

Pass rate
improves
by 11.36%

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Bunk classes,
no-work no-
pay - govt

Page 2

FRIDAY JANUARY 25, 2019

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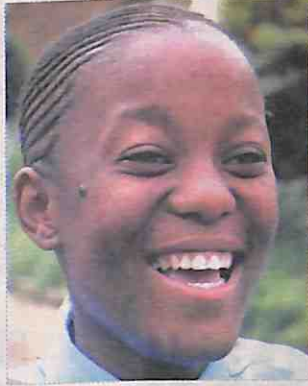
PRICE: E6.00 (VAT INCLUSIVE)



AGGREGATE 6:
Nosipho Mpanza



AGGREGATE 6: Kitso
Mandisa Masoya



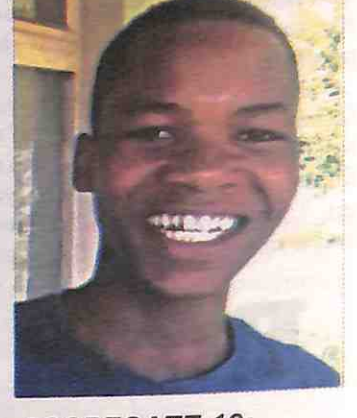
AGGREGATE 6:
Nontsikelelo Susan
Ngwenya



AGGREGATE 7:
Neliswa Pearl Nxumalo



AGGREGATE 7:
Chagwinya Catherine
Makaita



AGGREGATE 10:
Muhle Musa Khumalo

FORM V RESULTS MATCH FAKES

...slight deviation from what was on social media last week, exams council says system intact

Story on Page 3



AGGREGATE 10:
Saneliso Joseph
Surtee



AGGREGATE 11:
Nontobeko Nobuhle
Magagula



AGGREGATE 11:
Happy Todwa
Dlamini



AGGREGATE 11:
Sandile Bennett



AGGREGATE 11:
Setsabile Mkhonta



AGGREGATE 11:
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Dlamini



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It's all in the genes for Makaita

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

CATHERINE Makaita Chagwinya has remained consistent in her studies since Grade Seven as she managed to attain position one in Grade Seven, position three in Form Three and now she managed to make it into the top five nation-wide as she got position four.

Catherine was in the company of her father Jaspas Chagwinya who works for Premier Independent. The proud father leads by example as he recently got 15 distinctions out of 22 modules and a first class pass in BA Education

at MSU under Amadi College.

It is clear that the apple did not fall far from the tree as his daughter has maintained the standard she set in Grade Seven.

Catherine, who was visibly emotional, said she was super excited and grateful for all who contributed to her success. She stated that she would like to thank God for giving her courage when she feared that she missed out on a lot because she could not attend Saturday classes since she was of the Seventh Day Adventist faith but through God's grace she made it.

Catherine said she would like to thank her father for his support as well as her favourite teacher Ms Yende for believ-



ing in her and supporting her as she always used to tell her that she would make it.

The trend setter said she loved all her science subjects and wants to further her studies in medicine and major in cardio surgery. She said she had not

quite decided where she would further her studies but if she had her way she would like to enrol at John Hopkins University of Medicine in Maryland, USA.

Her father described her as a much disciplined child who is hardworking

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY:
Catherine Makaita Chagwinya got aggregate seven, position four.

and determined; she never gives up and always pushes herself to be better. She would normally sleep late and wake up early to study. In support he said he made sure that he provided her with all the learning material she needed, and paid school fees on time so she was never out of school.

He further promised her a big present which is related to education and the area she wants to further her education, but wants to keep it a surprise for now.

Bunk classes, no-work no-pay will apply - Govt

STORIES BY SAMKELISIWE KHOZA
Mbabane

TEACHERS are advised that the no-work no-pay rule will apply and that they are liable for disciplinary action if they absent themselves without permission.

These sentiments were forwarded by Minister of Education and Training Lady Howard Mabuza yesterday through a press statement.

Mabuza said it had come to the attention of the ministry that teachers were absenting themselves without permission to attend meetings to plan for the strike action.

The public sector build up meetings were held at Mbabane, Manzini and Nhlanguano yesterday where according to the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) Secretary General Sikelela Dlamini, the numbers were remarkable.

"Teachers are reminded that they need to have permission to attend union meetings during working hours as per the Recognition Agreement. Teachers are advised that the principle of no-work no pay will apply and that they are liable for disciplinary action if they absent themselves without permission," Mabuza

...continues to prioritise FPE

ON the other hand Minister Mabuza says government continues to prioritise Free Primary Education and funds are currently being transferred to schools.

"Schools that have delayed their submissions will receive payment as soon as their submissions are in order. Government continues to prioritise food programmes and supplies for the first term have been available from the first day of school," Mabuza said.

The minister said schools that were able to assist by collecting food supplies were kindly requested to do so from Southern Trading in Matsapha for rice, beans, peanut butter and cooking oil and at the National Maize Corporation (NMC) in Matsapha for maize.

said.

The minister said headteachers were requested to record all teachers absent from duty without permission and submit same to the Regional Education Officers (REOs).

She mentioned that any teachers who were threatened, intimidated or in any way prevented from exercising their right to work should SMS their headteachers to ensure that all necessary



BE WARNED: Minister of Education Lady Howard-Mabuza.

She added that government would continue to assist schools that are unable to collect food supplies with transport as and when this is available.

steps are taken to ensure their safety and hold guilty parties accountable.

"Persons responsible for statements in the media that they 'have a special plan for those who betray us by reporting for work' will be suspended pending disciplinary proceedings against them. Every teacher has the right to work without fear of threats or intimidation and that right will be protected," she said.

THE NEW SCHOOLS PER REGION

Hhohho Region

• Emphumelelweni High School

Manzini Region

• Timbutini Community High School
• Manzimhlophe High School
• Sphumelele Community High School

Shiselweni Region

• Mbhoke TX Foundation High School

• Mpatheni High School

• Ngozi High School

Lubombo Region

• Emhlabeni High School
• Mamisa High School
• Manyafula Primary School

Hurray to 10 new schools

THE minister said the government, with assistance from education stakeholders, established 10 new schools to reduce the distance children have to walk to access education, particularly in remote rural communities.

Mabuza said the schools were

being provided with all necessary inputs including food programmes to facilitate quality teaching and learning.

Welcome

She added that headteachers and teachers had been appointed to welcome pupils to their schools.

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Form V results match fakes on social media

STORIES BY SAMKELISIWE KHOZA Mbabane

CLASSIFIED 'fake' 2018 Swaziland General Certificate of Secondary Education results match the actual released results.

A 'fake' list of top 50 excelled 2018 SGCSE pupils surfaced on social media last week between Friday and Sunday.

The country's number one Nosipho Mpanza from St Mark's High School was amongst the four number ones in the fake list together with Nelisa Pearl Nxumalo from St Mark's, who is number one also.

List

Other familiar names from the 'fakes' who also appear in the actual list of the well performed pupils are Masonya Mandisa Kitso from St Theresa's High School and Khaba Nomphumelelo Sinakekelwe from Ka-Boyce.

Parents who had the chance to have a glimpse of the fake list began celebrating and posted on social media plat-

...A 'fake' list of top 50 excelled 2018 SGCSE pupils surfaced on social media last week between Friday and Sunday



BEST OF THE BEST: Nosipho Mpanza who got aggregate six in position one and Neliswa Pearl Nxumalo who got aggregate seven position four at St Mark's.

forms, mostly Facebook and WhatsApp.

Due to the near validity of the list, members of the public raised eyebrows and wondered if the list was not leaked from the Examinations Council of Eswatini (ECESWA).

However, in a previous interview, ECESWA Registrar Dr. Edmund Mazibuko refuted those sentiments and explained that the Council had not met at the time regarding the Form Five results.

Results not leaked - ECESWA



IMPRESSED: Dr Edmund Mazibuko answers some questions from the media.

YESTERDAY, Examinations Council of Eswatini (ECESWA) Registrar Dr. Edmund Mazibuko disputed that the released results were 'fake', saying there was no way they could be leaked from the Council.

Dr. Mazibuko said there were security measures surrounding examination results, which makes it impossible for outsiders to have a glimpse of the stored results in their systems.

"We have thoroughly checked our systems and there is no way that the results were extracted from it," Dr. Mazibuko said, adding that their suspicions are that cons used the 2016 Junior Secondary pupils' list of those who excelled.

He said assumptions were that they jumbled up those names and created a list with the belief that the pupils would excel again in Form Five.

Moreover, the registrar said the act

We have thoroughly checked our systems and there is no way that the results were extracted from it

was scandalous and Council opened a case with the police.

He warned the nation against such acts and said some parents who had the chance to see the fake list were given false hopes as some of the pupils who were classified as best performing were not in the actual list.

Two schools cheat, one matter with cops

ONLY two schools were caught for malpractice during the 2018 Swaziland General Certificate of Secondary Education (SGCSE) examination.

This was revealed by the Examinations Council of Eswatini (ECESWA) Registrar Dr. Edmund Mazibuko yesterday during the 2018 SGCSE examination results press conference.

The press conference was held at the ministry of education offices in Mbabane.

Dr. Mazibuko said two schools were caught for misconduct during the course of the exams and their results were held by the Council.

He said one school would soon have its results freed as investigations were nearly done.

However, for the second school, Dr. Mazibuko said it was a totally different story as the matter was still under investigations by the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS).

He said their results were still with-

held till the investigation was done with.

Moreover, Ministry of Education and Training Principal Secretary Dr Sibongile Mtshali-Dlamini said the ministry noticed

that cases of malpractice dropped. She said they believed that the involvement of uniformed forces might have impacted on that fact.

Pass rate increases by 11.36 per cent

THE 2018 Swaziland General Certificate of Secondary Education (SGCSE) results have improved by 11.36 per cent as compared to those of 2017.

This was revealed by Minister of Education and Training Lady Howard-Mabuza yesterday when delivering the 2018 SGCSE results in the ministry of education offices.

According to Mabuza, the overall pass rate in 2018 is 91.81 per cent while in 2017 it was 80.45 per cent, showing an increase of 11.36 per cent.

"The 2018 results overall pass rate is 91.81 per cent and this shows an increase of 11.36 per cent when compared with the 2017 overall pass rate of 80.45 per cent," Mabuza said. She said with 17 SGCSE subjects examined last year, the candidature increased by 8.26 per cent, as the candidature for 2018 was 20 299 and 18 750 in 2017.

Mabuza mentioned that there were 9 530 males (46.95 per cent) and 10 769 females (53.05 per cent) in 2018.

Addressing media personnel and

ministry of education officials yesterday, the minister said the 2018 SGCSE pass rate was the highest since 2010. Mabuza said 89.0 per cent of candidates passed and scored A* to G in four or more subjects, including English. She said this showed an increase of 1.53 per cent when compared with the 87.47 per cent obtained in 2017.

Mabuza further revealed that in 2018, 2 286 candidates making 15.03 per cent passed with A* to C credits in five or more subjects including the English language.

She added that in 2017, 1 840 candidates which is 13.30 per cent passed with credit A* to C in the above mentioned sequence.

Candidates who scored credit A* to C in five or more subjects, including English, showed an increase when compared with 2017.

Moreover, the minister said there were 15 205 fulltime candidates who sat for the examination, showing an increase in the same year candidature by 1 369 reflecting a 9.89 per cent increase as compared to the 13 836 recorded in 2017.



FINAL: Minister of Education Lady Howard-Mabuza speaking during the press conference to announce the Form Five results at the ministry yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

PREVOC examination drops by 30.46%

MINISTER of Education and Training Lady Howard-Mabuza says the 2018 practical subjects for the prevocational education (PREVOC) candidature dropped by 30.46 per cent.

Mabuza said there were 242 candidates who sat for the PREVOC examination in 2018 as compared to the 348 recorded in 2017, marking a 30.46 per cent decrease.

The pass rate under PREVOC, the minister said, also recorded a drop of 7.17 percent. She said the pass rate in 2018 was 81.63 per cent while it was 88.86 per cent in 2017. Mabuza added that in 2018, the pass rate of candidates who obtained a C credit or better was 35.33 per cent compared to the 35.86 pass rate recorded in 2017, making a 0.53 per cent decrease.



BETTER: PS Sibongile Mtshali speaking at the press conference yesterday.

Nontsikelelo does it for Ka-Boyce

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

NONTSIKELELO Ngwenya of Ka-Boyce High School credited her achievement to hard work as she managed to be among the top three pupils in the country who are all tied on position one.

Nontsikelelo said she was surprised by her achievements, stating that during the exams she sometimes had doubts and felt she did not do her best. She said she was excited and felt like she outdid herself.

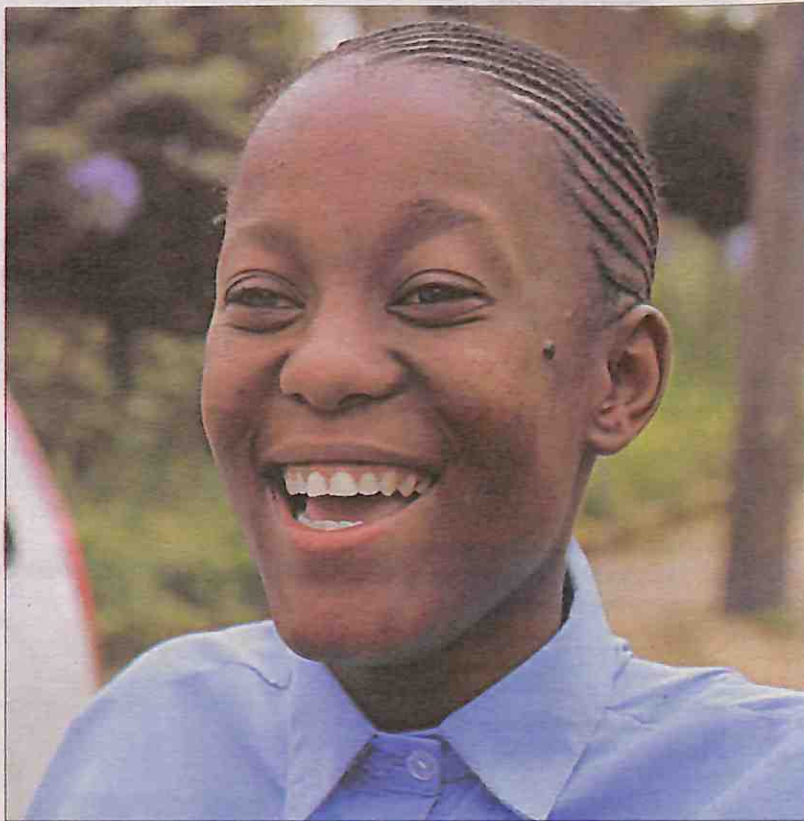
Exams

"During the exams, I would sometimes doubt myself but I did not give up and kept working hard. I am really glad that all my hard work paid off," she added.

In preparation for her exams, Nontsikelelo said she always prayed before every paper. She also said she would engage in group discussions at school and always sought assistance and guidance from her teachers.

She began preparing for her final exam during her mid-year exams.

Nontsikelelo said she was very grateful for all the support she got from her family, especially her mother who always prayed for her and even went to the extent of making a study timetable for her. She said her mother kept encouraging her and made her believe in herself. She also thanked her teachers at Ka-Boyce who were all so influential and always available to her whenever she needed assistance.



EXCITED: Nontsikelelo Susan Ngwenya.

tance.

The top pupil said she would like to encourage all Form Five pupils not only in her school but nation-wide to push their limits. "It's all about setting your priorities straight, knowing what you want in life, self-discipline and most importantly working hard to achieve your goals,"

she said. She is currently doing A levels at St Mark's High School and said she wanted to increase her chances of fulfilling her lifelong dream of enrolling in the medicine discipline. She added that she had not quite decided where she would further her studies as now she was focussing on her A level course.

Prayer was my strongest pillar - Siteki Nazarene's best

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

SITEKI Nazarene High School's best pupil, Saneliso Joseph Surtee has attributed his performance to prayer, thanking his church for standing behind him.

Saneliso attained aggregate 10 in his six best subjects, earning himself a spot amongst the best performers in the country. Saneliso said as much as he studied hard in preparation for the exams, he also

relied greatly in prayer.

He disclosed that he would pray before and after each session of studying. Moreover, Saneliso disclosed that he started studying seriously in the last term of the year in preparation for the examinations. "Basically my strength was in prayer, and this has worked so well for me," he said.

Meanwhile, Saneliso disclosed that he would be taking a course in Civil Engineering as it was one of the professions which were marketable in the country.



PRAYER WARRIOR: Saneliso Joseph Surtee.



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NPA urged to tackle state capture prosecutions immediately

JOHANNESBURG - The Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA) said on Wednesday that the ongoing work of the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture should not be used as an excuse to delay criminal prosecutions where sufficient evidence of wrongdoing already existed.

This comes after the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) withdrew corruption charges against Duduzane Zuma earlier in the day. Prosecutors withdrew the matter pending further evidence, possibly from the ongoing state capture commission.

News24

Nosipho Mpanza a cut above the rest

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

IT is a proud moment indeed for Nosipho Mpanza from St Mark's High School who managed to top them all in this year's Form Five results.

Nosipho, who said she had mixed emotions of shock and excitement about her results, is grateful to God who gave her the strength to stay positive and work hard as she struggled to adjust to hostel life.

The stellar learner said she found it hard to adjust to being away from home as she stayed with her mother all her life but had to stay at school in her final year. She said she feared that she would not be able to emulate her JC achievements as she attained position one on a score of 96 per cent.

Understanding

She thanked her guidance and counselling teachers for their understanding and support as they encouraged her and believed in her even when she doubted herself.

When asked how she prepared herself for the exam, she said she maintained the pace she set in Form Four where she began preparing for her Form Five exam.

"I believe the hard work I put in Form Four gave me an advantage as I had to deal with the adjustment of being away from home where my mother used to help me wake up and study. At the hostel, I had to be disciplined and do it on my own, which was quite challenging." Nosipho was described by her mother Grace Mpanza, a teacher at Lechweiligh High School, as a self-motivated



THE BEST: Nosipho Mpanza.

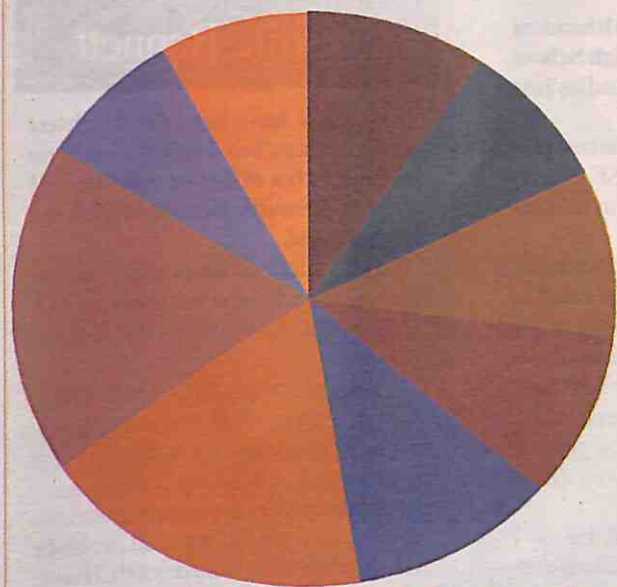
child who made it easy for her as a parent since she did not need supervision when it came to her academic work. Her mother said she was proud and surprised that Nosipho managed to maintain the standard she set in her JC results as she also managed to attain position one. Nosipho also said she was grateful for all her mother's support, both emotionally and materially. She said even though her mother was in SA for the better part of last year, she was still the most visited pupil at her school.

She said she was happy she made her mother proud. Nosipho also thanked the King's Office who granted her a scholarship for Forms Four and Five and said it made things easier for her as she did not worry about school fees because everything was catered for through her scholarship. The top pupil said her dream was to be a neurosurgeon, "I am fascinated about how the brain works, so I would like to further my studies in neurosurgery at John Hopkins University of Medicine in Maryland, USA," she added.

Key:

- Candidates who attended grade C or above including English language in 5 or more subjects.
Q - Candidates who attained grade G or better including English language in 4 or more subjects.

PASS ATTAINMENT



■ 2010 #
■ 2010 ?
■ 2011 #
■ 2011 ?
■ 2012 #
■ 2012 ?
■ 2013 #
■ 2013 ?
■ 2014 #
■ 2014 ?
■ 2015 #

Ebenezer makes it for top 20 while giants crash

BY SAMKELISIWE KHOZA
Mbabane

AS big giants like Christ the King and Hlatikulu High Schools missed the excelled 2018 SGCSE cut, Salem High School has resurfaced.

As a norm, the city based schools like St Mark's, St Theresa's and Ka-Boyce High Schools lead.

However, Ebenezer High School fought for

a space among the top 50 excelled pupils and had two pupils on the list.

Scoring aggregate nine, Ebenezer High excelled pupils, Shongwe Phumelele Kansas and Nkambule Nhlanguiso Sabelo flew the school's flag high and both obtained position 16.

Salem High School resurfaced after years of disappearing from the face of excelled pupils. Trailing right along from the Ebenezer's best, Ndwandwe Thandiswa Nosipho also scored aggregate nine, placing herself at position 16.



JOBS ANNOUNCEMENTS

PSI/Eswatini, a member of the PSI global network, aims to improve the health of the people of Eswatini. For more information or complete job description, please contact recruiting@psi.sz. PSI/Eswatini seeks to recruit for the following positions. These positions are contingent on funding.

JOB TITLE: HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Note: position will be based in Mbabane PSI/Eswatini Head Office.

Responsibilities: The main responsibility of the position will be to support the organization from the recruitment to the on boarding process. Along with senior management, develop a recruitment and on boarding plan and implement that plan. The HR Director will help to develop JDs, advertise and recruit potential candidates, set up and participate in interview process/ selection process ensuring a fair and transparent process, implement reference checks, and facilitate final selection and negotiation, ensuring that the entire process is fair and transparent and meets PSI recruitment and hiring standards. The HR Director will help to conduct on boarding training to new employees. This consultancy is estimated as three months.

Minimum Qualifications:

- University degree (B.A./M.A.) in HR management, Social Sciences, or related field
- At least 7 years of experience in Human Resources Management

JOB TITLE: M&E ANALYST

Note: position will be based in Mbabane PSI/Eswatini Head Office.

Responsibilities: This position is meant to be an intermediate position to that of the M&E manager and the skillset/or training required is in Statistics and/or Social Sciences. Using predictive analytics, the M&E Analyst will be expected to guide program decision making for projects by conducting granular data analysis to identify which program elements are driving results and those that are contributing to achievement of targets.

Minimum Qualifications:

- University degree (B.A./M.A.) in Social Sciences, Economics, Public Health or Statistics
- At least 5 years of experience in monitoring and evaluation at national or international NGOs
- Experience with computer software (Microsoft Office Package, STATA, and SPSS). GIS skill is an added advantage

JOB TITLE: SUB GRANTS MANAGER

Note: position will be based in Mbabane PSI/Eswatini Head Office.

Responsibilities: The main responsibility of the position will be supporting the full lifecycle of all grants, including ensuring sub recipients' compliance with all organizational and donor policies. This position is for a self-motivated highly organized individual with excellent judgment for managing competing priorities effectively. The sub grants manager, will work closely with the health services teams, monitoring and evaluation team; and finance and procurement team to ensure support and capacity building for the sub recipients.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Degree in social science or relevant field
- Minimum three (3) years of experience working with international non-profit organizations
- 3 years' experience in sub grant management required
- Excellent interpersonal, written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to interact with people with ease and grace, adopting an "open-door" policy for all with strong multitasking abilities.

JOB TITLE: REGIONAL M&E OFFICER X 2

Note: position will be based in Regional Offices (Shiselweni and Lubombo).

Responsibilities: The main responsibility of the position will be to strengthen the project's expansion and roll out in communities by providing in the field M&E support for regions (1 M&E Officer per region) and be in charge of conducting data quality audits; cultivating a culture for data use through implementation of D2As and promoting data visualization activities across the project. They will directly support regional managers to synthesize data into information products useful for decision making and sharing to regional health management teams (RHMTs).

Minimum Qualifications:

- BA / BS in Social Science, Statistics or any related field
- 2 - 3 years experience in health service monitoring and evaluation, including the compilation and presentation of reports and programmatic data
- Experience in managing large datasets for use in programming
- Skills in data analysis: Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Access, Proficient knowledge in SPSS and Stata is an added advantage

JOB TITLE: REGIONAL CONDOM DISTRIBUTOR (1)

Note: position will be based in Regional Offices.

Responsibilities: The main responsibility of the position is to distribute condoms to retail outlets and partners. He/she shall conduct mapping of communities to structure condom education and promotions activities. Establish and maintain key community stakeholder relationship to enable condom program activities to be conducted by PSI efficiently.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Diploma in Sales/Marketing and or experience with understanding of FMCG (Fast Moving Goods)
- GCE/HSGCE O'Level
- 3 Years' experience in sales, distribution or logistics
- Knowledge in HIV prevention programming or Social Behavior Change Communication.
- Valid driver's license and 2 years driving experience
- Familiarity with HIV-related health and prevention

JOB TITLE: PROMOTER (1)

Note: The position will support the Lubombo region

Responsibilities: He/she will be responsible for conducting promotion activities and events in the communities. Conduct demand creation messaging for HIV prevention services. He/she will support any PSI specific edutainment as needed. Ensure proper maintenance of PA system before, during and after promotional activities. Conduct condom promotions and distribute condoms during events.

Minimum Qualifications:

- A minimum of O Level certificate
- A diploma in marketing and communication will be an added advantage
- Training in HIV testing and counselling
- Experience in promoting health products and services
- Valid driver's license and 2 years driving experience
- Interpersonal communication skills

JOB TITLE: PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) DRIVER

The position will be based at Matsapha Town Council.

Responsibilities: The main responsibility of the position is to Transport staff to all outreach sites as per the schedule. Ensure that mobile unit is in good condition and roadworthy by conducting inspections before, during and after operation. Completes trip and other transport relevant reports.

Minimum Qualifications:

- O' Levels
- 3 to 5 years driving experience

JOB TITLE: REGIONAL LOGISTICS COORDINATOR

Note that this position will be based in regional offices (Lubombo).

Responsibilities: The main responsibilities of this position includes to facilitate the move of equipment and supplies between regions. Arrange transportation to meet team lead demands with little to no delay. Makes sure regional storeroom is kept at optimal levels in terms of supplies. Oversees inventory of supplies and equipment. Manages calls coming into the regional office Ensures that regional office is functioning properly

Minimum Qualifications:

- 3-5 years experience in logistics management, supply chain management, administrative assistance or related field

JOB TITLE: SUPPLY CHAIN CONSULTANT, LONG TERM

PSI seeks to engage a supply chain consultant to provide technical assistance in condom supply chain and collaborate with key stakeholders. The consultant will serve as a technical resource and develop appropriate tools for condom distribution as required. This consulting is estimated at approximately 3-4 months.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in public health, international development, or a related field; master's degree preferred
- At least three years of experience with international/global health, supply chain, or data management systems
- Experience working on projects related to population and reproductive health topics preferred
- Experience with USAID-funded programs preferred
- Ability to work in a team
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility and integrity

Application letters and curriculum vitae must be sent via email to recruiting@psi.sz no later than 08 February 2019. No calls, please. No posted or hand delivered applications will be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

PSI is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages applications from all qualified individuals regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or disability.

TOP:
Thembela
Simo
Dlamini of
Mhlume
High
School.

Restarting gave me the desired fruits - Mhlume's top kid

STORIES BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

REFUSING to accept failure as a final result is what saw Thembela Simo Dlamini (24) of Mhlume High School finally attaining his desired results.

Thembela was one of three pupils from the same school who were listed in the top 100 bracket of best performers countrywide.

This was after he attained aggregate 11 in his best six subjects; with two A*, three As and B. "I am very happy to have finally got what I have worked so hard for, spending seven years in high school," said Thembela during an interview.

Completed

He disclosed that he first completed high school in 2014, and spent the next two years trying to gain admission at the university.

Even though he had six credits even then, Thembela said he could not be admitted as his results were said to be not good enough for him to be admitted at the University of Eswatini.

With the determination of finally undertaking a course in medicine, Thembela said he decided to return to school to correct his mistakes, back in Form Four.

"I obviously looked a bit older than most pupils, but the desire within me kept me going and focused," he said.

Thembela said he worked hard for the past two years, to ensure that he gets the best results this time around.

He also disclosed that he had to sacrifice some activities such as playing soccer to maximise time with his books.

"My ultimate goal is becoming a medical doctor, but I will have to start with a degree in nursing since there is no institution offering a medicine course locally," he said.

Thembela then thanked his teachers for the support as they even offered them evening classes to ensure that they get the best results.

This was after he attained aggregate 11 in his best six subjects; with two A*, three As and B. "I am very happy to have finally got what I have worked so hard for, spending seven years in high school," said Thembela during an interview.



HARD WORKER: Sandile Bennett of Mhlume High School.

Mthandeni Mtshali does cross-night studies

FOR him to get the best results, Mthandeni Treasure Mtshali of Mhlume High School had to undertake cross-night studies just before the exam paper.

Mthandeni was listed amongst the best performing pupils in the 2018 IGCSE examinations, with an aggregate of 11 in his best six subjects.

Speaking briefly after getting his results, the confident boy said he was expecting to get such results as he had worked hard for them. He disclosed that he would do cross-night studies before each exam paper to maximise his chances of getting the best results.

In fact, Mthandeni said he started practising cross-night studies when he was still at Form Four.

"I was used to cross-night studying, so I was never afraid of maybe falling asleep during the exam," he said. In preparation for the exams, Mthandeni said he also stopped using his cell-phone from the beginning of the year until the last day of his exams. Meanwhile, he disclosed that he aspires to undertake a course in Aviation at an institution in South Africa.



BEST: Mthandeni Treasure Mtshali of Mhlume High School.

Working hard did the trick for Mhlume's Sandile Bennett

"I may not have been the brightest pupil in class, but I relied mostly on putting extra effort in everything I did," said Sandile Bennett of Mhlume High School.

Sandile attained aggregate 11 in his best six subjects, and was listed position 51 countrywide in the 2018 SGCE examinations.

When informed of his good results, Sandile expressed his excitement, saying he worked hard throughout the year to ensure he gets the best results.

Sandile disclosed that he was naturally a focused person who had too much faith in prayer as he was a devoted Christian.

He disclosed that he always used study periods profitably as he would sit in his desk and revise every lesson he has had on each day.

Popular

This made him popular amongst teachers as they grew to know him as a hard worker. "Unlike other pupils who would be known as natural smart kids, I was known for working hard," he said.

Sandile also attributed his success to his friends, whom he had teamed up with during study periods. He disclosed that they would gather during their spare time and revise past exam papers.

Meanwhile, Sandile said he is looking forward to take an accounting course at the University of Eswatini as he aspires to be a chartered accountant.



CORNER PLAZA TO MVUTJINI NETWORK UPGRADE

The Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC) would like to notify all its valued customers and stakeholders that there will be an upgrade to the existing telecommunications network at the Corner Plaza and Mvutjini area on Saturday the 26th of January starting from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM, as well as on Sunday the 27th of January 2019, starting from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

Customers around the Corner Plaza and Mvutjini area may experience minimal interval outages. This upgrade is aimed at improving service delivery and enhance high speed data services.

In the event that you experience any problems outside the stipulated times please call our toll free line, 971 for assistance.

We apologise for any inconvenience customers and stakeholders may experience during this period, and would like to reassure all our customers of our continued commitment to service excellence.

Corporate Affairs Department.



Website: www.sptc.co.sz Email: info@sptc.co.sz Tel: +268 2405 2000 Fax: +268 2405 2001

TWITTER: @sptcswaziland FACEBOOK: sptcswaziland

DOC:18311

'I AM SHOCKED'

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane

17-year-old Tifeziwe Adorable Dlamini, who made it to the top 20 list of pupils who performed well during the 2018 Form Five examination, said she was shocked by her own achievement.

She is number 12 and she is a St Mark's High School pupil.

The teenager obtained an aggregate of eight and stated that she was both shocked and excited by the results. However, she confirmed that her performance at school has been consistent and she has been excelling.

"I am shocked that I featured in the top list because I had exam stress; however, I also feel liberated," she said.

She also stated that in terms of studying, she did a lot of research using her phone and if she did not understand something, she would ask around. She further disclosed that her family



SHOCKED: Tifeziwe Adorable Dlamini of St. Mark's High School smiling for the camera. She made it in the top list and got an aggregate of eight. (Pic: Bahle Gama)

was supportive as well as they made the environment conducive for her, in terms of how she would love the house to be and noise frequency. She further mentioned that she also prayed a lot as she is a Jehovah's Witness member. Dlamini stated that her teach-

ers also contributed and helped her a lot whilst she was preparing for her exams. Her favourite subjects are Information Technology, Physics, Chemistry and Accounts and would love to pursue a course in ICT, Computer Science to be precise.

'I HAD MIXED FEELINGS'

STORIES BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Manzini

MASONYA Mandisa Kitso (18), one of the ace pupils from St Theresa's High, said she had mixed feelings about the results. She obtained aggregate six.

After receiving the news that she had scored so high in her exams, she could not hold her excitement. She said she doubted, at times, that she would be one of the top performing pupils in the country.

"I had mixed feelings about the results," she said.

She said this is because the year was just too hard for her because of the number of subjects she was studying.



In total, Mandisa was studying 10 sub-

jects of which she excelled in all of them. She only had difficulties when she was writing SiSwati papers and did not encounter any difficulties in the rest. Her easiest papers were Mathematics and Biology.

She is planning to study medicine in any tertiary institution outside the country, preferably Harvard University.

She said she was inspired by an article she read by a top performing pupil who shared her tips on how to excel in external examinations. She said she realised that one needs to be determined from the beginning of the year. She said most pupils start studying a few weeks before examination and expect good grades, something which is impossible.

"Start from the beginning of the year and make sure you grab everything in class," she said.

'I want to study medicine'



TODVWA Happy Dlamini (17) from St. Theresa's High School who obtained aggregate 11, says she wants to study medicine.

She dreams of studying in Russia. However, she is determined to come back home after being qualified as a medical practitioner. She is being raised by her mother who is a vendor at Malkerns and her

father died when she was young. She said the only difficult paper for her was Additional Mathematics. "After Additional Mathematics had shown me flames, I still do not believe that I made it to the top 50," she said. She said she enjoyed Religious Education and Economics during the examination.

'Ngwane Park Whizzkid sobs'

SETSABILE Mkhonta (17) from Ngwane Park High burst into tears when she was informed by her principal that she was one of the country's best.

She obtained aggregate 11.

Upon hearing the wonderful news through her head teacher, she burst into tears. The former head girl wants to study Biomedical Engineering at Duke University. She said the dedication of her teachers and the motivational speakers that they invited to the school made her the person she is.

"I would like to point out that the great work the motivational speakers did when they visited our school really helped me," she said.

Buyile Simelane-Shongwe, the school Principal, described her as a charismatic, upright, disciplined and principled young person. She said she expected the former head girl to do exceptionally well in her external examination.

"Yes, yes, yes. Praise God. We really expected this from her. She is a great leader. She echoed the administration well from her peers," she said.



St. Theresa's principal shares secret to good results

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Manzini

ST. Theresa's High School Principal Albert Sihlongonyane has finally shared his secret in producing spectacular results.

The all-girls school had its pupils dominating the top spot in the external examinations which are Junior Certificate and SGCSE. In an interview with this publication, the principal finally let the cat out of the bag.

He said as a school, they strongly believe in the development of their pupils through motivation.

"We invest a lot in motivation as a school," he said.

He said motivation would inspire the children to be visionaries of their future.

Personal vision inspires more than anything," he said.

He said every year, teachers work together with the pupils and parents and set targets. Throughout the year, they work hard to hit the targets.

The principal also shared that every beginning of the year, they dedicate the first two days for orientation.

The orientation is aimed at aiding the pupils on the subjects that they will decide to study in relation to their future careers and capabilities.

After the orientation, the career guidance department helps with the submissions made by the pupils.

This helps to realise where the school needs to strengthen its services.

Sihlongonyane said principals need to make sure that all necessary tools necessary for each subject are available at a school. He said this would enable the teachers to teach without difficulties as well as the learners.

"I have seen teachers and learners in some schools struggling to get equipment for different subjects.

You cannot expect to teach and reap good results if the school has poor teaching aids," he said.

Furthermore, he noticed that in some schools, they force their pupils to do certain subjects instead of letting the child pick for themselves.

H said this demotivates the pupils.

"Teachers should respect what the pupils want and nurture them," he said.

In conclusion, the principal stated that every month, they have assessment tests.

The learner who tops the monthly test is awarded with a voucher, lunch voucher, for example.

The money for these vouchers comes from the school's tuck shop.



NGWANE PARK YOUTH & TRAINING CENTRE

(A Ministry of Education & Training TVET Institution)
(Swaziland Higher Education Council Approved)

JANUARY 2019 INTAKE

(Registration and Admission Currently ongoing)

FULL TIME COURSES

1. Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT Level 3 and 4)
2. Diploma Information Communication (City & Guilds)
3. Diploma in Secretarial & Business Skills (City & Guilds)

PART TIME COURSES

1. Shorthand 60-120 wpm (City & Guilds)
2. Typing 35-40 wpm (City & Guilds)
3. Pastel
4. A+
5. Ms Excel
6. Graphic Design
7. N+
8. AAT Level 3 & 4

HURRY!! LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE

Physical location: Opposite Ngwane Park High School, Manzini

Ngwane Park Youth & Training Centre
P O Box 2280
Manzini, Swaziland
Southern Africa
Tel: (+268) 2505 2244
Cell: (+268) 7833 2456
Email: npytc@yahoo.com
Website: www.npytc.ac.sz





Minister of Commerce Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo and Prince Lindani joined by Taiwan Business Chief Delegate Yun-Chung Tsai and Taiwan-Africa Business Association Chairman Jeff Sun. This was during the sidelines of the ongoing Eswatini and Taiwan Business Forum at Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

Eswatini and Taiwan



ADDRESS: Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Eswatini Jeremy Liang addressing the gathering.



PRESENT: Tibiyo Taka Ngwane Investment Manager Susan Myzoe Magagula, SNTC CEO Dr Cliff Dlamini and ETA CEO Linda Nxumalo were also in attendance.



PACKED: Delegates from both partners following one of the presentations.



PS Siboniso Nkambule flanked by Dr Khanyisile Dlamini and the Acting CEO of Eswatini Investment Promotion Authority Hanalora Strydom as they follow proceedings of the meeting. (R) Tex-Ray boss Ray Lin is among the many Taiwanese business people who are in the country for the forum.



Local captains of industry were also in attendance. (R) SWACAA CEO Solomon Dube and NIDCS CEO Mzikayise Dube in a conversation.



Business Forum



FOR YOU: Prince Lindani presenting a special gift to the Chief Delegate YC Tsai while Taiwan Ambassador Jeremy Liang and Minister Khumalo look on.



ALL EARS: Attendees listening to one of the presentations.



FOCUS: A section of the many captains of industry who attended the business forum.



SMILE: Nomfundo Sifundza and Bongani Dube from Tee & Jay were also in attendance.

Inkhosikati Fanenina Violet Dladlu



Dear Mom,

Zomba it's exactly a year since you went to Glory. Although we know that the Lord was glad to welcome you home, our pain at your loss remains deep. We thank God for the gift of your love and time spent with you not forgetting your love and care for ALL. Our eyes remain fixed on the cross longing for the day we reunite. Oh! What joy.

To everyone that supported us during that dark time of our lives. We are grateful that you shared our pain with us, as expressed in your various forms of contribution.

May the good Lord bless you abundantly.

We miss you Tima!

Pick n Pay

7 OF THE BEST

FOR SEVEN DAYS

<p>7⁹⁹</p>	<p>7⁹⁹</p>	<p>10⁹⁹</p>	<p>17⁹⁹</p>
<p>19⁹⁹</p>	<p>59⁹⁹</p>	<p>19⁹⁹</p>	

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 Matsapha: Plot 445, Matsapha Township, Tel: 03200 2018 7300
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 Mashayitfula: Plot 101, Cnr. Peka College Road and Mashayitfula Police Station, Tel: 03200 2010 0000/0010
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SA court saves Usuthu River from pollution

BY BODWA MBINGO
Johannesburg

Emaswati dependent on the country's longest river, Usuthu River that enters the country from South and runs through to Mozambique may heave a sigh of relief after a South African court has ruled against the possible pollution of this river.

The court ruled that Indian-owned mining company Atha-Africa Ventures may not appeal against a High Court ruling overturning governmental permission for a massive new coal mine in the protected Mabola environment outside Wakkerstroom in Mpumalanga. The Usuthu River in the Enkangala Drakensberg Strategic Water Source falls under the Mabola Protected Environment Area, and flows through Eswatini, Mozambique, and the Heyshope Dam in the Vaal River System.

Generation

A huge number of Emaswati are very much reliant on the Usuthu River for drinking water, hydropower generation and irrigation purposes. The river feeds two of the country's biggest dams, the Liphohlo Dam, that in turn supplies Mbabane with drinking water and the Ezulwini Hydropower Station, and Lubovane Dam that is a lifeblood of the Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Programme (LUSIP) in the lowveld.

According to the Citizen, two of Jacob Zuma's nephews were Atha-Africa Ventures's BEE partners when a licence for an underground coal mine was originally granted.

Judge Norman Davis in November last year delivered a damning judgment in the High Court in Pretoria in which he severely criticised former Mineral Resources Minister Mosebenzi Zwane and the late Environment Minister Edna Molewa for not being transparent and for denying concerned parties a say when they granted permission for Atha to open an underground coal mine in the protected wetlands area.

He had referred Atha's application back to the ministers for reconsideration on condition they complied with the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA) and took into account the inter-

...Indian-owned coal miner denied leave to appeal wetlands judgment that bars them from operating and consequently causing pollution the river that runs through Eswatini



POLLUTION: The Usuthu River headwaters in the Enkangala Drakensberg Strategic Water Source falls under the Mabola Protected Environment Area, and flows through Eswatini, Mozambique, and the Heyshope Dam in the Vaal River System. (Pic: James Oatway/Centre for Environmental Rights)

ests of local communities and relevant environmental principles.

He ordered any decisions had to be deferred until the conclusion of statutory appeals against the approval of Atha's environment management programme, the issuing of a water licence and a management plan was finalised.

Environment

A punitive costs order was granted against the ministers and Mpumalanga's environment member of the executive council.

The judge this week refused Atha-Africa leave to appeal and ordered it to pay the legal costs of the coalition of civil society organisations which successfully opposed the application.

In his ruling last year, the judge lashed the min-

isters for seemingly following a "tick-box" approach by granting a licence because Atha had approvals from other departments.

Impact

They ignored a report about the impact of mining on the wetlands, relied on documents they never saw and did not consider the impact of their decision on the environment. He said a higher level of scrutiny and transparency was required because two of former president Jacob Zuma's nephews were Atha's BEE partners.

The Mabola Protected Environment consists of wetlands, pans and endangered grassland ecosystems, is the source of the Tugela, Vaal and Pongola rivers and has been identified as one of South Africa's 21 strategic water source areas.

Verbal abuse lands man in court

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

SAMSON Suthu Mncina (42) of Sitibeni area under Chief Zembe appeared before Magistrate Lenhle Zulu Yesterday for two counts.

He is alleged to have contravened with the S77 (A), (C), (D) and (H), (I) of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, where he is said to have verbally and emotionally abused one Lomacusa Lukhele (42) at Macobolwane on January 19.

For his second count the accused is said to have received a warning from committing the mentioned offence but failed to follow the court order barring him and, by so doing, in contempt of court.

Prosecution

An application by the prosecution was made that the accused be remanded into custody and return to court on his trial date, being February 4. On another matter, Sifiso Donald Maziya (30) and Sifiso Ronnie Nkambule (32) were arrested and charged for the offence of attempted murder, whereby they are alleged to have, with intent to kill, assaulted one Senzo Msimango with a knife once on the back, by so doing inflicted a near fatal wound from which Msimango is said to have nearly died from. The crime is said to have been committed at Yemfo Bar on October 1, 2006.

On their first court appearance, Maziya who is the first accused told the court that he is the one who stabbed the complainant whilst trying to save his friend, Nkambule who was allegedly fighting with the complainant. He further asked that his friend be recused from the crime. However, the court told him that his plea could not be granted until the decision was taken by the police.

They were granted bail at E1 000 each. Yesterday, only Maziya appeared before court and stated that he had last seen his friend on the day of receiving bail.

The case was postponed to March 26, pending committal to the High Court.

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A 21-year-old man from Mayiwane under chief Gija, was arrested and charged with the offence of housebreaking with intent to steal, after allegedly stealing items valued at E3 935 on January 14.

He made his appearance before Magistrate Lenhle Zulu yesterday.

Accused

The accused is alleged to have broken into on Sabelo Christie's house at Macobolwane and stole items valued at the said amount.

He told the court that when he committed the crime he was not in his right mind and was drunk at the time. He further stated that he committed the crime at night. However, when he was asked

where the stolen items were he stated that he sold them which raised questions.

"How was your state of mind not intact if you managed to also go and sell the stolen items, because one would expect that once you realise your mistake the next day, you would then return the items to their rightful owner," said the presiding officer.

He pleaded for leniency and stated that he had been accepted at a university to study BSA and asked that his fingerprints not be taken and his plea was granted.

On another matter, a 24-year-old man from Somnjalose made his appearance before the court for the offence of contravening Section

77(1) (a) of the Sexual offences and Domestic Violence Act 15/2018 after allegedly breaking his girlfriend's window valued at E600, with intent to cause her harm.

The accused told the court that he was drunk when he committed the offence, and further stated that his girlfriend had forgiven him and pleaded that the court put that into consideration.

Confirmed

Mbali Dlamini the girlfriend was present in court and she confirmed what her boyfriend had said. However, the prosecution stated that the new Act did not permit the police, the Crown or the court to withdraw a case on such matters, thus his plea was denied.

Man gets E3 000 fine for housebreaking

The accused then apologised to the court and pleaded for leniency.

Magistrate Zulu warned the accused and told him to refrain from reacting towards situations especially when drunk.

Offence

She further told the girlfriend that if he ever repeated the similar offence she should consider leaving the relationship because he would kill her in the name of love.

He was sentenced to 15 months in prison with an option of a fine of E1 500, and the sentence was wholly suspended for a period of 15 months, on condition that the accused does not commit a similar offence.



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ESWATINI

FIRST SESSION COURT ROLL 2019



TO: The Honourable Judge President Of The Industrial Court

The Honourable Judges Of The Industrial Court

The Honourable Members Of The Industrial Court

The Attorney General

The Commissioner Of Police

The Executive Director - CMAC

All Legal Practitioners

All Those Whom It May Concern

NOTICE:

1. The First Session of the Industrial Court will commence on the 28th January to the 3rd May 2019.

2. The Roll is annexed hereto.

3. Take notice that no postponement will be entertained except for good cause shown and properly motivated in open court.

P.K. MALINGA
REGISTRAR - INDUSTRIAL COURT

MATTERS BEFORE J.P. NSIBANDE FIRST SESSION 2019

CASE NO.	PARTIES	ATTORNEYS
384/12	Belinho Gumedze vs Pelican Construction (Pty) Ltd	L.R. Mamba Musa Sibandze
40/12	Bhekimphe Vilakati vs Pimentas KFC	Lloyd Mzi Musa Sibandze
293/12	Nkosinathi Dlamini vs Decor Craft (Pty) Ltd	Cloete/Henwood Motsa/Manyatsi
399/12	Philiwe Sibandze vs Bharot Group (Pty) Ltd	Piliwe Simelane B.S. Dlamini
348/12	Joe Matsenjwa vs Dalcrue Agricultural Holdings	Khumalo-Ngcampthalala Musa Sibandze
336/12	Nkosinathi Nxumalo vs Happy Valley Casino	M.S. Dlamini Legal Musa Sibandze
337/12	Jabulani Shongwe vs Gutjiwa Transport	Stanley Mavuso Madzinane
344/12	Dudu Mkhabela vs Fortis Enterprises Limited	Madzinane Cloete/Henwood
460/12	Musa Matsenjwa vs Luluba Investments (Pty) Ltd	Madzinane
28/12	Chester Mhlana vs MP Food Processors (Pty) Ltd	Basil Thwala Madau/Simelane
279/11	Doris Dlamini vs R.S.S.C.	Zonke Magagula Magagula - Hlophe
90/11	Sibusiso Manana vs Build It Hardware	Mabuza Labour Dunseith
215/11	Sifiso Myeni vs Cargo Carriers (Pty) Ltd	S.T.A.W.U. Magagula - Hlophe
14/12	Lucky Dladu vs Swaziland Beverages (Pty) Ltd	Aaron Dlamini Musa Sibandze
20/12	Gideon Nkomonye vs Municipal Council Of Manzini	Nkomondze Thwala Attorneys
06/12	Muzi P. Dlamini vs Ultra Travel Agencies (Pty) Ltd	C.J. Litter Leo Gama & Associates
03/12	Rose Dlamini vs Builders Hardware & Supermarket	B.S. Dlamini Dunseith
238/11	Mawira Chitima vs S.W.A.D.E.	Currie Sibandze Robinson Bertram
80/11	Ntando Khoza vs Leo Garments	Stanley Mavuso M.H. Mdluli
292/10	John Shiba vs Agrimech (Pty) Ltd	M.H. Mdluli S.S. Mnisi
207/11	Mfanzile S. Dlamini vs Fidelity Service Group Swaziland	Vilakati & Co Magagula - Hlophe
138/11	Dominic Tembe vs Tranship (Pty) Ltd	Magongo - Dlamini Cloete - Henwood
123/11	Nonhlanhla Msefwa - Dlamini vs TMK International (Pty) Ltd	L.A. Magongo Dumsani Mabuza
227/11	Masinde Dlamini vs Tex Ray Swaziland (Pty) Ltd	Madzinane Makhosi C. Vilakati

31/11	Maziya Zakhele vs E.M. Loggers (Pty) Ltd	Molsa - Manyatsi
124/11	Thulani Mngometulu vs Beverage Merchandising Swaziland	Henwood
197/11	Mangaliso Matsenjwa vs Crime Stop Security	Currie - Sibandze
233/11	Sonnyboy Dlamini vs The Premier League of Swaziland	Martin Dlamini
203/11	Dumsani Dlamini & three others vs Green Life Environs (Pty) Ltd	Bongani Mkoko
363/07	Samson Dlamini vs Nomsa Shabangu	Bongani Mkoko
359/05	Amos Qwala Mkhwebu vs The Municipal Council Of Manzini	B.S. Dlamini
102/11	Garnet Simelane & six others vs Swaziland Government	Magagula
374/12	Siyabonga Mamba vs Swaziland Poultry Processors	Magongo Dlamini
359/05	Mxolisi Mpungose vs B.R. Doors & Windows	Nzima & Associates
72/11	Mlungisi Ceba vs MTN Swaziland Ltd	Aaron Dlamini

MATTERS BEFORE JUDGE NKONYANE

CASE NO.	PARTIES	ATTORNEY/S
372/13	Themba Appolo Shiba vs Fidelity Security Group	Shadrack Masuku Hlophe Magagula
269/13	Mfanawekhaya Dlamini & six others vs A.G. Thomas	B. Mdluli J. Henwood
351/13	John Maphanga vs Swaziland Beverages	B.S. Dlamini M. Sibandze
322/13	Shereen Mccvish vs Swaziland Liquor Distribution	SP Mamba Robinson Betrams
299/13	Gloria Zodwa Sibandze vs Swazi Spa Holding	PR Dunseith John Henwood
286/13	Edward Dlamini vs GMR Freight	Nhleko Partners M. Sibandze
282/13	Nathi Nkambule vs Jasha Investments T/A Radio Shop	S. Mngometulu Masina Ndlovu Att
321/13	Sandra McCresh vs Farm Chemicals	S. P. Mamba Hlophe Magagula
439/13	Sabelo Ndlangamandla vs R.S.S.C.	S. Simelane Hlophe Magagula
451/13	Zebion Magagula Kunene vs World Vision Swaziland	Mabila Attorney M. Sibandze
461/13	Claudia Martins vs Agrimech	C.J. Litter SB Shongwe
163/13	Thulani Sibusiso Matfonsi vs Jacob Mashaba T/A Peters Transport	Malinga & Malinga Zonke Magagula
527/14	Nokuthula Grace Molsa vs Phahlaphahla Delisive Solution	M.Thwala Att Sibandze Att
300/14	Charles Rudd vs Eagles Nest	J. Henwood Robinson & Betrams
367/11	Mlungisi Vilakati vs Waterford Kamhlaba	L.R. Mamba J. Henwood
113/13	Dumsile Zwane vs Swazi Spa Holdings	S. Madzinane J. Henwood
103/13	Phumzile Ndzinisa vs C Ries T/A Richfield Butchery	E. Dlamini Rodrigues
324/13	Comfort Happy Shiba vs ALM Construction	PR Dunseith S. Madzinane
387/13	Sithembiso Zwane & 21 Others vs John P. Carmichael	M.B. Mhlana Hlophe Magagula
87/13	Sikhumbuzo Zondo vs S.N.P.F.	S. Simelane Robinson Betrams
301/16	Percy T. Maziya vs Ubombo Sugar Limited	S. Madzinane J. Henwoods
155/09	Desmond Maphanga vs Swaziland National Council of Arts & Culture	M. Ndlovu S.V. Mdladla
78/11	Mandlenkosi Reflex Simelane vs Timbercraft	Bertrams M. Sibandze
246/13	Bhekumusa P. Shabangu vs Shoprite Checkers	M.Z. Mkhwanazi Hlophe Magagula
429/05	S.A.P.W.U. vs Ubombo Sugar Limited	A. Fakudze Robinson Bertram's
331/2000	Sipho Dlamini & another vs Mhlume Sugar Company	A. Lukhele Betrams
116/04	Mduduzi Ntsintshali vs Holding	A. Lukhele S.J. Kemp
425/07	Titus Velaphi Dlamini vs Tabankulu Estates	Mkhwanazi Att Hlophe & Magagula
369/17	S.E.C. vs S.E.S. M.A.W.U.	M. Sibandze C. Hlophe
465/12	Dumsani Bhembe	Bhembe Nyoni Attorneys

173/15	vs T.S.C.	Attorney General
490/2012	Sipho Mkhonta vs Ministry Public Works	Mkwanzazi Attorneys
465/2012	Amos Maziya vs Attorney General	Attorney General
524/14 (b)	Dumsani Bhembe vs Attorney General	Madzinane Attorneys
524/14 (a)	Tom B. Nkabinde vs Ubombo Sugar Limited	Attorney General
	John Mthembu vs Ubombo Sugar Limited	Bhembe & Nyoni Att
		Attorney General
		Zonke Magagula
		Robinson Bertram
		Zonke Magagula
		Robinson Bertram

MATTERS BEFORE JUDGE MAZIBUKO FOR FIRST SESSION 2019

CASE NO.	PARTIES	ATTORNEY/S
129/11	Siber Nyambi vs Nedbank Swaziland	MP Simelane Robinson Bertram
82/13	Themba Derick Shongwe vs Chuan Yi Paper (Pty) Ltd	M.H. Mdluli C.J. Litter & Co.
496/13	Alfred Manana vs Swazi Auto Truck Centre	B.S. Dlamini S.S. Mnisi
74/13	Thokozani Ndlangamandla vs Central Bank of Swaziland	Musa M. Sibandze Bhembe and Nyoni
486/13	Jeremiah Dlamini vs SWAD Sivicultural Contractors	Mbuso E.Simelane Madzinane
416/12	Londwe C. Dlamini vs Nkambeni Central Primary	Robinson Bertram Madzinane
179/12	Diane Muir vs Southern Trading Company	Robinson Bertram Bhembe Nyoni
343/13	Mduduzi Mhlana vs O.K. Bazaars	Magagula & Hlophe Bhembe Nyoni
349/13	Mamo Gamedze vs O.K. Bazaars (Pty) Ltd	Magagula & Hlophe Bhembe & Nyoni
348/13	Cebile Khanya vs O.K. Bazaars (Pty) Ltd	Magagula & Hlophe Bhembe Nyoni
350/13	Simangele Dlamini vs O.K. Bazaars Pty Ltd	Magagula & Hlophe Bhembe Nyoni
345/13	Gugu Mbuyisa vs O.K. Bazaars Pty Ltd	Magagula & Hlophe Motsa Mavuso
83/13	Sonnyboy Velaphi Mamba vs Speedy Overborder Services	Gigi A. Reid L.R. Mamba
118/12	Mlungisi Vilakati vs Waterford Kamhlaba	Henwood & Co. C.Z. Dlamini
94/12	Sicoliso Thwala vs Bheki Zwane T/A Siyabamba Construction	Mabila Att Mabila Att
186/12	Ndaba Dlamini vs Nedbank Swaziland	Robinson Bertram Madzinane
462/13	Themba Masilela And Others vs Long Distance Transport	Gigi A. Reid Patrick Mamba
196/12	Jerome Gamedze & Others vs Interoute International	Magagula & Hlophe SB Molsa
199/12	Thembisile Magagula vs Fashion International	Musa Sibandze Selby Dlamini
144/12	Elliot Dlamini vs Swaziland Security Guards	SS Mnisi

PART - HEARD MATTERS

CASE NO.	PARTIES	ATTORNEY/S
463/12	Sipho Banda vs Nhlangu Town Council	Mkhwanazi Att. Motsa Mavuso
335/11	Andre Botha vs Swazi Oxygen	Musa Sibandze Robinson Bertram
524/10	Gideon Mthembu vs UNISWA	Dunseith Musa Sibandze
365/07	Oswald Zwane vs Tibiyo TakaNgwane	Mabila Attorneys Cloete Henwood
365/10	Anita Jaues vs VIP Protection Services	Dunseith Musa Sibandze
235/12	Bongani Sydney Dlamini vs Swaziland Competition Commission	Sithole Magagula Magagula Hlophe
238/12	Mduduzi Hlatshwako & 111 others vs The Chief Officer (Kings Office)	S.B. Molsa Robinson Bertram
91/11	Robert Zwane vs Cashbuild	Dunseith Attorneys Magagula & Hlophe
130/12	Trevor Masuku & Others vs Attorney General	Sithole Magagula A.G.
88/12	Sithembiso Mkhatswa vs Attorney General	A.G. S.S. Mnisi Attorneys
453/12	Thuli Nkosi & Others vs Attorney General	A.G. Mkhwanazi Attorneys
493/12	Themba Dlamini & Others vs NERCHA	A.G. V. Nhlabatsi
396/10	Nomathamba Bhembe vs Palfridge Ltd	Robinson Bertram B.S. Dlamini
204/11	Mbali Ngcamphalala	L.R. Mamba Mkhwanazi Attorneys

593/13	vs First International Bank	Musa Sibandze
	Bongani Dlamini	M.H. Mdluli
	vs Unitrans Swaziland	Musa Sibandze
280/17	Dr Cleopas Sibanda	M. Hlophe & Associates
	vs CSC & four Others	A.G.
33/14	Sport Zwelonke Dlamini	Mkhwanazi Att.
	vs Premier League Of Swaziland	Robinson Bertram
89/10	Carlos Concalves	Musa Sibandze
	vs MP Food Processors	Simelane Mntshali
85/18	Mangaliso Malinga	Bhembe Nyoni
	vs Data Network Services (Pty) Ltd	S.V. Mdladla
46/13	Mlungisi Matsebula	Ephraem Dlamini
	vs Pimentas KFC	Musa Sibandze

MATTERS BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP, JUSTICE T.A. DLAMINI

CASE NO.	PARTIES	ATTORNEY/S
654/06	Phile Msihi & two Others vs SWD Electricity Board	Dunseith Attorneys M. Sibandze Attorneys
317/07	John Kunene vs TSC & Attorney General	B.S. Dlamini Attorneys Attorney General
344/05	Sydney Mhlana & Others vs SNT & Others	Madzinane Attorneys Robinson Bertram
129/09	Winile Dlamini vs Azania Financial Consult.	L.M. Simelane Mkhabela Attorneys
613/08	Mavisi Simelane vs SwaziBank	M. Sibandze Attorney R. Ndlangamandla Att.
339/11	Musa Dladu vs Time Properties	E. Dlamini S.M. Kubheka
319/11	Simon Nkambule vs SWD Building Society	Magagula Hlophe Att. Bhembe Nyoni Att.
332/13	Nomcebo Masango vs Shoprite	Magagula Hlophe Att. T.L. Dlamini
364/11	Helen Magono & another vs Boxer Superstore	Robinson Bertram Robinson Bertram
163/11	Shadrack Sihlongonyane vs Fidelity Security Services Pty Ltd	Magagula Hlophe Simelane Mthali
157/11	Kholiwe Shongwe vs Hall/Stacey Architects	Henwood Att. Bhembe Nyoni
465/12	Dum'sani Bhembe vs TSC & 2 Others	Attorney General M.P. Simelane
128/11	Siphosethu Mhlaba vs Themba Dlamini	Nzima & Associates T.L. Dlamini & Associates
378/12	Nicholas Magongo vs Italian Scorpion Security	Lloyd Mzi Mbuso H. Dube
155/11	Christopher Zwane vs Roots Construction	Magagula Att. STAWU
214/11	Dominic Nxumalo & 16 others vs Cargo Carriers (PTY) Ltd	Magagula Att. Lloyd Mzi
200/11	Michael Gina & 19 Others vs Cargo Carriers	Magagula Att. Sukati Msihi
162/11	Sicelo Magagula vs Bizcom Investments Pty Ltd	Shadrack Masuku M. Sibandze
287/11	Sithembiso Myeni vs Swazi Poultry Processors	Sukati Msihi M.H. Mdluli
26/11	Bhekumusa Nxumalo vs Multi-Purpose Distributors Pty Ltd	Robinson Bertram Makhosi Vilakati
295/12	Sibusiso Jele vs Gridlock Security Services	M.S. Simelane M. Sibandze
340/12	Thulile Dlamini vs G & T Investments	David Msihi & Associates Waring Att.
343/12	Thembeni Zubuko vs Pheda Fashoin Centre	M.H. Mdluli M. Sibandze
395/12	Joseph Ndwandwe vs Satellite Investments Pty Ltd	Magongo Dlamini Magagula Hlophe
157/12	Harry Dlamini vs Cashbuild Swd	Ephraim Dlamini Robinson Bertram
428/12	Thamsanga Dlamini vs Municipal Council of Thanduxolo Dlamini	Hlabangani & Associates L.R. Mamba & Associates
437/12	vs Mhlaleni Filling Station	Bhembe Att. Henwood Att.
433/12	Thembi Dlamini vs Swazi Spa Holdings Ltd	Bhembe & Nyoni Att. S.V. Mdladla & Associates
294/13	Raymond Kunene vs Ezulwini Town Board	Khumalo Ngcamphalala Att. M. Sibandze Att.
516/13	Thulani Manana vs SWD Beverages Pty Ltd	David Msihi & Associates M. Sibandze
502/13	Thembi Matsebula vs Fedics Food Services Swd	Ndzinisa Attorneys Attorney General
414/10	Philip Msefwa vs P.S. Ministry of Works & 2 Others	Motsa Mavuso Attorneys V.Z. Dlamini
371/09	Thulani Mayisela vs TASC	Simelane Mthali Att. S.S. Mnisi Att.
434/12	Nobuhle Mabuza vs Future Flooring (PTY) Ltd	

Dead EPTC man identified



CONFIRMED: EPTC Corporate Affairs Manager Nqobile Magagula.

BY MELUSI MLOTSA
Mbabane

THE Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC) employee who was found dead in his flat at Macobolwane (Mbabane) has been identified as Mduduzi Gwebu.

He worked under the EPTC's finance department.

Gwebu had served the company for five years.

According to family members who were found at EPTC

on Wednesday morning, they were in the process of preparing for funeral arrangements of the deceased.

They said Gwebu would be buried at Magwanyane (Maphungwane) area in the Lubombo Region over the weekend.

Shocked

The family members said they were still shocked.

"His death shocked us as a family, it is true that he was sickly, but we did not expect him to die in such a manner. As a family we are heartbro-

ken as he left behind children," said a family member. The family member described Mduduzi as a sociable person who was loved by many.

The family member said, they were waiting for a police report which would detail circumstances surrounding his death.

EPTC Corporate Affairs Manager Nqobile Magagula confirmed that the employee is Mduduzi Gwebu and that he was working under the finance department as a coin counter.

EPTC copper stolen at Msabane

BY MELUSI MLOTSA
Mbabane

BARELY two weeks after copper wires valued E58 000 were stolen at Gilgal area in the Lubombo region, yet another theft has taken place at Msabane.

Eswatini Posts Telecommunication Corporation (EPTC) copper wire valued E4 250 was stolen at Msabane.

Worth noting is that Gilgal is a few kilometres from Msabane.

Reliable sources said the wire was stolen last Sunday and recovered about 30 metres away from an EPTC transformer.

A member of the area's community police confirmed that copper wire was found abandoned at Msabane.

"Copper wire theft is on the rise here, probably due to the fact that there are many illegal scrap yards where it is being sold. I think the thieves were disturbed, hence they abandoned their mission.

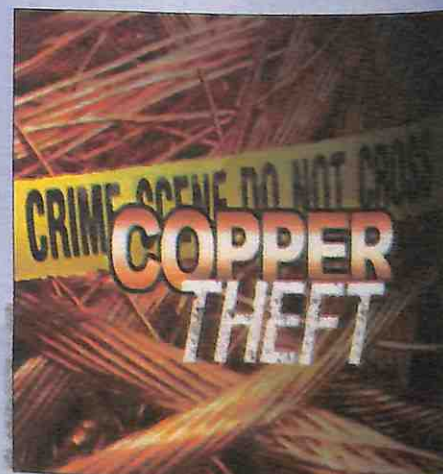
Working

We are working hard with the Siphofaneni police to bust the syndicate in the area. In Gilgal, we patrol till late to monitor the theft of copper in the area. Hopefully, soon our operations will also cover Msabane," said the community police member.

The source said the thieves have become smart as they now switch off the EPTC sensor before helping themselves with the wire. Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Acting Deputy Inspector Israel Simelane said they were yet to be informed about the theft. He said the head office, sometimes receives reports late.

On that note, EPTC Corporate Affairs Manager, Nqobile Magagula confirmed the copper wire theft.

She said replacing the wire at Msabane would cost the corporation E13 989. However, Magagula said no arrests had been made.



I'm relieved – Somntongo MP

BY STARSKY MKHONTA
Nhlango

SOMTONGO Member of Parliament Dumisani Mbhamali said he was relieved now that the people from his constituency who were part of the Emaswati arrested in South Africa for using an informal crossing point near Sitilo have been released.

The MP said after the arrest of the 42 Emaswati, some of whom come from the neighbouring Matsanjeni South constituency, he made numerous trips to SA trying to negotiate for their release.

He said what worried him was that some of the people were parents who had left children alone. A majority of the detained people were women and they were arrested on December 29.

It's believed that the idea was to do some shopping for New Year at Pongola but were arrested as they were without the valid documents to be in that country.

They 'celebrated' the New Year in jail at Magudu.

"One of the women had left behind a three-month-old baby whom she was supposed to be breastfeeding. We tried to negotiate for her release but this did not work as we were told that she had to face the consequences

for her actions.

They said breastfeeding was not an excuse. She was away from her baby for almost four weeks," said MP Mbhamali.

The MP said some of the residents arrested were school going children and were only to be released on Monday (day before opening of schools). He said he was not sure how many trips he undertook to SA to check on the Emaswati and also to negotiate for their early release.

"I never gave up until I was promised that all of them would be released the next day.

Indeed, this happened as they were deported through Nsalitje Border Gate on Monday. It was a great relief as their continued incarceration stressed me because some had children who were left with no one to take care of them," said the MP.

The MP said in most of the trips, he accompanied relatives of the arrested family members as others needed to be given special attention including those on medication.

"We used to also visit them with the purpose of buying them food as some needed special meals as recommended by doctors and there were those who were not satisfied with the meals served in prison as they told us that at times they would be served one meal for the whole day," said MP Mbhamali.



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Strike to last five days each month

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI
Mbabane

THE strike to take place from next week Monday is expected to last for five days.

This plan of action was revealed by National Public Service and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU) Secretary General Celumusa Tembe.

He said they would do this so to reflect on how the strike went and then take it from there.

Tembe said this would help them correct some mistakes if there would be a need to do so.

The civil servants will strike for five days in each month.

Tembe said they hope by April government would have listened to what they want from her.

The secretary general assured the workers that the strike they would be engaging in was lawful and protected. He said they should not panic and think that there is some form of unlawfulness.

He said if Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini feels there is something illegal about the strike, he is free to approach the court.

However, Tembe stated that it would surprise them if the PM approached

the courts now because a judgment concerning this strike was issued on September 23 last year.

However, he said it was said the strike should be on November 23 last year and that time was inconvenient for them, hence they decided to start the strikes on January 28.

He also said the problem was started by Circular No. 1 of 2010, which allowed politicians to get salaries that were way higher than that of civil servants.

Prior to that, according to Tembe, the prime minister was earning a salary that was 25 per cent higher than that of a highest paid civil servant.



REVEALED: NAPSAWU Secretary General Celumusa Tembe.

TUCOSWA banks hopes on ILO

THE Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) is contemplating reporting government to the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

This will only happen if government does anything related to disturbing the strike that will be embarked on by the civil servants.

TUCOSWA Deputy Secretary General Muzi Mhlanga said workers should continue fighting for their rights and not allow government to frighten them.

He said he was lucky that he also worked for government and would encourage his colleagues to take part in the strikes.

Wage bill is caused by nepotism in govt - PSAs

THE soaring government wage bill is caused by nepotism and this should not make workers suffer.

This was said yesterday by the Public Sector Associations (PSAs) during a meeting held at Sinqobile Hall at St Mark's High School, Mbabane. The PSAs were of the view that government hired many of its workers through corrupt means and that eroded the coffers.

Oscar Nkambule, who is one of the organisers of the PSAs in the Hhohho region, said it was a fact that there were many government employees that did not have clear job descriptions.

Hired

They were hired through nepotism and were made to pay either in cash or in kind. They were not employed by merit, but by favour.

He stated that the nepotism is practiced by the very people who were holding key decision-making positions in the country.

"What is unfortunate is that the very people did not take into consideration the fact that when they practise nepotism, government coffers would be eroded," he said.

He stated that the very decision makers were the last people to tell them that money was not there because they were the ones that depleted government coffers.

Employed

"They employed people who did not deserve to be in the government payroll because they did not qualify. The only thing they did was take government money and not do anything meaningful that would generate revenue for government," he said.

Nkambule also stated that some of the workers who were employed through nepotism were the ones who would betray the struggle faced by government workers.

"These workers would not be part of the strike because they would want to

please the very people who made it possible for them to be at work," he said.

He even said if it were up to him, he would transport the Zimbabwean people to take part in the strike in Eswatini because this was a concern to Emaswati, not just civil servants.

Nkambule also stated that some of the workers who were employed through nepotism were the ones who would betray the struggle faced by government workers.

SWADNU not present again

YET again, the Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) was not part of the meeting of the PSAs held at St Mark's yesterday.

It transpired that SWADNU could not be part of the meeting because they

are an essential service.

They even took an oath when they were hired. SWADNU was part of all the preparations of the strikes that the PSAs would be embarking on.

The PSAs are said to have paid E1

200 for using the hall at St Mark's yesterday.

Each of the PSAs forked out E300 and SWADNU was part of the PSAs that paid the money. The PSAs were also expected to ensure they helped SWADNU in ensuring that their costs were paid for in the arbitration route they decided to take.

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PSAS strike to affect transport industry

BY MELUSI MLOTSI
Mbabane

THE Local Transport Association has expressed its concern about the civil servants strike set to begin on Monday.

The association is responsible for monitoring kombis or minibuses that ferry passengers.

Speaking to this publication, Derrick Dlamini who is the Chairperson of the Local Transport Association, said the strike would have a neg-

ative impact on the transport industry. He explained that civil servants are their main customers.

"If you say the strike will take place in the main towns such as Mbabane, Manzini and Nhlanguano, this means it will be a huge loss in the transport industry.

"The business community as a whole will also suffer," he said. He said some public transport operators still owe banks and other financial institutions and cannot afford to lose business even for a day.

However, Dlamini assured the nation that trans-

port would be available for the duration of the strike.

The Business Eswatini has also expressed its concern about the strike. The business sector claims to represent more than 80 per cent of businesses in Eswatini. They also argued that the cost and structure of the civil service in Eswatini is currently not sustainable and any increases in this cost are completely unjustified in the absence of complete assessment, thereof and the adoption of economic turnaround strategy. Despite all the pleadings from government,

"If you say the strike will take place in the main towns such as Mbabane, Manzini, and Nhlanguano, this means it will be a huge loss in the transport industry."

civil servants have said the strike is on and they have reached a point of no return.

Prison break as two escape at Mawelawela

BY SAMKELISIWE KHOZA
Mbabane

TWO female juvenile inmates escaped from the Mawelawela Correctional Centre on Sunday.

Information gathered is to the effect that the young inmates escaped at around 12 noon.

Sources claimed that the juveniles were not convicted yet and had only been at the centre for two weeks. They were supposedly nabbed for house breaking with intent to steal.

The pair is said to have reported to fellow inmates that they were visiting the bathroom and would be back in no time. However, it was later discovered that the teenagers were no longer within the centre's premises.

"Two inmates are on the loose. They jumped fences over the weekend," said a source.

The adolescents were wearing their prison black and white striped jumpsuits when they escaped, claimed the source.

His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) Public Relations Officer (PRO), Gugulethu Dlamini confirmed that two juvenile inmates escaped from Mawelawela on Sunday.

She said suspicions are that the pair had been secretly monitoring the guards' shift change.

"It was reported that two juvenile inmates have escaped from Mawelawela centre on Sunday," she said.

Dlamini said the teens might have seen a chance to escape when the guards were patrolling around other parts of the centre.

The PRO said the matter was reported to the police and both forces worked

...The pair is said to have reported to fellow inmates that they were visiting the bathroom and would be back in no time. However, it was later discovered that the teenagers were no longer within the centre's premises



HERE: Mawelawela Correctional Centre where two teen inmates escaped.

tirelessly to find them.

She added that names of the two are withheld for now due to on-going investigations. Dlamini said Mawelawela is a complex centre and, therefore, a lot can happen in a split of a second when the prison guards are patrolling other corners around the centre.

Dlamini said the adolescents had since been arrested while in Manzini on

Tuesday. She acknowledged the profound support of the Royal Eswatini Police Service and the residents of Ka-Khoza where the pair was found.

Acting Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer, Inspector Israel Simelane also confirmed that the daring escape was reported to the police. He said the juveniles were, however, promptly arrested on Tuesday.

The sources went on to say that the assaulted police officer went to the Pigg's Peak Government Hospital first to receive treatment for his injuries.

"The police officer received treatment for his swollen eye. After visiting the hospital, the police officer went to record a statement of assault at the police station but nobody has been arrested for the incident," disclosed the source.

Acting Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer, Inspector Israel Simelane confirmed the assault and said that the police were still investigating the matter.

Speaking to this publication yesterday, sources said the assaulted policeman suffered multiple injuries during the incident.

"The information we have is that the police officer was assaulted by four men who punched and kicked him outside the Pigg's Peak Club. The cause of the assault is not fully known but a young female was involved. The men who committed the assault pushed the non-uniformed policeman out of the Club's gate and began assaulting him. In an effort to save his own life, the police officer fled the scene" said the source.

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

AFTER five days of searching, the Pigg's Peak police have failed to make an arrest in connection with the assault of a male police officer over the weekend.

The assault took place outside the Pigg's Peak Club on Saturday evening.

The name of the assaulted police officer is known but has been deliberately withheld pending the completion of police investigations.

Teenager goes missing

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane

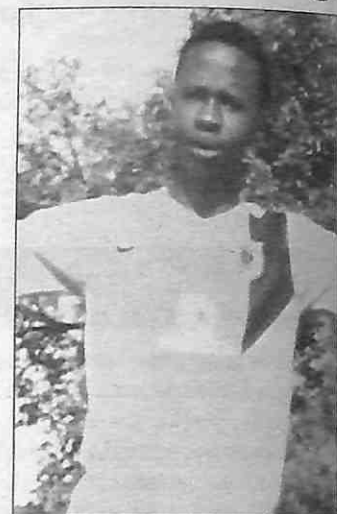
A teenager has mysteriously gone missing.

Samkeliso Dlamini, a 16-year-old from Mankayane, has been declared missing by his family and the police. He is alleged to have been last seen at Sandla in Mbabane on January 19 at 7:30 pm.

According to Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati, Samkeliso was wearing a pair of black jeans, black jacket and navy blue Nike sneakers when he went missing.

The teenager is said to have been doing Form Three at St Francis last year.

"Anyone who has or might have



MISSING: Samkeliso Dlamini.

seen him and possibly knows of his whereabouts is advised to call the police on the emergency line, 999," said Vilakati.

Shoes off...



STILL TIGHT: A pupil tries to put on her new school shoes back after she decided to remove them due to discomfort after school yesterday. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Cops called to stop parents' protest at Fundukuwela

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

POLICE officers from the Pigg's Peak Police Station had to be called to Fundukuwela High School at Nkomazi to avert a proposed parents' protest on Wednesday.

The parents are reportedly angry at the school's Principal, Richard Matsenjwa whom they have accused of several acts of misconduct.

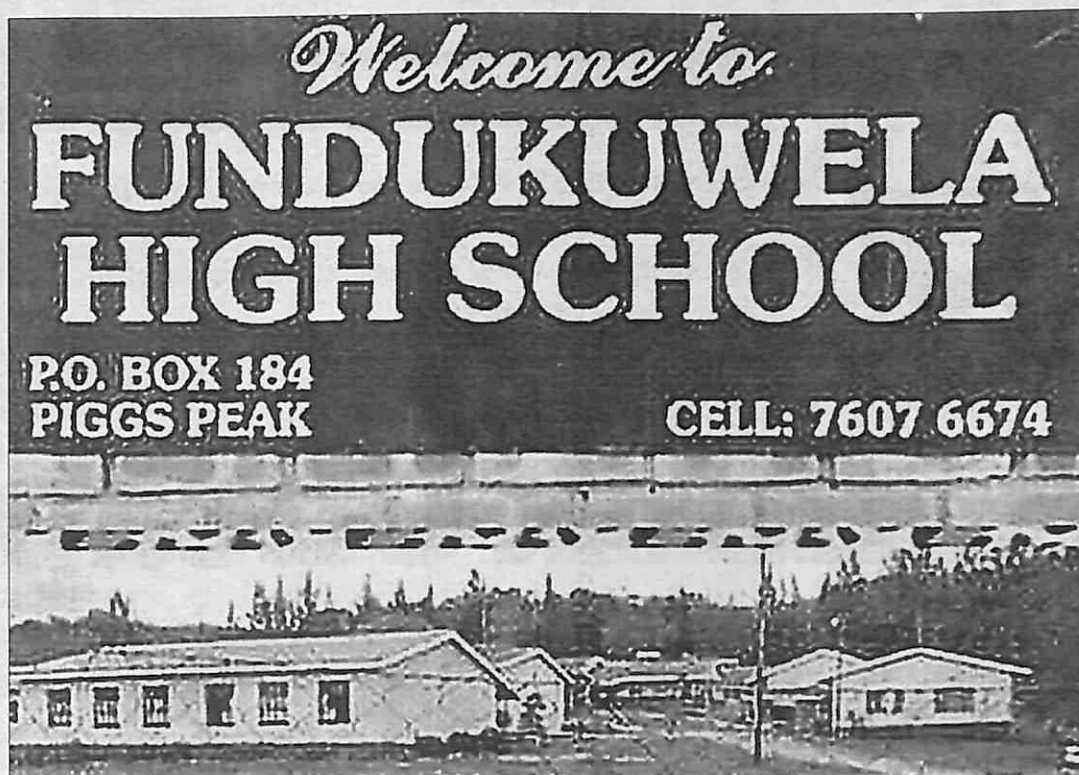
The nature of the allegations cannot be repeated for ethical reasons.

The parents have also blamed the school administration for the string of poor results in the school in recent times.

Speaking to this publication on Wednesday, some parents who preferred to remain anonymous for fear that their children may be victimised said they had planned to hold the protest at the school on Tuesday morning, only to see the police van waiting for them inside the school gate.

Planned

"We, as parents of children at Fundukuwela High School, had planned to hold a protest against the school principal Matsenjwa on Tuesday morning. We had planned to enter the school premises and stand outside the administration block, singing songs against Matsenjwa and his leadership. We were about 60 in total. Our main



concerns are the school's poor performance in external examinations. Seemingly, every year we have poor results," said one parent.

The parents went on to say the proposed protest was disrupted when they saw a police van parked at the school.

"The parents' protest was well planned but unfortunately for us, some locals who are related to Matsenjwa informed the principal about the protest. After receiving

this information, Matsenjwa phoned the Pigg's Peak police who arrived at the scene before the proposed protest could begin. After seeing the police van, many parents abandoned the protest idea" added another concerned parent.

Countless attempts were made by this publication to speak to Fundukuwela High School Principal Richard Matsenjwa but his cell-phone number that is also painted on the school's sign board was

unreachable.

When asked for comment, teachers at the school said that the principal was the only individual qualified to speak to the media on behalf of the school.

Acting Deputy Police Information and Communications Officer, Inspector Israel Simelane confirmed the incident saying police did go to the school to avert the proposed parent protest before it began at Nkomazi.

Rude welcome as 10 pupils locked out at Ndunayithini

BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlango

IT was a rude welcome for at least close to 10 pupils at Decapol Primary School when they were locked out of the school premises for 'sins' they committed last year.

The school is situated at Ndunayithini under the Sigwe constituency and reports are to the effect that if the issue is not addressed, it is likely to lead to chaos as some of the parents are considering other means which could lead to anarchy.

It is alleged that parents learned with shock that their children were not allowed to enter the school premises by the administration.

It's unclear what the pupils did last year, for them to be locked out when they reported to school like the rest of their colleagues on Tuesday, a punishment some of the parents to call abuse at its best. One of the parents said they were still not sure why their children were locked out as nothing was communicated to them.

She said they were not informed that their children would not be welcomed back this year when schools closed last year. Some of the pupils, according to the parents, are the Grade Sevens who failed and had interest in returning to repeat at the same school.

"Yesterday (Tuesday) when schools opened, our children were picked from the rest and told to leave. They camped outside the school gate under the scorching heat of the sun and left when classes ended for the day.

Chance

"This morning (Wednesday), they are outside the gate again and getting sunburned, as they have been advised not to get inside the premises. We are their parents but we have not been informed of the exact offence they committed to warrant a lock out.

"The other children are already in class, gearing up to start lessons and ours are denied that chance. The administration should have called us as parents instead of chucking out our children from the premises. This is going to have a negative bearing on our children," said one of the parents.

Other parents said what they heard was that the administration was punishing the children for being disrespectful and wayward, a punishment which they, however, served last year.

"The principal is said to be still bitter with whatever 'crime' committed last year. They served the punishment but we are now wondering what they are being punished for. If it is the school committee that recommended that our children should not be allowed back to the school, we deserve to know the reason behind that decision and if it is the principal, he also owes us an explanation," said another angry parent.

Some of the parents said the issue needed to be reported to the office of the Regional Education Officer (REO) as a matter of urgency.

"The REO should be made aware that children who had reported on the first day of school opening have not been welcomed at Decapol Primary and no clear reasons have been given," cried another parent.

On the other hand, the Principal, Daniel Simelane, when contacted, went ballistic. This was even before he could be told the purpose of the call. He immediately began shouting and said his principle is not to talk to the media.

"No no, I can't talk to any media personnel as you people are good at twisting things. You put words in someone's mouth and therefore I can't even listen to whatever you want to ask from me. Bye-bye," was all Simelane could say.

REO Siboniso Gumbi politely asked to be excused as he was held in a meeting. Another attempt was made but his phone rang unanswered.

Principal coming for new Ngozi High

BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlango

THE office of the Grantee of schools under the Free Evangelical Assembly (FEA) Church has already submitted candidates for the position of principal at the new Ngozi High School in Shiselweni.

The Grantee, Elliott Sibiyi said together with his board, they have recommended to the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) individuals to pick from for the principal position. He said it was the prerogative of his office to recommend candidates to fill such positions.

Ngozi High is one of the schools

under FEA Church and it will start operating this year and, presently, there is an ongoing process of posting teachers.

"For ordinary teachers we do not mind who the TSC posts, but we prefer disciplined and well-mannered professionals not 'rejects'.

Accepted

"We do take notice of the teachers posted by the TSC to our schools. Not like everyone can be accepted as there are things we look for. We don't accept teachers whose record is questionable.

"We have our own way of screening teachers posted to any of our schools," said Sibiyi, a retired senior inspector who was attached to the ministry of education and training

head office under the sports and culture wing.

The grantee then emphasised that they pay special attention when a principal is needed in any of their schools.

Prefer

"The position of the principal is a critical one and as a mission, we always prefer someone whose record is clean and without any blemish. It is for this reason that my office makes sure that it takes centre stage and a front-line when selecting the preferred choice.

"Even with the case of the new Ngozi High, my office is directly involved in deciding who we have to forward to the employer and in this case, to the TSC.

"Two candidates have been forwarded and these are professionals the school's board has also interviewed, we recommended that the TSC should pick one of them. We have authority to recommend but we are not employers as that is the prerogative of the TSC," said Sibiyi.

Expects

Sibiyi said his office expects to have a principal posted at Ngozi High School before the end of the week.

"We are supposed to have someone introduced as the first principal of the new school this week.

"The instrument of his appointment has already been prepared by the TSC and it's now only a matter of fetching it and have whosoever has been appointed introduced to the school's Church Board," said Sibiyi.

3 WEEKS LATER, MAN NABBED FOR NEGLIGENT DRIVING

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

THE Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court heard how it took police three weeks to arrest Siyabonga Mahlalela for negligent driving.

Mahlalela who claims to be unemployed, was arrested last Sunday, at Buhleni after he overturned a Toyota Land Cruiser near Mavula

on December 29.

According to court records, Mahlalela was negligent in his driving, thus causing the traffic accident.

Appearing before the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court on Wednesday, Mahlalela said the Buhleni police delayed summoning him to court on New Year's Day.

"The accident occurred in 2018

and I thought the Buhleni police would summon me to court on New Year's Day.

"But this never happened and it took the police three weeks to finally bring me to court. This delay gave me hope that the case had been forgotten. But now I can see that I was wrong. I admit that I was involved in the traffic accident as I was speeding to Mavula to attend to a sick

relative of mine. Unfortunately, I miscalculated and the accident occurred while I was negotiating a corner" he said.

Mahlalela went on to say that he was the sole individual inside the car when the accident.

Senior Pigg's Peak Magistrate Siphosini Dlamini sentenced Mahlalela to six months in a correctional facility or pay E800 fine.



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POSTAL & TELECOMS on Observer



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EPTC 2019 DIRECTORY - PRESS RELEASE

Eswatini Post & Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC) would like to notify telephone users that the EPTC Telephone Directory for the year 2019, has been published and is now available for collection at any EPTC outlet nearest to you; (Post Office or Telecentre)

Rethink Uncapped!



and our telecentre consultants are always available to listen and advise our customers on the best package to suit their needs. Our contact centre agents are also available 24hours a day to assist our customers with any queries they may have concerning our products and services. As a corporation, it is our obligation to execute with discerning efficiency our best customer service through the practice of the values that drive this corporation.

Our core values:

Transparency – This guides our business environment in helping it to maintain the highest level of integrity through clear decision making procedures, good corporate governance practices and providing accountable and effective leadership.

Honesty – EPTC conducts her business in an unpretentious way and remains truthful in all her endeavours. From product and service offerings to business decisions at executive level, EPTC remains truthful to all stakeholders.

Excellence – Our corporation remains a benchmark in service provision because we believe in maintaining the world class standards. The drive to always improve in all our spheres of business paves the way for superior customer service.

Innovation – In a quest to improve our customer experience, EPTC continues to employ the latest technology product and service offering and also finding new and better ways of servicing our customers.

Social Responsibility – EPTC through Eswatini Telecom is arguably the leading corporate citizen through the various CSI we are involved in.

To our valued customers, EPTC through all its divisions and business units, wishes to reiterate its desire to strive for superior service excellence. We as a corporation pride ourselves in providing our customers with good customer experience, thus we have built up a good rapport.

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Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

Themba Masuku human rights, Eswatini human rights



Ackel Zwane

IT was pleasing to listen to the eulogy rendered by Themba Masuku, who is serving as the country's Deputy Prime Minister, also serving government for the umpteenth time, claiming an immaculate human rights footprint in the Kingdom much against numerous findings by other spectators before his speech on Wednesday.

What was displeasing, however, was the timing for the eulogy, a time when workers are on the verge of an uprising because of simple Cost of Living Adjustment dating back two years and still accumulating interest in the hands of government, the employer of civil servants.

Themba Masuku told World Food Programme Director and Representative Alberto Mendes about how colourful this country's human rights record is, so colourful that it made Eswatini the most beautiful country and that there is no other beautiful country than Eswatini.

Those are indeed soothing words to the ears of strangers, these being words coming from a seasoned politician.

We all have a duty to market this country positively but at the same time cognisant of the fact that we are marketing it to an equally intelligent world market that bases decisions also on research and development.

Backdrop

Masuku spoke passionately about the kingdom as respecting human rights; therefore people must feel free to visit. That was excellent but maybe he should have elaborated further in the backdrop of the numerous other reports depicting a contrary view.

Themba Masuku's son, Sabelo who heads the Swaziland Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration Integrity was in Kenya last June hosted by the Independent Policing Oversight Authority in Kenya and did not paint so colourful a picture like his father did to Mendes.

"In the first term we did not have an opportunity to monitor elections. We thought as we come here, as we are still building investigations office, we asked to have a conversation on how best to handle investigations and human rights."

Sabelo and his entourage wanted to acquire IPOA experiences on handling investigations and human rights issues and that was on the eve of last October's national elections.

Now the very existence of the Sabelo commission speaks volumes about grey areas or unanswered questions about the human rights record of Eswatini.

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2017 United States Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour says the most significant human rights



FAREWELL: DPM Themba Masuku poses with the WFP Country Director Alberto Mendes after handing him a gift during his farewell function.

issues included: arbitrary interference with privacy and home; restrictions on freedoms of speech, assembly, and association; denial of citizens' ability to choose their government in free and fair elections; institutional lack of accountability in cases involving rape and violence against women; criminalisation of same-sex sexual conduct, although rarely enforced; trafficking in persons; restrictions on worker rights; and child labour.

Universal Periodic Review in Geneva in the 2017 report says there has been no progress on essential rights reforms that Swaziland rejected during the 2011 UPR review. These include: removal of all legislative and practical restrictions on fundamental civil and political rights.

Masuku senior would like to look away from the Amnesty International Report 2017/18:

● Communities continued to be at risk of forced evictions. Around 85 families in at least two communities faced imminent evictions without being provided with alternative housing or adequate compensation.

● In Madonsa in the Manzini region, at least 58 families were at risk of imminent eviction after the Swazi National Provident Fund (SNPF), a government parastatal, claimed ownership of the land on which they resided.

After a protracted seven-year legal process, the High Court ordered in 2011 that the families be evicted without compensation or alternative accommodation.

"We all have a duty to market this country positively but at the same time cognisant of the fact that we are marketing it to an equally intelligent world market that bases decisions also on research and development."

● In Mbonzela, in the Shiselweni region, 27 families threatened with eviction began proceedings against a private company which sought to appropriate their land for the development of a game park. On 19 October, the Central Farm Dwellers Tribunal dismissed their case and allowed the eviction.

● More than two years after the death in police custody of Luciano Reginaldo Zavale, a Mozambican national, the authorities had still not made public findings from an inquest into his death.

There are numerous such reports about Eswatini and all these reflect bad governance and not a bad country indeed. We can all agree, therefore, that it is important to first take stock of our true selves before going out into the market to showcase a product that may be wrapped in soot.

No doubt this country is going through very trying times, courtesy of bad governance which is a direct incarnation of abuse of human rights.

In a country with a clean human rights record there are no such problems as failure to honour employment obligations on those employed

to an extent everything falls apart.

Already the rhetoric about this present government having inherited failures of the previous one is no excuse because it is the same governance system in place that has not shown any signs of changing or moving away from the old order, instead we hear, over and above the eulogies, wailing like crybabies about the magnitude of the problem that requires the civil service to sort by not going on strike on Monday. True no one wants to go on strike at any point in time but circumstance of any seller of labour power demands a certain amount of pushing before the employer can concede some positions.

Collapse

We can only hope that Masuku brings with him a bank of experience from the previous government that was responsible for the near total collapse of our economy.

He brings a magic wand to turn things around and ensuring that this country is the most beautiful of all countries despite the looming civil unrest and deteriorating investor confidence.

We all must give this government a chance to pick up the pieces and reconstruct a future for the present and future generations; to do this it must come up with a convincing plan.

It is encouraging to hear from the Business Eswatini that they have all the confidence in the programmes of the new government only that it would seem only the business community seems to know what is going on.

The only thing that the public has been privy to is cuts, more cuts and everything cuts in order to turn the economy around. This kind of message does not seem to carry any hope in the already hostile labour front.

Continuous engagements are really healthy in creating a stable environment, an environment of common understanding but these engagements need to be coupled by visible action on all fronts.

Expense

Civil servants, for instance, see government as being favourable towards politicians at their expense. This thinking comes from the huge payouts destined for former politicians who are to partly blame for the present economic quagmire.

By this time would have up a running, an asset recovery and forfeiture unit to bring back the E8 million a month lost to corruption; an anti corruption commission alongside a special court for corruption cases, review of anti corruption law to attach the death penalty, revamped tracing unit of the auditor general's office, retired all overage and expired civil servants and any other persons in the governance system who has reached retirement age, tried and convicted all corrupt public officers and their conduits in government, cleaned the procurement processes, cleansed all present public office bearers of everything conflicting the public interest, the list is longer than what government envisages to overcome.

But Masuku has opened an interesting debate, that of looking at human rights in Eswatini through two opposing eyes.

ON THIS DAY

...January 25

1504 - The English Parliament passed statutes against retainers and liveries to curb private warfare.

1533 - England's King Henry VIII secretly married his second wife Anne Boleyn. Boleyn later gave birth to Elizabeth I.

1579 - The Treaty of Utrecht was signed marking the beginning of the Dutch Republic.

1799 - Eliakim Spooner patented the seeding machine.

1858 - Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" was presented for the first time at the wedding of the daughter of Queen Victoria and the Crown Prince of Prussia.

1870 - G.D. Dows patented the ornamental soda fountain.

1881 - Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell and others signed an agreement to organize the Oriental Telephone Company.

1890 - The United Mine Workers of America was founded.

1915 - In New York, Alexander Graham Bell spoke to his assistant in San Francisco, inaugurating the first transcontinental telephone service.

1924 - The 1st Winter Olympic Games were inaugurated in Chamonix in the French Alps.

1937 - NBC radio presented the first broadcast of "The Guiding Light." The show remained on radio until 1956 and began on CBS-TV in 1952.

1945 - Richard Tucker debuted at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City in the production of "La Gioconda".

1946 - The United Mine Workers rejoined the American Federation of Labor.

1949 - The first Emmys were presented at the Hollywood Athletic Club.

1950 - A federal jury in New York City found former State Department official Alger Hiss guilty of perjury.

1959 - In the US, American Airlines had the first scheduled transcontinental flight of a Boeing 707.

1961 - John F. Kennedy presented the first live presidential news conference from Washington, DC. The event was carried on radio and television.

1964 - Nike was founded. The company was originally named Blue Ribbon Sports.

1971 - Maj. Gen. Idi Amin led a coup that deposed Milton Obote and became president of Uganda.

1981 - The 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States and were reunited with their families.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Jennifer Lewis (TV Actress) - January 25, 1958 - 61 years old



Alicia Keys (Pop Singer) - January 25, 1981 - 38 years old

Teen in confrontation with Native American elder

...says he was trying to defuse the situation

VIDEOS of the confrontation show a smiling young man in a red 'Make America Great Again' hat standing directly in front of the man, who was playing a drum and chanting.

Other children could be seen laughing, jumping around and seemingly making fun of the chants.

Nathan Phillips, an elder with the Omaha tribe, said the confrontation felt like "hate unbridled." In the moment, he said he was scared for his safety and the safety of those with him.

The behaviour of the pupils from Covington Catholic High School - an all-boys' school in Northern Kentucky - triggered widespread condemnation from lawmakers and celebrities as well as the school district, the mayor of the neighbouring town and Covington's Roman Catholic Diocese.

CNN's Jake Tapper obtained a statement on Sunday from Nick Sandmann, a junior at Covington Catholic High School, who said he is the pupil in the video. Sandmann said he was trying to defuse a tense situation and denied insinuations that anyone in the crowd was acting out of racism or hatred.

Protester

"I was not intentionally making faces at the protester. I did smile at one point because I wanted him to know that I was not going to become angry, intimidated or be provoked into a larger confrontation. I am a faithful Christian and practicing Catholic, and I always try to live up to the ideals my faith teaches me -- to remain respectful of others, and to take no action that would lead to conflict or violence."

He cautioned against rushing to judgment based on the short time captured on the videos and encouraged people to watch longer clips available online, "as they show a much different story than is being portrayed by people with agendas," he said.

"I am mortified that so many people have come to believe something that did not happen -- that pupils from my school were chanting or acting in a racist fashion toward African-Americans or Native Americans. I did not do that, do not have hateful feelings in my heart, and did not witness any of my classmates doing that."

The person who shot the videos described the atmosphere as tense.

Kaya Taitano, a student at the University of the District of Columbia, participated in the Indigenous Peoples March earlier in the day. She said the teens were chanting things like "Build the wall" and "Trump 2020." Those chants were not audible in videos reviewed by CNN.

"I did not feel safe in that circle," she said.

Taitano said the whole incident started when the teens and four young African-Americans, who'd been preaching about the Bible nearby, started yelling and calling each other names.

Slurs

Another video shot before the encounter shows men who identify as members of the Hebrew Israelites taunting the pupils and other passersby with racist slurs. It got pretty intense, Taitano said, so Phillips started playing his drum and chanting what she was told was a healing prayer, to help defuse the situation.

Phillips walked through the crowd, and Taitano said things were starting to calm down until he got to the grinning boy seen in the video.

"This one kid just refused to move and he just got in Nathan's face," she said.

Other boys circled around, she said. "They just surrounded him and they were mocking him and



A crowd of teenagers surrounded a Native American elder and other activists and appeared to mock them after last Friday's Indigenous Peoples March at the Lincoln Memorial.

mocking the chant. We really didn't know what was going to happen there."

Phillips served in the US Marine Corps Reserve from 1972 to 1976, according to his service record obtained by CNN. He told CNN that he was a 'Vietnam-era' veteran. The USMC says he was never deployed during his service.

"I was scared, I was worried for my young friends. I don't want to cause harm to anyone," Phillips told CNN's Sara Sidner. "I don't like the word 'hate.' I don't like even saying it, but it was hate unbridled. It was like a storm."

The crowd kept growing as Phillips and the boy stood face to face, but Phillips kept on chanting and playing his drum.

"What the young man was doing was blocking my escape. I wanted to leave.

I was thinking, 'How do I get myself out of this? I want to get away from it,'" Phillips said.

But Sandmann said it was clear to him that Phillips had singled him out for a confrontation, although he was not sure why.

He said the incident began when a group identifying themselves as the Hebrew Israelites began to shout disparaging and vulgar comments at his group. He said the pupils began using school spirit chants -- with permission from teachers -- in response to the taunts.

He denied that anyone in the group said "build the wall" or used hateful or racist language toward Phillips.

"Our chants were loud because we wanted to drown out the hateful comments that were being shouted at us by the protesters," he said.

"The protester everyone has seen in the video began playing his drum as he waded into the crowd, which parted for him. I did not see anyone try to block his path. He looked eyes with me and approached me, coming within inches of my face. He played his drum the entire time he was in my face," Sandmann said.

"I never interacted with this protester. I did not speak to him. I did not make any hand gestures or other aggressive moves. To be honest, I was startled and confused as to why he had approached

me. We had already been yelled at by another group of protesters, and when the second group approached I was worried that a situation was getting out of control where adults were attempting to provoke teenagers."

Taitano said the standoff continued until a chaparrone came and led the teens away for a photograph.

The school's website said a group of pupils had planned to attend Friday's March for Life rally in Washington.

The school is part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington, and in a statement given to CNN affiliate WLWT, spokeswoman Laura Keener said the diocese would investigate the incident and take appropriate action.

"We condemn the actions of the Covington Catholic High School pupils towards Nathan Phillips specifically, and Native Americans in general, Jan. 18, after the March for Life, in Washington, D.C. We extend our deepest apologies to Mr. Phillips. This behaviour is opposed to the church's teachings on the dignity and respect of the human person."

"The matter is being investigated and we will take appropriate action, up to and including expulsion."

We know this incident also has tainted the entire witness of the 'March for Life' and express our most sincere apologies to all those who attended the march and all those who support the pro-life movement."

CNN has reached out to the school and diocese for comment.

Taitano, who is from Guam, said she was raised to treat her elders with respect so it hurt to see them treat Phillips so badly.

Phillips also appeared upset in a video Taitano posted after the confrontation. He wiped away tears as he talked about the pupils' actions.

"I wish I could see that energy of the young mass of young men to, you know, put that energy into, you know, making this country really, really great by helping those who are hungry, you know," Phillips said.

Taitano said the whole incident started when the teens and four young African-Americans, who'd been preaching about the Bible nearby, started yelling and calling each other names



Celibacy isn't the cause of the church sex-abuse crisis; THE PRIESTHOOD IS

YEAR after year, we seem to reach new depths of priestly depravity in the Catholic church's "ministry" to children in its charge.

After 16 years of bad news on that front, a Pennsylvania grand jury reported last August that more than 1 000 children had been molested by more than 300 priests in that state.

And now the attorney general of Illinois, Lisa Madigan, has revealed that 500 cases of alleged molestation were kept hidden by Catholic authorities.

They were rejected as unproven by their own investigation. But Madigan says these were not real investigations at all, since the clerical bodies involved "will not resolve the clergy sexual abuse crisis on their own."

Civil authorities are needed where spiritual guidance has been nothing but misguidance.

The first instinct of bishops in these scandals was to "lawyer up," and the first instruction of lawyers was not to show compassion or admit to any accusation.

Large amounts of money are at stake here — millions already paid in settlements, with more millions to come. Madigan rightly says: "The priority has always been in protecting priests and protecting church assets." I have a priest friend who went to console a family he knew when their child reported an abuse, but he was told by his religious superiors to cut it out.

He was just lending credibility to the accuser.

The church response has consistently been to doubt, dismiss, or minimise reported acts of abuse. How, we have to wonder, can men dedicated to the Gospel allow or abet such a response?

Release

Have they never read the Gospel of Matthew (19.13-14)? When children were trying to reach Jesus, the disciples held them back, prompting Jesus to say: "Release (aphete) the children, do not hinder them from reaching me, since the heavenly reign belongs to those similar to them."

Some say that an untenable demand for priestly celibacy fosters such crimes. But it would be unfair to the priests I know and admire to think they are covering up the crimes merely because they have some sympathy with the criminals, or that they are protecting the rule of priestly celibacy (which some have blamed for the crimes).

They have a better motive (though a wrong one): They are trying to protect the aura of the priesthood that has been built up over the years. They

fear that any loss of respect for priests will prevent them from doing good in service to their "flock."

The molestations diminish that respect.

Five years ago, when I wrote the book "Why Priests?," some people criticised it because I did not include the pedophile scandal, even though it was filling the news. That was deliberate on my part.

I did not want to give the idea that if only the sex scandal could run its course, all would be well with the priesthood — or that some reforms, like removing the celibacy rule or ordaining women, would make the priesthood work again. I don't think it should work again.

The priesthood is itself an affront to the Gospel. Jesus told his disciples: "You must not be addressed as 'Rabbi,' since you have only one Teacher, and you are brothers to each other. . . . And you must not be addressed as leaders, since you have only one Leader, the Messiah" (Matthew 23.8, 10).

There are no priests in the Gospels, except the Jewish priests, some of whom plotted against Jesus. Jesus is only called a priest in the late and suspect anonymous Letter to the Hebrews, where he is made a priest in the line of a mythical non-Jew, Melchisidek — and even there he is the sole and final priest.

Peter and Paul never call themselves or any other Christian a priest. Outside the Letter to the Hebrews, the only New Testament titles for service to the community are episkopos (overseer), presbyter (elder), apostolos (emissary), and diakonos (servant), never priest (hierous). None of these offices gave any of them a pivotal role in what would later become the seven sacraments.

Baptism was, from the outset, the entry ritual for the Christian community, but it could not originally be administered by priests, who did not yet exist.

As the priesthood was gradually developed in the Middle Ages, it tended to subordinate all Christian activity to priestly superintendence —

from childhood (baptism), to adolescence (confirmation), to mid-life (matrimony, sacred orders), to devotions (eucharist, penance), to the end of life (last rites).

No wonder church leaders would try desperately to protect this imperial rule over the whole of Catholic life, trying to mute or erase any demeaning revelations of priestly predation.

The grip of the priests on Catholic life was illustrated for me when discussing "Why Priests" with Stephen Colbert on his earlier show ("The Colbert Report"), where he asked, "Don't you really want a priest to be with you when you die?" I said no, even though I was brought up thinking that if you died with a mortal sin on your soul you would go

to hell unless there was a priest at hand to hear your confession.

Colbert also asked me if I believed that the eucharistic bread and wine were the literal body and blood of Christ. I did (and do) not. At the last supper, when Jesus handed out the bread and said "Take and eat," his real body was there, offering bread as a symbol.

If they were to eat the real body, they would have to chew on the offering hand not the offered

bread. Augustine knew, in the fourth century, that the eucharist was not the real body of Jesus:

"The visible [symbol] is received, eaten, and digested. But can the body of Christ be digested? Can the church of Christ be digested? Can Christ's limbs be digested? Of course not." (Sermon 227).

But Catholics are so convinced that only a priest can perform the miracle of transubstantiation that, if no priest shows up at a Mass, there is nothing for believers to do but go back home.

There is no miracle without the magician. Colbert said to me after that show, "You are no better than a Protestant." Right. I am no better than a Protestant. All Christians are brothers and sisters, whether or not priests show up at their gatherings.

Many Catholics think they cannot do any real worshiping without priests. But why not? Peter did without priests. So did Paul. And all the early Christians.

"The first instinct of bishops in these scandals was to 'lawyer up,' and the first instruction of lawyers was not to show compassion or admit to any accusation."

Wit and Wisdom

"Live the Life of Your Dreams: Be brave enough to live the life of your dreams according to your vision and purpose instead of the expectations and opinions of others."

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

"Follow your heart, listen to your inner voice, stop caring about what others think."

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

"Accept yourself, love yourself, and keep moving forward. If you want to fly, you have to give up what weighs you down."

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

"The past is a place of reference, not a place of residence; the past is a place of learning, not a place of living."

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

"Be the reason someone smiles. Be the reason someone feels loved and believes in the goodness in people."

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

"Do not let the memories of your past limit the potential of your future. There are no limits to what you can achieve on your journey through life, except in your mind."

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

"Make improvements, not excuses. Seek respect, not attention."

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

"Don't let the expectations and opinions of other people affect your decisions. It's your life, not theirs. Do what matters most to you; do what makes you feel alive and happy. Don't let the expectations and ideas of others limit who you are. If you let others tell you who you are, you are living their reality — not yours. There is more to life than pleasing people. There is much more to life than following others' prescribed path. There is so much more to life than what you experience right now. You need to decide who you are for yourself. Become a whole being. Adventure."

— Roy T. Bennett

"Keep Going"

Your hardest times often lead to the greatest moments of your life. Keep going. Tough situations build strong people in the end."

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

"Life becomes easier and more beautiful when we can see the good in other people."

— Roy T. Bennett

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.50%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	5.2%
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 24 JAN 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	13.8076	13.8576
British Pound/SZL	18.0569	18.1223
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.9126	7.9406
Swiss France/SZL	13.8895	13.9356
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3048	1.3206
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.8131	9.8514
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.3497	10.3841
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	15.7241	15.7810
Gold	1,281.6400	
Oil	61.39	

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Standard Bank



ROUND TABLE: Local and Taiwanese delegates during the meeting.

More Eswatini produced goods can now be sold in Taiwan

BY MHLENGI MAGONGO

THE Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA) between Eswatini and Taiwan has availed more export opportunities for Swazis to sell their goods in Taiwan, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Jeremy Liang said.

The ambassador was speaking yesterday during the Taiwan-Eswatini Business Forum held at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre.

The ambassador said the pact which took effect on the 27th of December last year eliminates duties on 153 listed items such as avocados, beef, timber, natural honey, vegetables and sugar.

Looking

"We are looking to match investors with like-minded partners. We are also willing and able to assist interested individuals in converting potential opening into win-win opportunities," he said.

The ambassador said business people from Taiwan were ready to partner with Swazis to increase the markets, especially in agriculture. He said the 33 representatives from



REMARKS: Minister of Commerce Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo addressing the gathering during the first day of the Eswatini-Taiwan Business Forum at Royal Swazi yesterday. The two day meeting ends today. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

Taiwan who were present at the summit come from industries like agriculture, food, biotech and pharmaceuticals, construction, chemicals and other critical sectors of his country's economy.

Minister of Commerce Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo said Eswatini is also open for business and his ministry is ready to facilitate the Taiwan investment and trade interest in the country.

"Our long term partnership is supported by various programmes that have been taking place in different

sectors, including but certainly not limited to agriculture, capacity development in education and training, investment and trade cooperation, amongst others," he said.

The minister said such economic ties were reinforced by the economic cooperation agreement between the two countries which seeks to foster mutual interest on trade and investment.

Imported

Khumalo said Eswatini imported about E238 million worth of goods from Taiwan last year while the



Republic of China (Taiwan) Ambassador to Eswatini Jeremy Lian making his remarks.

country exported goods only worth E4.2 million. "I am glad that the spirit of cooperation enshrined in the Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA) seeks to equalise the trade and I, therefore, urge our businesses to fully explore the ECA and take advantage of the trade advantages emanating from these agreements," he said.

The minister encouraged local business people to take advantage of this platform to forge business partnerships with their Taiwanese counterparts.

Taiwan is Eswatini's second largest trading partner

BY MHLENGI MAGONGO

MINISTER of Commerce Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo has identified the Republic of China (Taiwan) as Eswatini's largest trading partner after South Africa.

He was speaking yesterday at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre during the Taiwan-Eswatini Business Forum. The kingdom is host to about 20 Taiwanese companies which have invested heavily in the textile

and packaging sectors.

"Taiwan companies are comfortable with Eswatini's business environment and corporate culture.

We are looking forward to more investments from Taiwan, more especially in other sectors like ICT, agro-processing, agriculture, minerals and mining and financial services and collectively, these markets provide preferential access goods exported from Eswatini to over 500 million people," he said.

The minister said the Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA)

between Eswatini and Taiwan seeks to equalise trade between the two countries which businesses from both countries must take full advantage of.

He said the government of Taiwan assisted the local private sector to participate in leading Taiwan expos and investment conferences, including the Africa Taiwan Economic Forum, (ATEF), Food Taipei, and the recently held Taiwan New Year Market Fair. Khumalo mentioned that such activities are vital for exposing the country's private sector to

the global stage and further creating opportunities for the formation of viable business networks across the globe.

In an interview with this publication on the sidelines of the summit, the minister mentioned that there are quotas in some of the products which are exported to Taiwan.

These include avocados and sugar. The minister mentioned that such measures are put in place due to the fact that the Taiwan people have to balance between what they produce and what they import.

Ezulwini rates up by 5 per cent

STORIES BY HLENCIWE NDLOVU

THE recently released Ezulwini Municipality 2019/20 budget estimates reflect an increase by E10 million to E36 million from the previous year's budget.

The rates revenue budget stands at E20.9 million showing projected rates tariff adjustments of five per cent, which are less than the country's current inflation rate which stands at 5.2 per cent.

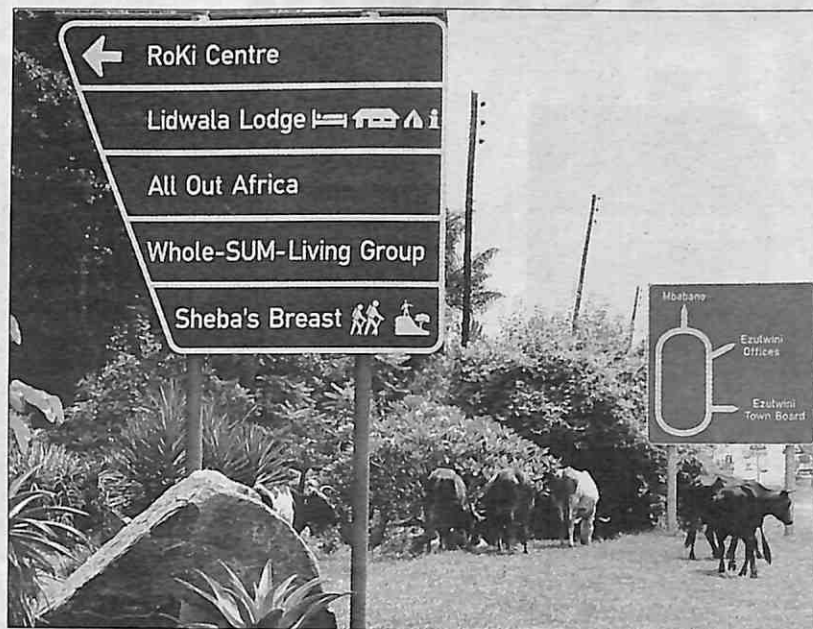
The budget was opened up for public inspection earlier in the week.

The municipality's Chief Executive Officer Vusumutiwendvoda Matsebula thanked residents and stakeholders for their input which they made during the budget preparatory meetings that helped to inform the budget as well as the council's parent ministry, the ministry of housing and urban development.

He highlighted that there would be further engagements with all stakeholders for the preparation of municipality's Integrated Development Plan which includes the: Local Economic Development (LED) strategy, the financial viability strategy, institutional capacity strategy, the Disaster Management Plan and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He said since the municipality cannot reach everyone, stakeholders should assist with participation in responding to electronic questionnaires which will be dispatched to collect information. Other sources of revenue for this annual budget include government capital improvements projects (CIP) grant of E785 700 and a subvention of E2 354 139.

These have been decreased by 10 per cent following the directive from the ministry of finance which took into con-

... Municipality's budget shoots to E36 million



sideration the government's continued fiscal challenges.

Fees

Other sources of revenue include scrutiny fees, refuse management and interest from banks which currently amounts to E4.1 million. In the meantime, to address and discourage the issue of land speculation the municipality has increased vacant commercial properties rates.

"The municipality realises that it receives a number of enquiries on the vacant commercial properties from developers who want to develop new businesses and ventures," Matsebula said.

In 2019, some of the municipality's earmarked projects include improving road infrastructure through the development of the Lonyoni Road.

"This is a very important road that will improve connectivity and accessi-

bility between the Ezulwini town and the Nyonyane community. We also propose the acquisition of land since the local authority does not own land in Ezulwini except for the property where the municipality offices are located. To finance both projects the municipality seeks to raise a loan for E8 million," Matsebula said.

Part of the funding for these two projects, which amounts to a total of E10 million, will be obtained from the municipality's own revenue base. Meanwhile the budget shows that recurrent expenditure amounts to E24 million.

"This budget takes care of maintenance of street lights, road maintenance, waste management fees and other services roll out," the CEO said.

Capital expenditure amounts to E12 million which is 33.3 per cent of the total budget.

Municipality proposes job evaluation exercise

FOLLOWING protracted engagements between Ezulwini Municipality and the staff union, the municipality has since proposed a realistic job evaluation, grading and salary normalisation process.

The proposition for such a process is one of the pressing items contained in the municipality's recently released budget estimates. The engagements between

the municipality and the worker's staff union were, at some stage, escalated to the Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration Commission (CMAC) for conciliation and mediation.

"This, being the first properly conducted job evaluation, grading and salary structure normalisation process for the town since 1995 when the town was established, the Municipality is hope-

ful that it will greatly improve the industrial relations in the fast developing town and also enhance our service delivery," CEO Vusumutiwendvoda Matsebula said, adding that it was anticipated the proposed projects would enable the town to continue attracting business and creating employment for the people of Ezulwini while contributing to the country's GDP growth.

Outgoing ESEPARC executive director wins prestigious prize

BY HLENCIWE NDLOVU

EXECUTIVE Director of the Eswatini Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (ESEPARC), Dr Thula Sizwe Dlamini, has won the 2018 TWAS Regional Prize for Science Diplomacy.

ESEPARC said in its website the regional prize was awarded by the World Academy of Sciences Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Partner (TWAS-SAREP), which is hosted by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf).

The award is aimed at fulfilling TWAS' objective of recognising, supporting, and promoting scientific capacity and

excellence in the developing world.

ESEPARC said the executive director received the prize for his contributions to the application of diplomacy in science and technology, to industry or to human well-being in the developing world and also his collaborative efforts on trans-boundary research projects contributing to, or made possible by, good international relations in the developing world.

Award

Asked about the award, Dr Dlamini said: "To God Almighty be the glory" and mentioned that it was such a great honour for him to have been chosen for the award.

The 2017 TWAS regional prize was won by Cameroonian Professor Wilfred Mbacham Fon, who was honoured for his outstanding efforts to promote public understanding and proliferation of science and technology across Africa and beyond.

Data

Professor Mbacham, who was nominated by the Cameroon Academy of Science, was awarded for providing substantial data sets for policy considerations in Cameroon and initiating major projects that injected more than \$6 million worth of funds to the University of Yaoundé for research and capacity building.

SCC aching for partnerships with fellow sector regulators

STORIES BY HLENCIWE NDLOVU

THE Swaziland Competition Commission (SCC) is looking forward to formulating more relationships with local sector regulators as well as other international players, Manager Consumer Ayanda Ziyane said in an interview yesterday.

The commission already has Memorandums of Understanding with regulators like the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA) and the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA).

Ziyane pointed out that the Commission needs to formulate strategic alliances with other sector regulators in order to effectively carry out its consumer protection mandate, among its myriad of activities one of which is ensuring healthy competition amongst different businesses in the country. SCC recently conducted consumer education exercises in different Tinkhundla where participants raised pertinent concerns on their torrid experiences in shops, especially when the gadgets they bought like cellphones became faulty. The Tinkhundla visited by the Commission

include Motshane, Nkhaba, Mbabane East and Mbabane West.

"Every suggestion and concern that was raised during the consumer education exercises was taken very seriously and we have developed a report and made recommendations," she said, adding that the commission was gearing up for more such exercises, funds permitting. Ziyane said for the commission, it is of critical importance that consumers know and understand their rights.

"Our goal as the commission is for the country to have vibrant consumers who understand their rights, who cannot be easily short-changed. Once consumers are conversant with their rights, those selling goods will naturally become more vigilant and this could also promote innovation thus resulting in competition in the market-place," Ziyane said.

Every suggestion and concern that was raised during the consumer education exercises was taken very seriously and we have developed a report and made recommendations

...Gears up for World Consumer Rights day

THE 15th of March was specifically designated as the day in which World Consumer Rights day is celebrated across the world.

As the regulatory body tasked with dealing with consumer and competition issues in the country, the Swaziland Competition Commission (SCC) is gearing up to mark this day this year, Manager Consumer Ayanda Ziyane hinted yesterday.

She would not state how the day

will be marked in Eswatini this year, save for affirming that it will be indeed commemorated.

The theme for World Consumer Day this year is: "Trusted smart product". World Consumer Rights Day was inspired by President John F Kennedy, who sent a special message to the US Congress on 15th March 1962, in which he formally addressed the issue of consumer rights. He was the first world leader to do so.



ATTENTIVE: Some of the participants who attended the Swaziland Competition Commission consumer education exercises.

Cash-strapped SA Competition Commission cuts probes

IN the meantime, the neighbouring Competition Commission of South Africa is currently faced with a fair share of its own challenges as it has reportedly run short of funds and has been forced to scale back its key market probes.

This is according to publication Business Day, which said the Commission suspended its long-running health market inquiry,

slowed the pace of its market inquiries into public transport and data costs, and has cut plans for new investigations.

Spokesperson Sipho Ngwema said: "We are trying to make sure we don't end the year in the red. We are in engaging with the department (of economic development) and treasury with regards to our serious financial challenges."

SPECIAL REPORT: Data costs are falling - Vodacom, MTN, Cell C, Telkom

JOHANNESBURG - Why is data in South Africa so expensive?

Why does it 'expire'? And is there anything that anyone can do about it? This is the second piece in a four-part series.

Ask one of South Africa's established telecommunications companies if data prices are too high and they'll tell you that prices have been decreasing.

- Vodacom has "managed to reduce the effective price of data used by more than 40 per cent" over three years.

- MTN says the effective rate per megabyte (MB) has dropped by 87 per cent between 2011 and 2017.

- According to Cell C, the effective price per megabyte has decreased by 20 per cent in 2016; 36 per cent in 2017 and 28 per cent in the first half of last year.

- Telkom says its data prices have come down, "especially over the past three years [up to August 2018]"

But while MTN says effective rates are the best way to track pricing, telcos were loath to share their effective price per MB (total data revenue divided by total data traffic).

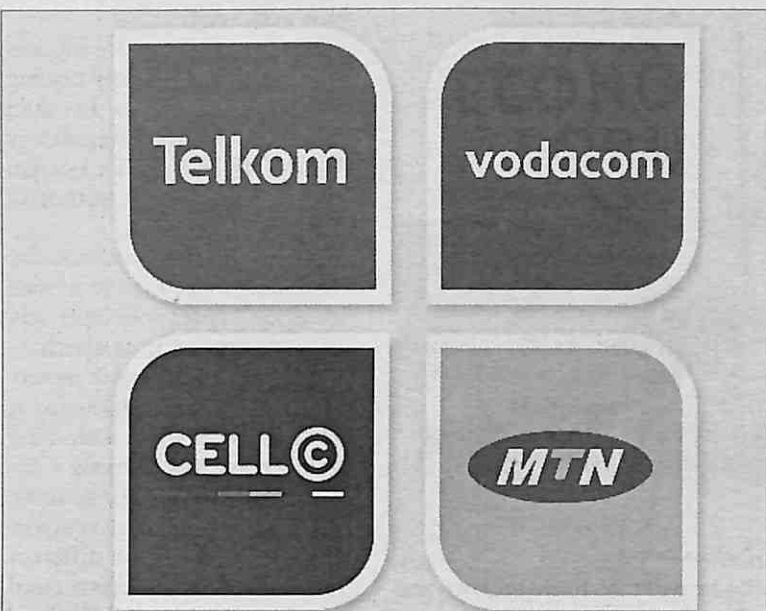
Vodacom described it as commercially sensitive information.

**Ofentse Dazela,
Director of Pricing**

Research at Market Research and Analysis Company Africa Analysis, says that while the effective price per MB of mobile data has come down in the three years up to November 2018, headline tariffs (standard prices before discounts) in the prepaid market have shown little movement.

Telkom's mobile data prices, which have decreased, are the exception, says Dazela. Cell C has 'marginally decreased' the price of some of its entry level data products.

Africa Analysis collects its own data on mobile data prices, including nighttime data (as opposed to only focusing on the price of anytime data). If a



discount is offered on a permanent basis – for example the bundle size increases but the price remains unchanged – it is considered a decrease in the headline tariff.

Dazela says the decrease in the effective rate per MB has largely been driven by special offers to encourage off-peak data use – for example, where you buy 1GB of data and get one free. "But it is not something that the consumer can really plan to take advantage of."

For me, it's not meant to benefit the customer per se. It is a way to manage traffic on the network."

Obstacles to quicker decreases

It is possible to bring down data prices more rapidly, say Vodacom and MTN, if additional radio frequency spectrum is released. Spectrum is "a range of frequency bands at which wireless telecommunications or communication signals are being transmitted and/or broadcast," explains Paseka Maleka, spokesperson of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA).

Candice Jones, Cell C's Senior Manager for External Communications, identifies the duplication of infrastructure as an impediment to the further decrease of data prices. "... Consumers will often see two or three mobile towers in close proximity to each other, which is an unnecessary and expensive duplication, where instead operators could place their equipment on one tower."

Cell C claims that Vodacom and MTN are reluctant to share infrastructure "as their strategy is to maintain the current status quo for as long as possible".

But MTN Executive for Corporate

Affairs Jacqui O'Sullivan says the complaint of infrastructure duplication fails to recognise the benefits of infrastructure-based competition.

Vodacom says Cell C's comment should be seen in the context of its decision to sell its towers to a tower company "and then subsequently calling for the regulation of these facilities".

Dr Onkokame Mothobi, Senior

Researcher at ICT policy and regulation think tank Research ICT Africa, says data prices could be lower "if market characteristics were working properly".

He refers to a number of factors related to regulation and input costs, such as the fact that competitive offers from operators don't tend to drive other operators' prices down; the lack of spectrum; and the fact that an operator such as Cell C is reliant on other operators' infrastructure.

Why have (certain) prices come down?

Vodacom identifies competition, the use of more efficient network technologies such as 4G, 'robust' investment and cost savings as factors that have contributed to the decrease in data prices.

It says the main contributor to a price drop of 'more than 40 per cent' over three years is the personalised bundles offered through its Just4You platform.

"Just4You has vastly changed purchasing behaviour... Bundles with one-month expiry periods [used to be] our most popular. [In 2017] more than 80 per cent of the bundles bought by prepaid customers had either an hourly, daily, weekly or fortnightly expiry period."

Bundles with shorter expiry periods have been instrumental in making data more accessible to customers who have sporadic and limited disposable income." Vodacom denies that regulatory pressure played a role.

"In fact, regulatory delays in assigning much needed high-demand spectrum restrained the pace of [price] decline." MTN explains the drop in effective rates as the result of capital investments to increase network quality and coverage, which led to an increase in data traffic.

"Data traffic increased 23 times between 2011 and 2017, which has, in turn, resulted in the decreasing trend in the effective rate per MB over the

years. Consistently growing volumes of data usage helps to facilitate the consistent decrease in pricing," explains O'Sullivan.

- Ferial Haffajee: My great data heist - the tale of the disappearing data

Telkom's Noma Faku, Head of Group Communications and PR, says its decision to reduce data prices is a strategic one. "As a smaller player in the mobile market, the strategy enabled us to respond to consumer demand for lower costs of data and gain market share."

Erma Korff, Telkom's managing executive for product development, says the fact that the increase in data traffic has exceeded the increase in mobile data revenue, shows that prices have come down.

"We have grown our mobile data revenue with close to 60 per cent year on year [for the six months ending September 30 2017]. But we have grown our traffic with more than 100 per cent." She singles out FreeMe as an example of Telkom's efforts to reduce data prices. Korff says the demand for data has increased because of video consumption and streaming (more than 50 per cent of data traffic is a result of these activities).

Telkom's strategy has been to offer more data for the same price, which reduces the price per MB.

Cell C says its ShoutOut bundles are an example of products that have brought down data prices. "[This offered] customers access to two of the most popular social media platforms [WhatsApp and Facebook] from as little as R4 per day (for up to 80MB) or R17 per month (up to 1 200MB)."

In Dazela's view, the #DataMustFall movement has not had a significant impact on mobile data pricing in the prepaid market. He says competition in the postpaid (contract) market has ensured better prices for consumers.

Finance24

Ask one of South Africa's established telecommunications companies if data prices are too high and they'll tell you that prices have been decreasing

Vodacom says revenue up 1.5% in quarter ended December

JOHANNESBURG

Communications company Vodacom said yesterday a strong performance in international operations helped to offset the slowdown in South Africa during the quarter ended December, with group revenue rising 1.5 per cent to R23.0 billion.

Service revenue at group level increased by 2.4 per cent, the company said in a trading update.

Vodacom said it would implement End-User Subscriber Service Charter Regulations on March 1, which would drag on data revenue growth in the near-term.

But it was encouraged by the positive momentum on the regulatory



front in South Africa following firm commitments by the government and

the national regulator to stage an auction of '4G spectrum' in the early part

of this calendar year, which together with the success of its pricing transformation strategy supported the medium term outlook for data revenue growth.

Excluding Safaricom, the company added 198 000 customers in the three-month period to December, and now served 79 million across the group, having added 5.2 million to the Vodacom network in the past year.

In South Africa, service revenue declined 0.9 per cent, impacted by the effects of the company's pricing transformation strategy in order to reduce the cost to communicate, as well as the transitioning of traffic between its roaming partners.

In its international operations, service revenue increased by 13.2 per cent on the back of sustained data revenue growth and M-Pesa's continued success.

"Our international portfolio (excluding Safaricom) now contributes 27.5 percent to overall group service revenue," group CEO Shameel Joosub said.

"The significant increase in customers in the quarter and strong commercial execution contributed to data revenue growth of 25.4 per cent and to the 30.3 per cent growth produced by M-Pesa."

With an enhanced M-Pesa platform and high speed 4G now available in all its international markets, Vodacom said it expected the solid performance in these operations to continue gaining momentum. *African News Agency*

Land issue no longer the ugly ogre it was made out to be - Ramaphosa

DAVOS-KLOSTERS - South African President Cyril Ramaphosa made an emotional moral argument for government's land reform policy as he faced up to members of the international media at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Ramaphosa insisted that land grabs would not be tolerated and that land expropriation would be carried out in an orderly manner and within the framework of the law.

He conceded that the issue of land reform had generated a great deal of interest globally as well as a lot of debate inside the country, but said it was necessary to ensure redress for historical injustices.

"This we articulated at various foras throughout the world and have given clear assurances that we are not going to allow land grabs in South Africa," said Ramaphosa.

"Land reform is going to be handled in terms of our Constitution, but as it is being handled, we are going to take care that those of our people who were denied the right to own land, get equity.

"Everything should be done on an equitable basis and that is the only way we are going to ensure that South Africa does indeed become a prosperous country and where all the people of our country benefit from what South Africa has to offer in the way of a better life for all. 'I think we are on a good path.'"

Ramaphosa outlined the process of public consultations and the Constitutional framework, saying: "The land issue has ceased to be the ugly ogre that many people thought it would be.

It isn't. It is very much in line with our transformation process of making South Africa better, of making it an investable



EMOTIONAL: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

destination."

Ramaphosa, who was flanked by key members of his Cabinet, took the lead on the land reform issue, praising South Africans for the "most wonderful debate through the length and breadth of our country" during last year's public hearings on amending Section 25 of the Constitution to allow for land expropriation without compensation.

Motion

In December, Parliament passed a motion for the Constitutional amendment and Ramaphosa was at pains to say: "We have been very clear that the issue of land in South Africa will be handled in accordance with the rule of law, in accordance with our Constitution.

"All this will be done in seeking to ensure that there is security of tenure, not only for a few South Africans, but

all South Africans," he added. "Our past regime of land ownership only gave security of tenure to a few South Africans. We are saying, in order to have social justice, in order to be equitable to all the people of South Africa, security of tenure must be made available to all."

Ramaphosa added that once investors had been briefed on government's approach to the emotive issue of land reform, "they have been rather relaxed because we have been very honest, open and straightforward".

"We have not had any hidden agenda and I would say it is for that reason that at our investment conference we were able to talk to investors about our approach to land reform and they were able to make investments that came up to \$20 billion," he said.

ANA

Growth, transformation require black industrialists in charge

CAPE TOWN - Economic growth and transformation will rely on black industrialists who can produce, own and distribute goods and anchored in value-addition, Deputy Trade and Industry Minister, Bulelani Magwanishe said.

"Economic growth and transformation will rely on industrialists who can produce, own and distribute goods, anchored in value-addition. These are the ones who harness the development of local content and are able to integrate into global value-chains. It is industrialists like Africa Bespoke Apparel, who give meaning to Africa's agenda and policy implementation," said Magwanishe.

Magwanishe opened a R81 million factory belonging to Africa Bespoke Apparel (ABA), a black Industrialists programme beneficiary firm based in Verulam, KwaZulu-Natal.

He described the launch of ABA as a historic moment and a crucial milestone in the roll-out of the black industrialists programme as the company is the first black indus-

trialist company in the textile, clothing and footwear sector.

"This industrialists' government policy to set the economy on a higher path of shared growth, and to transform its structure, enabling opportunities for millions of South Africans. To this end, our department has developed a master plan to grow the clothing, textile, footwear and leather retail value-chain. The plan, which is aimed at creating 60 000 jobs in the sector and enhance competition, will soon be announced," he added.

Magwanishe said that at the heart of government's policy intervention was the advancement of the industrial sector to alleviate poverty, inequality and unemployment.

"With black industrialists like Africa Bespoke Apparel, I am confident that we are close enough to achieving our objectives."

He welcomed ABA's planned training academy saying it would go a long way in developing the skills of young people and equip them for the new age of innovation and discovery.

ANA

Comair, Numsa reach a two-year wage settlement

CAPE TOWN - Comair on Wednesday announced that it had reached a wage settlement agreement with the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA).

"I am pleased to advise that Comair and NUMSA have reached a two-year wage settlement," says Wrenelle Stander, Executive Director of Comair's Airline Division.

"This positive outcome averted the threat of a strike and possible inconvenience to our customers.

"Comair and NUMSA have worked hard with the CCMA's guidance to find a resolution and we're grateful to all parties for

the amicable manner in which these negotiations were held.

"We would also like to thank our staff for their ongoing commitment and support. The well-being of our employees remains our foremost priority and we will continue to invest in that," Stander concludes.

This after Stander refuted claims by NUMSA that Comair personnel were paid R7 000 a month more than their colleagues on the basis of race as factually incorrect.

"We run our business with integrity, fairness and transparency. We have zero tolerance for racism or any form of discrimination."

Business Report Online

McKinsey & Co is again accused of misdeeds in bankruptcy case

INTERNATIONAL - McKinsey & Co, a consulting firm whose conduct in bankruptcy cases has already drawn the attention of two judges, was accused again of improperly receiving and concealing payments from a client on the verge of bankruptcy.

This raised the prospect that the judge overseeing the case could order the return of tens of millions of dollars in fees earned by the consulting company.

Signs that something could be wrong at the client company, SunEdison, began to surface after its board hired an outside firm to investigate unrelated employee claims that managers were misstating cash flows.

The outside company, FTI Consulting, described an email exchange between a McKinsey consultant and a SunEdison executive, discussing how McKinsey was going to be paid for the work it had already done for the company.

Ultimately, there was an agreement that McKinsey would not keep billing SunEdison itself - instead, it would call back its unpaid bills and redirect them to four solar-energy projects that SunEdison had set up for various customers. But

McKinsey&Company

there was a problem: McKinsey had not done any work for them.

"Acknowledge that this is not ideal," the McKinsey partner wrote, adding that there had not been many options. "We should anticipate spirited opposition from some PMs that we will need to push through," he added, in a reference to the project managers who would be asked to pay for consulting services they had not received.

The accusations against McKinsey were contained in a pleading filed on Tuesday in a US bankruptcy court in Manhattan by a SunEdison creditor who has made a series of accusations of misconduct against McKinsey.

The creditor, retired turnaround specialist Jay Alix, asserted to Judge Stuart Bernstein that McKinsey had used the four projects - whose financing was separate from that of SunEdison and would not be affected by the bankruptcy - to remove any risk of the court's find-

ing out that McKinsey pulled money out of the company just before it went bankrupt.

McKinsey "acted with intent to deceive the court and in a manner that was wilfully blind to the truth and was in reckless disregard of the truth," Alix wrote.

Alix has already challenged McKinsey in Houston's bankruptcy court, which handled two recent cases in which the companies were advised by McKinsey, and in the bankruptcy court in Richmond, Virginia, where the judge this month reopened the case of Alpha Natural Resources, also advised by McKinsey.

The judges in those cases recently took the unusual step of jointly ordering McKinsey and Alix to try to resolve their differences in mediation, as one last step before taking the matter to trial.

A spokesperson for McKinsey, asked about the new accusations, said: "Alix has no evidence for his reckless and defamatory fraud claims against McKinsey, in this or any of his other attacks on the firm. Now, he is attempting to disrupt yet another settled bankruptcy based on the same unsubstantiated allegations he has made over and over again."

New York Times News Service



PLEASED: Wrenelle Stander, Executive Director of Comair's Airline Division.

Focus on

SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

Duduzane Zuma's culpable homicide trial postponed again

JOHANNESBURG - Although the NPA has dropped charges against Duduzane for corruption, he is still expected in court in March to face charges of culpable homicide.

Duduzane Zuma's trial for culpable homicide trial resumes on March 26. He appeared briefly in the Randburg Magistrate's Court yesterday, again with his father, where the matter was

postponed again.

Zuma faces two counts of culpable homicide and a count for negligent driving for the deaths of two minibus taxi passengers, who died in an accident in February 2014.

Zimbabwean national Phumzile Dube died after Zuma's Porsche collided with the minibus taxi in which she was travelling. Another passenger, Nanki

Jeanette Mashaba, who was injured in the accident, later died in hospital.

Jacob Zuma's son returned to the country from Dubai to attend his brother Vusi's funeral last year. He now only faces culpable homicide charges after corruption charges against him were provisionally withdrawn by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) this week.

The NPA this week withdrew the

charges of corruption against Duduzane for the alleged role he played in a failed attempt to bribe the then deputy finance minister Mcebisi Jonas at the Gupta family's Saxonwold home in October 2015. Duduzane, businessperson Fana Hlongwane and Ajay Gupta allegedly offered Jonas the job of finance minister and a bribe of R600 million.

The move to withdraw the charges

was due to the fact that Jonas's evidence before the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture had not yet been finalised, said the NPA. NPA regional prosecutor Bulelwa Vimbani-Shuma said it was in the interests of justice not to proceed with the criminal case at this stage, as the charges could be reinstated. Law expert June Marks has said that when charges were provisionally dropped by the NPA, it usually meant they were unable to gather sufficient evidence. *Citizen*

Zuma-linked ex-spy, 4 ambassadors recalled

JOHANNESBURG - Minister of Intelligence Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba had recalled five former State Security Agency (SSA) officials serving the country as diplomats abroad, saying the SSA is in need of their skills back home.

Among them is Thulani Dloomo, who is the country's Ambassador to Japan - one of the best paid jobs in South Africa's diplomatic structures.

The Department of International Relations and Co-operation (DIRCO) spokesperson Ndivhuwo Mabaya told News24 that Letsatsi-Duba had asked that Dloomo, along with four other ambassadors, return to the country to strengthen capacity at SSA.

Mabaya said the five ambassadors were informed in writing. The names of the other four have not been confirmed yet. "The Minister of Intelligence asked that Dirco return to State Security Agency all their senior officials who were deployed as diplomats to strengthen their capacity in the agency. The director general is managing their return and logistics," he said.

Mabaya reiterated their return was due to a request from Letsatsi-Duba and was being implemented. Dloomo, the former head of special operations and deputy director of counter intelligence in the internal branch of the SSA, took up the ambassador post in August 2017.

Japan is one of South Africa's largest trad-

ing partners and the ambassadorship in this Asian country is one of the most sought after.

Dloomo walked into the South African embassy in Tokyo dressed in traditional Zulu regalia, City Press reported last year.

News24 reported earlier that Dloomo, who has a dubious past and close ties to former president Jacob Zuma, was nominated for the Japan post after he was allegedly suspended from the SSA the previous year, in 2016.

According to five independent sources within intelligence circles who spoke to News24 at the time, Dloomo was suspended over an alleged transgression apparently related to trips he had taken abroad. In 2012, Dloomo was appointed as head of the SSA's Special Operations Unit (SOU). The appointment was shrouded in controversy after it

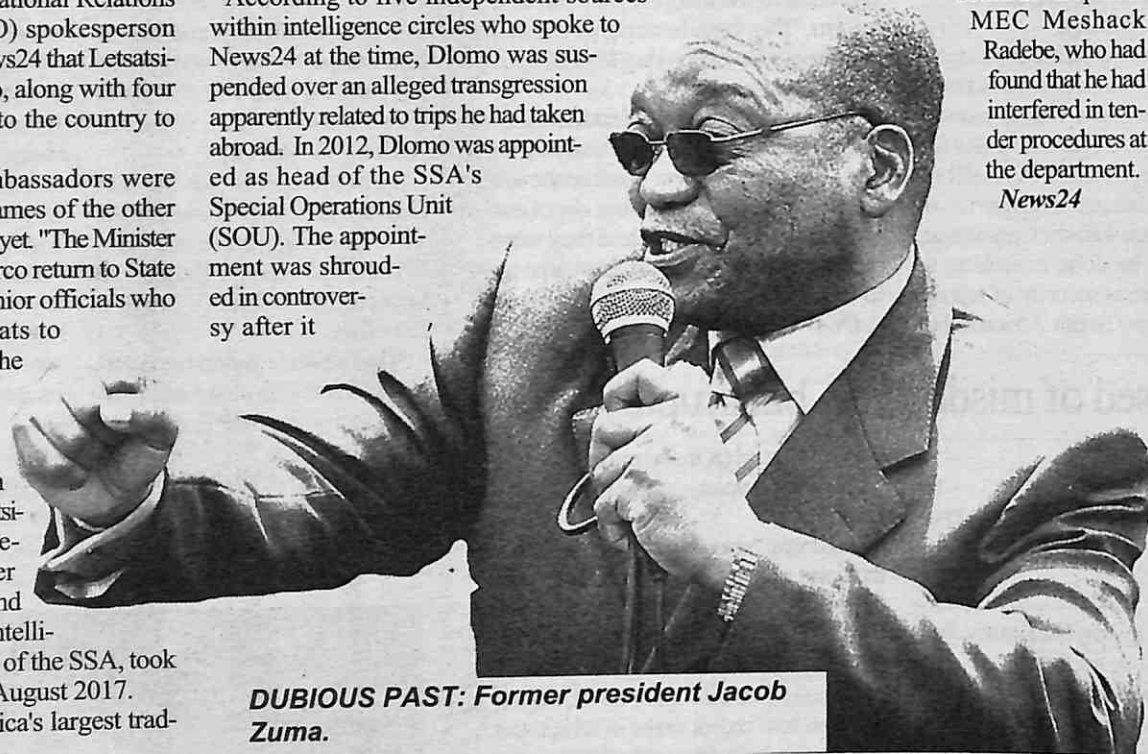
came to light that he had been involved in alleged tender corruption in KwaZulu-Natal.

Before his appointment at the SSA, Dloomo had been the head of security at the KwaZulu-Natal department of social development.

It was alleged that Dloomo had received a kickbacks of R1m related to tenders worth R45m. Dloomo resigned from the department following an investigation ordered by then

social development MEC Meshack Radebe, who had found that he had interfered in tender procedures at the department.

News24



DUBIOUS PAST: Former president Jacob Zuma.

Govt forked out R1.1bn to rebuild shoddy RDP houses

CAPE TOWN - The DA has described the more than R1.1billion spent to rectify shoddily built low-cost houses by the Human Settlements Department as shocking.

It said the contractors responsible should be blacklisted "The statistics speak to officials who appoint contractors that do not have the capacity to build," DA parliamentarian Solly Malatsi said on Wednesday.

Malatsi made the comment after Human Settlements Minister Nomaindia Mfeketo revealed R1 132 986 045 was spent by six provinces to rectify shoddily built houses over the past five financial years. Mfeketo revealed this in a written response to parliamentary questions posed by Malatsi.

He had enquired about the total amounts spent by the department in each of the nine provinces to rebuild the shoddily built houses and the number of houses that were rebuilt. Mfeketo said KwaZulu-Natal spent R639 551 000 to repair or rebuild 4 115 houses in 2013-14 and 2017-18.

The Free State spent R284 643 951 on rectifying an undisclosed number of the shoddily built houses in the same period.

North West followed with the rectification of 2 600 houses at a cost of R70 486 058. Limpopo rebuilt 869 houses to the tune of R68 770 940 and the Western Cape spent R6 740 457 on an undisclosed number of houses. The Eastern Cape spent the smallest amount, R2 129 519, on rebuilding and repairs. Mfeketo said Gauteng, Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape reported not to have incurred any expenditure rectifying housing with structural defects or old houses.

Four provinces, however, have indicated that they still needed to rectify 11 843 houses, said Mfeketo. KwaZulu-Natal has yet to fix 6 027 houses, Limpopo 5 291, North West 514 and Western Cape 11. Malatsi said the rectification of the houses was resulting in a loss of billions of rand.

Political Bureau

Ernest Mabaso commits suicide

JOHANNESBURG - Mabaso was one of two suspects accused of the horrific murder of seven people in Vlakfontein, south of Johannesburg in October.

One of the two suspects in the murder of seven members of the Khoza family committed suicide this morning in his police cell this morning, the police have confirmed.

He and his co-accused were meant to appear in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court to continue their bail application.

Fita Khupe, 61, and Vusi Mabaso, 27, were arrested and not granted bail

over December after police sergeant Banele Ndlovu told the two men's bail hearing it would be a danger to society if they would be granted bail.

The bodies of three adults and four children were found buried under a pile of sand in October 2018.

Officers responded to a complaint from a community member after a resident reported a stench coming from the house. According to police, officers found a pile of sand in the bedroom where a woman and three children were found buried underneath the sand.

ANA

'DA a party of deceit, lies and its days are numbered'

DURBAN - Former Western Cape premier Ebrahim Rasool said on Wednesday that the DA had plummeted to new levels of desperation in its campaign to hold on to the province.

Rasool - who is the ANC head of elections for the province - said that despite this, the governing party was "confident" of ousting the DA controlled province from power. Outgoing premier, Helen Zille, was sailing close to treason by suggesting a tax boycott and should be investigated for her utterances, Rasool said.

"We call on her to withdraw this irre-

sponsible statement and rather unite in action to grow South Africa.

We also call on business leaders and workers to repudiate her statement," Rasool said in a statement. "Not even an election is worth the devastating consequences of her statement. We call on her party leader Mmusi Maimane to come out and tell us where he stands on these calls. Does he support a tax boycott or

not? We want to know."

In the past few days, said Rasool, DA has gone on a negative campaign drive in which it has tried to convince voters to keep the ANC and another political party out of the Western Cape. The other party, known for its racist rhetoric, is the DA's coalition party in Metros such as Johannesburg and Thswane. Their support is what keeps the DA in power there.

Yet in the Western Cape, the DA wants to keep this party out. *African News Agenc*



Conjoined twins best of friends after separation

Conjoined twin boys who shared a stomach, liver, bladder, intestines and pelvis are thriving a year on from surgery.

Prince and Love, now 22 months, would fight over when playtime was, with one wanting to sleep while the other was full of energy.

But in December 2017, at just nine months old, the brothers were separated by 15 doctors in a 12-hour operation at Wadia Children's Hospital in Mumbai. With the surgery a success, the boys can now run and play like any other youngster, with their parents Sheetal and Sagar Zalte looking forward to their sons' bright future.

Mr and Mrs Zalte did not know they were expecting twins until eight months into the pregnancy.

And they only realised the twins were conjoined once they had been born. "When I saw them for the first time, I just fell in love with them instantly," Mrs Zalte said. "I just accept-



UNBELIEVABLE: Twins Love (left) and Prince, who were born conjoined, are now thriving a year on from their separation surgery.

ed them wholeheartedly.

"Before the surgery, when they were not separated, some people were scared of them. I wasn't. I never saw them in a strange way."

Although thrilled with the arrival

of her children, Mrs Zalte knew her community would not accept them.

"I did not let anybody even see my children for one long year," she said. "I just kept them home all the time.

Even if I took them out sometimes,

I used to cover them up properly."

And it was not just their neighbours that were kept from the boys, Mr Zalte claims his and his wife's relatives did not even want to meet the newborns. "Our families didn't come forward to help," he said. "They didn't even look at our children."

While the couple were overjoyed to be parents, they admit caring for conjoined babies was challenging.

"One wanted to play while the other was asleep," Mr Zalte said. "They used to bite each other and as they grew old, the fights kept growing too.

"Feeding them milk and food, bathing them together, and clothing them proved to be a difficult task always."

Shakuntala Prabhu - acting Medical Director of Wadia hospital - was part of the team that first evaluated the twins. "Prince and Love were presented to us at around nine months of age," she said.

"They were joined at the hips and

WHAT ARE CONJOINED TWINS?

CONJOINED twins occur when siblings have their skin or internal organs fused together.

It affects around one in 200,000 live births. Conjoined twins are caused by a fertilised egg beginning to split into two embryos a few weeks after conception, but the process stops before it is complete. The most common type is twins joined at the chest or abdomen. Separation surgery success depends on where the twins are joined.

Doctors can only tell which organs the siblings share, and therefore plan surgery, after they are born.

At least one twin survives 75 per cent of the time. The most famous pair of conjoined twins was Chang and Eng Bunker, who were born in 1811 and travelled with PT Barnum's circus. They were born in Siam and were known as the Siamese twins.

University of Maryland Medical Center

pelvis region, and it was [a] very rare occasion that we have such conjoined twins presenting late - it was a challenging case for us." The surgery was so complicated it had to be planned for a month before it could be carried out. *Daily Mail*



STRUGGLING: Pictured pre-surgery, the twins shared a stomach, liver, bladder, intestines and pelvis.



PROGRESS: One of the twins is pictured having physio, but the pair are growing and developing well.

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Focus on Africa News

Continental News



STORM IS OVER: Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Most painful of reforms is over

CAIRO - Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Wednesday that the most painful part of his ambitious economic reform programme was over, but cautioned there was still

some way to go before it's completed.

The reforms included floating the currency, substantial cuts in state subsidies on basic goods, and introducing a wide range of new taxes. The measures led to a significant rise in prices and services, something critics say has hurt the poor and middle class the hardest.

The reforms were agreed on with the International Monetary Fund in exchange for a \$12bn loan. In televised comments aired live, al-Sisi said Egypt has gone through the worst of the fallout from the reforms. "Not too much is left and it won't be harsher than what we had already gone through. We are determined to finish it."

Al-Sisi thanked Egyptians for "enduring the harsh and difficult (economic) measures," something that

he has often done since the reforms began in 2016 with the floatation of the currency that cost the Egyptian pound more than half of its value.

His thanks and implicit warning that more reforms were to come appeared designed to prepare Egyptians for a widely anticipated wave of price rises this year that could include fuel and electricity. He said his government had no choice but to embark on the reform programme.

"Anything else would have led to the collapse of the state," he said in an address marking Police Day, a national holiday that falls today. Years of political turmoil and violence following a 2011 uprising that toppled the 29-year regime of autocrat Hosni Mubarak has crippled the economy, keeping foreign tourists and investors out and reducing productivity. **AFP**

Hodzi sworn-in as Zim's substantive Prosecutor-General

HARARE - Kumbirai Hodzi was sworn-in as substantive Prosecutor-General of Zimbabwe on Wednesday after being appointed to the post on Tuesday.

The swearing-in ceremony took place at State House, with embattled President Emmerson Mnangagwa presiding. Hodzi had been serving in an acting capacity since July 2018.

His appointment as the head of the National Prosecuting Authority raised eyebrows since he reportedly came a distant sixth during interviews conducted by the Judicial Services Commission (JSC) last November. Taking oath of office, Hodzi swore that he "will be faithful, observe the laws of Zimbabwe and bear true allegiance". The appointment of the new prosecutor-general was marred by chaos, after Mnangagwa rejected the names of three top candidates for being politically incorrect and requested new names from the JSC. The JSC held interviews for the post last year, but politics delayed the announcement of the substantive. During the interviews, Hodzi reportedly came sixth out of 10, with Calvin Mantsebo, Tinomuda Chakanyuka and Misheck Hogwe emerging as frontrunners. Mantsebo is the Director of Intelligence, Investigations and Prosecution at the Anti-Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone, while Chinyoka is a former student activist and Hogwe is the former president of the Law Society of Zimbabwe. **ANA**

Zim's civil servants to strike over salaries

HARARE - Zimbabwe faces a new wave of unrest as the group representing government workers announced on Wednesday that civil servants across the country will go on strike after salary negotiations failed.

David Dzatsunga, Secretary of the Civil Service Apex Council, said the strike would begin today as the southern African nation's economic collapse deepens and frustration with President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government grows.

A crackdown on last week's protests

over a sharp rise in fuel prices continued in the courts and on the streets, where witnesses and rights groups reported abuses by the military, police and ruling party youth gangs. Mnangagwa's call for national dialogue has been met with scepticism. A labour federation leader charged with subversion appeared in court along with dozens of others accused of involvement in the protests, while their lawyers accused the government of systematically denying them justice. **AFP**

Sisulu wants answers over SA businessman's death

JOHANNESBURG - The Department of International Cooperation and Relations (DIRCO) wants answers as to the circumstances surrounding the death of South African businessman Andre Hanekom while in Mozambican custody.

DIRCO spokesperson Ndivhuwo Mabaya said that Minister Lindiwe Sisulu has directed the South African High Commissioner in Mozambique, Mandisi Mpahlwa, to engage with Maputo so as to get to the bottom of the 61-year-old's death. Hanekom died on Wednesday morning. Mabaya said the department was also engaging with the high commissioner to ensure that the family was assisted with obtaining the body. DIRCO

says it will release more details in the coming days regarding the matter.

Hanekom was facing a number of charges while in custody after he was arrested at the end of December, together with two Tanzanians. Maputo alleges that the businessman was part of a jihadist group operating in the region. Last August, Hanekom, who owns the Marina in Palma marina and has lived in Mozambique for more than 26 years, was chased down by four unknown men and shot several times before he was thrown into the back of their vehicle, which drove off with him. Reports later said the men were from the Mozambican military.



DIGGING: Minister Lindiwe Sisulu.

His wife Francis denied that her husband had any links to terrorism and said the whole thing was a ploy to take over his business. **African News Agency**

BRIEFS

13 miners die in Ghana after blast

ACCRA - A regional official in Ghana says 13 miners have died after inhaling smoke from a blast they detonated. Paulina Abayage says the miners who died on Wednesday were working at the Chinese-owned Shaanxi Mining Ghana Ltd at Gbane in Upper East Region. She says others affected were taken to a regional hospital for treatment. The Minerals Commission has directed the company to suspend all mining operations at the site. The mine has been plagued with accidents over the years. In October, an underground cleaner died after being struck by a machine. **AP**

More than 20 000 kidnapped girls found

MALI - Nigeria's anti-trafficking agency has said it found thousands of missing girls and women in southern Mali, many of whom were sold as sex slaves. According to the agency NAPTIP, there are between 20 000 and 45 000 kidnapped Nigerian women in Mali it intends to return to Nigeria. General Julie Okah-Donli, NAPTIP Director, said the women mostly came from rural areas of six different states in Nigeria. "They were tricked into going to Mali by giving them the impression they were going to get jobs in hotels, for example," Okah-Donli told Al Jazeera. **Aljazeera**

'SA will help our neighbour, Zim'

JOHANNESBURG - In the wake of a week of unparalleled security force violence against civilians in Zimbabwe and signs of economic collapse, South Africa is working on throwing its northern neighbour a lifeline. Minister for International Relations Lindiwe Sisulu said from the World Economic Forum in Davos that South Africa is monitoring the situation in Zimbabwe, and that South Africa will look into a bail-out as long as it is affordable. "Instability creates displacement of people, conflict, and illegal migration. We will help Zimbabwe, as a neighbour, we need to do that." **IOL**

'13 000 granted amnesty'

ETHIOPIA - Ethiopia said it had granted more than 13 000 people amnesty as part of a broad reform agenda pushed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, state media said. Parliament in July passed a law allowing people convicted or facing charges of "treason, crime against the constitutional order and armed struggle" to apply for pardons. "More than [13 000] individuals took advantage of the law in the past six months," state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate said, citing Ethiopia's attorney general. **AFP**

Focus on World News

Global News

Trump delays State of the Union Address

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump said in a late night tweet on Wednesday that he would delay a State of the Union address until the government shutdown was over, responding to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's move to obstruct his plans for the speech.

Earlier in the day, Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives floated the idea of ending the partial government shutdown by giving Trump most or all of the money he seeks for security along the Mexican border but for items other than the wall he wants.

As a shutdown that has left 800 000 federal workers without pay hit its 33rd day, Pelosi effectively dis-invited Trump from delivering the annual State of the Union address in the House chamber until the government is fully opened.

The Republican president responded to the Democrat speaker with a

tweet.

"This is her prerogative - I will do the address when the shutdown is over. I am not looking for an alternative venue for the SOTU Address because there is no venue that can compete with the history, tradition and importance of the House Chamber," the president said in the tweet.

Drafting

"I look forward to giving a 'great' State of the Union Address in the near future!" Other leaders in the Democratic-controlled House said they were drafting a funding offer they will likely make to Trump in a letter. Representative James Clyburn, the No. 3 House Democrat, said Democrats could fulfil Trump's request for \$5.7 billion for border security with technological tools such as drones, X-rays and sensors, as well as more border patrol agents.

Representative Steny Hoyer, the No. 2 House Democrat, said Democrats also would discuss "substantial sums of additional money" for border security as part of a possible deal. He did not say if it would amount to the \$5.7 billion sought by Trump.

The president triggered the shutdown last month by demanding money

for the wall, opposed by Democrats, as part of any legislation to fund about a quarter of the government.

Clyburn's offer would be a significant monetary increase over bills previously passed by Democrats, which included only about \$1.3 billion for this year in additional border security, with none for a wall. "Using the figure the president put on the table, if his \$5.7 billion is about border security then we see ourselves fulfilling that request, only doing it with what I like to call using a smart wall," Clyburn told reporters.

Republican Representative Tom Cole, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, told reporters the Democratic proposal could help.

"Any movement, any discussion is helpful," Cole said. "We've got to get past this wall-or-no-wall debate."

The battle over border security and government funding spilled over into a parallel dispute over the president's State of the Union address. Trump sent a letter to Pelosi on Wednesday saying he looked forward to delivering it as scheduled next Tuesday in the House chamber.

Reuters

..says US recognises Guaido as interim president

BOGOTA - US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that he formally recognises Juan Guaido, the Head of Venezuela's opposition-dominated National Assembly, as the country's interim president.

Guaido declared himself Venezuela's interim president during anti-government rallies in Caracas.

"Today, on January

23, I swear to formally take over the competencies of the National Executive as president of Venezuela to achieve the end of the usurpation," Guaido told thousands of supporters in the capital.

The crowd sang the national anthem and broke out in applause. Protest rallies estimated to include hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated against the country, calling on President Nicolas Maduro to resign.

Making his own announcement shortly thereafter, Trump called on other Western governments to recognise Guaido's announcement as he vowed to keep up pressure on Caracas. "Today, I am officially recognising the President of the Venezuelan National Assembly, Juan Guaido, as the Interim President of Venezuela," Trump said in a statement, referring to the legislative body as the "only legitimate branch of government." DPA

'El Chapo's wife was in on plans, for prison escape'

MEXICO CITY - The wife of Mexican drug lord Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman played a key role in his infamous 2015 escape from prison through a tunnel dug into the shower of his cell, a witness testified on Wednesday at the kingpin's US trial.

Former cartel worker Damaso Lopez Nunez told the jury that Emma Coronel Aispuro helped her husband trade messages with his sons and others who coordinated the breakout at Altiplano prison in central Mexico. Coronel "was giving us his orders," Lopez told a New York jury, adding that she also was in on meetings about the escape.

After Guzman was recaptured and thrown in another Mexican lockup, the cartel paid a \$2m bribe to a prison official in exchange for getting him moved back to Altiplano, the witness said. Before that could happen, Guzman was sent in 2017 to the US, where he's been kept in solitary confinement while facing drug-trafficking charges he says have been fabricated by cooperators like Lopez. The testimony cast a harsh spotlight on a spouse who has sat quietly in the courtroom for most a trial that began in mid-November. Most of the attention on her so far has been for her wardrobe and her reaction to waves from the defendant. AP

Nurse arrested after woman in vegetative state gave birth

LOS ANGELES - A male nurse has been arrested in Arizona on suspicion of assaulting an incapacitated woman who gave birth at a long-term care facility, in a case that has shocked the nation.

The 29-year-old victim - who police said "was not in a position to give consent" - gave birth late last month to a baby boy, sparking an investigation. The suspect - identified as Nathan Sutherland, age 36 - has been charged with one count of sexual assault and one count of vulnerable adult abuse, Phoenix police spokesman Tommy Thompson told a news conference.

Sutherland's DNA was matched to that of the baby, leading to his arrest, according to police. Authorities said Sutherland is a licensed practical nurse who was responsible for providing care to the victim at the time the sexual assault took place. He had worked at the privately-owned facility - Hacienda HealthCare in Phoenix - for about seven years. AFP

BRIEFS

Trump's ex-lawyer delays testimony

NEW YORK - Donald Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen has postponed testimony in Congress citing threats from Trump and the president's current attorney Rudy Giuliani, Cohen's advocate said on Wednesday. Cohen's appearance before the House Oversight Committee, scheduled for February 7, was put off "due to ongoing threats against his family from President Trump and Mr Giuliani, as recently as this weekend," Lanny Davis said in a statement. "This is a time where Mr Cohen had to put his family and their safety first," Davis added. News24

New leader rides far-right wave

RIO - The president of Latin America's biggest economy is giving the keynote address at this year's World Economic Forum, where warnings are mounting of the dangers of a growth slowdown and yawning inequality. US President Donald Trump, along with the leaders of France, Britain and Zimbabwe, have had to stay away from the posh Swiss ski resort as they fight political fires back home. "This year Davos is defined by those who do not attend," IHS Markit chief economist Nariman Behravesh told AFP. Davos may be reverting to its roots as a purely business forum, which is not necessarily a bad thing", he said. AFP

General election date announced

BANGKOK - Thailand will hold a general election to restore civilian rule on March 24, the election commission said on Wednesday, announcing a new date for the often postponed vote, which will be the first since a 2014 military coup. The commission said in December the elections would be held on Feb. 24, but the military government expressed concern that election-related events would clash with early preparations for the coronation of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, scheduled for May 4-6. The monarchy is revered in Thailand, and this year's coronation will be the first in living memory for most of the population. Reuters

Calls for checks on applicants

LONDON - The European Union is warning countries running lucrative schemes granting passports and visas to rich foreigners to toughen checks on applicants, amid concern they could be flouting security and tax laws. The EU Commission said in a report on Wednesday that so-called golden passports and visas offered in one EU country can open a back door to European citizenship or residency in all 28. Migration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos says the Commission "will monitor full compliance with EU law." News24

Observer

Entertainment

New Reviews ... Star Signs ... Celebville ... Cartoons

Ziwaphi this weekend!

COMPILED BY AYANDA DLAMINI

Tonight HEART SOUL OF ESWATINI WITH TLALE MAKHENE

Where: Jazz Gallery at Theatre Club

Time: 7; 30pm

Into Music society will be hosting another exciting show dubbed 'Heart Soul of Eswatini with Tlale Makhene'. Supporting the show will be Marcus, Ndumiso Dlamini and Makabongwe. E120 gets you in.

DOPE DEEP'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Where: Solani's Shisanyama

Time: 6pm

Tonight's hangout session will be headlined by DJ Davas as he will be celebrating his birthday. On the turntables, the birthday boy himself, Bloss, M'eugie, Ayacity, Rhythmic Soul, MBO, Supa CDQ, Size Killa and Yung Yas will be doing the most.

Entrance fee is E30 after 10 pm.

Tomorrow

URBAN SATURDAYS WITH DJ TRIxie, X-STACY

WHERE: Solani's Shisanyama

Time: 6pm

Tomorrow's chill session at the most loved spot; Solani's Shisanyama

SAVE THE DATE

VALENTINE'S EXTRAVAGANZA

Where: Sibebe Resort

When: February 14

SUNDAY CHILL OUT WITH AFROTATION

When: February 24

Where: The George Hotel

SOLANI'S WITH AKA

WHERE: Solani's

Shisanyama

WHEN: March 1

MTN Bushfire 2019

WHERE: Malandelas

WHEN: May 24-26

STANDARD BANK LUJU FESTIVAL

WHERE:

Malandelas, Malkerns

WHEN: August 3.

will be headlined by DJ Trixie and X- Stacy. Supporting acts will be the spot's resident spinners. Entry fee is free E30 before 10pm.

CATCH THEM: DJ

Mbo, DJ Wicked and Tlale Makhene.



DJ Lolo ventures into business

BY DELISA THWALA

AFTER hard work and dedication, Eswatini female Disk Jockey Lolo has ventured into business and opened her own Shisanyama Chillaas spot which has been running for quite some time.

Asked on what inspired her to start the business, she said as a person who has been in the industry for a while, she noticed that there was a need for a location like that around her area.

"As an entertainment person, I wanted a place where you can chill and have a relaxed day. We are currently operating in Siphofaneni and are open during the days of the week where we take bookings for shows," she said.

The DJ said starting the business has not affected her day job of spinning records as it was the case with other business people. She added that since venturing into it, she was having the time of her life making money and entertaining crowds which was what she has always wanted to do.

"My business does not interfere with my gig schedules as I still play all over the country and my latest big gig being the cross over party at Emfuleni Lifestyle," Lolo said.

"I haven't been out of the game; instead I stopped taking every show that came my way. I only honour certain shows and this is because I want to focus more on my Shisanyama business," said the DJ.

The business woman thanked her fiancée Mxolisi Gwebu for encouraging, supporting and pushing her to start the business

Industry shows support for poet SBU J

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

AFTER crying out for help with his University tuition fees, poet Sbu J has touched the hearts of many in the industry.

The poet came out a week ago on his social media pages; Facebook and Twitter to be precisely, saying he needed help in settling his university fees. He said he would like people to help him out and in return he would perform for them.

The poet has since secured a venue and sound for his show.

Dubbed 'A Poet's In-tuition' #helpapoetgetadegree, a number of artists have come out to help the poet.

The show will be held at Eswatini Theatre Club on February 23 and it will be hosted by Nana Sambo and Elfoe.

The poet said he was grateful for all the support he has been receiving from people.

"I would also like to thank Thando Ginindza of Talent House

Entertainment for generously providing sound and of course the house of arts in Eswatini for sponsoring us with a venue," said the poet.

He also said he was grateful that Eswatini Theatre Club was the first place he performed at on a professional level and performing there now was special to him.

With Sbu J being the main act for the night, he will be joined by Dr Shakes, Poet MoCats, Majaha Nkonyane, Black Rhino, Poet TK, Thobile Makhoyane and many more.

Pre-sale tickets are selling at E100 and entry at the gate will be E120. The show is scheduled to start at 6pm.

SUPPORT: Sbu J.



+268 Recordings releases 'Kwenda Umbali'

BY DELISA THWALA

ANDRE J has released his first project from +268 Recordings dubbed 'Kwenda Umbali'.

This single marks the 12th release in +268 Recordings discography.

Speaking to Andre J, he said this song aimed to set a new tone with its hip-hop jazz vibe in the underground music world.

'Kwenda Umbali' was entirely produced by Andre J, mixed and mastered by Ziyawa and it is now available on Band Camp and Sound Cloud.

Andre J is the latest addition to the +268 family, as the recording company is exploring new sounds by adding multi genre producers in its repertoire.

Other projects from the renowned label this year will be from New Black, Namo Tame, Mseto and other guest appearances from label friends such as DJ Simza and other upcoming artists.



RELEASED: Andre J.

The recording label will be doing what they were well-known for; releasing high quality music every two weeks for the rest of the year. This is according to the stable's spokesperson Kole Johnson.

"The aim is to meet the increasing demand for local music amongst the underground music world," he said during an interview with this publication.

DJ Mseto will also be releasing a mixtape dubbed 'The Loco Dimension' monthly that will be composed of only local music, producers and artists.



REST IN PEASCE: Legendary singer Oliver Mtukudzi.

MTN BUSHFIRE HAS SAY ON MTUKUDZI'S DEMISE

...As he was scheduled to perform at this year's festival in May

STORIES BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

FOLLOWING the sudden demise of legendary Zimbabwean jazz singer Oliver Mtukudzi, the entertainment industry around the world has been shattered.

With condolences pouring in from all over the world, the MTN Bushfire team also took their time to pass their condolences and share their views on the matter.

The singer was announced as the first act of the MTN Bushfire 2019 to be held on May 24 to 26. Speaking to this publication yesterday, House on Fire Sales and Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini said they

were devastated by the news.

"We are truly saddened by the news, not even performance wise but Oliver Mtukudzi has been coming to Eswatini for a long time and we had got a friend in him. He definitely made a huge impact in the country and not to mention that he loved performing in Eswatini," said Dlamini.

Dlamini said Mtukudzi embraced the art of African music, which was one of the reasons they also cherished him as a legendary. "More than anything, we would like to extend our deepest condolences to his family and wish them well because all we can do at this point is provide them with all the support that they need," he said.

Dlamini also talked about Mtukudzi's performances and mentioned that as he will not per-

form this year, they would like to also extend their condolences to all his local fans.

"We will not take it lightly because we know some people were really looking forward to seeing him perform this year. We will, however, deal with this matter in due time," he said.

Oliver 'Tuku' Mtukudzi was a Zimbabwean musician, businessman, philanthropist, human rights activist and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Southern Africa region. Tuku was considered Zimbabwe's most renowned and internationally recognised cultural icon of all time.

With his husky voice, he became the most revered voice to emerge from Zimbabwe and onto the international scene and he earned a devoted following across Africa and beyond.

...MTN Bushfire calling schools' festival facilitators

THE MTN Bushfire team is looking for facilitators for this year's Schools Festival programme.

This was announced by MTN Bushfire Communications Officer Wandile Dlamini through a press release yesterday.

The statement reads; "Created to counter the lack of a formal arts curriculum in Eswatini's public schools, the MTN Bushfire High Schools' Festival supported by MTN Bushfire, and the MTN Bushfire Primary Schools' Festival supported by MTN Bushfire and the European Union, engage pupils from across the country in a week of interactive arts learning that precedes the main festival.

"The Schools' Festivals combine the arts with social responsibility themes, to deliver a week of facilitator-led teacher and pupil workshops and performances."

The statement also reveals that the festival will take place from May 20 to 23.

"MTN Bushfire Schools' Festival



is calling on all creative practitioners, drama, dance, music, poetry and fine arts, to apply to be facilitators at the 2019 MTN Bushfire Schools' Festival," the statement adds.

The theme for the 2019 MTN Bushfire Schools' Festival, according to the communications officer, is 'Child Social Protection'.

"The foundation is laid for a child's

physical and mental health, affecting everything from longevity to the life-long capacity to learn, from the ability to adapt to change as well as resilience against adverse circumstances.

"There are many sub-themes within 'Child Social Protection' that the festival explores such as child labour, children in contact with the law, children with disabilities, education, health,



BOTH PICS - ARTISTIC: Learners take part in various workshops at the 2018 MTN Bushfire Schools Festival.

identity, exploitation and violence," Dlamini added.

With this theme, the Schools' Festival aims to raise awareness on the child social protection issues such as; abuse: emotional, financial, sexual, physical neglect, lack of legal status: no birth certificate, child exploitation, children with disabilities, child headed families, homelessness, substance/drug

abuse, early marriage and bullying/social media.

Interested applicants should submit their CV and a concept brief detailing how as a facilitator they would showcase the theme through workshopped and performance-based activities to Notsile Nkambule at projectmanager@bush-fire.com before January 31.

AKA HERE IN MARCH

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

SOLANI'S Shisanyama is bringing the Super Mega; AKA on March 1.

This was revealed by the entity's Entertainment Officer Thandukwazi Hadebe, popularly known as 'Teekay', yesterday. Teekay assured Super Mega fans that it would be a night to remember and they should save the date.

"More details about the event would be revealed soon. People must save the date," he briefly said.

Graced

AKA is not new in the country as he has graced a couple of stages here such as the MTN Bushfire and the Hipnotik Festival several times.

AKA is a South African hip hop star. He has opened for Ed Sheeran, A-Reece and 2 Chainz on their South African tours. He

has won many awards including 'Best Street Urban Music Album' and 'Male Artist of the Year' in the South African Music Awards (SAMA).

Certified

In June 2015, AKA's second album 'Levels' was certified Gold, by the Recording Industry of South Africa, for shipments of



over 20 000 copies domestically. As of May 2016 the album was certified platinum by Recording Industry of South Africa (RiSA).

Last year, AKA released his third and final studio album 'Touch My Blood' which was issued on his independent record label; Beam Group. The album was originally set for release on May 25, 2018 but was delayed because he needed more time to shoot videos, release singles, drop merchandise and confirm tour dates, according to reports.

'Touch My Blood' was preceded by five singles, 'The World Is Yours' and 'Caiphus Song' which were certified triple platinum and gold, respectively by RiSA. 'Star Signs' which features South African rapper and poet Stogie T, 'Sweet Fire' and 'Beyonce' also preceded the album. 'Touch My Blood' was certified Gold by the RiSA.

IN MY OPINION...

The month of love is around the corner...

From a long time ago, February 14 has been perceived as a month of love and of gift giving.

In this month people express their love for family, friends and spouses by giving roses and spending the special day with them.

As this month of love approaches, I would like to explore and talk finances in relationships. Money is a commodity that has always been integral in a relationship.

By nature, men are the providers and women are the supporters, but then this can be tricky if the woman has more or the other partner feels used. This is my take on finances and relationships - as much as money doesn't make the relationship, it certainly can build or destroy one.

It is no secret that every woman likes to be spoiled from time to time, from those little gifts

to going out on dates. Come to think of it though, these dates take so much of money that partners would be using for useful

things, such as vacations, well that's if the relationship is serious of course.

For those like me who enjoy saving and are all for spoiling their men as much as he does to you, it is with that reason that I'm strongly for opening a joint account where both parties deposit a portion of their income that they both agree on. With this account, 'bae' and yourself can use the money for some young lunch, movie dates, clubbing and you name it. Not only does this save you the hassle of stressing about where you will get money for the next date, but it also keeps you and your partner organised and always ready for the next date.

For those looking long-term relationships, this also helps them touch base with sharing responsibilities, which make life easier for both parties.

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE





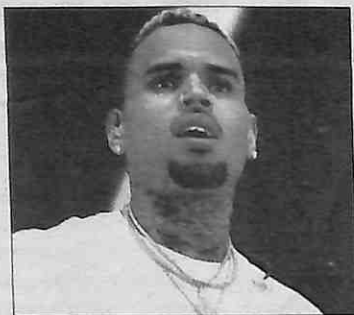
Celebville

International Celebrity News

Chris Brown spotted for first time since arrest

PARIS- Chris Brown is stepping out in public for the first time since being arrested for allegedly raping a woman in a Paris hotel, something he called total 'bxxx', but today he's spreading a message of love.

Brown was leaving the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Paris Wednesday, the same place where the alleged rape went down, and he had just a few simple words to share, "I love everybody." As reported, Chris was arrested on Monday night by French police on possible rape and narcotics charges. The alleged victim told Closer Magazine



APPEARS: Chris Brown

Brown brutally and violently assaulted her for 25-30 minutes in a dressing room after a night of partying. **TMZ**

Busta Rhymes in street scuffle

NEW YORK- Busta Rhymes' New Year got off to a heated start -- he came pretty close to blows with a guy who was not down with Busta hitting on his wife, so we're told. Witnesses at the scuffle tell TMZ, the rapper was sitting in his car in Times Square in the wee hours of New Year's Day when a man and his wife walked by. We're told the wife said "hi" to Busta, but the husband didn't like Busta's response -- he allegedly invited her to hang with him in his ride.

We're told the man had words for Busta, who got out of his car and



SCUFFLE: Busta Rhymes.

began arguing with him, which is where the video picks up. Things escalated pretty quickly, and the guys got face-to-face and grabbed each other before Busta's security broke it up. **TMZ**

Wiz Khalifa buys \$3.4 million Encino mansion

LAS ANGELES- Wiz Khalifa just swooped a super modern pad, and it only cost him a few mil.

We've learned the Pittsburgh rapper closed on a new mansion on Wednesday in Encino, CA, near Tarzana, Calabasas and other rich areas north of LA, and our real estate sources tell us he dropped a cool \$3.4 million on the property. Helluva deal, considering how nice this place is. With four bedrooms suites, the two-storey estate boasts what just about every baler pad might feature, floating stairs, a theatre, a 100-bottle wine bar, floor-to-ceiling glass pocket doors, a waterfall island outside, and a sick master suite with its own fireplace.



LEVELS: Wiz Khalifa's mansion.

The house is also a smart home, with a built-in alarm and four exterior cameras.

Showbiz

'Black Panther' leads popular films in Oscars

NEW YORK- Marvel Studios film 'Black Panther' made Oscars history on Tuesday, landing the first best picture nomination for a superhero movie, as crowd-pleasing blockbusters muscled into a contest recently dominated by art-house fare.

Other box-office hits among the eight nominees for the movie industry's top prize included musical remake 'A Star is Born' and rock biopic 'Bohemian Rhapsody.'

The inclusion of popular films contrasted with the past few years when the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences favoured independent dramas with small audiences and



LEADS: Black Panther.

snubbed commercial successes such as 'Wonder Woman.' **News 24**

Diabetes claimed life of Zimbabwean music icon

ZIMBABWE- Legendary Zimbabwean musician Oliver 'Tuku' Mtukudzi has died aged 66.

Zimbabwe's state daily The Herald said the renowned musician succumbed to a long battle with diabetes.

According to sources, Mtukudzi has been in and out of hospital since December.

Head of Marketing at Gallo Record, Carol Morabe, said Wednesday: "We are not ready to give an official statement as we would like to give the family to do so before us. We just want to respect the family and give them a chance to select a family spokesperson."

Musician and Mtukudzi's friend Yvonne Chaka Chaka said she was



NO MORE: Oliver 'Tuku' Mtukudzi.

shattered. "For him to go on the same day as Hugh Masekela, it's just so sad and unbelievable." **Sowetan**

Mango Groove announce 30th-anniversary concert

CAPE TOWN- If you don't know how much of a jam Mango Groove's 'Special Star' was then you're probably not the target market for this article but your parents will surely be in high spirits after you tell them the legendary South African band is planning a once-off, spectacular 30th Anniversary Concert.

The iconic group, which has been gifting SA with great hits since 1984, announced on Wednesday that they wanted to celebrate 2019 the best way they know how. Mango Groove's lead vocalist, Claire Johnston explained that it was only fitting for them to go big in 2019 to celebrate the 30-year journey. "2019 is a big year for us as we will be celebrating the 30th anniversary since the release of our very first album, 'Mango Groove.' With this



SPECTACULAR: Mango Groove.

in mind it seemed right to us that we put on a high production concert that showcases the highlights, memories and moments of that album, as well as, performing all the other Mango songs that people have come to know and love through years," said Claire. **Sowetan Live**

Why Cassper's 'sketchy' math skills were trending

AUCKLAND PARK- Rapper Cassper Nyovest once again found himself on the Twitter trends list on Wednesday after a math equation had the whole internet tripping, but was it all a joke or was the star trying to save his blushes? You see, it all started when Metro FM DJ Mo Flava decided to post a harmless picture of a man celebrating his 146th Birthday.

Clever Mo went all higher grade on the picture and pointed out that the man had lived in the 1800s, 1900s and 2000s. 1800 seems like an eternity ago when they used to



TRENDING: Rapper Cassper Nyovest.

wear long clothing and ride horses, so it was little wonder that it had some tweeps running for a calculator to make sure Mo wasn't bluffing them. **Times Live**

Mzansi just got a dose of Lasizwe

PRETORIA- Mzansi caught its first glimpse into the real life of SA's internet sensation Lasizwe Dambuza, known as Babes Wamalevels, on his own reality show @Lasizwe: Fake it Till You Make It, which has just kicked off. The 20-year-old is the first South African to get his very own show on MTV, and in the first episode, he revealed a different side to the character Mzansi has come to know on social media. We saw how he juggles his time between making business decisions, preparing for some of the country's fan-



LOVED: Lasizwe.

ciest social events, addressing the rumours surrounding him and striving to bring his family together. **Times Live**

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST



TODAY



DISTURBED: Fezile.

As the wedding of the year continues, Phumelele tries to fix Melusi's mistake before it is discovered. Fezile's romantic moment is interrupted. Judas identifies Sibongile as the source of all his current troubles.



TODAY



MAKES MOVE: Lincoln.

Sechaba and Majola join forces to take down Gabriel and Sebenzile Booi. Lincoln makes his first move to smoke Nina out. Wendy finally confesses the truth. Sechaba's hand is forced.



TODAY



CONFIRMS: Rendani.

Sundani lends her support to Tenda. Marang and KK's relationship continues to cause shockwaves. The pregnancy test confirms Rendani's worst fears.



TODAY



Dumi gets drawn into Chicken's world. Lerato tells Bongi some home truths, and they hit home. Mapula receives good news.

THE TRUTH: Bongi.

If you see a barber looking at you like this, just know your haircut is gonna be fire 🔥

No chill in Mzansi



No chill in Mzansi

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

Your poise and gracious nature serve you well now, Capricorn. The best thing you can do today is spend time around other people. Go to a party or other social gathering tonight. The evening is bound to be a resounding success as you radiate warmth and energy and people respond in kind. Allow everyone the pleasure of basking in your glow.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

Creativity and romance are a good combination, Aquarius, and today both are in top form. Why not get out the good stationery and craft a love note that will set that special someone's heart aflutter? Cater to your romantic nature, ideally with a partner at your side. Even if you're alone, a bubble bath will do wonders for your soul.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

Is a bit of redecorating in order? This is a perfect time to spruce up your home. Rather than rush into a project that you might later regret, Pisces, it's better to spend the day with color and fabric swatches. Once you're happy with a scheme, then you can pick up a paintbrush. Think hard before making a decision.



Aries March 21 – April 19

You have the creative ability to make a real go of your music or writing. Why not put it to better use? Are you afraid to take the risk? Today you may be inspired to rise above your fear as you read a book or hear a piece of music that moves you to want to create one of your own. It's never too late to get started, Aries.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

Prosperity isn't just around the corner - it's here, Taurus. Your finances are looking better than ever. Don't rely on this money, however. The whole point of a windfall is that it's unexpected, and thus can be used for luxuries or indulgences that you wouldn't normally allow yourself. If you begin to spend a windfall before it arrives, it's no longer a windfall but just another paycheck.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

You've never looked better, Gemini. As a result, people are drawn to you and you have an unusually large circle of friends. This is fun but time consuming, as everyone seems to want a piece of you. Try to keep your feet on the ground. Don't let your vision become clouded by all the flattery you receive.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

You've always been interested in the arts, and now you want to explore that interest on a deeper level. A visit to a museum isn't likely to do the trick, Cancer. Instead, why not enroll in a class or sign up for a lecture series? A few artists, in particular, capture your interest. Make it a point to concentrate on them first.



Leo July 23 – August 22

Errands seem to rule the day. You spend most of it in the car, running hither and yon. Don't be surprised if you run into an old friend you haven't seen in a while. The casual pleasantries you exchange could develop into something more. Perhaps you will discover a common interest and decide to build a business based on it. Keep your eyes (and mind) wide open.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

The planetary configuration makes you likely to reap the benefits of all your hard work, Virgo. The little windfall you receive is nice, to be sure, but don't think of all of it as fun money. Put a good amount aside in a savings or investment account. You can use the rest to kick up your heels a bit. Why not invite a friend to dinner at the nicest restaurant in town?



Libra September 23 – October 23

Keep your mind on the present, Libra. As much as you'd like to be somewhere else, your daydreaming is getting out of hand. If you're sincere in your desire to explore other lands, begin some research. For now it's better to focus on any problems that make you want to run away. Open a dialogue with anyone with whom you've had a misunderstanding. You will find this brings immeasurable relief.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

There's passion in the air today, Scorpio. You can feel it. The feeling is so strong that the air almost pulsates. What are you going to do about it? If you're in a romantic relationship, plan an intimate evening together, free of chores and daily tasks. If you're single, peruse your little black book and see if there are any relationships worth warming up.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

Has the opposite sex always been so attractive? Today they seem especially so, Sagittarius, and capture your attention right and left. One person, in particular, you've always considered a platonic friend, but today seems interested in you romantically. Perhaps this person is just picking up on your vibes. He or she may make a wonderful partner, so don't immediately dismiss the idea.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



HOME WORD SEARCH

PUZZLE CHOICE

HOME SWEET HOME

Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

H M U I N N E L L I M A O R N D C Y R
I R G M K M E L Q A U L G I N T E T P
N G L C I E O R V T I G A O P J R I M
P A O A L N N M N E A B C A G G U N H
I L N V E J U A E A G E S R C V T I V
C P D O I E T T S N S T J A A O U F D
O R A D S S P E E I T F H E L H F N N
S E I T N E C H L W O F D Y E T Y I O
E S P I I O C L E R E O G Y N N O C C
C E M D N M I O T M I E R A D O R V E
O N Y D V M E N N R E U K L A M E D S
N T L D V M I Q E D T R A R R S A S O
D G O T N G T P M N S I A D Y C N H T
Q O T J H A C C E A D Q G A E O M C M
J A T T O S E C O N D D D D E T E T E
Y T I N R E T E U X N J A T D J R A F
R E V E R O F S R U O H E T X N A W E
S S A L G R U O H Y H F C D E C S H H
R A E Y P A E L D N O C E S O R C I M

AGES, ATTOSECOND, CALENDAR, CENTURY, CLOCK, DATE, DAYS, DECADE, EONS, EPHEMERA, ERAS, ETERNITY, FEMTOSECOND, FOREVER, FORTNIGHT, FUTURE, HOUR, HOURGLASS, INFINITY, INSTANT, LEAP YEAR,

MICROSECOND, MILLENNIUM, MILLISECOND, MINUTE, MOMENT, MONTH, NANOSECOND, OLYMPIAD, PAST, PERIOD, PICOSECOND, PRESENT, SECOND, SUNDIAL, TIME, WATCH, WEEK, YEAR, YORE.

LOL
Laughing out Loud

Lawyer

"You seem to have more than the average share of intelligence for a man of your background," sneered the lawyer at a

witness on the stand. "If I wasn't under oath, I'd return the compliment," replied the witness.

USELESS FACTS

1. 111 111 111 x 111 111 111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321
2. Statues in parks: If the horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle; if the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle; if the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.
3. The expression 'to get

fired' comes from long ago Clans that wanted to get rid of unwanted people, so they would burn their houses instead of killing them, creating the term 'Got fired'.
4. "I am." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.
5. Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.

BRAINTEASERS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's brainteasers

1. What gets harder to catch the faster you run?
Answer: Your shadow.

2. What has an eye but cannot see?

Answer: A needle.

Today's Brainteasers

1. What starts with t and ends with t and only has t inside?
2. What goes up as rain comes down?



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NEWS



The love game: Qondi and Fezile

It seemed to be the greatest love story ever told – punctuated only by an evil king's greed and manipulation. But even without evil schemes

getting in the way Qondi and Fezile's love seems to be reaching its end.

There is no doubt that Fezile has never loved any woman as much as

he loves Qondi. Whether she was married off to the Chief of eBhubesini just when he thought they could start their lives together or overseas find-

ing herself, she remains "Themba lam" to him. It was a bitter sweet moment when it was revealed that Qondi is not in fact the rightful Queen

Mother because her late husband who had stolen her, had also managed to steal the throne. We thought this would mean she could finally and freely be with Fezile. But with such a big revelation, Qondi had to get in touch with who she really was after losing her identity as Queen Mother: An identity she took very seriously and dedicated her life to.

She decided to take a break from it all, including Fezile and jet off to London, to find herself. However, this time was not like other times when Qondi put Fezile on the back-burner. This time, enter Cebisile – Sibongile's gorgeous, well-educated sister who is absolutely smitten with Fezile. It all started with her serving him food at her sister's lobola negotiations but from just that brief moment there seems to be a new love budding between the two.

Obviously, the connection between Fezile and Cebisile cannot be compared to the connection between Fezile and Qondi, but this is the first woman to make Fezile's heart really flutter in Qondii's absence since his fling with Kaone. Both Qondi and Cebisile will be at the Zungu wedding, but who should Fezile choose? – Qondi Cebisile? Are

you team Fezondii or Fezisile?



SERIES ON DST

Iron Chef Gauntlet

21:00 CAT on Food Network

Alton Brown and a new batch of Iron Chefs return for another round of heart-stopping culinary action in Iron Chef Gauntlet this month on Food Network. The competition begins when seven chefs are forced to show their resourcefulness by using a single protein in as many ways as possible, before two chefs go on to battle it out in the secret ingredient showdown.

Gone

20:00 CAT on M-Net

In the series premiere of this fast-paced crime drama, the FBI raids the home of a seemingly close-knit family – where a young girl has been kidnapped. Golden Globe-nominee Chris Noth stars.

The Shop

20:30 CAT on One Magic

This show visits barber shops around the country to gather distinguished individuals who can speak honestly on sports, and more.

Shameless

at 22:00 CAT on M-Net

The Gallaghers return from a production break on Tuesday. Oscar®-nominated William H. Macy and

Emmy Rossum star in this fiercely engaging and fearlessly twisted series.

LOCAL (SOUTHERN):

Mpali

20:30 CAT on Zambezi Magic

This show revolves on a family man Nguzu who surprises everyone by marrying a new wife, resulting in shock for his other wives and children.

Date My Family Zambia

21:30 CAT on Zambezi Magic

Date My Family helps singletons find love by sending them on dates with their potential partner's family. Can you really trust your family to help you find love?

Landlord

09:30 CAT on OneZed

Masauso Raban takes advantage of abandoned property after the rightful owner perceivably dies. He appoints himself the 'landlord', much to the dismay of the tenants.

The Queen

21:00 CAT on Mzansi Magic

Lives have been lost and Diamond is happy that his evil plan was a success. Diamond plans to be the king of the town but the two queens are ready to fight for their drug empire.

Breaking bread with Boity - Celeb Feasts

THE apple clearly didn't fall far from the tree for Modiehi Thulo, Boity's gorgeous mother!

After hanging with best friends and work buddies it only made sense that Zola's next set of guests were a thrilling mother and daughter duo! And of course who better to grace us with their presence than Modiehi and Boity Thulo!

On this week's episode of Celeb Feasts with Zola, our fave chef had island flavour on her mind as she made a main dish of Hawaiian poke. But we all know she never rolls solo which is why her guest for the night had to be multi-talented entertainer, Boity along with the stunning mother, Modiehi. The three lovely ladies got on like a house on fire and shared in loads of laughs over a succulent chicken skewers prepared by Zola as their starter.

With her mom around, it wasn't long before we were treated to some little known facts about Boity including the fact that her mom actually didn't want her to be a part of the entertainment industry. Instead 'Mama Mo' would have preferred for her daughter to get a more humble office rather than take on the perilous entertainment industry even though she had seen something special in her daughter from a young age. Thankfully though she allowed Boity to take a leap of faith

and the result was a career that continues to soar!

The knowledge and wisdom didn't stop there though as the ladies broke down the keys to a successful mother-daughter relationship over their delectable meal. Perhaps the most precious of advice once again coming from the matriarch of the Thulo household who highlighted the importance of instilling positivity and confidence in your child early on so they're not swayed by the outside world. It was ultimately a beautiful day spent for everyone with endless food, hearty laughter and limitless love flowing around. Plus Boity even promised to come through once more and whip up her famous chicken feet stew! Now there's something to look forward to!

Stay tuned to #CelebFeasts every Tuesday at 21:30! Follow the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and at mzansimagic.dstv.com.

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Swazi Observer



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DOC:18776 Dx:23/02/2019



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Approved by SHEC

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Motor Mechanics.	TLB Lessons (4wks).
Auto Electrical.	
Health & Safety (6mnts) Full-time & Part-time.	

ADDED COURSES CERTIFICATE

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Agriculture	
MANAGEMENT COURSES DIPLOMA	
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Dx 27/01/2019

4. MISCELLANEOUS



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you are sick,
problems in Marriage,
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emindenini yabo
a b e t e
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kuNkulunkulu. I can
pray for you. I have
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Ndwandwe,
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Ehangeni
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7614 2654.

R/N 200673 Dx 06 FEB 2019

14. VEHICLES

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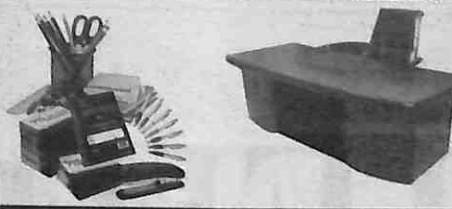
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R/N 205689 Dx 11/02/2019

ESTATE LATE:

JUNE JAMESON SHONGWE
ESTATE NO. EH 3/2019

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

NOMPUMELELO PENELOPE SHONGWE
P.O. BOX 1470
MBABANE
76077925

R/N 201011 Dx 25 JAN 2019

ESTATE LATE:

BERNARD MAKHLENKWE MASEKO
ESTATE NO. EM 13/2019

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

MASIKIZA MASEKO
P.O. BOX 482
MALKERNS

R/N 205268 Dx 25 JAN 2019

**ESTATE LATE:
SIFISO VELEFINI SEME
ESTATE NO. EH 173/2018**

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

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

SARAH JANKIE SEME
P.O. BOX 395
MBABANE
76788861

R/N 201012 Dx 25 JAN 2019

ESTATE LATE:

ALBERT MUZI NDLOVU
ESTATE NO. EH 252/2010

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mentioned estate are asked to lodge
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R/N 201015 Dx 25 JAN 2019

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15. DEATHS

Florence Tjobhoyi Manana
nee Dlamini



Funeral: 27/01/2019
Vigil: 26/01/2019
Place: Ngcoseni

Relatives and friends of Florence Tjobhoyi Manana nnee Dlamini are notified of her sudden death. She will be laid to rest on Sunday 27 January 2019 at Ngcoseni at 05:00 am after a night vigil. Memorial service will be at Malkerns Roman Catholic Church on Saturday 26 January 2019 at 2:00pm. Announcement by her family

Gogo Simangele Dlamini
ulaSukati



Funeral: 26/01/2019
Vigil: 25/01/2019
Place: eMbekelweni

Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni nabobonke labati Gogo Simangele Dlamini ulaSukati kutsi akasekho emhlabeni kulindzelwa ngalesihlanu 25/01/2019 abekwe endlini yakhe yekungcina ngemgibelo 26/01/2019 ekhaya lakhe Embekelweni eSoweto. Simemetelo sikhokwa ngumndeni

Lomakhosi Linah Dlamini
laTsabedze



Funeral: 26/01/2019
Vigil: 25/01/2019
Place: Majutseni

Kwatiswa tihlobo bangani baka-Dlamini nebaka-Tsabedze kutsi Lomakhosi Linah Dlamini laTsabedze akasekho emhlabeni. Kuyalindzelwa ngalesihlanu 25/01/2019 ufihlwa ekuseni mhlaka 26/01/2019 eMafutseni ekhaya lakhe

Mduduzi Celucolo Gwebu



Funeral: 27/01/2019
Memorial: 26/01/2019
Place: eMagwanyana

Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni wa Mduduzi Celucolo Gwebu kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Usishiye ngalokukhulu kutumeka. kwatiswa bakhobonina kaDlamini nebakaHlophe ekhakhakhe, nebakaGwebu kuBulunga naseLuvu. Kutoba nenkonzo yesikhumbuto ngeMgicibelo mhlaka 26.01.2019 eMfanyana Hall nga 1.00pm, bese uyofihlwa ngelisonfo mhlaka 27.01.2019 eMagwanyana. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeni.

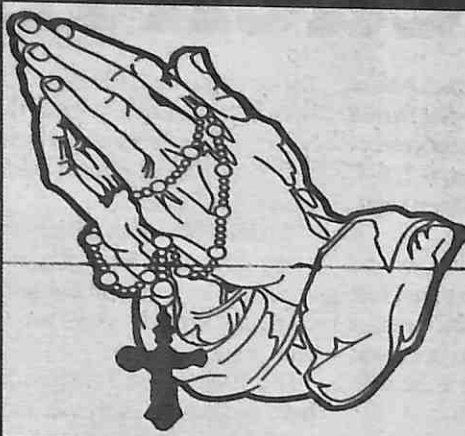
Siphiwo NIPA Nkambule



Funeral: 26/01/2019
Vigil: 25/01/2019
Place: Zondwako

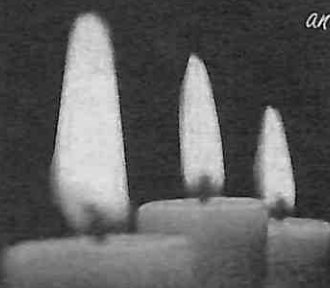
You are notified that Siphiwo NIPA Nkambule has passed on. Funeral 26/01/2019 night vigil 25/01/2019 at Zondwako- Bhunya

REST IN PEACE



May the gates of heaven open up to reveal strength and comfort in your times of trial and sorrow God will comfort you

*Death brings pain that time can only heal,
no words could ease what we truly feel;
but with God, her joy is eternally sealed,
and cherish her memories
that death can't even steal*



Condolences

JOB 13:15

Though He slay me,
yet will I hope in him;
I will surely
defend my ways to
his face.

*The LORD is close to
the broken-hearted; he
rescues those whose
spirits are crushed.*

it's almost unbearable
when so much hope
turns in deep sorrow
wishing you much strength



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spirit and life of each person
we serve.



AO 2019
australian open
14-27 JAN

Day 11 Results:

Men

Semi-finals

- ☐ Rafael Nadal (ESP x2) bt Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE x14) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0

Women

Semi-finals

- ☐ Petra Kvitová (CZE x8) bt Danielle Collins (USA) 7-6 (7/2), 6-0
- ☐ Naomi Osaka (JPN x4) bt Karolina Plisková (CZE x7) 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

I wasn't even close - Tsitsipas

MELBOURNE - A shellshocked Stefanos Tsitsipas was at a loss to explain his performance after being completely outclassed by Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open semi-final yesterday.

The 20-year-old conqueror of Roger Federer could not believe he won just six games in his first Grand Slam semi-final, humiliated in 106 minutes 6-2, 6-4, 6-0.

Rampaging bull Nadal has brushed opponents aside at will in Melbourne this year, shattering the dreams of three NextGen stars in a massive statement that the 32-year-old 17-times Grand Slam champion is back fit and firing.

"Honestly, I have no idea what I can take from that match," a despondent Tsitsipas said.

"I wasn't even close to getting something. I only got six games from that match," added the 14th seed, who has now gone deeper into a Slam than any other Greek player in history.

Tsitsipas has lost all three of his matches against Nadal, but said this was something different against a man who has not dropped a set in cruising into a final against Lucas Pouille or Novak Djokovic, who play today.

"He gives you no rhythm. He plays just a different game style than the rest of the players," said the bewildered Greek, who pulled off the win of his life to knock out Federer in four sets in the last 16. "He has this, I don't know, talent that no other player has. I've never seen a player have this." **AFP**

Nadal routs Tsitsipas to reach final

MELBOURNE - Rafael Nadal handed rising star Stefanos Tsitsipas a tennis lesson yesterday as he drubbed him 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 in the Australian Open semi-finals.

Greek 14th seed Tsitsipas had enjoyed a fairytale run to his first Grand Slam last four, including a win over Roger Federer, but found Nadal in ruthless form as he won in 1hr 46min.

The Spanish second seed has not dropped his serve for an astonishing 63 straight games and has not lost a set on his way to the final, where he will face either Novak

Djokovic or Lucas Pouille. "It's been a great match, a great tournament," Nadal said after a breathtaking display of almost perfect tennis.

"I think I have played very well every day. After a lot of months without playing is probably this court, this crowd it gives me that unbelievable energy."

The 20-year-old Tsitsipas had been hailed as a new Greek god of tennis after beating Federer, but his ascent to the summit of his personal Olympus was comprehensively halted by the colossus called Nadal. Nadal's win put him into

his fifth Australian Open final and keeps him on course to become the first man to win all four Grand Slams twice in the Open era if he can add to his sole Melbourne Park crown in 2009.

AFP



THROUGH:
Rafael Nadal.

Anderson to move past Federer in ATP Tour rankings

MELBOURNE - Despite his deflating second round loss against up-and-coming 21-year-old American Frances Tiafoe in the ongoing Australian Open, top South African player Kevin Anderson will equal his career-best ATP Tour world ranking of fifth next week.

And ironically what Anderson can thank for the improvement in

his pending ranking from a current sixth place is the relative early fourth round demise from the throbbing, record-breaking Melbourne Grand Slam event of legendary defending champion Roger Federer.

While Anderson's ranking points will improve marginally as he lost in the first round of the event last

year, Federer's stunning fourth round defeat against dynamic 20-year-old Greek 'whizz kid', Stefanos Tsitsipas, cost him 1 820 points and a decline in his ranking from third to what is for him a modest sixth place - with South Africa's 6-foot-8 big server squeezing into the resultant fifth-place gap.

Statistics notwithstanding, however, the Australian Open proved

what must be a sombre and untimely setback for the 32-year-old Anderson, who reached his first Grand Slam final in the US Open in 2017 and made it to the final at Wimbledon last year - and like South Africa's other two-time Grand Slam finalist, Raven Klaasen, in the doubles, was seeking a first notable major title.

Sport2

Japan firm apologises to Osaka for 'whitewash' ad

TOKYO - Japanese noodle-maker Nissin apologised yesterday for an "anime" advert

featuring Naomi Osaka, the tennis star said after the firm's portrayal of the half-Haitian player with pale skin sparked accusations of

"whitewashing". The cup noodle company, which sponsors the US Open women's champion, found itself in hot water with its cartoon advert also featuring fellow tennis star Kei Nishikori, as the pale-skinned character bore scant resemblance to the 21-year-old Osaka.

Speaking at a press conference at the Australian Open yesterday, Osaka said the company had spoken to her after the controversy erupted.

"I've talked to them. They've apologised," she told reporters.

"I don't think they did it on purpose to be, like, whitewashing or anything. But I definitely think that the next time

they try to portray me... I feel like they should talk to me about it." The adverts have already been pulled from circulation, Nissin Foods spokesman Daisuke Okabayashi told AFP.

"We never had the intention to do what is known as 'whitewashing', but with this becoming an issue, we will pay more attention to respect for diversity in our PR activities," he said. The firm had initially obtained agreement from Osaka via her representatives, the spokesman added. Osaka, who has a Japanese mother, a Haitian father and was raised in the United States, has not commented publicly on the issue as she bids for a second consecutive Grand Slam title at the Australian Open. **AFP**

Epic Serena match left me drained - Pliskova

MELBOURNE - Karolina Pliskova's miracle Australian Open comeback against Serena Williams left her physically and mentally drained for yesterday's semi-final loss to Naomi Osaka, the Czech seventh seed said.

Pliskova survived four match points and bounced back from 1-5 down in the third set to defeat Williams for a spot in the final four, with the 23-time Grand Slam champion admitting she was powerless as her opponent "just went crazy".

The 26-year-old almost conjured another great escape less than 24 hours later after going down a set and a break in her final four clash with Japanese fourth seed Osaka.

She clawed back the second



FATIGUED:
Karolina Pliskova.

set and had Osaka worried after bringing up break point late in the third, but the US Open champion held on for a 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 victory.

The defeat snapped a 10-match winning run for Pliskova, includ-

ing a title in Brisbane, and she said the hangover from the Williams' epic took its toll. "It was tough. If there was a day in between these two matches, it would have been helpful for me," she said. **AFP**

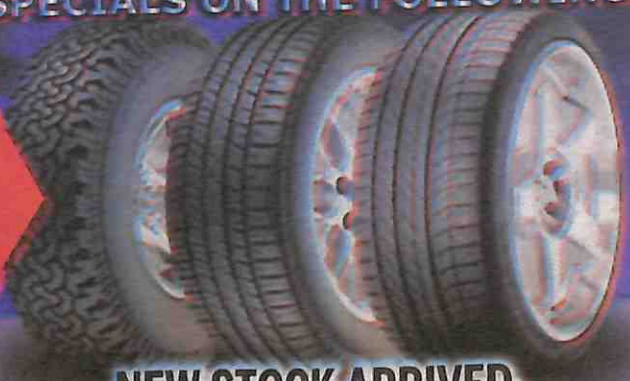
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Channel police call off search for missing footballer Sala

ST PETER PORT- Police yesterday ended their search for Premier League player Emiliano Sala, saying the chances of finding the Argentine alive three days after his plane went missing over the Channel were "extremely remote".

The light aircraft transporting the 28-year-old striker, who signed for Cardiff City at the weekend, disappeared from radar around 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Guernsey on Monday night.

The tiny island sits off the northern coast of France.

"We reviewed all the information available to us, as well as knowing what emergency equipment was on board, and have taken the difficult

decision to end the search," Guernsey said in a statement.

"The chances of survival at this stage are extremely remote."

The police said they have informed the next of kin of Sala and the missing pilot, who has been identified as David Ibbotson. The police said teams from the Channel Islands, the United Kingdom and France had searched an area of approximately 1 700 square miles (4 400 square kilometres), "with a significant amount of this searched more than once".

Sala, who signed last Saturday from French club Nantes for a reported fee of 17 million euros (\$19.3 million), was flying to Cardiff in a single-engine

Piper PA-46 Malibu aircraft.

Britain's Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB), which is probing the disappearance, said the plane was registered in the United States.

It has emerged Sala expressed concerns about the jet on the flight, according to an audio message sent to friends and relatives.

"I'm on a plane that looks like it's going to fall apart," the rising star said in a rambling WhatsApp audio message from on board. Police earlier said rescuers had spotted "a number of floating objects in the water" but had not been able to confirm whether these were linked to the plane.

AFP

Emi is out there, family and friends hope for Sala miracle

UNITED KINGDOM- Each time he returned from Europe on holiday to Progreso, the small town in Argentina where he lived until the age of 16, Emiliano Sala became "Emi" once more, just like in his childhood.

"He wasn't Sala the player, he was Emi. He was one more, he was riding a bike, like when he was a boy," Diego Solis, a former coach to Sala at San Martin in his teenage years, tells AFP.

Sala, missing since Monday after boarding a plane in France to head to Wales to link up with his new club Cardiff City in the Premier League, "went with his teammates to the pitch, with a ball, to run, to the bowling alley," Solis recalls with a certain sadness. In Progreso, a town of 3 000 residents in the province of Santa Fe, in northern Argentina, where Sala was known by everyone, family and friends are not yet ready to accept the worst. "We still cannot take in the facts of what hap-

pened to him, I still have hope on my part," Solis bravely maintains, daring to imagine a happy outcome to a seemingly tragic ordeal. "For me, 'Emi' is out there, he will appear soon and come out on a pitch in the Premier League," Solis hopes.

After excelling in French football with Nantes, the 28-year-old forward signed a contract last Saturday with Cardiff in a club record deal worth a reported €17 million.

Sala, who came up against the likes of Neymar and Kylian Mbappe in Ligue 1, had been a selfless striker since his youth, fully committed to the team cause and not purely on the hunt for goals.

"He was caring, he wasn't stubborn, he played for the team, he wasn't bothered if he had to give it to a teammate," recounts Solis, who coached him until Sala moved to Proyecto Crecer, an academy in the town of San Francisco, four hours north of the capital Buenos Aires.

Reuters

'Phenomenon' Higuain brings grit, goals to Chelsea

LONDON- Maurizio Sarri once claimed Gonzalo Higuain guarantees "certain death" for defenders - now the Chelsea manager must hope his decision to reunite with the Argentina striker breathes new life into his misfiring side.

Higuain joined Chelsea on loan until the end of the season on Wednesday as Sarri tries to find the missing piece to a forward line desperately short of a cutting edge in his first year at Stamford Bridge.

The 31-year-old enjoyed remarkable success in his one year playing for Sarri at Napoli and their reunion comes seven months after the Blues boss first tried to restore their working relationship.

Higuain had been interested in joining Sarri at Chelsea when he left Juventus last year, but instead moved to AC Milan on loan because he felt more "loved" by the Italian club.

That was a blow for Sarri, but he has finally secured the services of the man he believes brings physical presence and killer instinct in equal mea-



NEW LIFE: Gonzalo Higuain enjoys some mate tea with Willy Caballero (L) and Marcos Alonso at Cobham.

sure. "He is a phenomenon, a loose ball at Gonzalo's feet means certain death for defenders," Sarri said during their time together in Italy.

Yet the muscular Higuain's no-nonsense image is at odds with an introverted side to his personality.

Agence France-Presse

Solskjaer hopeful over new United contract for Martial

MANCHESTER- Ole Gunnar Solskjaer hopes Anthony Martial will agree on a new contract with Manchester United in the coming weeks as the club look to tie down a clutch of top players.

France forward Martial and goalkeeper David de Gea are both out of contract at the end of next season after United triggered 12-month extension options shortly before Christmas.

The club are in talks with both players as well as forward Juan Mata, whose contract expires this coming June. Ed Woodward, United's executive vice-chairman, is known to be keen to get the futures of all three players sorted out while he works on appointing a permanent manager before the start of next season. Martial is understood to be close to agreeing a five-year contract, while Spain international De Gea has made it clear he wants to remain at Old Trafford. Solskjaer, United's caretaker manager for the rest of this season following the sacking of Jose Mourinho in December, has received indications that strong progress has been made with Martial, De Gea and Mata.

AFP

Liverpool fans right to be excited

LONDON- Liverpool's record goal-scorer Ian Rush is not concerned by the lack of title-winning experience in Jurgen Klopp's side as they seek to fend off Manchester City and end a 29-year drought.

The Reds, who have not been English champions since 1990, lead the Premier League by four points from Pep Guardiola's side, the vast majority of whom were integral to last season's record-breaking title triumph.

By contrast, Liverpool have just James Milner, part of City's successes in 2011/12 and 2013/14, as their only Premier League winner.

But Rush, who had the benefit when he signed for the club in 1980 of joining a squad that had already won league and European Cup titles, does not believe a lack of experience will be pivotal in this season's title race.

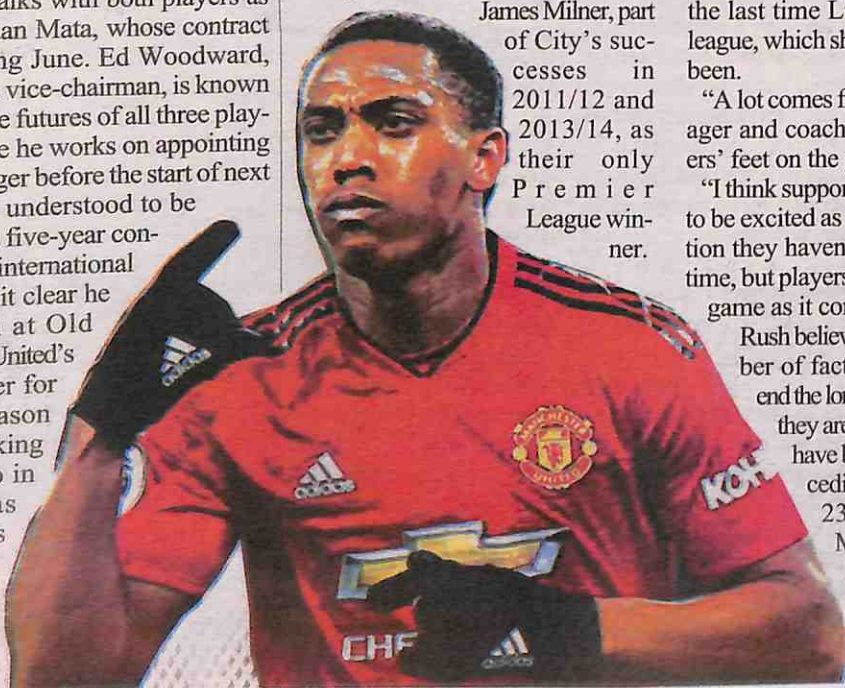
"How do you get the experience if you haven't won the title since 1990?" the 57-year-old former striker, who scored in the 2-1 win over QPR that secured Liverpool's 18th and last top-flight title, told Britain's Press Association.

"It's that long ago I actually played the last time Liverpool won the league, which shows how long it's been.

"A lot comes from how the manager and coaches keep the players' feet on the ground.

"I think supporters are quite right to be excited as they are in a position they haven't been for a long time, but players have to take each game as it comes."

Rush believes there are a number of factors that can help end the long wait. Defensively they are stronger than they have been for years, conceding just 13 goals in 23 matches, while Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane continue to score regularly. AFP



Everyone wants to train under Klopp

BARCELONA- Former Liverpool star Luis Suarez admits that he would be eager to train under Manager Jurgen Klopp in the future.

The Uruguayan helped the Reds play some of their best football, netting 29 goals in 110 appearances.

Suarez's departure to Barcelona coincided with a downturn in form for the Reds.

However, Klopp has since brought a resurgence to the club with the likes of Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane elevating Liverpool to the top of the Premier League.

When asked if he would consider returning to Anfield, Suarez played coy but admitted his admiration for Klopp. "Currently we work for two different clubs, so that's not an issue for me at the moment," Suarez told 11Freunde. "But yes, every player would like to train under Jurgen Klopp."

"Anyone who has ever played at Liverpool remains connected to the club for a lifetime. The team plays terrific football and I am very interested to see how they do this year."

"I think we can still expect a lot."

Sport24

Cape Town City to field full-strength side in Nedbank Cup

CAPE TOWN - Cape Town City coach Benni McCarthy says he will not field a different side in cup matches as his team prepare for their Nedbank Cup Last 32 encounter tomorrow.

The Citizens have been paired up against SuperSport United in their first-round clash, a side they have faced three times already this season; having done the double against the Pretoria side in the league while also pipping them on penalties in last year's MTN8 competition.

Unbeaten

City are currently on a five-match unbeaten run, with McCarthy insisting nothing will change as they look to give the Nedbank Cup a full go.

"For us there is no cup games or league games, every game is a must-win," McCarthy said. "Every game is a game we're going to go out there [to win] - we don't toy with the opposition by playing youngsters, we take every competition seriously. If they think it's a game where we're going to try new things - no. What you see is what you get. We are going out there to win it."

McCarthy, though, will have to once again tinker with his backline.

Edmilson Dove has recently been fielded at centre-back alongside Taariq Fielies, yet an injury to the Mozambican saw Kwanda Mngonyama slot in along-



FULL-STRENGTH: Cape Town City coach Benni McCarthy

side Fielies in City's last encounter, a 5-0 drubbing of Free State Stars last week.

Confident

Fielies was however red-carded towards the end of that encounter, yet McCarthy is more than confident in his available replacements.

"We have got the young boy Keanu [Cupido], he was equally as good as Fielies, Kwanda and Dove when he

was given the opportunity to play at the back," McCarthy says. "Keanu will come in and do a great job for us, so I'm not worried. But it'll be good to have Dove and [Ebrahim] Seedat back, so we're not so tight-squeezed and having to have a makeshift defence - we're okay."

Kick-off at Cape Town Stadium is set for 20h15.

Kick Off

Masinga lived life to the fullest

JOHANNESBURG - Late Bafana Bafana striker Philemon "Chippa" Masinga lived his life to the fullest, mourners heard yesterday.

"My dad died at the age of 49, but he lived his life to the fullest," his son Sifiso Masinga said at a funeral service held in Khuma, Stilfontein.

"His death is not by accident. No measure of profession could have saved my dad. It is God's will.

"No tears could bring my dad back. Tomorrow when you walk down the streets, you must know that you are the daughter of Phil Masinga," he said to his sisters.

Born Philemon Raul Masinga on June 28, 1969 in Khuma, Stilfontein

near Klerksdorp, the former Bafana Bafana prolific goal scorer lost his battle against cancer on January 13 at a Johannesburg hospital.

Chippa, as he was affectionately known amongst soccer fans, played for Jomo Cosmos and Mamelodi Sundowns in South Africa before he went on to play for Leeds United in England for two years. He played in 39 games for Leeds scoring 11 goals.

"Waltzin' Masinga" as Leeds fans nicknamed him also played for Saint Gallen in Switzerland, Salernitana and Bari in Italy.

He appeared 58 times for Bafana Bafana scoring 18 goals. *Citizen*

AS Monaco to sack club legend

MONACO - Thierry Henry will reportedly be sacked as AS Monaco manager within the next 48 hours after just three months in charge, as the relegation-threatened Ligue 1 side line up a shock replacement.

The 2016/17 Ligue 1 champions currently languish in the relegation zone, three points adrift of safety, and have only won three of their 21 league fixtures this campaign.

Henry took over in October for his first senior managerial stint to try and halt their remarkable fall from the upper echelons of European football.

The French outfit has picked up just two wins in 12 league matches since the France all-time record goalscorer's appointment, a far cry from being UEFA Champions League semi-finalists two seasons ago.

And the Daily Mirror claims Henry will be 'told in the next 48 hours' that he will be losing his job after Monaco were knocked out of the Coupe de France with a 3-1 loss to Ligue 2 side Metz, who fielded a second-string side on Tuesday.

In Saturday's 5-1 loss to Leoben Mothiba's Strasbourg, cameras captured Henry hurling offensive insults towards defender Kenny Lala, which he has since publicly apologised for.

However, it is understood to have been the final straw for the Monaco hierarchy amidst their poor per-

formances.

"My future? Owners would decide when they need to decide. I am more worried for Monaco's future. I already said that," Henry told reporters at a news conference this week, as per The Independent.

"I will repeat. No need to always ask the same question, I would answer the same thing - Atletico Madrid have been relegated in the 90s with stronger players than us. [Real] Zaragoza as well more recently as you know. I could talk about all the leagues.

"We are in this situation, even if it was Coupe de France and now we are out but this weekend against Dijon in Ligue 1 it's going to be war."

According to reports in France, the man he replaced, Leonardo Jardim, will return for a second stint in an attempt to prevent a calamitous relegation. *AFP*



TO BE SACKED: Thierry Henry.

Former Chiefs star on trial at Highlands

JOHANNESBURG - Phakaaathi has learnt that Mandla Masango is training with Highlands Park as he looks to revive his ailing football career.

The former Kaizer Chiefs and SuperSport United winger joins ex-Amakhusi midfielder Enocent Mkhabela and Orapa United midfielder Tapiwa Nyamanjiva at training with the Lions of the North.

The trio will be looking to convince coach Owen Da Gama and his technical team to offer him a career. "He (Masango) still looks sharp, but you must remember that he has been out of the game for so long, so it will take some time before he gets back to his best. The good thing is that he is a free agent, so they could still sign him even after the close of the transfer window," a source close to Highlands told Phakaaathi. Masango has been without a club since he was released by Danish side Randers FC in July last year, following the expiry of his contract. There were rumours that the 29-year-old had lost his appetite for football and that he was considering hanging up his boots to focus on his business. But it seems Masango still wants to continue playing. *Citizen*

Lebese's preferred destination revealed

JOHANNESBURG - Siya sources have revealed the club that could be favourites to sign George Lebese, with his exit from Mamelodi Sundowns now imminent.

As reported earlier today, Sundowns were expected to meet with Lebese to discuss his immediate future at the club, this after the 29-year-old failed to show up for training in the past few days.

According to Siya sources, Sundowns are looking to solve the current issue with the

player, although it is understandable that Lebese could be growing frustrated with his circumstances, as he has just a week left to complete a move away from Masandawana.

However, it is understood that

Lebese already has his eye on a specific club in the Premier Soccer League.

The Siya crew has been informed that Lebese is believed to prefer a move to head coach Benni McCarthy's Cape Town City side, with the Citizens having been linked with the player in the past.

Despite John Comitis previously stating that there have been no discussions regarding a move for Lebese, a source has indicated that things could have changed since then.

The source added that City could

be favourites to land the signature of the former Kaizer Chiefs midfielder, although it remains to be seen whether the Citizens will open talks with Masandawana in the final days of the January transfer window. *Soccer Laduma*



Weekend Sports Fixtures

Compiled by Sibusiso Dlamini

MTN Premier League			Killers vs Bk. Mashuba 1:30pm			Tomorrow at Majotini Sports Ground			Sunday at Tb Centre 2 Sports Ground		
Tomorrow at Mavuso Sports Centre			Monaco vs Sundowns 3:30pm			Superstars vs Real Rovers 1:30pm			Kwaluseni Rebels vs Ntunja Arsenal 3:15pm		
Manzini Sundowns vs Matsapha United 2pm			Tomorrow at Nsukumbili Sports Ground			Majotini vs Fast Movers 3:30pm			Sunday AtPhowe Sports Ground		
Moneni Pirates vs Young Buffaloes 4pm			Highlanders vs Dikoppies 1:30pm			Tomorrow at Motshane Sports Ground			Nsenga Comrades vs Real Professionals 3:15pm		
Tomorrow Killamey Sports ground			Rebels vs Bush Bucks 3:30pm			Nkoyoyo FC vs Lubhedze 1:30pm			Sudnay at Ludzeludze Sports Ground		
Malanti vs Leopard 3pm			Tomorrow at Mdzimba Sports Ground			Shooting Stars vs Kupheleni 3:30pm			Supersport vs Zama United 1pm		
Tomorrow at Somhlolo National Stadium			Rhinos vs Top Centre 2pm			Sunday at Motshane Sports Ground			Lozitha Spurs vs GcoweniTrompies 3pm		
Mbabane Citizens vs Tambuli 2pm			Sunday at Nsukumbili Sports Ground			Bafana vs Crocodile 9am			Sunday at Tb Centre 2 Sports Ground		
Vovovo vs Green Mamba 4pm			Cosmos vs Timbungulu 2pm			Nkoyoyo Jnr vs MAnyisa 11am			Fashion International vs SihhohhwaniAmajita 1pm		
Sunday at Somhlolo National Stadium			Sunday at Hhukwini Sports Ground			Ngwenya vs Kasi XI FC 1pm			Kwaluseni United vs Mhlane United 3pm		
Mbabane Highlanders vs Sea Birds 1:30pm			Arsenal vs Chiefs 11am			Barcelona vs Atletico 3pm					
Mbabane Swallows vs Manzini Wanderers 3:30pm			Rangers vs Swallows 1pm			Sunday at Mhlosheni Sports Ground					
			Green Sea vs Kasiko 3pm			M. Celtics vs Dribbling Stars 2:30pm					
MTN National First Division			Sunday at Mdzimba Sports Ground						OK Foods Kwaluseni First Division League		
Tonight at Mavuso Sports Centre			Bombers vs Rhumba Stars 1pm			Tee & Jay Lobamba League – E90 000			Tomorrow at Tb Centre 2 Sports Ground		
Hub Sundowns vs City Warriors 6:30pm			Africa Stars vs Barcelona 3pm			Tomorrow at Lobamba Sports Ground			Matsapha Town vs Zero Boys 1:30pm		
Tonight at Somhlolo National Stadium						Liwakawaka vs Real Masters 1:30pm			Tomorrow at Zombodze Sports Ground		
Tinyosi vs TambankuluCallies 6:30pm			Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League – E70 000.00			L. Sunrise vs L. Wanderers 3:30pm			Manila Stars vs Ludzeludze Celtics 1:30pm		
Seven Dreams vs P/P Black Swallows 8:30pm			Tomorrow at Msunduzi Sports Ground			Tomorrow at Enkalankatha Sports Ground			Mhlaleni Superstars vs Umtfunti 3:15pm		
Tomorrow at Prince of Wales Ground			Pot O Gold vs Mb. Arsenal 1:30pm			E. Rangers vs Vutha 1:30pm			Tomorrow at Phowe Sports Ground		
Mbabane City vs Milling Hotspurs 1:30pm			Amawele vs Classic 3:30pm			Emaselesele vs E. United 3:30pm			NsengaShagari Xi vs Mahashulane 1:30pm		
Red Lions vs Rangers FC 3:30pm			Tomorrow at Sidwashini Sports Ground			Tomorrow at Embo Sports Ground			Sunday at Zombodze Sports Ground		
Tomorrow at King Sobhuza II Stadium			Interstars vs Mvakwelitje 1:30pm			L. Dynamos vs Lusoti 1:30pm			Ludzidzi vs Gum Valley 1pm		
Hlathikhulu Tycoons vs Madlenya FC 3pm			Sandia vs Double Action 3:30pm			Fast Reaction vs L. Cosmos 3:30pm			Zero Boys vs Ludzeludze Celtics 3pm		
			Sunday at Msunduzi Sports Ground			Sunday at Enkalankatha Sports Ground			Sunday at Tb Centre 2 Sports Ground		
Women's Football League fixtures			Corporation vs Sidwashini 9am			EZulwini Aces vs Luveve Killers 1:30pm			Ngonini United vs Boyane United 11am		
Tomorrow at Old Trade Fair			Supersport vs Veni 11am			City Stars vs Mv. Invades 3:30pm			Swazi Wire vs BafanaBafana 1pm		
G Mamba vs M Swallows 12pm			White City vs Pine valley 1pm			B. Division			Giant Clockwork vs Ludzeludze Kicks 3pm		
OlympAfrica vs M Wanderers 2pm			Real Tec vs Mb. Celtics 3pm			Tomorrow at Lobamba Sports Ground			S & S Malkems Promotion League		
Tomorrow at Phocweni			B. Division			M. United vs Stoke City 11:30pm			Tomorrow at Mahlanya Sports Ground		
Mbekelweni vs Illovo 2pm			Tomorrow at Police Sports Ground			MP Shebeleza Ntabezimpisi League – E50 000			Mahlanya United vs Cutter Cosmos 3:15pm		
Y Buffaloes vs Kappa Ladies 4pm			Mantsholo FC vs D. Darkies 1:30pm			Tomorrow at Mkhuzweni Sports Ground			Tomorrow at Ndinda Sports Ground		
Tomorrow at Mpofu Sports Ground			FC Vaal vs Hurricane 3:30pm			Superstars vs Fontotje 3:30pm			Troublemakers vs Vuka Aces 1:30pm		
Happy Girls vs R Leopards 2pm			Sunday at Police Sports Ground			Tomorrow at Buhleni Sports Ground			Ndinda Volcano vs Star Point 3:15pm		
Tomorrow at King Sobhuza II Stadium			Mb. Movers vs Lusoti 3pm			Skom Boyz vs R. Bombers 9am			Tomorrow at Golden Sports Ground		
S Divas vs Mhlume 1:30pm			Pots Construction Sigangeni Football League-E30 000.00			Buhleni Aces vs Seven Stars 11am			Phondo vs Golden Arrows 1:30pm		
Sunday at Simunye Sports Ground			Tomorrow at Ntsetse Sports Ground			Tomorrow at Fontotje Sports Ground			Malkems vs Power Sparks 3:15pm		
Sileki vs S Roses 1pm			Kangaroo vs L. Nationals 1:30pm			City Cosmos vs Special Killers 1pm			Sunday at Mahlanya Sports Ground		
Sikhuphe vs Langeni 3pm			Burning Spear vs Imbumba 3:30pm			Golden Arrows vs Hungry Lions 3pm			Ngodini vs Vickery Nomads 1pm		
			Tomorrow at Sigangani Sports Ground			Tomorrow at Ntamakuphila Sports Ground			Don Don vs Swazi Can United 3pm		
PLE U-20 league fixture			Usushwana Eagles vs Y. Fighters 1:30pm			Y. Professionals vs Manchester 1pm			Sunday at Dwaleni Sports Ground		
Tomorrow at UNESWA Sports Ground			Real Touch vs Total Xi 3:30pm			City Stars vs M. Sundowns 3pm			Gebeni vs Makhungutsha 2pm		
Moneni Pirates vs Young Buffaloes 9am			Tomorrow at Sibovini Sports Ground			Bhulane Resort Ndzigeni League – E50 000			Malkems First Division League		
Mbabane Highlanders vs Manzini Sea Birds 11am			Villa Sport vs Manz. Celtics 1pm			Mvuma Stream			Tomorrow at Luyengo Sports Ground		
Manzini Sundowns vs Matsapha United 1pm			Sibovini vs PMT 3pm			Tomorrow at Mvuma Sports Ground			Mdonjane Arsenal vs Thunderbolt 2pm		
Mbabane Swallows vs Manzini Wanderers 3pm			Sunday at Sigangani Sports Ground			Lozaza vs Zizweni 9am			Tomorrow at Mahlanya Sports Ground		
Sunday at the Old Trade Fair Sports Ground			M. Celtics vs Ntsetse 1pm			Tsunami vs Happiness 11am			Red Swallows vs Mphofana United 1:30pm		
Green Mamba vs Vovovo 11am			Sigangeni vs Real United 3pm			D. darkies vs Volcano 1pm			Tomorrow at Ntandozi Sports Ground		
Royal Leopard vs Malanti Chiefs 1pm			Buy Cash Pigg's Peak League – E45 000.00			KK Ajax vs Blue Birds 3pm			Ntandozi vs Ndlinilembi 2pm		
			Sunday at Lazwane Sports Ground			Sunday at Mvuma Sports Ground			Sunday at Mahlanya Sports Ground		
Mbabane Juniors Brand Active Knock-out			Mpolonjeni vs Rise & Shine 9am			Red Sea vs Tihlabani 9am			Bethany United vs Home Boys 11am		
Tomorrow at United sports Ground – U15			Hotspurs vs Phophonyane 11am			M. Madrid vs Blue Ocean 11am			Sunday at Golden Sports Ground		
M. Celtics vs M. Fighters 8am			Rockville vs Peak City 1pm			M. Celtics vs Super Aces 1pm			Skom Boys vs Usuthu Rangers 2pm		
Real Tec vs M. Classic 9am			Maguga Cosmos vs Darkies Utd 3pm			FC Academy vs Gebhulas 3pm			Sunday at Ndinda Sports Ground		
M. Swallows vs Dark City 10am			Sunday at Plantations Sports Ground			Dabulamanzi Civil Works & Irrigation Manzini Super League			Survivor vs FcNavara 2pm		
Hurricane vs The Wallers 11am			Thuluzobona vs Mhlataane 3pm			Tomorrow at Mkhuzweni Sports Ground			Sunday at Dwaleni Sports Ground		
Tomorrow at Police sports Ground			Sunday at Malanda Sports Ground			Timbutini vs Stumbo's Xi 1:30pm			Ndlinilembi vs Red Swallows noon		
Hurricane vs D. Action 8am (U17)			Citizens vs Supersport 11am			Moyeni vs Ludzeludze Killers 3:15pm			CorbanMafutseni Promotion League		
Hurricane vs M. Classic 9am (U20)			White Killers vs Ndeva Galaxy 1pm			Tomorrow at Ludzeludze Sports Ground			Tomorrow at Nkonga Sports Ground		
Mbuluzi Jnr vs Freestyle 10am (U17)			Mangwaneni vs 19 Celtics 3pm			Boyane Young Aces vs Bad Boys 1:30pm			SiCamelo Sa-Chief vs Supersport 1:30pm		
Mphalati vs Umbelebele 11am (U20)			MP Nelson Mamba Timphisini Regional Football League			Ludzeludze Brothers vs Sisonkhe 3:15pm			Nkonga Pirates vs Timbutinicombine Stars 3:15pm		
Tomorrow at Sidwashini sports Ground			Tomorrow at Ndialambi Sports Ground			Tomorrow at Zakhele 2 Sport Sground			Sunday at Nkonga Sports Ground		
Zulwini Aces vs Lusoti 8am (U17)			Blue Birds vs Soccer Rose 11am			Villa Stars vs Luve Cosmos 3:15pm			Bhudia Celtics vs Mafutseni United 1pm		
Ebuka Stars vs M. Fighters 9am (U17)			Golden Arrows vs Kudweleni 1pm			Tomorrow at Mankayane Sports Ground			Vultures vs Khamatfo 3pm		
Mantsholo vs Celtics 10am (U20)			Gunners vs Mats. Swallows 3pm			Young Warriors vs Current Toasters 2pm			Sunday at Mkhuzweni Sports Ground		
Imbumba vs Sivutsa 11am (U20)			Tomorrow at LFTC Sports Ground			Tomorrow at Nsuka Sports Ground			Vulamehlo Classic vs Madubula Rovers 1pm		
			Ellegence vs Mv. Sundowns 1pm			Nsuka United vs Royal Swallows Nsuka 3pm			Mlamuleni United vs Ma-G-Man 3pm		
Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League – E77 000.00			Mb. Swallows vs H. Pirates 3pm			Manzini Promotion League			Sunday at Mhubhe Sports Ground		
Tomorrow at Motjane Sports Ground			B. Division			Tomorrow at Zakhele 1 Sports Ground			Emataliyane vs Diamond Hunters 11am		
H. Shooting Stars vs Kupheleni 3:30pm			Sunday at LFTC Sports Ground			Manzini United vs Maliyaduma United 1:30pm			Nlabamhoshana vs Timbutini All Stars 1pm		
Tomorrow at Sibovini Sports Ground			Vusweni Cosmos vs Ndialambi 1pm			The Bones vs Superstars 3:15pm			Yong Cannibels vs Dynamos 3pm		
Sibovini vs PMT 3:30pm			Njakeni City vs Stone Breakers 3pm			Tomorrow at Zakhele 2 Sports Ground			Premier Bakeries Mkhweni Promotion League		
Tomorrow at Mhlambanyatsi Sports Ground			Sunday at Ngonini Sports Ground			Combine Stars vs Fc North 1:30pm			Tomorrow at Nkhundleni Sports Ground		
Community vs Swazi Sun 3:30pm			Young Sevilla vs JB Arsenal 1pm			Sunday at Zakhele 1 Sports Ground			Mbasheni Brothers vs Executive 11:30pm		
Tomorrow at Ntsetse Sports Ground			Ngonini vs Star Wanderers 3pm			Young Tigers vs Wonderful Touch 1pm			LuveSuncity vs Sangcofto 1:30 pm		
Burning Spear vs Imbumba 3:30pm			MP Bakhanyisele Mabulala & Gongz Maphalaleni League – E50 000.00			African Cheifs vs Home Sparrows 3pm			Luve Classic vs Ngonini Young Aces 3:15pm		
Sunday at Veni Sports Ground			Eastern Stream			Sunday at Zakhele 2 Sports Ground			Tomorrow at Mliba Sports Ground		
Umbelebele vs Billy Ocean 3pm			Tomorrow at Maphalaleni Sports Ground			Green Way vs SibonisoSelwandle 1pm			White Killers vs Toronto 11:30pm		
Sunday at Embo Sports Ground			Killers vs Hotspurs 1pm			Kholwane Flying Birds vs Two Sticks Comrds 3pm			Manchester United vs Luve Stars 1:30pm		
Emajukujuku vs Wizards 3pm			Thuluzobona vs Junior Stars 3pm			Kpmg Manzini First Division League			Mantshonga vs Zama United 3:15pm		
Northern Zone			Tomorrow at Bizza Sports Ground			Sunday at Zakhele 1 Sports Ground			Tomorrow at Mcozini Sports Ground		
Tomorrow at Buhleni Sports Ground			Liselesele vs Xi Experience 1pm			Healing Boys vs City Eagles 9am			All Nations vs Liverpool 11:30am		
Kappa Kappa vs Sigodlo 1:30pm			Young Stars vs Professionals 3pm			Ngwane Park vs God's Property 11am			Luve Home Defenders vs Mliba Rangers 1:30pm		
Horo Spinners vs N. Swallows 3:30pm			Sunday at Maphalaleni Sports Ground			Sunday at Zakhele 2 Sports Ground			All Stars vs Moyeni 3:15pm		
Tomorrow at Ntfontjeni Sports Ground			Khulungwana vs Blue Birds 1pm			Nhlambeni United vs Bradford 11am			Executive vs Luve Classic 9am		
Vultures vs Mvuma 3:30pm			Barcelona vs Y. Lovers 3pm			Ok Foods Kwaluseni Promotion League			Liverpool vs Step Ahead 11am		
Tomorrow at Prison Sports Ground			Sunday at Bizza Sports Ground			Sunday at Tb Centre 1 Sports Ground			Mliba Rangers vs Mbasheni Brothers 1pm		
Khanjana Rovers vs M. Arsenal 3:30pm			Luvunjelo vs Manchester 1pm			Fc Logoba vs Sacrament 1:30pm			Toronto vs Luve Stars 3pm		
Tomorrow at Ngonini Sports Ground			Umkhokha vs Rangers 3pm			Dark City vs Zombodze United 3:15pm			Sunday at Nkhundleni Sports Ground		
Manchester vs Pachanga 3:30pm									LuveSuncity vs White Killers 11am		
Sunday at Machibini Sports Ground									Ngonini Young Aces vs Mantshonga 1pm		
Machibini Rovers vs Msahweni 3:30pm									Colani United vs Sangcofto 3pm		
South Star Mdzimba League – E50 000.00											
Tomorrow at Hhukwini Sports Ground											



DU'S CORNER

'THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT'

...WITH
DUMSANE SIBANDZE

PLS Youth Development
Communications Manager



Y'ELLO SUNDAY ACTION BACK AT SOMHILOLO!

ALL roads lead to the country's only Mecca, Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday where the country's traditional big three sides will be playing under the same roof.

This does not happen every week-end hence football followers should brace themselves for top-notch football action on the day. The main attraction on the day is obviously the clash between Mbabane Swallows and Manzini Wanderers at 3:30pm. This is a game not for the faint-hearted because a lot is at stake for both clubs.

The good thing about these two giants is that they never fail to rise to the occasion in such big games and you can expect fireworks even this time around. The curtain raiser will feature Mbabane Highlanders against Manzini Sea Birds at 1:30pm and what a game this promises to be.

These two clubs are currently enjoying a good run of form, which makes it very difficult to predict the outcome of this encounter, nor is it easy to predict the winner in the main match. Without any doubt, the stadium will be packed to capacity, so it is very important that people arrive early to get seats of their convenience.

There will also be goodies for the supporters courtesy of our valued league sponsors MTN Swaziland which makes it imperative that they arrive early so that they do not miss out on those exciting prizes like the fastest finger where lucky supporters get to win themselves free airtime.

The ever-present and hard-working Meshack Maseko will be there to oversee this exciting part of the occasion Sunday, so get there early and avoid missing out of winning MTN merchandise.

It will cost E40 to watch such big games and this is a very reasonable figure looking at the magnitude of these



games. People are also advised to buy their tickets early at the relevant ticket centres to avoid the stress of standing in long queues on the day of the games.

Out of frustration, you will find people blaming the ticketing system when they should be blaming themselves for buying the tickets on the day of the games. We can all agree that this has been a very competitive league race and this makes Sunday's games a must-see.

There are no clear candidates for relegation while the race for the championship is equally tight.

Actually, even the bottom placed club in the log can still mathematically win the league title and that is how small the margin is between the clubs at the top and bottom.

The focus maybe on the Sunday's games but there are also other MTN Premier League games that will be played this weekend in other venues and we urge football lovers to watch them. They can refer to the local media for the full fixtures and may the best teams win!

SUPPORTERS

We can all agree that football is never complete without the supporters of this beautiful game. These are important stakeholders in football and we expect them to come in big numbers for the Yello Sunday games.

We always like it when we see them wearing their favourite team's replicas, dancing and motivating their heroes in the field of play. Our message to the

supporters is very simple; As an important stakeholder in the game, it is important for them to behave well in such big games. Try to be your neighbour's keeper violence-free games.

Let us all go there in the true spirit of sportsmanship and accept results as they are. Hooligans should simply stay at home.

PLE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

These are the people who are the wind beneath the wings of our games. They are the life-blood of our clubs because they fork out their hard-earned money to keep those clubs we call ours afloat and operational.

In simpler terms, we normally refer to them as club owners. I appeal to all supporters to give these loyal servants of the game the respect they deserve.

It is really discouraging to see a young woman, young man or a confused old man in a questionable state of sobriety insulting a director of a club.

It is like throwing cans of beer on the field of play, which is an insult not only to the director but the club as a whole because the monies these directors pay as fines are sometimes ridiculous.

Some clubs cannot survive if every cent that they are supposed to pocket is channelled to fines because some small-minded clueless young man decided to be better than any other supporter. Give the directors respect good people.

PLE RESERVE LEAGUE

Another exciting league is starting this weekend in the form of the Premier League of Swazini (PLE) Reserve League or Under-20s league if you like to call it.

We hope that teams have registered their players on time as we have been appealing that they do that. So, read from our local newspapers to find out where your team is playing. Let us not forget that this league is a bridge to Premier League football from the Under-17s league.

This is a very important league because a lot of players have benefited from it hence you can take this league for granted at your own peril.

Quite a number of players come from this league and such include the talented Justice Figauredo who plays for Maritzburg United in South Africa,

Manzini Sundowns' first choice goalkeeper Lwethu Simelane and the Mbabane Swallows' pair of Richard McCreesh and Sizolwethu Tshabalala.

These are players making headways in Premier League football and we are proud to say they are graduates of our development leagues.

REFEREES

This column wishes all the referees the best of luck as they prepare to officiate in the MTN Premier League games this weekend including the Yello Sunday. These are important stakeholders of the game and they deserve all the support they can get, not the insults they are sometimes subjected to. Let us give them trust so that they perform to the best of their abilities.

COACHES

Let us wish the coaches of all Premier League clubs the best as they do final touch-ups for the weekend games. They should know that in football, there are three possible results; a win, loss or a draw. If you lose, do not be discouraged but try better next time. Do not allow emotions to pollute your thinking.

MATCH CO-ORDINATORS

We normally call them stadium representatives and they deserve a big round of applause for the wonderful job they do every weekend and sometimes during the week without complaining.

We thank you for your sacrifice especially because some games are playing during the night. At times, you get confronted by rowdy football fans from different clubs but like a cucumber, you remain cool and resolute.

Thank you gentlemen!

FROM THE PLE CEO SIMANGA NHLEKO

The PLE CEO thanks all the football followers who attended the past weekend's Ingwenyama MVA Cup quarter-final matches in big numbers. We were also happy with their conduct on the day and hope they will do same in the MTN Premier League games this weekend at different venues around the country. Good luck to the clubs!





LIYASIKWA LIYAMILA: Academy University Director Joel Kunene, Hhohho Youth Development Chairman Ntokozo Tsela, Parmalat's Cinsile Maphanga-Kunene and Mbabane Junior League Chairman Merica Dlamini pose with the trophies and kits that will be won during the Milky Max E30 000 Junior League tournament. (Pics: Jongile Xuba)

REAL MASTERS, GUNNERS FACE-OFF IN MILKY MAX FINALS TOMORROW

STORIES BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER – LOBAMBA Junior League teams Real Masters and Gunners will battle it out for the championship title during the finals of the Milky Max Junior Championship tomorrow.

The game will be played at the Msunduzi Sports Ground starting at noon. Worth noting is that the Milky Max E30 000 juniors' sponsorship is divided amongst three separate leagues with each getting an E10 000 sponsorship package.

These are the Mbabane Juniors League, Pigg's Peak Juniors League and Lobamba Juniors League. The games tomorrow will also see the finals in the Mbabane Juniors League, where Celtics will take on Amawele at 8:30am, a game that will be played concurrently with that pitting Wailers against Super Sport. Making her remarks during a press briefing held at the Sigwaca House yesterday, Parmalat representative Cinsile Maphanga-Kunene said they were happy with the manner in which the tournament had been run over the past year.

She further applauded the HRFA for display-



FOLLOWING: Some of the officials following the proceedings.

ing a good level of professionalism in organising and running the tournaments.

"I would like to thank the teams and players for hosting a tournament that was incident free. This is our sixth year in partnership with the HRFA and it has been a fruitful one. Sponsoring the tournaments is our way of giving back and thanking the nation for all their support," she said.

Hhohho Youth Development Chairman Ntokozo

Tsela thanked the sponsor for the many years of support. "The level of commitment and support from Milky Max has been amazing and has really helped the junior leagues grow. We thank Parmalat for all they have done and hope we continue to work well in the future.

"I would also like to congrat-



TRANSPARENCY: Hhohho Youth Development Chairman Ntokozo Tsela handing over a full report to sponsor Cinsile Maphanga-Kunene during the press briefing.

KNOCKOUT FIXTURES

LOBAMBA JUNIORS LEAGUE

Real Masters	vs	Gunners	noon
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MBABANE JUNIORS LEAGUE FIXTURES

M Celtics	vs	Amawele	8:30am
The Wailers	vs	Super Sport	8:30am
Swallows	vs	Hurricane	9:30am
Dark City	vs	Real Tec	9:30am

ulate the teams for this tournament that had no drama," he said.

A prize presentation will be held after the last match on the day where teams will receive the various prizes and trophies.

The Milky Max sponsorship not only has cash prizes but the winners of the various leagues also receive trophies, medals and a complete team soccer kit.

Referees were also provided with new kits they would use during the competitions.

THANK YOU:
Parmalat's
Cinsile
Maphanga -
Kunene
addressing the
gathering during
the briefing.

...Development players benefitting from sponsorship

SOCCER – DEVELOPMENT players under the Hhohho Regional Association (HRFA) will benefit immensely from the different sponsorships pumped towards the HRFA leagues.

This was revealed by the HRFA Assistant Secretary and Hhohho Youth Development Chairman Ntokozo Tsela yesterday.

The chairman said because of the sponsorships from various corporate companies, they have running leagues in the Under-13, Under-15 and Under-17 categories as well as knockout tournaments.

"The sponsorships have really gone a long way in developing players for the country. For an example, we have Mayibongwe Mabuza



MY VIEW: Hhohho Youth Chairman Ntokozo Tsela making his remarks.



ALL SET: HRFA Development Officer Sibonangaye Dlamini giving a report.



REMARKS: Mbabane Juniors League Chairman Merica Dlamini speaking.

who started in the Milky Max Under-13 league and was part of the national Under-20 squad

that won a silver medal in the Region 5 games in Botswana last year.

"His achievement was a testament to all the benefits the HRFA was reaping from sponsorships. If we continue getting sponsorship, there is no doubt in my mind that we will produce more stars from the Hhohho region," he said.

Sharing the chairman's sentiments was HRFA Development Officer Sibonangaye Dlamini who said most regional teams did not have junior teams but that has changed due to the sponsorships received by the association.

"Most of the Mbabane regional teams did not have junior teams, something that hindered player development. But because we now have sponsors coming on board to assist us, that has really changed," he said.



● Liverpool have joined Bayern Munich in the race to sign Chelsea winger Callum Hudson-Odoi, 18. **(Bild - in German)**



● Borussia Dortmund are interested in signing Crystal Palace winger Wilfried Zaha, 26, in the summer as the German club look for a replacement for Christian Pulisic, who will be joining Chelsea. **(Guardian)**

● Paris St-Germain are set to beat Chelsea to the signing of Zenit St Petersburg's Argentine midfielder Leandro Paredes, 24. **(Telegraph)**

● Ajax midfielder Frenkie de Jong, 21, says he spoke with both Manchester City and Paris-St Germain before deciding to join Barcelona. **(NOS, via Mirror)**

● Tottenham could join the race to sign PSG's 23-year-old midfielder Adrien Rabiot, who has also been linked with Barcelona and Bayern Munich. **(France Football, via Star)**

● Chelsea and Nigeria wing-back Victor Moses, 28, is set to complete a loan move to Fenerbahce until the end of the season. **(Goal)**



● Arsenal Manager Unai Emery has called for a "calm" and "patient" response to the imminent departure of head of recruitment Sven Mislintat. **(Independent)**

● The Gunners' proposed sale of Aaron Ramsey, 28, would meet with the approval of Wales boss Ryan Giggs, who says the midfielder will improve as a player by moving to a "top-class" club like Juventus. **(Sky Sports)**

● Spanish midfielder Denis Suarez, 25, looks set to remain at Barcelona until the end of the season after talks regarding a move to Arsenal broke down. **(ESPN)**

● Paris St-Germain remain interested in 29-year-old Everton midfielder Idrissa Gueye, but no formal offers have been made, despite a rumoured £22m bid earlier this week. **(Liverpool Echo)**

● Real Madrid defender Marcelo, 30, wants to be reunited with former teammate Cristiano Ronaldo at Juventus, and has told bosses at the Bernabeu "if they make an offer for me, you have to let me go". **(Marca via Tuttosport)**

● Huddersfield Town are closing in on a £2m deal for Charlton Athletic's 21-year-old striker Karlan Grant, who has also been linked with Middlesbrough, West Brom and Rangers. **(Mail)**

Buff's Ladies looking to extend unbeaten run at Kappa's expense

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER – YOUNG Buffaloes Ladies will be looking to maintain in the Women's Football League tomorrow when they face Kappa Ladies.

The army outfit will host the Manzini based side at Phocweni Sports Ground at 4pm, in what will be a stern test for the visitors.

Buffaloes are currently undefeated in the league and have not conceded a goal so far. Kappa Ladies however have played four games winning three and losing one.

Meanwhile, OlympAfrica will take on Manzini Wanderers, who have been in fine form recently securing second position in the log. The two

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIXTURES			
Tomorrow at Old Trade Fair			
G Mamba	vs M Swallows	12pm	
OlympAfrica	vs M Wanderers	2pm	
Tomorrow at Phocweni			
Mbekelweni	vs Illovo	2pm	
Y Buffaloes	vs Kappa Ladies	4pm	
Tomorrow at Mpofu Sports Ground			
Happy Girls	vs R Leopards	2pm	
Tomorrow at King Sobhuza II Stadium			
S Divas	vs Mhlume	1:30pm	
Sunday at Simunye Sports Ground			
Siteki	vs S Roses	1pm	
Sikhuphe	vs Langeni	3pm	

face off at the Old Trade Fair Sports Ground at 2pm.

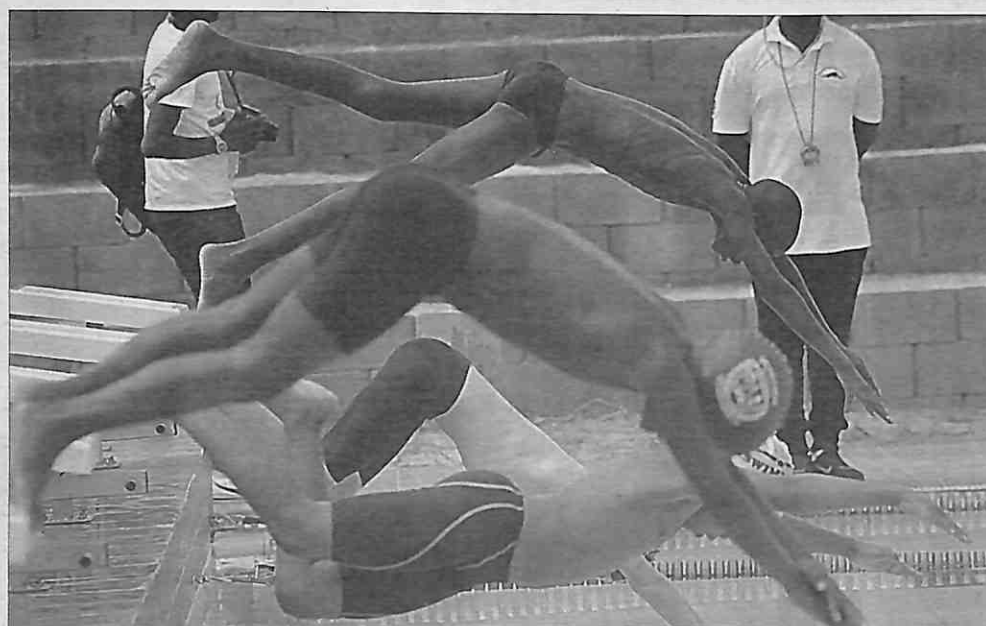
Happy

Royal Leopard will take on Happy Girls at Mpofu Sports Ground. It has been a mixed season for Happy Girls winning three, losing three and drawing one against a Leopard side that has only lost one match in six games winning the

other five.

Sunday will have its fair share of football with Siteki taking on S Roses at Simunye Sports Ground and kick off time is 1pm. Both teams are in the bottom half of the table and will be looking to collect the maximum points.

The league is sponsored to a tune of E255 000



All set for KPMG Swazi Mile at Luphohlo Dam

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

SWIMMING – ALL is set for the KPMG Swazi Mile race to be held at Luphohlo Dam tomorrow.

The annual race hosted by the Eswatini Swimming Association (ESA) is bankrolled by KPMG.

The update on the race was given by the association's President Berger Nxumalo yesterday. Nxumalo thanked the sponsor for its continued support.

"We would like to thank the sponsor for its continued support. This is one of our most popular annual events, and an open event that gets to see our swimmers proving themselves on a much big-

ger scale than just the pool. The race is 1.6km, and swimmers will have time to really prove their worth in the pool," she said.

He further invited all teams to come in their numbers and to keep time.

Teams

"I would like to extend our invite to all our teams, and we urge them to ensure that they keep time. Registration starts at 8:30am at E120 per person. We hope to be done by 1pm, so teams should please make sure that punctuality is a priority," he concluded. This past weekend in the ESA SwimGala, 10-year old Hayley Hoy of SwimLab broke a 12-year old record in the girls 100 metre Freestyle. The record was set back in March 2003 by Kattie Millin who clocked an amazing time of 1:15:37, while Hoy clocked 1:14:47.

Soweto derby trip for local fans

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – Football fans interested in watching the next Soweto Derby next month will have to part with E450.

The game pitting South African giants Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs will be played at the FNB Stadium on February 9.

Trip organiser Nombuso Mabuza urged those interested to come forward and pay a deposit fee of E100 "Supporters of both Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates can now register for the trip by paying the commitment fee. The money will be

used to purchase tickets, which are already for sale. "The balance can be paid later next month but the deposit as soon as possible as it will also book them a seat in the bus, which will accommodate only 60 supporters. Mabuza added that they would also offer accommodation at an extra fee of E320. "Supporters can also prepare money for accommodation for after the match but this is optional and available only for those interested. "Supporters can contact me on 7605 7267, Sandile Motsa 7627 2760 or Sticks Matsenjwa at 7621 6254 for bookings and enquires," she further said. The supporters will leave the country by the country on February 9 and return home on the following day.

SBS Junior's tennis tourney finals tomorrow

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

TENNIS – THE Swaziland Building Society (SBS) juniors' finals will finally be played tomorrow.

The games, initially set for last month were abruptly abandoned due to rain.

This was revealed by the Eswatini Tennis Association (ETA) President Maxwell Jele yesterday.

"Nature was not with us on the initial day of the finals and we were forced to postpone the matches due to the heavy rains. We will finish the finals tomorrow and we hope not to have any distractions such as rain because from studying the week's weather, there are chances of rain, but later on in the day.

Proved

Our focus is on the youngsters and they have proved themselves in every tournament, especially the international ones. We need to make sure that we catch them young, nurture them and develop them into world tennis players who will compete at the highest level," he said.

Jele further expressed the association's gratitude to the sponsor.

"We would like to thank the Swaziland Building Society. They have been with the tennis fraternity in the country for a long time, and are continuing with their passion for the sport. They have helped us grow tremendously and we are truly grateful for their involvement," he said.

Some of the games that were played before the abandonment include one pitting Ngqobalazwe Lukhele who won 6-4, 6-3, 5-7 against Ngebo Sukati in the boy's Under-14 category while Siphiosami Mamba beat Kelvin Nxumalo 6-15, 6-3. Sihlelelwe Hlophe won 6-3, 6-3 against Siwakhile Nxumalo.

In the Under-14 girls category, Sakhizwe Malindzisa won 6-0, 6-0 against Andiswa Dlamini and Nonqaba Makhaliphi recording a 6-4, 6-1 win against Barika Sorokhaibam.

The games will be played at the newly constructed National Tennis Centre at Lobamba, which already has two courts ready. The association has announced the completion of the other two for end of February. The centre cost an excess of E1 million.

'MKHELELE' QUIT WANDERERS!

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – MANZINI Wanderers midfielder Mthobisi 'Mkhelele' Mdluli has quit the team.

The speedy player is said to have tendered his resignation to the team about a week ago.

A source close to the matter revealed that the on-loan Green Mamba player resigned with the intention of joining an unidentified team before the end of the current transfer window.

Also gathered is that the hub giants

have offloaded three other players, namely attacking midfielder Funikwenzani Gama, defender Phila Dlamini and former Mbabane City striker Bruce Seyama.

"These players have been put on transfer by the team and have been told to find teams of their choices," said the source. Manzini Wanderers PRO Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini said nothing formal had reached his office when contacted yesterday.

"I am not aware of the matter but am still to consult with management on any new changes. We will then issue a state-

ment once everything is finalised".

The team recently enlisted the services of former Matsapha United Ghanaian striker Johnson Mensah, who was signed on Tuesday. The maroon and white outfit is gearing up for a crunch MTN league encounter against Mbabane Swallows at the Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.



Tambuti suspend Goshen

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – THE marriage between Tambuti and Sierra Leone midfielder Gabriel Goshen has turned sour.

Information gathered by this publication is that the Lubombo based side suspended the former Mbabane Highlanders player after an alleged fallout with the Management Committee (MC) on Monday afternoon.

A source close to the team asserted that as a result of the suspension, the player has even vacated the clubhouse.

"Goshen has been put on ice by the team following the rift between him and the MC.

He is suspended until further notice. The team is, however, yet to summon him to a hearing as he is likely to be charged for misconduct.

"The player has left Tambuti and is residing in one of the cities in the country, where he is waiting for his next move," the source said.

Tambuti Public Relations Officer (PRO) Nathie Dlamini confirmed the matter when contacted yesterday.

"It is true that the player is under suspension until further notice.

This is an internal matter and I will only be in a position to issue a formal comment once it has been finalised," he said.

The player declined to comment on the matter when reached.

The defender is likely to miss the team's next league outing against Mbabane Citizens at the Somhlolo National Stadium tomorrow afternoon. Goshen rejoined the club at the beginning of the season following an unsuccessful stint with Highlanders last season.



HISTORY MAKERS: Correctional Sunrise women's volleyball team celebrate after they won the gold medal at the Zone 6 Championships in Durban last year. (Courtesy pic)

Correctional Sunrise need E320k for African Championships

By Jongile Xuba

VOLLEYBALL – CORRECTIONAL Sunrise volleyball team need a massive E320 000 to fund their trip and participation at the Women's African Club Championship in Cairo, Egypt.

This was revealed by Correctional Sunrise Team Manager Cosmo Dlamini who said the current Zone 6 Club champions needed the said amount to be part of the continental event slated for March 16-25.

Correctional were crowned the Zone 6 Women's Champions after beating

Universidade Pedagogica Nampula (UPN) from Mozambique in the finals of the tournament held in Durban in December last year.

"The team will need roughly E320 000 to cater for all expenses for the trip which include air tickets, accommodation, meals and of course registration for the tournament," he said.

Asked who the team had approached for assistance on securing the funds, the team manager respectfully declined to share intimate details but did say they were shopping around for help.

"For now I cannot divulge the specific names of those whom we have

approached for assistance.

But, we have been appealing to individuals and corporate companies to help us in any way possible.

We also appeal to the entire Swazi nation to provide any sort of assistance so we can send the team to raise the country's flag high," he said.

As the current Zone 6 championships, Correctional Sunrise are history makers by being the first Eswatini side to win a major volleyball title and booked themselves a place at the African Club Championships which will be hosted by Ahly Volleyball Club.

Black Swallows face on-form Seven Dreams tonight

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER – MTN National First Division (NFD) log leaders Pigg's Peak Black Swallows will visit the on-form Seven Dreams at the Somhlolo National Stadium tonight.

According to the fixture released by the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) yesterday, the game will kick-off at 8.30pm. The game will be preceded by a clash between Tinyosi and Tambankulu Callies at 6.30pm.

At the Mavuso Sports Centre, Hub Sundowns will lock horns with City Warriors this evening at 6.30pm.

Tomorrow will see Mbabane City take on Milling Hotspurs at 1.30pm while Red Lions have a date with Shiselweni based ensemble Rangers at 3.30pm. The games will be played at the Prince of Wales Sports Ground in Mbabane.

Hlatikulu Tycoons will host Madlenya at the King Sobhuza II Stadium tomorrow and kick-off time for the clash is 3pm.

THE FULL FIXTURE

Tonight at Mavuso Sports Centre			
Hub Sundowns	vs	City Warriors	6:30pm
Tonight at Somhlolo National Stadium			
Tinyosi	vs	Tambankulu Callies	6:30pm
Seven Dreams	vs	P/P Black Swallows	8:30pm
Tomorrow at Prince of Wales Ground			
Mbabane City	vs	Milling Hotspurs	1:30pm
Red Lions	vs	Rangers FC	3:30pm
Tomorrow at King Sobhuza II Stadium			
Hlatikulu Tycoons	vs	Madlenya FC	3pm

Log TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1. Black Swallows	13	9	2	1	21	8	13	29
2. Milling	13	7	4	2	19	11	8	24
3. Madlenya	13	6	5	2	17	9	8	23
4. Rangers	13	6	5	2	18	13	5	23
5. Tinyosi	12	7	1	4	17	11	6	21
6. Seven Dreams	13	5	4	4	15	11	4	19
7. Tycoons	13	5	4	4	14	11	3	19
8. Red Lions	12	3	4	5	10	13	-3	13
9. Mbabane City	12	3	3	6	9	14	-5	12
10. Hub Sundowns	13	3	2	8	6	18	-12	11
11. T. Callies	12	2	2	8	10	20	-10	8
12. City Warriors	13	1	2	10	5	18	-13	5

Milling Hotspurs secure three new signings

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER – MILLING Hotspurs have registered three new players ahead of their MTN National First Division (NFD) fixture against Mbabane City.

This was revealed by the Milling Hotspurs assistant coach Sandile Ginindza who said they were happy to register the new players as they would help boost their squad in the second round campaign.

The new players are Ncamiso Tfwala, Bongani Dlamini and former Royal Leopard development player Mhlonishwa Ndlovukazi.

"I can confirm that we have registered three new signings and they are settling well in the team. We hope the fans will get to see what the players are capable of soon.

"We are fully committed to attaining promotion this season that is why we even sacrificed our cup run to ensure

we fully concentrate on the league," he said.

He also added that apart from securing the new players, the club released four of its players namely Kwanele Dlamini, Sibusiso Dlamini, Wethu Gama and Likhwa Thwala who have all moved on to other clubs.

Milling Hotspurs are second in the log with 24 points and will face-off with the Mbabane outfit at the Prince of Wales ground tomorrow.



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FIXTURES

PLAYING TODAY

NEDBANK CUP

Cape Umoya United	vs	Tshwane Univ. of Technology	15:00
AmaZulu FC	vs	Highlands Park	20:00

FA CUP

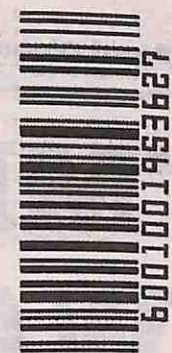
Bristol City	vs	Bolton Wanderers	21:45
Arsenal	vs	Manchester United	21:55

SPORTS

BSERVER

IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE ARE YOUR CHURCH

Friday January 25, 2019



ROPED IN: Mbabane Highlanders goalkeeper coach Siphso Dube and Mbabane Swallows physical trainer Siyabonga Bhembe (r).

SIYABONGA BHEMBE, SIPHO DUBE FOR SIHLANGU POSTS

- The two will join former Manzini Wanderers coach Velekhaya Mthethwa, who has been appointed the assistant coach at the national team
- The new appointments are expected to be announced today during a press conference sanctioned by the football mother body

BY QONDILE NTIWANE
AND SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – MBABANE Swallows physical trainer Siyabonga Bhembe has been tipped for the same position at Sihlangu.

The Swallows trainer has received a nod from new national team coach Kostadin Papic in being part of the new-look technical bench. Also roped into the team is Mbabane Highlanders goalkeeper coach Siphso Dube.

The two will join former Manzini Wanderers coach Velekhaya Mthethwa, who has been appointed the assistant coach at the national team.

Information gathered by this publication is that the appointment of the local coaches was approved by the

Serbian mentor after discussions with some officials from the Eswatini Football Association (EFA).

Consultations

"The technical team has been finalised by the coach after consultations with EFA Technical Committee and the office of the TD. The head coach was assured that these coaches would help him in taking the team to greater heights," said a source.

The new appointments are expected to be announced today during a press conference sanctioned by the football mother body.

Efforts to get a comment from both Bhembe and Dube proved futile as their mobile phones rang unanswered when contacted yesterday.

EFA Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe said he was not in a

position to comment on the matter.

"All Sihlangu matters will be discussed during the press conference to be held tomorrow (today)," he said.

The two coaches are not entirely new in the national team set up as Dube previously worked with former Sihlangu coach and now Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Harries 'Madze' Bulunga while Bhembe served as national U-20 physical trainer.



SACKED: MANZINI Sundowns have sacked their assistant coach Mduzuzi 'Nyama' Shongwe.

DOWNNS SACK NYAMA

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – MANZINI Sundowns have sacked their assistant coach Mduzuzi 'Nyama' Shongwe.

It has been reliably gathered that the former 'Downs player was relieved from his duties yesterday afternoon following an alleged fall-out with some members of the Julius Chakupewa-led technical bench.

A source close to the matter revealed that a decision was taken by the club to relieve Shongwe of his duties after it was discovered that the working environment was no longer conducive within the technical bench, also comprising goalkeeper coach Njabuliso Simelane.

"Shongwe was given the marching orders just after the morning training session. The club is currently drilled by the head coach Julius

- Assistant coach relieved of his duties yesterday after an alleged fall out with some members of the technical bench

Chakupewa and goalkeeper coach Njabuliso Simelane."

"The club Director (Mark Carmichael) will work towards finding a new assistant coach who will be announced in due course," said the source.

Joined

Shongwe, who joined the team two seasons ago, was last part of the team's technical bench during their Ingwenyama Cup 2-0 quarterfinal loss to three times champions Mbabane Swallows last weekend at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

Sundowns PRO Muzi Matsenjwa confirmed the matter when contacted.

"Manzini Sundowns Football Club has reached

a decision to relieve assistant coach Mduzuzi 'Nyama' Shongwe of his duties with immediate effect. Manzini Sundowns Football Club is renowned for its rich development philosophy and as such, need personnel that will align themselves with such aspirations.

"It is, therefore, in the best interest of the team that it part ways with the coach, amid conflicting approaches towards the development of youngsters. We thank the coach for his contribution to the team since pre-season. 'Nyama' is a Sundowns person and shall always be considered for other roles with the team. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours," Matsenjwa said.