily mix of heart and humour that is the traditional talk-show on its side. Hosts Lani Love, Tamera Mowry-Hyslop, Adrienne Bailon and Jeannie Mai keep it all the way real.

**Veep**

**Tonight at 22:00 CAT on M-Net**

In the season premiere Selina evaluates her campaign, while Jonah's personal life causes a stir and Amy makes an important decision.

**Diesel Brothers**

**Sunday at 20:00 on M-Net**

Heavy D, Diesel Dave, and the Dieselsellerz crew are known worldwide for their crazy online videos and their incredible, extravagant truck builds. Their mega builds and awe-

some truck give-aways are the stuff of diesel legend.

**Little Big Shots**

**Sunday at 18:00 on BBC Brits**

Comedienne and actress Dawn French hosts a British version of the variety show. Each week some of the most talented children from around the world will showcase their skills just for the sheer joy of it.

**The River**

**Tonight at 20:00 on 1Magic**

The River is set in Pretoria and follows the lives of the Dlamini and the Mokoena, two families from different backgrounds that are brought together and divided by the discovery of a diamond in Cullinan, just a stone's throw away from Pretoria.

**Zuba**

**Monday 20:00 on Zambezi Magic**

Zuba, a 17-year-old girl, is brought

to the city by her two-faced and cunning stepmother, who has brainwashed her into believing she needs to work there to support her family.

**Njila- The Phase**

**Monday at 20:30 on OneZed**

Njila – The Phase follows the story of two siblings who are facing the worst time in their lives after the death of their wealthy father. Life as they know it is thrown into disarray when their uncle Tom robs them of all the property that their father left behind, forcing the brother and sister to live in a rum-shackle that is close to the mansion they once lived in.

**LandLady**

**Tuesday at 20:30 on OneZed**

Landlady is a dramedy about Lizzy, a widow and a mother of two who rents out his compound to tough tenants who regardless of her ruthlessness vows to stay.



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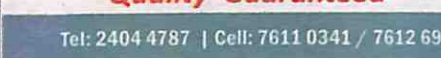
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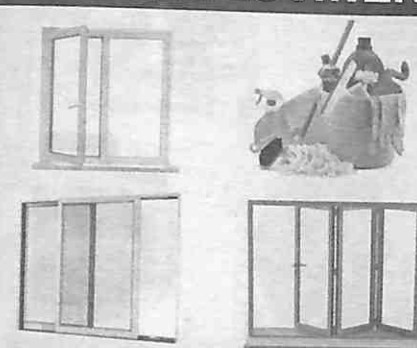
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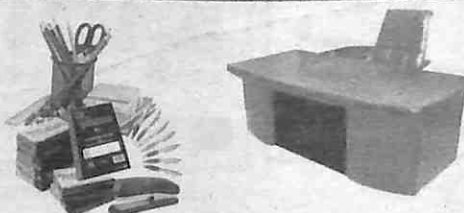
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## DEATHS

Gogo Freda Funekile Nkambule



Funeral: 25/05/2019  
Vigil: 24/05/2019  
Place: eDwaleni

Kwatsiswa tihlobo, nemdeni wa Gogo Freda Funekile Nkambule unabo Sabani kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kutawulindzelwa ngaleSihlanu 24/05/19 abekwe ngeMgcibelo mhlaka 25/05/19 ekhaya lakhe eDwaleni ePower. Inkondzo yesikhumbuto itoba ngalesihlanu 24/05/19 eSt Goerges and St James nga 12 emini. Simemetelo sikhishwa bantfwabakhe egameni lemndeni.

Danica Lizanne Munro



Short prayer: 24/05/2019  
Vigil: Kute  
Place: Siteki

The celebration of the life of the Danica Lizanne Munro will be held at Emmanuel Methodist Church Siteki Saturday 25/05/2019 11AM. Short prayer at home near school of the deaf on Friday 7pm. No night vigil. Announcement by family.

Miriam Khontaphi Dlamini



Funeral: 26/05/2019  
Vigil: 25/05/2019  
Place: eNgqayini

Kwatsiswa tihlobo ta Miriam Khontaphi Dlamini wase Ngqayini kutsi akasekho emhlabeni utawufihlwa ngelSontfo 26/05/2019, umlindzelo unge Mgcibelo khona eNgqayini, simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Boy Dlamini egameni lemndeni.

Ncamiso Linda Dlamini



Funeral: 26/05/2019  
Vigil: 25/05/2019  
Place: Dwalile

Relatives and friends are notified of the sad and sudden demise of Ncamiso Linda Dlamini popular known as Mawiki. Funeral Sunday 26 May 2019 at Dwalile after a night vigil. Memorial on Saturday at 10:30 kaShal. RIP Samketi announcement by his father Albert Chippa Dlamini on behalf of the family.

It's almost unbearable when so much hope turns in deep sorrow wishing you much strength



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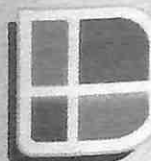
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**NOT RIGHT:** Netball South Africa President Cecelia Molokwane.

## 'Do not compare us to Bafana Bafana'

**CAPE TOWN** - With a calendar filled with major sporting events, Netball South Africa President Cecilia Molokwane took a sly dig at Bafana Bafana.

The senior national soccer team will take part in next month's Africa Cup of Nations tournament, while the SPAR Proteas compete at the Netball World Cup in July.

Banyana Banyana are heading to France for the FIFA Women's World Cup (June 7 - July 7) with their first match against Spain on Monday, June 8.

The Proteas start their Cricket World Cup campaign against hosts England on Thursday, May 30. Meanwhile, later this year the Springboks will aim to lift the Webb Ellis trophy for a third time at the Rugby World Cup in Japan (September 20 - November 2).

Molokwane was asked to compare the national netball team to the national sides competing on the world stage this year in which she replied, as quoted by TimesLIVE: "Don't compare us to Bafana Bafana."

"We are number five in the world, I don't know what number Bafana is in the world."

"We are not competing, we are complementing each other," she said quickly after her statement.

"We are all South Africans. Let's support all these South African teams going to the World Cups." Bafana are placed 73rd in the latest FIFA World Rankings with their stock being in a much higher position in Africa at 14th spot according to the Confederation of African Football (CAF). The 32nd edition of the first-ever 24-team AFCON tournament will take place in Egypt from June 21-July 19.

Stuart Baxter's men have been drawn in Group D in what has been termed the 'Group of Death' where they will face Morocco, Ivory Coast and Namibia. Bafana get their tournament started against Ivory Coast on Monday, June 24 in Cairo before playing at the same venue on Friday, June 28 against Namibia.

They then round off their group stage with a match against Morocco on Monday, July 1.

*Sport24*

**"We are number five in the world, I don't know what number Bafana is in the world. We are not competing, we are complementing each other"**

# I can turn Amakhosi into champions - Thobejane

**JOHANNESBURG** -Maverick former Baroka FC coach Kgoloko Thobejane believes he can turn Kaizer Chiefs into a championship-winning team again.

Amakhosi recently completed an embarrassing season, where they finished ninth in the league and lost 1-0 to minnows TS Galaxy in the Nedbank Cup final.

The 49-year-old believes he could have done a better job as Chiefs coach, especially in the cup final in Durban last weekend.

"I can build Chiefs to be a very strong team. The other clubs will start to respect us from that day," Thobejane told Sowetan.

"I can coach it at any time and deliver the results. I can do better than [Giovanni] Solinas and Ernst Middendorp combined."

He continued: "Chiefs is a big team why should they go into a



**FOOTBALL CAN KILL YOU:** Kgoloko Thobejane.

game against Galaxy and worry too much about the opponent?

"Galaxy was not worried about

marking Chiefs. They were concerned about keeping the ball and to attack," he said.

## ... 'Let's not make emotional decisions'

**JOHANNESBURG** - Middendorp says the decline of Amakhosi has been gradual over the years, and that is a matter that should be attended to rather than looking at only him as being the problem.

With Kaizer Chiefs finishing outside the top eight for the first time in over a decade and suffering the humiliation of losing a cup final against lower division minnows, the question is whether coach Ernst Middendorp will stay or be relieved of his duties.

Immediately after the defeat to National First Division side, TS Galaxy at Moses Mabhida Stadium on Saturday night, the 60-year-old German mentor became enemy No. 1 to Amakhosi's fans.

Asked if he would consider

vacating his position after the humiliating loss, Middendorp said it would be a rash decision to make.

"If the question is why I should stay in this job, I'll discuss that with the management of Kaizer Chiefs, and not here in public," said the former Maritzburg United mentor. Middendorp said the decline of Amakhosi has been gradual over the years and that is a matter that should be attended to rather than looking at only him as being the problem. He joined Chiefs in December and looked to be steering the ship in the right direction until the last seven games where the wheels came off.

"There is a reason things did not happen over the last few years. You have to find a reason as to why there's been a decline over the past few years,

especially after finishing a season like this. But please, let's not make emotional decisions," he said.

Emotional decisions have however already been made at the team with Hendrick Ekstein's sudden firing after he couldn't agree on a new contract one of the questionable moves the club has made. Some have blamed the side's loss of form to the sudden dismissal of Ekstein and other players before the season ended.

When asked if the Glamour Boys supporters deserved what the team delivered this season, Chiefs' brand manager Jessica Motaung and her sister Kemiso Motaung, who is digital manager interjected and mumbled that the fans didn't deserve it before storming out of the media conference venue. *Citizen*

## Exclude Man City, PSG from European competition

**LONDON** - Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain should be excluded from European club competition and are nothing more than "playthings of a state", La Liga's president Javier Tebas has said.

It is not the first time the outspoken head of the Spanish league has attacked Abu Dhabi-owned City or Qatari-owned PSG, and newly crowned Premier League champions City have threatened to take him to court at one point.

However, Tebas launched another broadside at the wealthy clubs when he spoke at the Financial Times Business of Football Summit, saying City and PSG "are clubs who could not care less what their real incomes are when they want to sign a player because they receive incomes from a state".

"It forces other clubs into an economic situation which is really living on the edge. It skews the balance of the entire European football structure," Tebas said.

"This is no longer sport. This is no longer an industry. It becomes more like a toy, the plaything of a state. *AFP*

## 'Horrible smell', 'itchy product' greets PSL side in dressing room

**JOHANNESBURG** - Maritzburg United coach Eric Tinkler has explained why his team changed in the team bus instead of the dressing room ahead of Wednesday's clash against Tshakhuma Tsha Madzivhandila at Thohoyandou Stadium.

The Team of Choice boosted their chances of remaining in the top flight with a 2-0 win over the Limpopo side, to move to six points and top of the log.

Royal Eagles are second with three points, while Tshakhuma are bottom after losing their two matches so far.

While Maritzburg got the job done in the field of play, it turns out they allegedly had to contend with off the field issues prior to the match.

It's claimed by Tinkler that there was some 'product' in the dressing room that made his players itch.



The decision was then taken to use the team bus as their dressing room.

"You got to understand that you are trying to make the players not focus on those things, because we are here for a specific job and that

is obviously to try to get the three points, you know," Tinkler commented after the match.

"But it's obviously sad when you've got situations like that, but you got to deal with it and I think we dealt with it in the right way."

"It was worse than that - yeah, it (the dressing room) had a horrible smell and worse than that, there was some product that they put in there that made everyone itchy, you know."

*Times Live*



# Weekend Sports Fixtures

...Compiled by Jongile Xuba

## ESIBAYENI LODGE U17 LEAGUE FIXTURES

Tomorrow at Prince of Wales		
Mbabane Swallows	vs	Manzini Wanderers
At Manzini Old Trade Fair Ground		
Manzini Sundowns	vs	Matsapha United
Sunday at UNESWA Sports Ground		
Moneni Pirates	vs	Young Buffaloes
Mbabane Citizens	vs	Tambuti
Green Mamba	vs	Vovovo
At Manzini Old Trade Fair Ground		
Manzini Sea Birds	vs	Mbabane Highlanders
Malanti Chiefs	vs	Royal Leopard

## SWAZI TRAC HHOHO SUPER LEAGUE E77 000

Southern Zone - Mini Play-off 2nd Leg		
Sunday at Killarney Sports Ground		
Manchester Utd	vs	Umbelebele
Hhohho Regional Play-offs		
Sunday at POW Sports Ground		
Corporation	vs	Sunrise
Majotini	vs	Green Sea
Junior Stars	vs	Real United

## HUB MAPHALALENI JUNIORS LEAGUE E28 000

Tomorrow at Jubukweni Sports Ground - U17		
Happy Fighters	vs	Mighty Birds
L. Pirates	vs	Rollers
Hill Stars	vs	Top Classic
Jubukweni	vs	Academy
Tomorrow at Ararati Sports Ground - U17		
Happy Tigers	vs	Sphambanweni
Lunkanka	vs	Sunrise
Love & Peace	vs	Happy Tigers
Manchester	vs	Sphambanweni

## Hub Mzimba Juniors League

Tomorrow at Hhukwini Sports Ground - U17		
Sundowns	vs	Top Centre
Amacabane	vs	Rhumba
United Bombers	vs	Barcelona
M. Arsenal	vs	Green Sea
Mzimba Rhinos	vs	Bush Bucks
Tomorrow at Nsukumbili Sports Ground - U17		
Young Swallows	vs	Young Chiefs
Nsitisa Rebels	vs	Kasiko
All Stars	vs	Cosmos
Ngweni Highlanders	vs	Timbungulu

## HUB SIGANGENI JUNIORS LEAGUE

Tomorrow at Ntsetse Sports Ground - U17		
Tikitaka	vs	Total XI
Mhlane	vs	Ntsetse
Rangers	vs	M. Unlimited
Lupholo	vs	Burning Spear

## MILKY MAX MBABANE JUNIORS LEAGUE

Tomorrow at Supply Centre Sports Ground - U13		
Umbelebele	vs	White City
Habbana	vs	Hurricane
Freestyle	vs	Real Tec
Supersport	vs	Mphalati
M. Swallows	vs	M. Fighters
Barcelona	vs	Mantsholo
Mangwaneni	vs	Imbumba

## MANDLA MAHEWU MBABANE JUNIORS LEAGUE E7 500

Tomorrow at United Sports Ground - U15		
Mphalati	vs	Wizards
M. Fighters	vs	Amawele
M. Classic	vs	Malanti Chiefs



Dark City	vs	Malanti Chiefs
Hurricane	vs	Malangwane
Mangwaneni	vs	Supersport
Mandla Mahewu Mbabane Juniors League		
Tomorrow at Police Sports Ground - U17		
Real Tec	vs	Swallows
M. Movers	vs	Ebuka
M. Classic	vs	White City
Hurricane	vs	Classic

## Tomorrow at Msunduzi Sports Ground - U20

Mvukweli	vs	Supersport
Mphalati	vs	Interstars
Wizards	vs	Sidwashini
Double Action	vs	Sidwashini
Aces Utd	vs	Sivutsa
Zulwini Aces	vs	Freestyle

## Tomorrow at Sidwashini Sports Ground - U20

The Wallers	vs	Dark City
Veni	vs	Umbelebele
Imbumba	vs	Red Stars
M. Fighters	vs	Mantsholo

## MP NELSON MAMBA TIMPHISINI REGIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Tomorrow at LFTC Sports Ground		
Sikhaleli	vs	All Stars
Ak 47	vs	Zamalek
Vusweni	vs	Gunners
Sunday at LFTC Sports Ground		
Mv. All United	vs	Njakeni Utd
JB Arsenal	vs	Y. Swallows
Young Savilla	vs	Red Lion
Besutwini	vs	Y. Bombers

## BHULANE RESORT NDZINGENI LEAGUE E50 000

Bulandzeni		
Tomorrow at Bulandzeni Sports Ground		
M. Professionals	vs	Royal Madrid

## OUP MHLANGATANE LEAGUE E50 000

Western Stream		
Tomorrow at Machibini Sports Ground		
Tigers	vs	City Stars

## MANZINI PROMOTION LEAGUE

Tomorrow at Zakhele 1 Sports Ground		
Siboniso Selwandle	vs	The Bones
Green Way	vs	Kholwane F. Birds

## Tomorrow at Zakhele 2 Sports Ground

Wonderful Touch	vs	Fc North
African Chiefs	vs	Fairview Chiefs
Sunday at Zakhele 1 Sports Ground		
Home Sparrows	vs	Combine Stars
Maliyaduma United	vs	Two Sticks Comrades
Sunday at Zakhele 2 Sports Ground		
Superstars	vs	Manzini United

## OK FOODS KWALUSENI KNOCK-OUT TOURNAMENT

Tomorrow at Ludzeldze Sports Ground		
Mhlaleni Superstars	vs	Nsenga Comrades
Supersport	vs	Kwaluseni Rebels
Tomorrow at Zombodze Sports Ground		
Ludzeldze Kicks	vs	Gum Valley
Ludzeldze Celtics	vs	Matsapha Town

## Tomorrow at TB Centre 1 Sports Ground

Giant Clockwork	vs	Real Professionals
Fashion International	vs	Dark City

## Tomorrow at TB Centre 2 Sports Ground

Umtfuti	vs	Ngonini United
Swazi Wire	vs	Ntunja Arsenal

## Tomorrow at Phowe Sports Ground

Mahashulane	vs	Bafana Bafana
Sunday at Ludzeldze Sports Ground		
Boyane United	vs	Zombodze United
AFC Heroes	vs	Lozitha Spurs
Sunday at Zombodze Sports Ground		
Sacramento	vs	Mhlane United
Zama United	vs	Kwaluseni United

## DAYS & DOORS / S & S MALKERNS KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT

Tomorrow at Mahlanya Sports Ground		
Home Boys	vs	Malkerns
Mahlanya United	vs	Vuka Aces
Tomorrow at Ndinda Sports Ground		
Dynamite Hotspurs	vs	Bethany United
Survivor	vs	Golden Arrows

## Tomorrow at Ntandozi Sports Ground

Ntandozi	vs	Ngodini
Sunday at Luyengo Sports Ground		
Mdonjane Arsenal	vs	Don Don

## Sunday at Dwaleni Sports Ground

Ndlinilembi	vs	Troublemakers
Gebeni	vs	Makhungutsha
Power Sparks	vs	Vickery Nomads
Sunday at Mahlanya Sports Ground		

Red Swallows	vs	Star Point
Mphofana United	vs	Cutter Cosmos
Sunday at Golden Sports Ground		
Skom Boys	vs	Ndinda Volcano
Phondo	vs	Swazi Can United

## CORBAN MAFUTSENI PROMOTION LEAGUE

Tomorrow at Mkhuzweni Sports Ground		
Ma-G-Man	vs	Ntabamhoshana
Mlamuleni United	vs	Diamond Hunters
Tomorrow at Maphopheni Sports Ground		
Dynamos	vs	Madubula Rovers
Khamatfo	vs	Vulamehlo Classic
Tomorrow at Nkonga Sports Ground		
Moyeni Supersport	vs	Sicamelosa-Chief
Bhudia Celtics	vs	Nkonga Pirates
Sunday at Mkhuzweni Sports Ground		
Timbutini All Stars	vs	Mafulseni United
Timbutini Combine Stars	vs	Emataliyane
Sunday at Mhuhhe Sports Ground		
Young Cannibals	vs	Mafulseni Vultures

## PREMIER BAKERIES MKHIWENI PROMOTION LEAGUE

Tomorrow at Mliba Sports Ground		
Manchester United	vs	All Nations
Liverpool	vs	Luve Classic
Toronto	vs	Colani United
Tomorrow at Mcozini Sports Ground		
Luve Home Defenders	vs	Sangotfo
Zama United	vs	Mliba Rangers
Tomorrow at Nkhundleni Sports Ground		
Ngonini Young Aces	vs	Executive
Mbashedi Brothers	vs	Bantu City
Luve Stars	vs	Moyeni

## Sunday at Mliba Sports Ground

Mantshonga	vs	All Nations
Mliba Rangers	vs	Luve Stars
Step Ahead	vs	Luve Classic
Bantu City	vs	Luve Home Defenders

## Sunday at Nkhundleni Sports Ground

Mbashedi Brothers	vs	Liverpool
LuveSuncity	vs	Toronto
Colani United	vs	Manchester United

## Sunday at Mcozini Sports Ground

All Stars	vs	Sangotfo
Moyeni	vs	White Killers

## Kukhanyeni Promotion

Tomorrow at Bhikinkhosi Sports Ground		
Kukhanyeni	vs	Lion Heart
Louis XIV	vs	Brave Lion
Tomorrow at Esontweni Sports Ground		
Nyakeni Heroes	vs	Ngwazini
Nyakeni Cosmos	vs	Bhekinkhosi

## Sunday at Bhikinkhosi Sports Ground

Estate Classic	vs	Submarine
Nyakeni Cosmos	vs	Bhekinkhosi
1995 Mbuluzana	vs	NyakeniTrompies

## Sunday at Esontweni Sports Ground

Nyakeni United	vs	Mdayane
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## PHARM PHARM IMPACT MANZINI JUNIORS - UNDER 15

Tomorrow at Zakhele 2 Sports Ground		
Ishibobo Academy	vs	God's Property
Tomorrow at Hillside Sports Ground		
Fairview Sporting	vs	Road Blocks
Peace Pirates	vs	Bad Boys
Super Gunners	vs	Road Blocks
Bad Boys	vs	Future Kings
Young Buffaloes	vs	Peace Pirates

## Qatar World Cup to be played with 32 teams - FIFA

**ZURICH** - World football's governing body said in a statement that 'following a thorough and comprehensive consultation process with the involvement of all the relevant stakeholders, it was concluded that under the current circumstances such a proposal could not be made now.'

'(The tournament) will, therefore, remain as originally planned with 32 teams and no proposal will be submitted at the next FIFA Congress on June 5,' FIFA added.

An announcement of the final decision hadn't been expected until the congress, which is being held in Paris ahead of the Women's World Cup. FIFA President Gianni Infantino had supported the increase in the size of the tournament.

However the statement said that the study 'concluded that due to the advanced stage of preparations and the need for a detailed assessment of the potential logistical impact on the host country,

more time would be required and a decision could not be taken before the deadline of June.'

That led to FIFA dropping the idea, despite the organisation recommending in March that the number of teams should be raised to 48 for 2022, ahead of the planned 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Expanding the competition for the 2022 tournament was always a complicated proposition.

FIFA had sounded out potential co-hosts in the region willing to support Qatar, a complicated proposition for Doha which is subject to an ongoing embargo by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and their allies.

### Study

Last week Hassan al-Thawadi, the secretary general of Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, said that a feasibility study jointly carried out by FIFA and Qatar would favour 'expansion to other countries.'

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and



**FIEST WORLD:** Qatar's future Education City Stadium in Doha will be one of the venues for the 32-team 2022 World Cup.

Bahrain cut all ties with Doha in June 2017, accusing Qatar of supporting Iran and Islamist groups.

Qatar denies the charges and says Saudi and its allies aim to incite government change in the emirate, the

world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas.

AFP





**FURTHER:** Bible Society CEO Ngcebo Mbuli making his remarks during the Bible Society Cup media briefing held at Mountain Inn Hotel yesterday.



**FOR EVERYONE:** Some of the Bibles that will be distributed to soccer fans during the games.



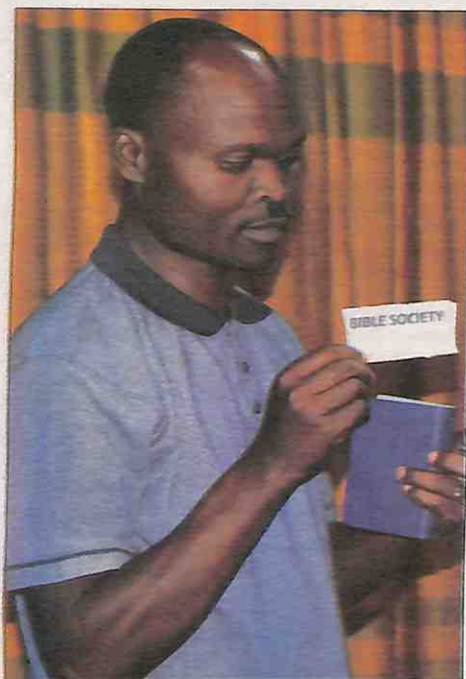
**VISION:** Bible Society CEO Mbuli responds to some of the questions from journalists. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)



**SCRIBES:** Some of the journalists who were present at the briefing.



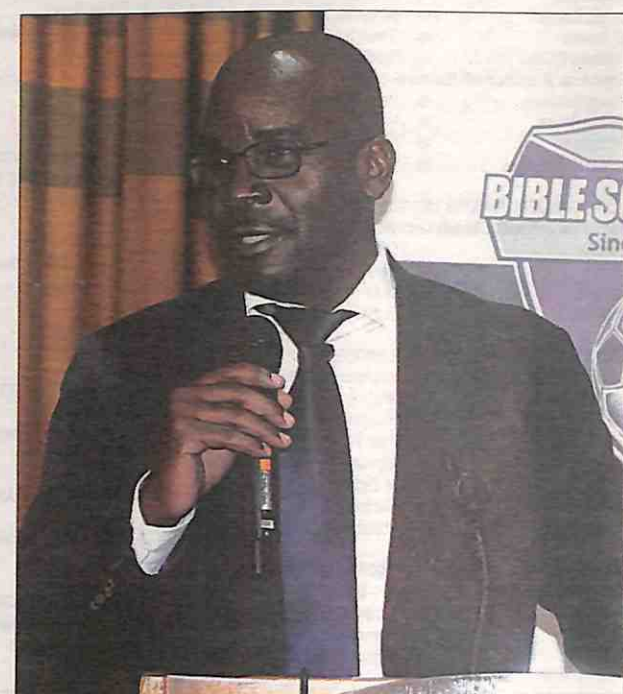
**ATTENTIVE:** Some of the Bible Society staff members listening to speeches.



**AMEN:** Swazi Observer Senior Photographer Lucky Simelane conducts the draw.



**VOICE:** Swazi Observer Sports Editor Mphikeleli Msibi displays the Voice of the Church team during the draw.



**SUPPORT:** Francis Dube from World Vision making his remarks.

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# INGWENYAMA CUP PRESENTATION



**WENA WAPHAKATHI:** Young Buffaloes President Jeffery Shabalala accepting a E1.3 million replica cheque from His Majesty King Mswati III. This was during the Ingwenyama Cup prize presentation held at Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre on Wednesday evening. **RIGHT -** Regional champions Ubombo Flyers receiving a E40 000 replica cheque from the King. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



**BAYETHE:** Player of the Series Sandile Gamedze being awarded a trophy by His Majesty King Mswati III.



**OFFICIALS:** Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini with Liqoqo Chairman Paul Dlamini, PLE Chairman Peter Magagula, EFA President Adam 'Bomber' Mtsetfwa and others during the singing of the National Anthem.



**CHAMPIONS:** Young Buffaloes displaying their cheque.

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## FOOTBALL TALK

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■ Manchester City are close to signing 24-year-old Portuguese full-back Joao Cancelo, who is valued at 60m euros (£52.9m) by his club Juventus. *(Record - in Portuguese)*

■ Atletico Madrid and Napoli are interested in signing Tottenham's England international right-back Kieran Trippier, 28. *(Mirror)*



■ Newcastle United Manager Rafael Benitez, whose contract expires in the summer, has yet to agree a new deal and talks could stretch into next week. *(Guardian)*

■ Newcastle United will offer 21-year-old Sean Longstaff, who has been linked with Manchester United, a new deal to keep the English midfielder at the club. *(Star)*

■ Manchester United are preparing to make a move for AC Milan's 20-year-old Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, with uncertainty over 28-year-old Spain keeper David de Gea's future at Old Trafford. *(CalcioMercato)*

■ Argentine Sergio Romero, 32, will be promoted to Manchester United's first-choice goalkeeper if De Gea leaves this summer, rather than the Old Trafford club spending big on a replacement. *(Mail)*

■ Arsenal Head of Football Raul Sanllehi says the club had to allow Wales midfielder Aaron Ramsey, 28, to leave on a free transfer to Juventus to "keep the rationality in the salary balance of the team" and "protect the interests of Arsenal". *(Telegraph)*

■ Crystal Palace striker Christian Benteke, 28, could join fellow Belgian Marouane Fellaini, 31, at Shandong Luneng Taishan after the Chinese Super League club made a £15m offer for him. *(Times)*

■ Tottenham have made a £10m move for Leeds United's 18-year-old English winger Jack Clarke. *(Mail)*

■ Everton, West Ham and Manchester United have been offered the chance to sign Netherlands and Marseille midfielder Kevin Strootman, 29, on loan. *(Sky Sports)*

■ Antonio Conte will make a move to sign Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku, 26, from Manchester United once the Italian is appointed as Inter Milan manager. *(Times)*



■ Liverpool are closing in on a £200 000 deal to sign Polish goalkeeper Jakub Ojzyski, 16, from Legia Warsaw. *(Liverpool Echo)*

# Esibayeni Lodge Under-17 league continues

BY JONGILE XUBA

**SOCCER – ESIBAYENI Lodge Under-17 League log leaders Green Mamba and Mbabane Swallows will be looking at consolidating their position this weekend.**

Action will start tomorrow with Mbabane Swallows taking on Manzini Wanderers

at Prince of Wales Ground at 1pm.

A win for Swallows would see them leapfrog Green Mamba on the log standings.

Manzini Sundowns and Matsapha United will face-off at the Old Trade Fair Ground, starting at 12pm.

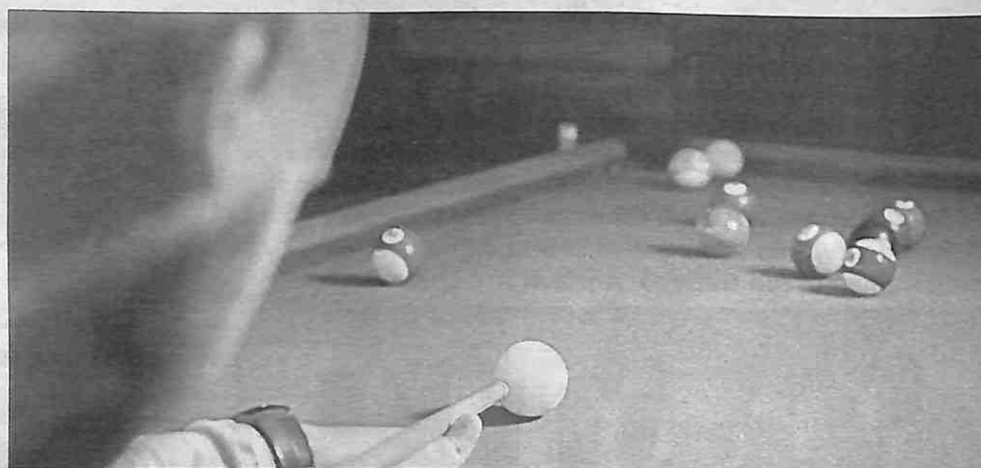
Sunday will also see a number of exciting games at UNESWA Sports Ground.

Moneni Pirates will take

on Young Buffaloes at 10am while Mbabane Citizens have a date with Tambuti at 12pm.

Green Mamba will clash with Vovovo at 2pm in a tough encounter for the log leaders.

The Old Trade Fair Ground will on Sunday host Manzini Sea Birds against Mbabane Highlanders at 10am while Malanti Chiefs take on Royal Leopard at 12pm.



## E1 500 for Dixies Masters League champion

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

**POOL – THE champion for the inaugural Dixies International Masters League will take home E1 500 at the end of the season.**

The new league is part of the E40 000 package which was announced by Dixies International at the end of the previous campaign.

This follows a prize break-

down released by the Manzini Regional Pool Association (MRPA) Chairman Muntu Dlamini yesterday.

The runners-up will pocket E1 000 plus silver medals while the third place finisher will take home E700.

All the participants will receive consolation for their efforts as the league also aims to honour local pool legends.

Dlamini confirmed the prize breakdown when contacted yes-

terday.

"We are happy we have started the Masters League to keep our veterans active.

We also thank Dixies International for their continuous support to the sport," he said.

Some of the legends who are playing in the league include Mhlaba Dlamini, Mbongeni Gamedze, Anson Abner and Ntokozo Dlamini, to mention a few.

## TAEKWONDO NATIONAL GRADING NEXT MONTH

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

**TAEKWONDO – THE Eswatini Taekwondo Federation will next weekend host its national grading session at a venue yet to be announced by the association.**

The grading will see local artists being taken through their paces by the local World Taekwondo Federation recognised coaches on June 1.

Some of the local coaches who would be present during the upcoming grading include Sizwe Mabuza, Bongani Manyatsi, Sandile Mchunu and Zakhele Dlamini.

**Urged**

The grading was announced by ETF Secretary Mbongeni 'Ndo' Sibandze, who further urged local teams to start preparing for the upcoming event.

"We will host a national grading



**RSSC's Mthokozisi Sihlongonyane squares up against teammate Fana Lukhele during the taekwondo training tournament at Correctional's Gymnasium Hall on Saturday.**

session at a venue yet to be communicated to members and we appeal to clubs to start preparing for the upcoming competition.

Artists will be assessed based

on their different grades and the outstanding ones will be elevated to the next grades.

"Registration and logistics of the competition will be communicat-

ed in due course," he said.

The national grading will be followed by the Next Generation Academy on June 22 at the John Bosco Skills Centre.

## All set for 11th KwaMagogo, GFC 10km legacy run/walk

BY JONGILE XUBA

**ATHLETICS – THE 11th edition of the Number 43 Trelawney Park KwaMagogo 10km Walk/Run will be held next month on June 22 at Penderay Park in Manzini.**

This was revealed by Golden Foot Club (GFC) President Tokky Hou, who urged athletes to sign up for the yearly competition which would begin at 6:30am.

"I would urge our local athletes to register for the upcoming KwaMagogo run and registration is E120. All fully paid up and registered runners will get a T-shirt and a participation medal," she said.

Hou added that deadline for registration is June 21 but it would still be possible to register on the day of the race with a late fee of E200 and no later than 5:30am.

Open, junior, veterans, masters and grand master categories will be available during the event with prizes available for each.

The big prizes will be in the men's and women's open section with the winner receiving E1 500 and a gold medal. Second place will get E1 000 as well as a silver medal while third place will get E800 and a bronze medal.

Fourth and fifth place will receive E400 and E250, respectively.

The junior category will see the winner walk away with E500 while second placed will get E300 and E200 for third place. Grand Master, master and veteran winners will get E100 each.

**I would urge our local athletes to register for the upcoming KwaMagogo run and registration is E120. All fully paid and registered runners will get a T-shirt and a participation medal**



# BULL SUPPORTERS WELCOME ALLY



BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

**SOCCER—MBABANE** Highlanders supporters have welcomed their new Director Ally Kgomongwe in the team.

This was revealed by the team's National Supporters Committee (NSC) Chairman Kenneth Dlamini, who said they were happy to have the South African businessman join the 'Black Bull'.

"We would like to welcome our new director to the team and are ready to work with him in taking the team to greater heights.

We would love to meet him and present our ideas as we feel this can take the team forward. We further appeal to the entire Highlanders' family to give him all the necessary support during his stay with the team.

"He believes he will guide us to the right path since he knows the culture

of the team after developing his love for the club four years ago," he said.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Patrons Isaac Shabangu said Kgomongwe was expected to meet the patrons where a proper handover would be done.

"The patrons have requested to see Ally and that is where a proper handover will be done for the ongoing leadership transition. We are expecting him to be in the country very soon," he said.

Kgomongwe recently joined the capital city giants on a five-year contract on Monday afternoon during a press briefing held at the Southern Sun Hotel in Tshwane, South Africa.

Kgomongwe was handed the contract by the Chairman of the Patrons Isaac Shabangu, Secretary Lucky Mahlalela and member Benson Dlamini.

Kgomongwe takes over from a two-man board comprising of Zweli Jele and Marwick Khumalo, who are part of the team's patrons.



**WELCOME: Mbabe Highlanders Director Ally Kgomongwe.**

## Bible Society social teams to play on Ascension Day

BY JONGILE XUBA

**SOCCER—ALL** is now set for the Bible Society Cup social teams' tournament to take place on Ascension Day.

These games will be hosted as a countdown to this year's third edition of the competition where the country's big teams will be talking part.

This was during the Bible Society press briefing and social teams' draw conducted at the Mountain Inn yesterday afternoon.

When making his remarks, Bible Society Chief Executive Officer Ngcebo Mbuli said the winner of the competition would play against the pastors pick team during the main competition on June 15 which is the main day of the tournament.

"As the Bible Society we are excited that the third edition of the competition is upon us. I would like to thank all our partners World Vision, Voice of the Church (VOC) FM and ACAT for helping us put this competition together," he said.

The CEO added that they were very happy to see that the competition had grown over the past two years, urging all football fans to converge at Mavuso Sports



**VISION: Bible Society CEO Ngcebo Mbuli responds to some questions from the journalists while the others listen. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)**

Centre for exciting games.

"Fans only need a Siswati Bible to gain entrance to the games and we urge all of you to get your Bibles ready as soon as possible.

Last year we had a good turnout and we definitely expect it to be bigger with more teams included this time around," he said.

Country Programme Director at World Vision Eswatini Francis Dube said they were happy to partner with Bible Society in this initiative.

**Bible Society Cup social team fixtures:**

Chaplains	vs	Bible Society
VOC	vs	World Vision

"Soccer and the Word of God are similar in that they have large a following so we are happy to be on board in this initiative. We saw this competition as a great way for us to spread the message of ending violence," he said.

Dube also promised that his side would win the social teams' tournament after they also participated last year.

## AAE, Selby shongwe up in arms

BY JONGILE XUBA

**ATHLETICS - THE** Athletics Association of Eswatini (AAE) has threatened to discipline Tambankulu's Selby Shongwe after he sent a letter to the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) challenging the recent elections.

Shongwe sent the letter last month on April 3 where he raised a number of issues pertaining to the unconstitutional election of the current AAE President and TZD Athletic Clubs' Zakhele Dlamini.

He cited Article 5.2 from the IAAF which says 'in the event of a conflict that brings the activities of a member to a standstill, an ad hoc committee approved by the IAAF in advance may be set up, for a defined period, to be in charge of the management of athletics in the country or territory concerned'.

The AAE responded to Shongwe's letter to the IAAF after being instructed to do so by the governing body. AAE Secretary General Thoba Mazibuko responded through a letter which he sent to Shongwe instructing him to stop tarnishing the organisation's name. "We perceive your complaints as frivolous and a desperate means to tarnish the good name of the organisation and put it into disrepute. If you insist with these frivolous, vexatious and spurious complaints about the association, we shall be forced to interdict and restrain you according-

ly and the costs of any such litigation shall be borne by yourself," he said.

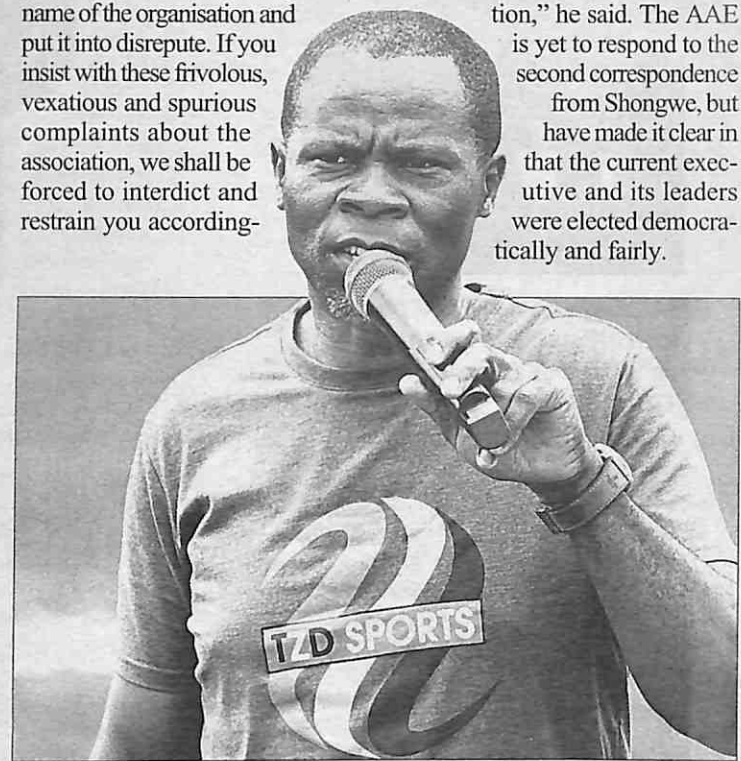
He added that Shongwe was not allowed to communicate with the IAAF as he was only a member of the AAE and does not have a leadership position.

"Be advised further that your direct communication to IAAF is misconduct as you are not a member of the leadership of the association and as such if you continue with same, we shall have no option but to take disciplinary measures against you and your club which may result to suspension from all athletics activities.

You are, therefore, instructed to retract your letter of April 3, 2019, failing which charges of misconduct shall be preferred against you and your club," he said.

Shongwe responded by saying that the AAE should be working towards solving his concerns instead of threatening him.

"The office has seemingly only issued the threats which were the least of expectations considering the consequences that may follow in case this matter is not addressed properly. We do not need bad precedence set but I am pursuing this in the interest of governance and respect of our federation's constitution," he said. The AAE is yet to respond to the second correspondence from Shongwe, but have made it clear in that the current executive and its leaders were elected democratically and fairly.



**THREATS: Athletics Association of Eswatini President Zakhele Dlamini.**

## Skhumbuzo Foundation hosts soccer tourney

BY JONGILE XUBA

**SOCCER - THE** Skhumbuzo Foundation will host a social soccer tournament this weekend as they look to give back to the Manzini North community and spread the Word of God.

This was revealed by Skhumbuzo Foundation Chairman Mxolisi Methula, who invited members of the public to come and join them during the event.

"We will have a three-day competition with preliminary rounds set for tomorrow at St Paul's School in Manzini. These games will be followed by finals to take place on May 30 (Ascension Day)," Methula said.

The competition is sponsored by Corban Build Hardware with the help of Manzini North Member of Parliament Macford Sibandze.

The main aim of the competition is to spread the Word of God through football and minister to the community.

"Our pastor (Sikhumbuzo Shongwe)

grew up in Manzini North and he also found God there, thus he would like to see some of his peers and the youth follow in his footsteps. Pastor Shongwe and Bishop Nash Shongwe will be ministering during the event so we hope members of the public will come in their numbers," he said. Methula added that the tournament was also meant to promote the upcoming Bible Society Cup that will be played at Mavuso Sports Centre on June 15 where fans will gain entry by producing a Siswati Bible.

Methula said they would also be

handing out Bibles on the day to those who wish to attend the knock-out cup tournament on the main day.

Teams that will be participating include Zasha FC, Hot Beans, Ngcamane FC, The Company, Mpoli, Mzimnene, Mthunyelelwa, Madonsa, Makholweni and Sichelwini.

Champions of the competition will receive a trophy, gold medals, new soccer kit and a Bible for each player.

The runners-up will get silver medals and a soccer kit with third placed receiving bronze medals only.



**HOST: Pastor Sikhumbuzo Shongwe.**



# SIHLANGU ARRIVE SAFELY IN DURBAN

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA  
(Enroute to Durban, courtesy  
of Eswatini Meat Market)



**SOCCER – SENIOR** national team Sihlangu Semnikati have arrived safely in Durban, South Africa, ahead of the 2019 COSAFA Senior Challenge which kicks off tomorrow.

The nation's pride arrived at the coastal city yesterday afternoon and checked in at the Durban Garden Court in preparation for the Group A opener against Mauritius, at the King Zwelithini Stadium.

The squad's head of delegation and Eswatini Football Association executive member Sifiso Shabalala confirmed the news when contacted yesterday.

## Appeal

"We have arrived safely in Durban and the entire team is looking healthy and fit. The players are now looking forward to the opening match against Mauritius and we appeal to the nation to come in their numbers to support the team," he said.

Coach Kostadin Papic said they were ready for the tournament.

"We just hope the team will play well and make the nation happy."

The national side left the country by road yesterday afternoon after a one-week camp at the Technical Centre in readiness for the annual regional showpiece.



**FAREWELL:** Sihlangu poses with officials during the squad's farewell function held on Tuesday at the Technical Centre. (Pic: Sibusiso Masilela)

## THE FULL COSAFA CUP SQUAD:

### GOALKEEPERS

Sandanezwe Mathabela	M. Swallows
Phephisani Msibi	R. Leopard
Khanyakezwe Shabalala	M Highlanders

### DEFENDERS

Jose Machado	M. Wanderers
Ndumiso Ndaba	M. Swallows
Siboniso Mamba	Y. Buffaloes
Banele Dlamini	G. Mamba
Vusi Vilakati	M. Highlanders
Linda Mkhonta	Y. Buffaloes
Frank Dlamini	R. Leopard

### MIDFIELDERS

Siboniso Ngwenya	Y. Buffaloes
Wandile Shabangu	Y. Buffaloes
Njabulo Ndlovu	M. Swallows
Banele Sikhondze	Polokwane City (SA)
Fanelo Mamba	Y. Buffaloes
Sifiso Matse	R. Leopard
Junior Magagula	R. Leopard
Mxolisi Mkhontfo	G. Mamba
Sandile Gamedze	Y. Buffaloes

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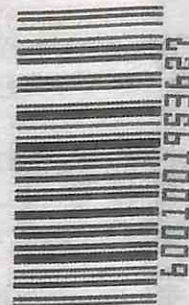
Felix Badenhorst	Mbombela United (SA)
Sabelo Ndzinisa	M. Swallows
Mthunzi Mkhontfo	G. Mamba
Musa Dlamini	G. Mamba

# SPORTS

IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE ARE YOUR CHURCH

BSERVER

Friday May 24, 2019



## KING COMMENDS 'BUFFS' TENACITY

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

**SOCCER – INGWENYAMA** Cup pioneer His Majesty King Mswati III has commended 2019 champions Young Buffaloes for showing tenacity in the competition.

The King commended the army side for displaying determination and fighting spirit in the competition despite losing out the previous edition to Mbabane Swallows.

He said Young Buffaloes came back stronger to win this year's competition. The King was speaking during the 2019 Ingwenyama Cup prize presentation held at the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre on Wednesday night.

"Our soccer champions, Young Buffa-

- Says army side showed character by winning 2019 edition
- Challenges other teams to emulate Buffaloes
- Believes tourney can help country do well internationally

loes have showed that consistency and perseverance yield positive results.

## Preparations

"Not only have they been runners-up in previous finals, but they

have also demonstrated that serious game planning and proper preparations are a prerequisite for success.

"We are confident that other teams will emulate their strategies in preparations as well as in the skillful display in the field of play.

## Beyond

"Accordingly, with improved sponsorships and participation from corporate like-minded entities, the level of competitiveness domestically and beyond our borders will subsequently improve," the King said.

His Majesty further thanked all the tournament's committees for

organising a successfully run tournament.

"May we thank all those who were involved in the preparations of this event.

## Displayed

"The performances displayed tonight were splendid. I believe that through this competition the country can go all the way and compete effectively at major international football competitions and hoist the country's flag high at the world's biggest stage," he said.

Buffaloes went home E1.3 million richer after winning the fourth edition of the competition blending football with culture.

Capital city giants Mbabane Swallows remain the most successful team in the history of the tournament after winning the previous three editions of the four-year-old competition.



**BAYETHE:** His Majesty King Mswati III addresses the gathering at the Ingwenyama Cup prize presentation ceremony held at Mavuso Trade Centre on Wednesday evening. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

## NHLENGETFWA APOLOGISES FOR POOR RUN

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

**SOCCER – MANZINI Wanderers** independent Executive Director Mhululi Nhlengetfwa has since apologised to the entire 'Weslians' family for the team's poor run last season.

Nhlengetfwa issued the statement through two members of the supporters' task team Vincent 'Sikebhe' Dlamini and Phumlani 'Botsotso' Jele during a press briefing held at the club's offices in Manzini yesterday.

"I would like to express my sincere apology to the entire Manzini Wanderers family for the poor showing of the team in the past season. This was attributed to several factors, considering that we came to office in the middle of the season and we did not get enough time to settle down.

"We promise to turn the fortunes around next season and possibly

bring back the glory days in the team. We appeal to the entire 'Weslians' family to rally behind the team and we promise to restore the image of the club," he said.

Nhlengetfwa further encouraged the team's supporters to register with the team.

## Objective

"As we embark on a mission to register and improve our data base, we call upon our supporters to register with the team at a fixed fee of E100. The supporters will get a promotional kit upon registering at the team's offices.

"Our main objective is to have all our supporters fully registered for the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) early in July.

"We will also hold roadshows in the four regions of the country and we further encourage our supporters to purchase the team's replica kit at E250 each," he said.

Nhlengetfwa further apologised to



**DLALA WESELI:** Manzini Wanderers task team members Vincent 'Sikebhe' Dlamini and Phumlani 'Botsotso' Jele displaying the team's kit after the press briefing held at their offices in Manzini yesterday. (Pic: Sibusiso Masilela)

the local stakeholders for the administrative challenges which the team encountered last season.

"We would like to express our sincere apology for the managerial challenges we faced last season where

we ended up not having proper structures in the team. We promise to rectify that next season," he said.

The hub giants finished the league on an unfamiliar position nine with 27 points.