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TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2019

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RIDE WITH ME



RIDE ON: Two senior citizens enjoy a ride on a tractor's trailer at Hawane yesterday. Such modes of transport are common in rural areas, where public transport shuns bad roads. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

EEC says Thursday strike illegal

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Uproar as govt absent at budget workshop

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Pastor wakes up 'dead' man

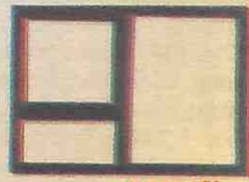
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GANGSTER WARS ROCK HAWANE HIGH

STORY ON PAGE 3

...Cops called in to calm volatile clash between two gangs in the school

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PASTOR STABBED RESCUING LOVELORN DAUGHTER

STORIES MELUSI MLOTSI
Mbabane

A pastor from Mpolonjeni was allegedly stabbed by his daughter's boyfriend's brother after he stormed their homestead looking for her.

The pastor is said to have stormed the homestead sometime last week

and in the event he broke doors, demanding his daughter after claiming that she was having sexual relations with the accused's younger brother.

The accused, one Sibusiso Mkhathjwa (25) of Mpolonjeni was arrested this past weekend for allegedly stabbing Clement Ntjalintjali after a questioning session between the two went

wrong. He stabbed him with a knife in his right thigh and further assaulted him with fists all over the body.

On the day of the stabbing, the accused approached the pastor with intent to question him about the broken doors, but the pastor became aggressive and an altercation occurred.

He is said to have been seen falling and screaming 'Inyandzaleyo' after

the accused allegedly stabbed him and he was seen fleeing the scene, leaving the pastor bleeding from his lower limbs.

The pastor was treated and discharged at the Mbabane Government Hospital and reported the matter to the Mbabane police.

It was disclosed that the suspect was then arrested and charged with assault

GBH and he voluntarily led the police to the scene of crime, where he retrieved the weapon he allegedly used to stab the pastor which was an Okapi knife, which he handed it to the police in the presence of witnesses, including his family members. During his court appearance, the accused applied for bail, which was set at E1 500. Trial is set to begin on March 1.

UPROAR AS GOVT ABSENT AT BUDGET WORKSHOP

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI
Mbabane

THE budget workshop for members of parliament held yesterday was almost chaotic as cabinet ministers elected to absent themselves.

This happened yesterday during the training of MPs on budget literacy. The workshop was conducted by Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC). They included Baly Mourad (Programme Manager), Marjan Nikolov and Vesna Garvanlieva.

Marjan Nikolov was the workshop facilitator, who gave information throughout the workshop.

Purpose

The purpose of the workshop was to sharpen the MPs with skills that would enable them to effectively play an oversight role on how government handled public finances. It was also meant to sharpen the Executive with skills that would enable them to handle funds in a way that would bring better life for all Emaswati.

The MPs went to the workshop yesterday, having been informed that Cabinet ministers would also be part of the workshop. It looked as if the legislators were looking forward to having the Cabinet ministers in their midst, probably to ensure that they also heard loud and clear how they were supposed to handle public funds.

However, the Cabinet ministers were not to be part of the workshop yesterday. This caused uproar among the legislators, such that it became difficult to move forward with the workshop. Nikolov found himself having to answer questions he did not know, as he was asked who he was talking to because the Executive was not part of the workshop.

Nikolov was only implementing his duty of differentiating between the roles between the Legislature and the Executive



LEARNING: MPs following proceedings during their budget workshop.

when the hullabaloo took place. He said the role of the Executive was to set goals on what they wanted to achieve in the next financial year and making sure they managed that. The role of the Legislature, according to Nikolov, was to ensure that the Executive did just that.

Key Matters

The MPs did not understand why Nikolov was talking about a role of people who were not present at the workshop. Ndzingeni MP Lutfo Dlamini is the one who rescued the situation and explained what caused the hullabaloo.

He said the problem was that MPs expected that Cabinet ministers would be present yesterday, so that they should also

listen to what Nikolov's teachings included. The sudden absence of the ministers disturbed the MPs such that they saw no reason of continuing with the workshop when the very people who were key in budgetary matters were not present.

Dlamini said it would be good for someone to apologise on behalf of the ministers and explain why they were not available. House of Assembly Speaker Petros Mavimbela explained that Cabinet had communicated and stated that they had been busy with some Cabinet responsibilities yesterday.

Mavimbela pleaded with the MPs to continue with the workshop because Cabinet would be joining them today.

Supplementary budget signs of ill-discipline

SUPPLEMENTARY budgets are a sign of fiscal ill-discipline and should be avoided at all costs.

This was said by FSVC Volunteer Marjan Nikolov, who is also President for the Centre for Economic Analyses. Nikolov said MPs and ministers should always know that budgets were a legal obligation for government to perform in a certain way with funds for the com-

ing financial year. He said fiscal discipline was crucial in handling public funds, because this would enable government to achieve the goals it had set for itself. The use of supplementary budgets meant somewhere during the implementation of the budget, something wrong happened and that, in most instances, meant the money could have been used for things not intended for.

What 4 000 unqualified teachers? - TSC

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

INSINUATIONS that there are 4 000 unqualified teachers in the educational sector in the country may as well be not accurate.

African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) said they were informed that there were over 4 000 unqualified teachers in the education system and that the number of teachers was not adequate for the implementation of free primary education. The committee also wants to know the teacher to pupil ratio in primary and secondary schools, and whether or not the teachers are capable to deliver quality education.

When contacted for comment, SWANCEFA National Coordinator Nelisiwe Nhlabatsi said, concerning the accuracy of the information, she was not in a position to say whether it was accurate or not.

Education

However, the ministry of education and training is in the best position to comment because it conduct annual education censuses, which also includes teachers in all schools in the country.

Nhlabatsi said on the implications on quality education if it was true SWANCEFA that, the teacher the most important factor in the quality education of education. A teacher in order to deliver quality should be sufficiently trained, sufficiently suited to teach a specific grade or a group.

If a teacher is trained he or she is able to use teaching methods that enable learners to grasp concepts easily.

If the report is accurate, then government needs to increase the budget for education to attract the best candidates to teaching even in rural schools, adds Nhlabatsi. She says government should also train more teachers to meet the needs of all learners, post teachers where they are needed most, as well as use a competitive pay structure to retain the best teachers.

On the other hand, Chairperson of

the Teaching Service Commission Simanga Mamba says all the teachers engaged in the educational sector are adequately qualified. Mamba adds that as TSC, they thanked government for ensuring that all persons in the teaching profession are properly trained and qualified. For the first time since the country's independence, government has ensured that all teachers are trained and qualified as education is essential foundation for children.

Challenges

Mamba stated that all teachers currently teaching in primary schools are all adequately qualified.

The figure queried by ACERWC is not accurate and not a true reflection of the educational system in the country.

He, however, notes that in secondary and high schools, they face a challenge, as there is a shortage of teachers who are adequately qualified for teaching science subjects, such as Mathematics and Physics. He attributes this to that teachers who are qualified for these subjects attract interest from other fields and usually opt to leave the teaching practice because the other jobs have better remuneration packages compared to the teaching profession.

In mitigating the challenge, Mamba says they engage qualified professionals who do not necessarily possess PGCE (post graduate certificate in education) required to be a teacher. However, even though they may not be qualified teachers, they do hold degrees in fields such as Physics and Chemical Engineering.

He clarifies that as these teachers may not possess the methodology required to apply their skills as teachers, they are engaged in workshops to train them.

He also claims that out of the 16 000 professional teachers in the educational sector, these teachers are less than 800, which is far from the 4 000 mentioned by ACERWC. He also states that in 2011, there was a shortage of qualified teachers in the country but government has ensured that this gap is filled, which he regards as an achievement.

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TROUBLE: The entrance of the Hawane High School where teachers live in fear as pupils bring weapons to class in a bid to protect themselves following a fight last week. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

GANGSTER WARS ROCK HAWANE HIGH

STORIES MELUSI MLOTSI
Mbabane

POLICE were called in to calm down a situation that nearly turned nasty on Friday after two groups of pupils were reportedly fighting each other for two days at Hawane High School, outside Mbabane.

The incident that left the school teachers and pupils living in fear happened February 21 and 22. It

...police from Mbabane arrived at the school and took eight of the boys for questioning on Friday and by the close of business they were still not returned by the police

has been revealed that within the school there are two factions of boys involved in the fighting. These are Nkoyoyo and Hawane groups.

So serious is the issue that the two groups carry dangerous weapons to school. Sources said they did not know the bone of contention between the two groups. However, it has been suspected that the fight emanated from a superior source. Strong language associated with gangsterism dominated the verbal exchanges.

It had been revealed that the fights took place outside and inside the classrooms while teachers were at the staffroom. The staffroom is about five metres away from the classes, which made it difficult for the teachers to hear any noises from the classrooms. Information gathered from reliable sources revealed that when the fight initially took place on Thursday, the teachers tried to calm down the situation by calling the gang members involved in the fight to a meeting. Little did the teachers know that the situation will turn nasty on Friday. An impeccable source said that on Friday morning the pupils engaged in a fierce fight that prompted the teachers to call the police.



CONFIRMED: Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Phindile Vilakati.

"The police from Mbabane arrived at the school and took eight of the boys for questioning on Friday and by the close of business they had not returned," said the source.

The pupils are said to have outsmarted the teachers and police by hiding their weapons before a search was conducted on Friday.

A team from this publication vis-

ited the school at noon on Monday and found the situation calm. Teachers were in class conducting lessons while the principal were reportedly out of office conducting other duties. The deputy principal declined to give comment to this reporter when asked about the fight. "I'm not allowed to give comment to media, please call the principal," he said.

Principal Philip Mathunywa confirmed the incident. "I was out of school on Friday attending a workshop but I was informed that there was a fight within the school that resulted in some of the pupils being apprehended by the police," he said.

Mathunywa said at the moment the school was monitoring the situation and waiting for feedback from the police, thereafter they would take action. He however, said what happened at the school was not acceptable and they would soon meet the parents. Mathunywa described the fight as a gangster war.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Phindile Vilakati confirmed the matter and said the pupils were arrested and charged with common assault. She added that they would appear before the magistrate court on Wednesday.

Pupil threatens female teacher with bushknife

DUE to the existence of the gangsters at the school, teachers are now living in fear after one of the pupils threatened to hack a female teacher with a bush knife.

The startling revelation is said to have been unfolded in one of the school meetings recently. Sources mentioned that one of the teachers received the threats while walking along the school corridors. "He told the teacher that he was not happy about her and threatened to sort her out with a bush knife," said the source.

Various teachers when interviewed confirmed that they were living in fear and urged the management of the school to hire security guards to check all pupils' bags when coming into the school premises.



WAR ZONE: Part of the classrooms of Hawane High School.



TIGHT SECURITY: The school's gates man opens the gate for the reporters.

Local with E2.6m dagga gets 12 years in SA

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Manzini

A dagga dealer enroute to Johannesburg coming from the Kingdom of Eswatini was arrested before reaching his destination after he was found in possession of dagga worth E2.6 million.

Patrick Bongumenzi Thwala (48) was arrested by South African police in an area known as Buccleuch. According to a media statement from the Directorate of Priority Crimes Investigation (HAWKS) South African Police Service, Thwala was convicted by the Alexandra Magistrate's Court last week Tuesday for charges of dealing in dagga valued at approximately R2.6 million. Captain Ndivhuwo Mulamu from the SAPS said Thwala was arrested last Friday at the premises of Buccleuch near Johannesburg, along with a 39-year-old accomplice. He said the arrest follows an intel-

ligence driven operation by the Hawks' Narcotics Enforcement Bureau, Crime Intelligence Counter Narcotics and Border Policing after it came to light that they were transporting a large quantity of dagga from Eswatini to South Africa.

"The consignment of (532,5 kg) of dagga that originated from neighbouring Swaziland was recovered from a motor vehicle and also from the house where they were arrested. Thwala pleaded guilty for possession and dealing in dagga whilst his accomplice was acquitted following the admission," part of the statement reads.

The court has sentenced Thwala to a four and eight years concurrent prison terms for both charges, suspended for five years, with an option of a R20 000 fine provided he is not found guilty of a similar offence during the period of suspension. Meanwhile in another separate incident the South African Police Service have confirmed

that in an area known as Mangweni in Inanda there was a major dagga bust whereby a dagga dealer was arrested for possession of dagga worth E350 000. It is said the officers approached a house after receiving intelligence and found dagga weighing 28.5kg, with a street value of R350, 000-00.

"A 55-year-old man was arrested for dealing in drugs. It is believed that the dagga was coming from Swaziland and transported to Inanda and surroundings. All the arrested suspects appeared in the Verulam Magistrate's Court on Monday February 18. Such busts come at a time when in the country police have been engaged in an operation of destroying vast dagga fields.

This time of the year is known as dagga harvesting season and dagga dealers in the country are transporting their harvested products to neighbouring countries where they are making a killing.

EEC says Thursday strike illegal

BY SABELO MAJOLA
Mbabane

ESWATINI Electricity Company (EEC) has declared the proposed strike by the Swaziland Electricity Supply Maintenance and Allied Workers Union (SESMAWU) illegal.

SESMAWU was resolved to embark on a strike action until EEC employees are paid as per the full Salary Alignment report which was delivered by consultants KPMG last week. The strike action is set to commence on Thursday and was confirmed by Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) Deputy Secretary General Muzi Mhlanga.

In a press statement released yesterday, EEC management stated that it has since come to their knowledge that at a General Council of the Swaziland Electricity Supply Maintenance and Allied Workers Union held on February 22 2019 a resolution was reached that its members are to embark on a strike action/work stoppage with effect from Thursday

February 28, 2019. "Management wishes to advise the public and the nation at large that such action will be illegal and against the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act, which prohibits industrial action in essential services. Management would like to advise the public that a plan has been put in place to mitigate any possible interruptions in the electricity supply to the nation," reads the statement. The EEC management, led by Managing Director Meshack Kunene, stated that issues raised by the Union are still being deliberated by all concerned in the appropriate internal forums and the parties have neither declared nor reached a deadlock that would translate the issue into a reportable dispute.

"The Union has not lodged any dispute with CMAC in terms of the Industrial Relations Act so that management and the union may be invited for a conciliatory process. Management calls upon the union to utilise the internal and external dispute resolution mechanisms without resorting to unlawful industrial action," says the statement.

PRETORIA - Investors who put their faith in an investment scheme with links to Prophet Shepherd Bushiri's church are out of pocket after their money was 'lost'.

About 250 members of the Mpumalanga branch of Bushiri's Enlightened Christian Gathering church have reported the losses to church leaders and to the Hawks. The members had invested the money with a senior pastor at the church, Nicholas Mgiba, who is CEO of Merger Chen Solutions (MCS).

Hawks spokesman Hangwani Mulaudzi said they were investigating the reports.

Though no figures are known, other investors from Limpopo, the Eastern Cape and Gauteng are also affected. In Mpumalanga, members said they had invested R10m. According to a document that investors claim was given to them by MCS, and which the Sunday Times has seen, the congregants were promised huge returns.

Those who invested R200 000 were promised R11.5m after six months. Those who invested R1m were promised R57.6m in six months. Most investors are said to be retired people.

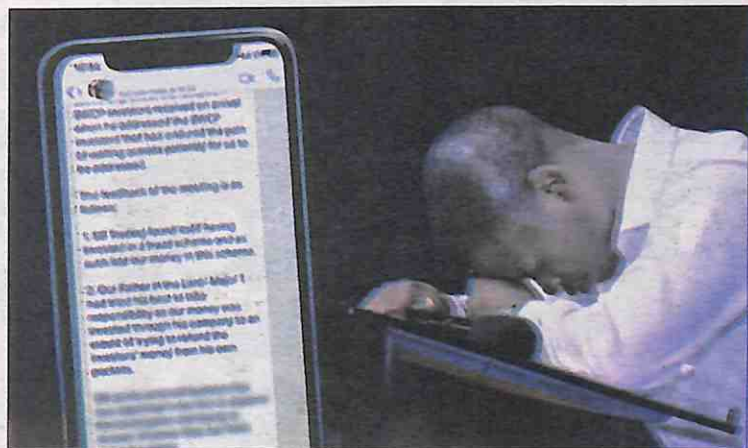
In a meeting this week at Bushiri's Pretoria church, senior pastors allegedly told investor representatives that Shepherd Bushiri Investments (SBI) had also 'been defrauded'.

Shepherd Bushiri Trading, a subsidiary of SBI, invested congregants' money in a fraudulent scheme, investors were told.

According to investors, church leaders who addressed them said Bushiri had tried his best to take responsibility, including refunding many people who had invested with his company.

Bushiri's flock out of pocket after cash 'lost' in investment scheme

A church-linked investment scheme promised big returns



IN PRAYER: Prophet Shepherd Bushiri, head down and gripping a microphone, in contemplation or prayer. Alongside is a WhatsApp message that congregants said gave them the bad news about their investments lost in a church-related scheme.

The investors showed the Sunday Times a WhatsApp message they claimed had come from church leaders. It said: "SBI as his personal business has now appointed a law firm to assist in the investigation and is trying to recover whatever it can from these fraudsters."

The WhatsApp message also said: "It is unknown at this moment as to how long the process will take and how

much will be recovered, or if there will be anything to be recovered."

People from four provinces have confirmed receiving the messages.

Mpumalanga congregant Florence Mangwane, who invested in the MCS scheme, said she had been caught by surprise when she received the message.

"I am from Swaziland and this is my

church. I took my money, R150 000, and my husband put R200 000 into this. We lost it all," she said.

"The truth must be told. Why is he not opening a case with the police if he lost money in this scam? Why lawyers? What are they going to do?"

Fight

Her husband, Ernest Mangwane, said they were ready to fight for their money.

The Sunday Times has seen the list of about 250 Mpumalanga congregants, who say they have invested in schemes linked to the church.

It details amounts that were allegedly deposited in the bank accounts belonging to several senior church leaders, as well as the church's own account, and another account for a church investment scheme called Seer Salvation.

MCS has no official links to the church. The only link is that Mgiba is a senior pastor at Bushiri's church and runs the church's Phalaborwa branch. He did not respond to calls, e-mails and WhatsApp messages.

Congregants said they started investing in MCS in January 2018.

Julia Mafukeni, who invested R10 000 in MCS, said she had hoped to get good returns. "People

should stop blaming Bushiri; he's young and not properly advised. All I need, though, is my money," she said.

A staunch Bushiri supporter, Thulani Maake, said she believed in God and that her money would return.

"If only the people who are leading us can believe in God, we will get our money."

They need not panic," she said.

One leader in Limpopo said senior officials of the church had introduced them to Mgiba. The leader showed the Sunday Times a notice of his R100 000 deposit. "That was

January last year and I am yet to get anything back." *Timeslive*



Those who invested R200 000 were promised R11.5m.

RESPONSIBILITY: Church leaders have said Prophet Bushiri has tried his best to take responsibility for congregants losing their money in an investment scheme.



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22 January 2019

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ANC dismisses reports Ramaphosa endorsing Malatji to lead ANCYL

JOHANNESBURG - The African National Congress (ANC) has dismissed reports that President Cyril Ramaphosa is part of a faction seeking to endorse former Congress of South African Students (COSAS) president Collin Malatji as a candidate to lead the ANC Youth League (ANCYL). This past Sunday, City Press reported that Ramaphosa singled out Malatji for the position during a meeting in Thohoyandou, in Limpopo, last week. *News24*

Training programme for MPs on Budget Literacy



MY POINT: MP Macford Sibandze makes his point during the training programme for members of parliament on Budget Literacy held at the Royal Swazi Libandla room yesterday. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu).



LEARNING: A section of MPs following proceedings.



ORDER: Speaker Petros Mavimbela sharing his views at workshop.



EXPERT: The workshop's facilitator Marja Nikolov, President of CEA, giving a lecture.



SKELEM: Ndzingeni MP Lutfo Dlamini makes a point much to the amusement of his colleagues.



FOCUSED: Some of the MPs who were in attendance looking focused during one of the presentations. (R) **OBSERVERS:** Some of the observers from the American Embassy watch the proceedings.



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Chicken farmer arrested for attempting to kill worker

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

A chicken farmer has been arrested for attempting to kill his employee following the theft of his cellphones, *buganu* and money amounting to E3 000.

Simanga Teddy Mavuso of Ngwenya Village is facing a charge of attempted murder. He has since filed an urgent application for bail at the High Court. Appearing before Judge Titus Mlangeni yesterday morning, Mavuso was granted bail fixed at E15 000 as the crown did not oppose same.

However, Judge Mlangeni ordered that he pays E3 000 in cash and E12 000 will be in a form of surety. According to Mavuso, he was arrested by the Mbabane police on February 16 and subsequently charged with the offence of murder and is currently kept at the Sidvashini remand centre.

He submitted that he is innocent of the charge preferred against him and will plead not guilty during trial since he did not attempt to kill the complainant.

Mavuso stated that the complainant was injured after he assaulted him following the theft of his three cellphones, money amounting to E3 000 and a five litre of *buganu* brew inside his house.

He stated that the complainant is actually his employee who assisted him in feeding his chickens as he (Mavuso) runs a poultry business and has been working with the complainant for the past two years, hence he had no reason to attempt to

...Over stolen *buganu*, cellphones, money

kill him since he is of value to the business and he understands it. He submitted that on February 15 leading to the present charges against him, he had actually gone to buy chicken feed and left the complainant behind at his (Mavuso) home feeding the chickens with the little feed that was left.

Complainant

He averred that he had actually left the money for the business in excess of E5 000, the cellphones and the *buganu* and at some point he found the complainant inside his house without his consent and failed to understand how he got access since he had locked the doors. When he enquired from him as to how he gained access, he failed to give a satisfactory answer, save to say he was sorry.

Having returned from buying the chicken feed, Mavuso stated that he went into his house as he wanted to retrieve one of the cellphone, but was shocked when he discovered that all the three phones were missing.

Upon such discovery, he submitted that he called the complainant and asked him about the whereabouts of the cellphones, but he denied knowledge of them and he (Mavuso) further discovered that the money bag had been tampered with and that the E3 000 was missing together with the 5L of *buganu*. The complainant, according to Mavuso admitted to have taken the marula drink and consumed it with his friends and further said he had thrown the cellphones into a pit latrine, as he

was angry at Mavuso.

Mavuso submitted that he personally tried to retrieve the phones from the pit latrine but to no avail and that is when he started assaulting the complainant in anger.

"I asked him to show me the area of the toilet where he had dumped the phones, as I was urgently in need of them and did not bother about the money as I was going to deduct it from his salary. I went to the extent of wearing plastics in a bid to retrieve the phones but could not find them, out of anger and losing temper, I assaulted the complainant with a pipe and my bare hands and not bricks and stones as alleged," Mavuso submitted.

He informed the court that there is no likelihood that he is going to evade trial upon being released on bail and that he may endanger the safety of the public or any particular person.

Asked him to show me the area of the toilet where he had dumped the phones, as I was urgently in need of them and did not bother about the money as I was going to deduct it from his salary. I went to the extent of wearing plastics in a bid to retrieve the phones but could not find them

Elephants leave for Mozambique

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

THE three elephants that terrorised areas such as Tikhuba, Maphungwane and Sitsatsaweni last week have finally left the country for Mozambique.

The elephants first invaded Tikhuba last Tuesday after crossing into the country through an opening along the border line separating Eswatini and neighbouring Mozambique and South Africa. Their exact origin was not known to the ministry of agriculture.

The animals moved to Sitsatsaweni on Thursday, leaving a trail of destruction in maize fields at Tikhuba and Maphungwane. Even though residents of the said communities were uneasy about the presence of the animals, they flocked to the fields where the giant animals had been spotted, just to have a glimpse at them. Elephants are ordinarily calm animals, at least until they feel threatened, upon which they are likely to react violently.

Damage

The damage which the animals caused in the fields as they moved along the eastern part of the Lubombo region is said to have amounted to thousands of Emalangeni.

Officers under the ministry of agriculture who have been monitoring the movements of the elephants reported that the animals eventually left the country on Friday. They are said to have crossed the border line near Sitsatsaweni and into Mozambique. Initially, Director of Veterinary Dr Xolani Dlamini stated that even though the origin of the elephants was not known, it was most likely that they came from Mozambique. Residents have expressed their relief upon learning that the animals have left. The residents were also worried about their safety as the animals would get closer to homesteads during the night.



MAN (26) ACCUSED OF ASSAULTING EX-LOVER

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Manzini

A 26-year-old man from Ngwane Park area has been charged for contravening the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act after he assaulted his former girlfriend.

Sibusiso Gumedze was arrested by Manzini police after he violently assaulted her former girlfriend resulting to her having a sprained wrist. According to the charge sheet presented to court

before Manzini Senior Magistrate Phathaphatha Mdluli, it is alleged that Gumedze assaulted his former lover while at Sidzakeni area by banging her several times on the ground injuring her temple and spraining her wrist.

Relationship

It is not clear what the bone of contention was between the two. It is only stated that the victim was involved in a relationship with Gumedze before she decided to call it quits. Gumedze made her first court appearance yesterday at the Manzini Magistrate's Court.

The prosecutor applied that he be remanded back into police custody pending recovery of the complainant.

The magistrate ordered that the accused be remanded back into police custody, however Gumedze applied to be released on bail. He was granted bail fixed at E3 000.

The bail conditions were that the accused must not be found to have committed a similar offence while out on bail. He was further warned not to interfere with crown witnesses. Gumedze is expected to be back in court next week Tuesday.

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DOC-18704

Over 20 homesteads ravaged by Saturday storm

BY MELUSI MLOTSA
Mbabane

THE heavy storm that swept across the country on Saturday night left many families seeking refuge from their neighbours, as their houses were blown away by the heavy wind.

Information gathered is to the effect that in some parts of the country, the storm caused heavy damage that left people's homes severely damaged.

In some areas electricity lines were seen lying down, as a sign that the storm was heavy. Dudu Sithole a resident of Dvokolwako who was affected by the storm said she is speechless about what happened in her homestead.

"It was around 2100 hours on Saturday when I was about to sleep with my family. At first I heard a loud noise from an electricity transformer then all of a sudden my house's roof was blown away by the storm. It all happened within some few minutes, we did not have any other alternative but to seek refuge from a neighbour," said the 50-year-old resident.



OPEN AIR: The roof of one of the houses was left like this after the storm. (Pic: Melusi Mlotsa)

Sithole said due to the heavy storm, she had been left without anything and appealed for support from members of the public who would like to assist her.

She, also appreciated the tent given by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to cover the roofing of her house temporarily. Her mobile number is 7818 2191.

Meanwhile, National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) Communications

Manager Wandile Mavuso confirmed that a number of homesteads around the country were affected by the storm that took place over the weekend.

He said Dvokolwako area was heavily affected and mentioned that the organisation is doing everything to assist the affected families. "To help the affected homesteads, we have already given them tents, cooking oil, beans to mention but a few things," he said.

Education budget not for teacher salaries but improving the sector

BY SABELO MAJOLA
Mbabane

WITH less than 24 hours left before Minister of Finance Neal Rijkenberg delivers the much anticipated national budget speech, unions and organisations have advocated for the education sector to be allocated a fair percentage of the budget.

Rijkenberg will be delivering his first budget speech tomorrow in parliament since he was appointed minister of finance by His Majesty King Mswati III in November last year.

The Swaziland Network Campaign for Education for All (SWANCEFA) said they have noted that in the past, a huge chunk of the education budget goes to paying teacher salaries and administration, but in 2019 their wish is to see salaries of teachers being moved to civil service and the budget to education be dedicated to expanding access to education and improving the quality of the education system.

This must include building of classrooms and integrating technology in schools.

This was revealed by SWANCEFA National Coordinator Nelisiwe Nhlabatsi when asked about the entity's expectations on the budget tomorrow.

She said they expected government to spend not less than the internationally recommended amount of 20 per cent of the total budget or 6 per cent GDP on education.

"How funds are allocated is also critical, we are advocating for sufficient allocation to marginalised groups such as children with special education needs. Also it is important to sufficiently invest in early childhood education and expanding access to pre-school or grade zero education for children in Eswatini.

"We also noted that in the past a huge chunk of

TUCOSWA wants govt to do organisational audit

IT will not help government to mitigate on issues of salary increment while there are 'ghost employees' in its payroll hence the need to have an organisational audit that will wipe out the problem.

An article from a local publication recently revealed that there are over 3 000 ghost employees in government's payroll. The Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA) Secretary Mduduzi Gina said the issue of civil servant's salary increment remains a priority to them as a union but government needs to tackle the issue of ghost employees who are milking on the ailing economy.

"The country will not move forward in terms of service delivery if those that are expected to carry out the mandate of government to provide services are disgruntled. It is of interest to us to have the minister address the issue on his speech. However, at the moment we can't have a figure that can see government overcoming the salary increment issue because a lot of people are in its payroll yet they are not working. We need an organisational audit that will deter-

mine each and every employee's designation and see to it that all those people are indeed working," he said.

Gina said another issue of priority is consistency in the payment of the elderly social grants which also needs to be reviewed and adjusted because seemingly the elderly are not given primacy, which was very wrong. He said a nation that disregards its elderly gets clouded by misfortune. "There has to be a regulation that gives the elderly the power to exercise their rights in getting the social grants because right now, it seems as though it's a favour for them to get the grant and they can't question anyone even if they get less than they are supposed to get". Gina said the Health and Education sector should also be prioritised in the budget as they are two critical sectors.

"The Free Primary Education is a constitutional right and as a country we can't dodge it but we are also looking to get quality as well so government should set aside adequate resources that will see the pupils go all the way to tertiary."

the education budget goes to paying teacher salaries and administration, in 2019 we wish to see salaries of teachers be moved to civil service and the budget to education be dedicated to expanding access to education and improving the quality of the education system. This must include building of classrooms and integrating technology in schools," she said.

On that note, Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) Secretary Sikelela Dlamini echoed Nhlabatsi's words saying government should allocate 26 per cent of the budget to education because it is a key and critical sector.

"Education is the most critical sector. We have over 800 schools and about 16 000 teachers in the country and the number of students seeking scholarship is increasing each year. The expectation is that government should allocate 26 per cent of the budget to education".

Top lawyer to be buried Saturday

BY SABELO MAJOLA
Mbabane

THE late renowned Lawyer Mandla Mkhwanazi will be laid to rest this coming Saturday at his residential place at Mpolonjeni, Mbabane.

A family member confirmed the burial date and added that a memorial service will be held at St Marks High School on Friday commencing at 1200 hours to 1600 hours.

"The family has met and decided on the date of burial and I can confirm that he will be laid to rest this coming Saturday here at Mpolonjeni after a night vigil," said the family member.

Mourners have been flocking the Mkhwanazi homestead to forward their words of comfort to the bereaved family since the demise of the lawyer.

Mkhwanazi (46) succumbed to death in the wee hours of last Thursday while admitted at the Mbabane Government Hospital.

The prominent legal eagle is said to have been rushed to Mbabane Government Hospital less than a week before he met his sudden death. Mkhwanazi handled high profile cases in the country. Cases involving Human Rights Lawyer Thulani Maseko were usually handled by him. He also handled a case involving former Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Commissioner Lillian Zwane when she was arrested for alleged corruption.

He facilitated her admission to bail. He also handled a matter pitting Swaziland National Association of Teachers against government, in which government had threatened to fire teachers who took part on the Waya-Waya strike of 2012.

INCREASE SIN TAX - FESBC

THE Federation of the Swazi Business Community (FESBC) President Henry 'Tums' du Pont expects Finance Minister Neal Rijkenberg to cut on manufactured products tax and increase sin tax.

Sin tax was also increased in South Africa's budget speech delivered by Finance minister Tito Mboweni a week ago.

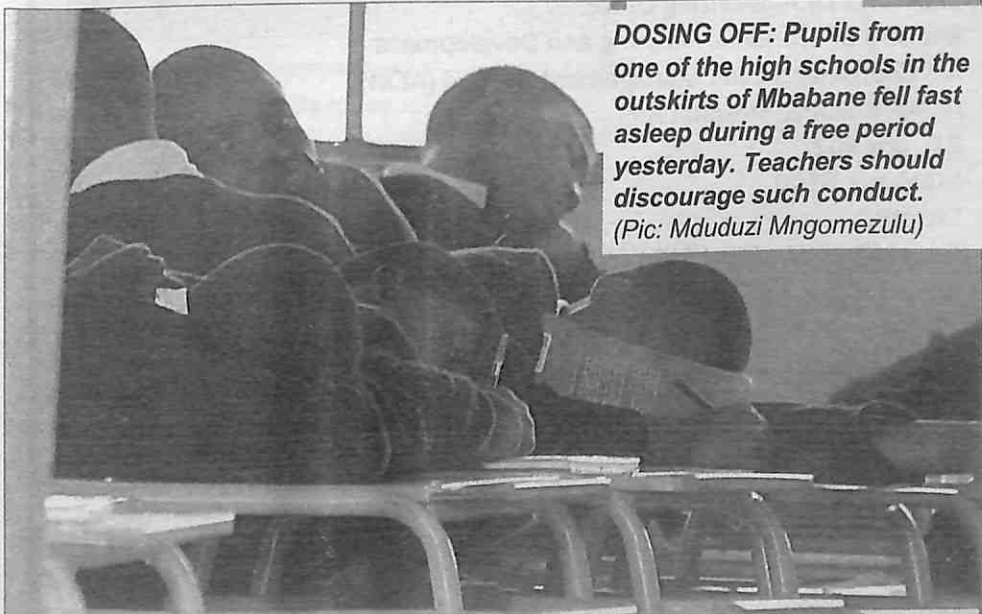
A sin tax is an excise or sales tax specifically levied on certain goods deemed harmful to society and individuals, for example alcohol and tobacco, candies, drugs, soft drinks, fast foods, coffee, sugar, gambling and pornography. Du Pont feeling is that increasing sin tax will give room to manufactured product's tax to be reduced.

"Domestic investment is the backbone of the

country's economy and it is of importance to have the finance minister cutting tax on locally manufactured products. Foreign investment should find us on or two feet in terms of Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs)."

Meanwhile, Swaziland Consumer Association Chairman Bongani Mdluli said increasing sin tax will not help that much because spending on these items depends on the attitude of the people. "Those are just habits and no matter the circumstances, people will always spend on them yet it doesn't bring any benefit to them. Instead, they become government's burden when they fall sick". Mdluli said he expects the minister to prioritise issues of education, agriculture among others.

DOSING OFF: Pupils from one of the high schools in the outskirts of Mbabane fell fast asleep during a free period yesterday. Teachers should discourage such conduct. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)




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Applicants are required to email their application letters and Curriculum Vitae clearly stating the position applying for, to hr@montigny.co.sz or mail to The Human Resources Manager, Usutu Forest Products Company Limited, Private Bag Mbabane H100, Swaziland. The deadline for applications is Tuesday 5th March 2019. Traceable references must be provided.

Should you not receive feedback within one month of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

Eswatini Secrets inspires Tembe King

STORIES BY MBONO MDLULI
KZN, South Africa

ESWATINI Secrets spearheaded by Her Majesty the Indlovukazi has inspired Tembe King Mabhudu Tembe to come up with a similar factory in his area to benefit his people.

This transpired last Saturday when the people under King Mabhudu came together and celebrated Baganu festival, which they refer to as Umthayi.

The event was held at Mhlabyalingana District under KwaZulu Natal (KZN) Province in South Africa.

Tembe said it was important for Emaganu (Marula) to be preserved because it was not only good for its brew, but also for making a wide range of products. The products included body lotions, perfumes, butter and other products.

The King said this showed that Emaganu could change the lives of the people for the better.

Hence the reason to set up a factory so that his people could produce their own products which they could export to other countries.

He then mentioned that in Eswatini, Her Majesty had a factory that was set up so that Emaswati could be able to produce their own Marula products. The factory in Mpaka helped many Emaswati

in reducing the rate of unemployment in the country.

King Mabhudu said they hoped they would learn many things from what was done by Emaswati, with the leadership of Her Majesty, on how the Eswatini Secrets was developed to be what it was today. Umthayi is an annual event that is held around February during Emaganu season.

The event is usually graced by the presence of a delegation from Eswatini, which is sent by His Majesty King Mswati III. Also present during the past weekend's event were representatives from the South Africa, Mozambique and KZN governments.



Tembe said it was important for Emaganu (Marula) to be preserved because it was not only good for its brew, but also for making a wide range of products



CULTURE DANCE: King Mabhudu Tembe (2nd r) of the Tembe nation being escorted by his regiments and guests upon entering the arena where Umthayi festival took place over the past weekend. Next to him is Prince Guduza (r), KZN MEC of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Sihle Zikalala, Prince Bukhosi and Prince Sicelo. (Pics: Mbono Mdluli)

King looks forward to fruitful relations with Tembes

HIS Majesty King Mswati III is looking forward to a fruitful relationship with the people under the leadership of King Mabhudu Tembe.

This was said by Prince Guduza who represented His Majesty King Mswati III during the Umthayi festival at Mhlabyalingana District in northern KZN.

He encouraged King Mabhudu to keep this tradition as it had the potential of uniting his people.

The unity of his people meant sustainable development for his people, which would make their lives easy.

The King also encouraged King Mabhudu to grow and brand this event so that more people could attend it.

The King also observed that Umthayi could be likened to Incwala, which was an event to mark the end and beginning of the year. Umthayi, on the other hand, was an event to mark the beginning of the year. Umthayi was also the same as the Baganu ceremonies that were held in the country on a yearly basis.

Prince Guduza further extended an invitation to King Mabhudu, on behalf of His Majesty, to visit the country during Baganu Ceremony this coming weekend at Hlane Royal Residence.



KaShali Pro-Learning High School

2018 SGCSE RESULTS

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

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

 Sandziso Nkambule Upgrading First Language: Siswati: C Mathematics: A Geography: A Physical Science: B	 Mxolisi Mdluli Upgrading English Language: B Mathematics: A* Business Studies: B Physical Science: B	 Bongumenzi Dlamini First Language: Siswati: B English Language: B Biology: A Mathematics: A Business Studies: C Physical Science: A* Geography: C
 Minenhle Dlamini First Language: Siswati: B English Language: A* Biology: C Mathematics: D Physical Science: C Religious Education: C	 Candy Mazibuko First Language: Siswati: A English Language: A* Biology: A* Mathematics: B Physical Science: A Geography: C Religious Education: C	 Evander Dlamini Upgrading English Language: B Physical Science: A Business Studies: A*
 Nonfundo Mkhwanazi Upgrading English Language: C Biology: A Geography: B	 Linda Dlamini Upgrading Biology: B Physical Science: B	 Zukiswa Mavuso English Language: B Mathematics: A Biology: B Physical Science: A Geography: C Religious Education: C
 Mandisa Matsenjwa Upgrading Mathematics: A Physical Science: A	 Brian DuPont Upgrading English Language: B Mathematics: A Biology: C Physical Science: B	 Swelethle Ndlovu First Language: Siswati: C English Language: C Mathematics: B Accounting: B Business Studies: B Economics: A*
 Mgiyo Khaya Simelane First Language: Siswati: A English Language: C Mathematics: C Biology: B Physical Science: B Geography: B Religious Education: C	 Nombulelo Nhlako First Language: Siswati: B English Language: B Mathematics: B Biology: C Physical Science: B Geography: C Religious Education: B	 Lungiswa Nkambule First Language: Siswati: B English Language: B Mathematics: C Biology: D Geography: C Religious Education: B
 Hlobile Mkhonta English Language: B Mathematics: C Business Studies: B	 Samkeliso Dlamini Upgrading Mathematics: B Physical Science: B	 Njabulo Bhembe Upgrading Mathematics: B Physical Science: B
 Nhlomipho Ndlovu English Language: B Biology: B Science: A	 Bandzile Sukati Mathematics: C Physical Science: B Geography: B	 Nosipho Ntimane English Language: B Mathematics: B

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The Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, Aid Coordination and Management Section, intends to award a contract for the supply, delivery and installation of packing and processing equipment to the High Value Crop and Horticulture Project with financial assistance from the 11th European Development Fund. The Contract Notice is available on the EuropeAid website at <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>. The CD containing the Tender Dossier is also available from;

The National Authorizing Office
 Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
 Aid Coordination and Management Section (ACMS)
 Annex Building, Hospital Hill
 P.O. Box 602,
 Mbabane H100
 Eswatini.
 Tel: +268 2404 6512 / 6154 / 9551
 Fax: +268 2404 9816

Email: lwazi.mkhabela@mepd-acms.org
 Copy: mawenzi@swade.co.sz and mduduzi@mepd-acms.org

The deadline for submission of applications is **29th April 2019** at 1400hrs, Swazi local time.

SAMORA MACHEL'S DAUGHTER INVITED TO HLANE

FORMER Mozambican president Samora Machel's daughter has been invited to partake in the second edition of this year's Buganu Ceremony.

Ornila Machel was invited by Prince Guduza on behalf of His Majesty King Mswati III. Machel was also part of the Umthayi Ceremony at Mhlabyalingana District in northern KZN. She was invited by King Mabhudu Tembe to be part of the ceremony. On Sunday, Machel was introduced to Princes Guduza, Mguciso and Lonkhokhela by King Mabhudu.

The main aim of the introductions was to strengthen relations of Emaswati with the people of Mozambique.

Machel, who was speaking through the aid of a translator, expressed her happiness to meet the princes and stated that her father used to share a special relationship with King Sobhuza II. Machel actually regarded King Sobhuza II as his own father.

Machel further mentioned that her father and King Sobhuza had an aim of uniting black people.

She added that King Sobhuza's death in 1982 deeply disappointed his father. However, Samora was happy to know that His Majesty King Mswati III was to succeed his father and took him under his wing.

Meanwhile, Prince Mguciso said



INVITED: Samora Machel's daughter Ornila Machel (l) and her daughter Dionne Machel Cossa.

when King Sobhuza died, Samora was among the people who were touched by his demise.

"Machel (Samora) even predicted that his days were numbered now that King Sobhuza had died. We do not know what he meant," Prince Mguciso said.

He further said initially, it was difficult for the two to meet but they ensured that it happened.

Prince Lonkhokhela said the two leaders met at Hlane Royal Residence and even today, there is a picture of

them when they met.

The prince said the former president came with many soldiers and upon arrival, he told the soldiers that they should put their guns down because they had come to celebrate and not to fight anyone.

He said Samora Machel was influential among Emaswati, such that they referred to Mozambique as Samora Machel's place.

Everyone who took over the presidency in Mozambique was likened to Samora Machel among Emaswati.



ARRIVAL: The delegation from Eswatini upon arrival at the arena last Saturday morning.



ZULU WAY: Regiments from the Tembe nation dance as they appreciated the arrival of King Mabhudu.



KWETFULA: Women under King Mabhudu on their way to deliver buganu before the king and his guests.



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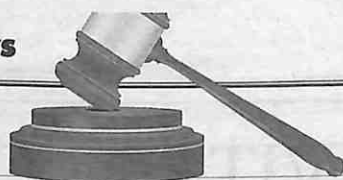
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NB
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Should you not be contacted within 20 days of the deadline (**Thursday 28th February 2019**), please consider your application unsuccessful.



...ALL IN ONE DAY

Lordship Justice Fikile Nhlabatsi puts murder, other cases to rest

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

ABOUT 10 different cases have been put to rest after her Lordship Justice Fikile Nhlabatsi handed down sentences on pending cases backdating to 2014.

Sentencing was done in just a day.

These cases include murder, attempted murder and culpable homicide, where suspects saw themselves receiving sentences as high as 15 years without an option of a fine.

One pending case to be put to rest was that of Elliot Ngwenya, who was sentenced to 15 years in prison without an option of a fine.

His sentence was then backdated to November 1, 2015.

Ngwenya was arrested and charged with attempted murder on November 1, 2018 at Khombaso area, where he stabbed his girlfriend at the time by the name of Lomdladla Matsenjwa with a knife in the abdomen.

He had been from a drinking spree when he found Matsenjwa preparing supper and he asked that she handed

him a knife which she did without question, and before she knew its the knife was thrust in her abdomen without any provocation.

Witness

She ran to her neighbours whilst bleeding and with the knife still stuck in her abdomen. At the time the accused was following her and the neighbours called community police, who immediately called police officers and she was rushed to Pigg's Peak Government Hospital, where she was admitted for six days.

Another to be sentenced was Sikhumbuzo Siphosile Masilela, who was arrested on April 3, 2014 at Nkwalini area after he stabbed his girlfriend Nonkhululeko Matsebula to death, who was also his live-in-lover.

A witness who was a neighbour to the couple told the court that she heard the deceased screaming for help and when she ran to the house, she found that she had already been stabbed and was bleeding profusely.

The accused then went to another neighbour's house and asked that they rush the deceased to hospital as he had injured her.

Police were called and he handed the knife he used to stab Matsebula and was

arrested.

Masilela was sentenced to 10 years in prison without an option of a fine.

Mfanimpela Sifundza was arrested and charged with culpable homicide after he stabbed his wife, one Phetsile Mbhamali with a spear with intent to kill her.

The incident happened on December 22, 2015 at Lomahasha when the accused went to his wife's parental home in search for his wife, who had left home and in the process he was carrying a spear, which he had hidden under his jacket.

Upon arrival his wife spotted him and fled.

He ran after her and when he caught up with her, he stabbed her once in her right shoulder and twice on top of her left breast. She lost consciousness and neighbours who heard her screaming for help rushed to the scene and police were called. She was rushed to Lomahasha clinic, where she was deemed critical and she was transferred to Good Shepherd Hospital, where she was admitted.

The accused was sentenced to 15 years in prison without an option of a fine and his sentence was backdated to December 22, 2015.

LIST OF SENTENCES

ACCUSED	CHARGE	SENTENCE
Sikhumbuzo Siphosile Masilela	Murder	10 years no fine
Mfanimpela Sifundza	Attempted Murder	15 years no fine
Happy Sonnyboy Mwelase	Attempted Murder	15 years no fine
Elliot Ngwenya	Attempted Murder	15 years no fine
Pennuel Duma Dlamini	Murder	Seven years no fine
Dumisa Fana Dlamini	Attempted Murder	Five years or E7 000 fine
Lungelo Maziya	Murder	Five years no fine
Mfakazelwa Makhanya	Assault GBH	Two years or E2 000 fine
Mandlenkosi Fana Gina	Culpable Homicide	Seven years no fine
Afonso Sebastiano Malandzela	Murder	Seven years no fine
Mefika Matsenjwa	Immigration Act	Seven years no fine (3 years suspended) Five years no fine (2 years suspended)
Moses Dlamini		
Siphosile Ntshangase		
Philani Dlamini		
Mfanfikile Magagula	Attempted Murder	5 years or E7 000 fine

Catering college vanishes with students' E50 000 tuition

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Manzini

A supposed catering college owner has been accused of vanishing with almost E50 000 which has been paid by desperate Emaswati in pursuit of furthering their education.

Unitex Catering College owner Sifiso Gamedze allegedly went missing after taking money from people who wanted to study catering in his school.

One of the victims claimed that she paid E4 000 as tuition fees at the catering college.

Worth noting is that the tuition fees at the supposed college in Matsapha varied for unknown reasons.

"Some said they paid E 4 900 tuition fees," the aggrieved local said, adding that the catering course she would enrol for would last up to three months, starting from January 3, 2019.

It is said classes started, but only lasted for three weeks.

"We only went to school for only three weeks in January. I was a full time student at the college. My classes were from Monday to Thursday," she said.

Currently, the owner of the catering school supposedly vanished without a trace.

When the publication tried to reach him to clarify the situation, his phone rang unanswered. Allegations are that Gamedze is originally from Siphofaneni.

When the students were asked how they located the college, they claimed that there were adverts on Facebook by a certain Nomphumelelo Gamedze, who is allegedly working with Sifiso Heizo Gamedze. There is also a WhatsApp group that was formed for communication purposes.

Apparently, the WhatsApp group is no longer functional.

Another source claimed Gamedze had been operating the supposed fly-by-night catering college for almost three years. The source said the college was once located at Luvu

in 2017 and left without students having completed their three-month courses.

"The college has been hoping from town to town. It is just that last year they then started advertising on social media," said the source.

Another victim said they reported the matter to the Matsapha Police Station, but they are still awaiting a response. When the reporter tried to reach Gamedze's cellphone it rang unanswered.

The reporter was able to locate his mother, who identified herself as Make Hlandze. She told the publication that Sifiso had been away from home for over two weeks.

"We are also looking for him, he has been gone from home for more than two to three weeks now. We do not know where he is," she said.

His mother confirmed that her son had a catering college in Matsapha that has been shut down. She added that people had been storming her home looking for her son.

Meanwhile, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that the matter had been reported to the police.



HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?
Sifiso Heizo Gamedze is alleged to have vanished with people's money.

Singeni sugar cane farmers want executive board removed from office

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE
High Court

YET another sugar cane farmers' company is embroiled in a leadership dispute, as members of Singeni Investments (Pty) Ltd have taken their leadership to court as they want the current board removed from office.

Sabelo Dlamini and Siphosile Shabangu have filed an urgent application at the High Court, seeking an order that the board comprising Japhther Dlamini, Musa Shongwe, Siboniso Magagula, Erick Dlamini, Nomsa Shongwe and Sikhumbuzo Maphanga be removed

from office and an interim board appointed, because the six are failing to conduct elections as their term of office had lapsed.

Terms

The two are also seeking an order that members and shareholders of the company are ordered to conduct elections of the executive board within two weeks from grant of the court order, which results shall be final and binding to all parties.

According to Sabelo the first applicant in his affidavit, as duly authorised to depose of same by the aggrieved members, they are a company that was formed by the members at Tshaneni to deal with sugar cane farming and the respondents are the first execu-

tive committee (board).

He submitted that in terms of their constitution, the respondents were to be in office for a period of three years and then the election of a new executive be conducted and the elections to replace the respondents were to be held in July 2018.

However, for reasons best known to them, the respondents extended the elections to November 2018 and remained in office much against the dictates of the company's constitution.

"It was a grave concern amongst the members of the company that the respondents did not want to move out of office, and they were frustrating every move to have the elections

conducted to the extent that the applicants were appointed by the general membership to work with them, but the respondents also frustrated this move," Sabelo submitted.

Priority

He stated that their financier, FIN-CORP, even raised a concern with the delay in conducting the elections, as it was long overdue and was causing malfunctioning of the company since it was made a priority that when the financier extended finance to the company, elections should be a priority with a new executive for the proper administration of the company.

On January 30, 2019 when the election were supposed to be conducted,

the first respondent Japhther, who is the chairman, indicated that the elections could not proceed as there was a matter that is pending in court.

He further submitted that as a result of such frustration, the company has not been doing well such that dividends have not been shared, and it appears that such will prevail if the issue of the elections is not sorted out.

He highlighted the fact that the court will take judicial notice of the fights that are on the rise in the sugar cane growing industry, where board members do not want to move out of office, with the courts being flooded with similar applications such as the present one. The matter is still pending in court.

Govt committed to work towards protection of women, girls

STORIES BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mafutseni

ESWATINI has prioritised the eradication of gender-based violence (GBV) and promotion of gender equality for the attainment of sustainable development in the country.

Deputy Prime Minister Themba Masuku said government has spearheaded a number of initiatives and developed interventions to ensure it prioritised these.

He was speaking through Minister of Labour and Social Security Makhosi Vilakati during the One Billion Rising Campaign held at Mafutseni Inkhundla on Saturday.

Masuku said during the development of the National Gender Policy, it was his hope that such would facilitate the amendment of legislation and influence positive changes for implementation of activities aimed at achieving gender equality.

Guide

He added that the policy would serve as a guide to address the strategic needs of both women and men.

The DPM said its implementation has taken place to some extent, through the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act 2018 (SODV), which addresses the legislative changes that the policy envisaged. With the firm and clear definition of offences, and the heavier sentences and fines imposed by the SODV, it is anticipated that there shall be a decline of GBV cases, and a full eradication eventually.

"Measures have been taken to ensure training of prosecutors and continue to train the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS) on the law, for full maximisation of the protection it affords to victims, and in also holding the perpetrator to account for his actions," said Masuku.

Masuku added that the national strategy and action plan to end violence in Eswatini 2017-2022 speaks to the collaborative and multi-sectoral integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence in the country.

"The strategy details an action plan which includes collaboration with key stakeholders such as Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA), who are a very strategic partner with government and who have brought us here today for the One Billion Rising Campaign," the DPM added.

He said through the Department of Gender and Family Issues, the DPM's office have over the years collaborated and partnered with various stakeholders on different programmes or campaigns to eradicate gender-based violence. "Also cognisance of the various campaigns that some stakeholders are currently running, such as: the Musumbulala Uzomdinga Campaign by the REPS, the End Violence against Children Campaign by World Vision as well as the "One Billion Rising Campaign" by WLSA," added Masuku.

Masuku called on other stakeholders to join in the fight against GBV and further urge them to come up with campaigns that will strengthen the work currently being done.

He noted that these initiatives were extremely important as they are the means through which members of the community could be educated on various issues affecting them.

Resources

However, DPM said currently, government does not have the necessary resources to reach every single person in the Kingdom. Therefore it relied on collaborations and partnerships.

Masuku said government is currently focusing on the economic turnaround strategy to ensure that the country develops sustainable economy that will facilitate the necessary resource allocation for the eradication of GBV.

"It is our intention not to 'leave anyone behind' as per the sustainable development goals. In this case, government intends not to leave any victim of GBV unprotected. The protection and promotion of a victim's rights should be at the forefront of any implementation of the SODV and any other law or policy."

He added that by strengthening existing partnerships and collaboration in a multi-sectoral integrated manner, it will be ensured that the fight against GBV becomes a way of life and erad-



IN FULL SWING: Lutsango from Kabhudla showing off their dance moves during the One Billion Rising event at Mafutseni on Saturday.



ENTERTAINERS: These three children showing off their dance moves before the start of the event.



BUSINESS OPORTUNITY: Vendors took advantage of the scores of people at the gathering and sold food items.

icate it by 2022 as per the government's strategy. The DPM said he wished to ensure the nation that government remains committed to its objectives in the national policy and will continue

to work towards the protection of women and girls.

"We will work tirelessly to eradicate GBV and make Eswatini a violence-free country," he said.

...SODV Act a victory

THE Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act is a victory, not just for survivors of gender based violence, but also for the society.

This was outlined by United States Ambassador Lisa Peterson when presenting her speech at the One Billion Rising campaign hosted at Mafutseni Inkhundla on Saturday.

Peterson said she was honoured to be part of the campaign and urged every citizen to stand against gender based violence. She stated that one of the greatest milestones of 2018 in the country was the enactment of the SODV Act.

The ambassador said more important than just the enactment of the law is the fact that perpetrators are already being convicted under the law.

Law

She added that the work does not just stop because a law is now in place. In some ways the work becomes more difficult, because some of the things that still need to change are behaviours and beliefs.

A critical part of behaviour change in Eswatini will be changing the culture of silence around gender based violence. It is time to reject the notion that we, as bystanders have no role to play in the violence perpetrated against our loved ones, friends and neighbours she added.

Gender based violence is at the top of the spectrum of behaviours that are rooted in attitudes and beliefs about women and men. The stereotypes that dictate women's submission to men, or the implicit biases that say some people just do not deserve as much as others.

She said when culture or law restrict women's ability to own land, manage matrimonial property or inherit more than just a child's share, society is saying that women simply are not worth as much as men.

Peterson also urged Eswatini to seek new avenues of engagement on issues that disadvantage, discriminate against or victimise women.

She added that as all parties continue to work toward women's equality, the U.S Embassy stands ready to listen, discuss and explore new approaches to combat gender based violence and its foundation across all levels of society.

MAN (33) DIES IN A CAR ACCIDENT

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

A 33-year-old man from Mvakwelitje in Mbabane died when his car was involved in an accident.

The accident that claimed Steep Nkoyoyo's life happened around 0120 hours on Sunday morning.

According to the police information and communications office, the man lost control of the motor vehicle and it veered off the Malagwane road.

It knocked against a hill and sharp rocks curved along the road and it fur-

ther landed in a ditch.

The car was badly damaged.

When police and paramedics reached the scene, they found Nkoyoyo in a critical state and was rushed to the Mbabane Government Hospital.

However, he died while undergoing treatment. Chief Police Information and Communications Officer

Superintendent Phindile Vilakati urged motorists to drive and use the road safely. Vilakati condemned speeding on the roads, adding that motorists often lost control of their cars because of speeding.

She urged motorists to follow road signs as road accidents could be significantly reduced. Vilakati further

The man lost control of the motor vehicle and it veered off the Malagwane road.

advised public transport operators not to overload.

BHEKI 'GAMASSAULTING' GAMA'S MEMORIAL



ADDRESS: Bheki Gama's uncle Uriah Mabuza addressing mourners at the memorial service of his sister's son.



ON DISPLAY: A portrait of the late Bheki Gama. **RIGHT - RIP:** Bheki Gama's only daughter Calsile flanked by her aunt Nonhlanhla Simelane and Buyile Vilakati, her cousin, as they follow proceedings during the memorial service of the late Bheki Gama, well known as Gamassaulting. The late journalist and musician was laid to rest at his parental home at Dvudvusini last Sunday morning while the memorial service was held at CMC Church in Matsapha last Saturday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

Thank you
Siyabonga

The Simelane, Kunene and Fakude Families
hereby extend their gratitude for the
support and contributions during the
funeral of our sister, mother, grandmother
and great-grandmother:

Mpelelaphi Girlie
Kunene nee Simelane

Held in Dwalile
on Sunday, 17 February 2019

BORN 9 August 1930
DEPARTED 10 February 2019

Your kindness and thoughtfulness meant so much to our family.

Lala ngekuthula Ndlebezimchewana,
Sitohlala Sikukhumbula Mnguni

In the Name of the Lord:
"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.
My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that
I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Doc.18508



THANK YOU: Pastor Timothy Simelane, a seasoned journalist, leading proceedings.



ATTENDED: Former Times employees Sizwe Siyaya and Menzi Dlamini were also in attendance at the memorial service.

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FOLLOWING: Elders from the affected families following proceedings of the service.



PRESENT: Journalists Vuyisile Hlatshwayo, Mantoe Phakathi, Gcinangaye Tsabedze and Mavela Dlamini were also in attendance.



LISTENING: Journalist Lunga Masuku, who is a friend and family member of the late 'Gamassaulting', listening to the Word of God.



JOURNEY WELL: Comfort Dlamini speaking on behalf of the church at the service. **LEFT - LALA NGEKUTHULA MBHOKANE:** Mario Masuku was also among the people who came through to pay their last respects.

Home affairs minister commends Lubombo for notable development

STORIES BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

MINISTER of Home Affairs Princess Lindiwe has commended the Lubombo regional administration for championing remarkable development over the past few years.

The minister has noted that the region was gradually emerging from being a backbencher to leading development initiatives, which have also contributed to the economy of the country.

The princess said this through her written

speech, which was presented by Minister of Tinkhundla Administration and Development David Ngcamphalala during the Lubombo regional prayer service held at Matsetsa School for the Deaf last Friday. Both ministers were invited as keynote speakers during the event.

Improvement

The regional prayer service was introduced by then RA Sylvia Mthethwa in 2017, and was adopted as an annual event. The minister of home affairs noted that the region had seen great improvement in different sectors since the introduction of the regional prayer service. She pointed

ed out that for instance, the region has seen a significant decline in fatal road accidents over the past two years. It is on record that the Mbadlane-Lonhlopheko and Lukhula-Big Bend roads used to be listed amongst the most deadly roads in country.

The minister also noted that the region has shown great improvement in the education sector, having been listed as the leading region in the 2018 Standard Five results. Furthermore, the region has had a decline in the crime rate.

"These are some of the tangible results which the region has had since the launch of such



REMARKS: Minister of Tinkhundla David Ngcamphalala making his remarks during the regional service.

prayers," said the minister.

Meanwhile, Minister Ngcamphalala thanked traditional leaders for taking the leading role in hosting such services where residents are united in prayer.

He implored other regions to also follow suit and make prayer their foundation for all their planning. Ngcamphalala urged the Christian fraternity to demonstrate the love of Christ by being a good example in the communities.

Lubombo chiefs miss ex-RA Sylvia Mthethwa

TRADITIONAL leaders under the Lubombo region have expressed how they miss working with former regional administrator Sylvia Mthethwa.

Mthethwa is said to be missed for being innovative when implementing development projects in the region.

This was disclosed by Chief Mawandla Gamedze, who spoke on behalf of all traditional leaders during the regional prayer service held at Matsetsa last Friday.

Gamedze first acknowledged that the regional prayer services, which were first launched in 2017, were a brainchild of



MISSED: Ex-RA Sylvia Mthethwa.

the former RA.

Mthethwa is said to have also championed the establishment of Eco Lubombo Organisation,

a non-profit making organisation which hosts the annual Magadzavane-Mlawula Challenge Walk.

Satisfaction

Gamedze said the traditional structures were happy to have worked with the first woman RA in the country.

He disclosed that as a way to express their satisfaction, the traditional leaders were hoping to host a farewell function for the ex-RA in the near future.

"If it was not for other national assignment, we are sure the former RA would have been here even today, because she was very fond of the region," said the chief.



STAFF NURSE - MIDWIFE (26)

First level Supervisor: Facility Nursing Sister
Second Level Supervisor: Matron II
Location: Hhohho Facilities (17), Shiselweni Facilities (9)
Duration: 1 April - 30 September, 2019

The Nurse-Midwife is a self-motivated individual who provides comprehensive preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative nursing and midwifery services at facility and community level. This includes the provision of the PIHTC, PMTCT/MNCH, HIV Care and Treatment, TB services and counseling support for adults, pregnant and lactating women, infants and children in designated facilities. She/he acts as the first line nursing and midwifery service provider.

Key Responsibilities:

Health Care Service Planning, Management & Monitoring

- Develops implements and evaluates comprehensive nursing and midwifery care plans.
- Provides advice to general nurses, nursing assistants and support staff.
- Participates in regional review meetings (e.g. ReHSAR, TB QRM).
- Provides feedback and receive direction from supervisors.
- Notify on mortality and morbidity
- Supports strengthening of community-health facility linkages
- Collects data, analyses, interprets and reports information pertaining to nursing and midwifery and act accordingly.
- Conducts research and utilizes findings in the unit.
- Makes independent decisions within given mandate, prescribed procedures and policies.
- Resolves problems within the scope as prescribed in the policies and procedures.
- Assesses analyses and interprets data for decision making.
- Records and maintains accurate nursing and administrative records.
- Participates in regular staff meetings for sharing and dissemination of information
- Manages medicines and supplies stock and ensures that the facility maintains minimum stock

Preventive services:

- Provide health education sessions for patients
- Counsels mothers/clients as necessary
- Provides nutritional advice to clients at all levels of care.
- Ensures safety at work place
- Provides health promotion services related to midwifery
- Participates in clinical teaching and training of midwifery students
- Provides screening services for patients that include STI, HIV eligibility, TB and cervical cancer screening

Clinical Patient Management

- Diagnose and treat maternal and neonatal/infant/child health problems.
- Provides MCH and reproductive health services including post violence care for GBV cases, cervical cancer screening and treatment within the scope of practice.
- Manages normal pregnancy, labor and puerperium, and conducts deliveries, as needed.
- Manages normal neonate and abnormal neonate
- Prescribes and administer drugs used in midwifery, prenatal, labor and puerperium
- Assesses health of the mother and family during pregnancy, labor and puerperium.
- Provides prenatal, antenatal and post-partum care, and recognizes and manages emergencies.
- Integrates preventive and therapeutic interventions in maternal and child health care services.
- Provides PIHTC, PMTCT/MNCH, HIV Care and Treatment, TB services and counseling support for adults, pregnant and lactating women, infants and children coming to the facility.
- Consult and refer patients based on clinical judgment.

Rehabilitative:

- Resuscitates mothers and neonates where necessary.
- Provides other rehabilitative care for patients from the catchment area.

NB: Performs other duties that may be assigned as and when needed.

Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- A degree/ diploma in nursing and midwifery
- Must have graduated between 2016 and 2018 and is currently not employed
- Training in Basic IMAI required
- Knowledge on health programs on HIV and TB in Eswatini
- Good interpersonal, analytical, written and verbal skills are essential
- Fluency in English and SiSwati is required
- Computer literacy, including use of basic Microsoft packages (Word, Excel & PowerPoint) and statistical packages

If you are interested in any of these positions, please send by e-mail or hand deliver a Cover Letter, a detailed current Curriculum Vitae and certified copies of academic qualifications, clearly stating the position you are applying for and your preferred region, to:

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Swazi Plaza
Mbabane
Email: egpa-hr-swz@pedaids.org
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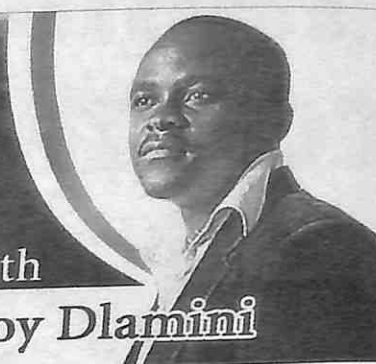
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...With

Wonderboy Dlamini



Lubombo chiefs call for prayers at chiefdoms

TRADITIONAL leaders under the Lubombo region have called upon the Christian fraternity leaders to organise prayer services at their various imphakatsi.

The traditional authorities are of the view that prayer is the only way that can bring stability in communities.

This was said by Chief Mawandla Gamedze, who spoke on behalf of traditional leaders during the Lubombo regional prayer service which was held at Matsetsa School for the Deaf last Friday.

The region was having its third annual prayer service, which was graced by Minister of Tinkhundla Development and Administration David Ngcamphalala.

Gamedze commended the regional administration office for having initiated the prayer services, which also help in bringing unity among churches in the region. He noted that church leaders from all denominations were given equal slots to share the Word of God during the services.

"As leaders of the communities, we are happy to see such unity prevailing in the churches through these services," said Chief Gamedze.

Having seen the unifying power



LET'S PRAY: Chief Mawandla Gamedze and Chief Maphilingo Shongwe following proceedings during the prayer service.

of the services, Gamedze ordered the church leaders to work on strategies to host similar services at their various imphakatsi.

Host

The chief said traditional leaders were ready to host such services at their respective imphakatsi.

He recalled that in the past, such prayer services were a norm at the various imphakatsi.

"We are hoping that since we

have now had the regional prayer, the services will decentralise to the imphakatsi.

"The notion that Eswatini is a Christian country must not just be lip-service, but it must reflect even in the way of life in the communities," said the chief.

Meanwhile, Gamedze called upon residents of the region to take the regional prayer services seriously and attend in their numbers. He acknowledged that many chal-

lenges which were faced by the region would be solved through the power of prayer.

Gamedze further called upon the Christians to believe that their prayers have already been answered. The gathering prayed for the country to recover from the current financial crisis.

They also prayed for unity in the chiefdoms, decline in the crime rate, amongst other issues affecting the region.

Angry customers drop spoilt meat at EEC premises after blackout

A thunderstorm which was experienced in some parts of the Lubombo region has left hundreds of homesteads in Siteki without electricity supply for over two days.

The thunderstorm, which was accompanied by strong winds, was experienced on Saturday evening. Areas such as Mhlumeni, Lugongolweni, Mlindazwe, Moyeni, Siteki CBD, Mzilikazi and others reported electricity outages immediately after the storm subsided.

Yesterday, a number of customers crammed the Siteki Depot of Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) to make a follow up on their reported faults. The visibly frustrated customers claimed to have reported faults on Saturday evening, but until yesterday, they had not been attended to. Some also alleged to have reported similar faults last Friday.

To illustrate their frustration, some of the customers brought spoilt meat portions and dropped them at the entrance point of the EEC offices. They stated that the electricity outage had resulted to food-stuffs which had been kept in refrigerators getting spoiled. "Right now I have no food in the house after my foodstuff which could be valued at over E1 000 have just gone to waste," said a visibly angry lady, who was found at the EEC offices. Business in the town centre was said to have also been affected when an electricity outage was experienced in the early hours of yesterday. Affected businesses included those which are housed within the main Siteki market. The customers said they were mostly infuriated by the staff at the EEC offices, as they seemed not to be taking them seriously. Meanwhile, some workers who were found at the depot disclosed that there have been over 600 faults reported around Siteki alone. By noon yesterday, the technicians were said to have only attended to less than half of the reported faults.

'Christian fraternity ashamed of some church leaders'

THE Christian fraternity is reportedly feeling ashamed of some church leaders who constantly find themselves listed amongst law breakers and engaging in adulterous affairs.

This was stated by Pastor Themba Malangwane during the Lubombo regional prayer service which was held at Matsetsa School for the Deaf last Friday.

Amongst the prayer items, the gathering prayed for sound leadership in churches.

When delivering his sermon, Malangwane noted that some churches were led by individuals who have 'anointed' and decorated themselves with titles such as pastor, reverend, evangelist, among other titles, while their social behaviour appeared to be the opposite of how Christians should present themselves in the



ALSO THERE: Lubombo REO Musa Mthupha and Siteki Mayor Bhukumuzi Ngomane were also present during the regional prayer service.

communities.

In a jocular manner, Malangwane

said for instance, you would find a number of children mothered

by different women in the same church looking more like the leader of the church.

"This is why you would find more women than men in most churches; men are not happy with the way some church leaders conduct themselves in the communities," he said. Malangwane further warned Christians against being judgemental to people who still want to repent from their sins.

He noted that Christians would have a bad attitude when a known non-believer visit their church for a Sunday service.

"Christians must learn to accommodate all people, regardless of their religious beliefs," said the pastor. Malangwane the senior Pastor of Evangelical Assemblies at Simunye said people learn more from what a Christian does than what he speaks.

The visibly frustrated customers claimed to have reported faults on Saturday evening, but until yesterday, they had not been attended

POLICE HAVE SHORTAGE OF WORKING TOOLS

BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlango

SHISELWENI Regional Secretary Zwakele Dlamini says Eswatini's laws were lax when it comes to protecting police officers.

He said unless something is done, members of the public will continue abusing police officers.

He said it was time the courts hand down heavy sentences on anyone who would be found to have abused police officers on duty.

The RS was speaking during the visit of Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini, who met with Shiselweni police as part of his familiarisation tour. The police service falls under the PM's office.

The RS said it was worrying to see police officers assaulted yet they are trying to maintain law and order.

He said that the way things were happening in the country, it was not different that there were no laws to protect police officers when going about their duties. "It is high time the country enacts laws which will specifically deal with the imbeciles who disturb police when executing their duties. Police need to be protected and for someone

to have the guts of beating up a police officer, it shows that our laws need to be tightened. In other countries such as in America, there is a heavy penalty for anyone found to have beaten or assaulted a police officer. It's time we do the same even in this country," said Dlamini.

The RS told the PM that police officers in the region were dedicated to their work. He said even the working relationship with all the government departments was good. "I must say as the regional administration office, we are happy with the way police are doing their work," said Dlamini.

Believed

The RS turned to the PM saying he was appointed to the position at a time when things were tough for the country. He said he believed in the PM adding that he was hopeful that he (PM) would save the country.

Dlamini stated that the PM was capable of making things happen including reviving the economy which has taken a nose dive. He said with the police service being a critical body whose work needs to be taken serious, the PM and his cabinet should do something with regard to the budget for the service. He said it was an open secret that there were not enough resources in the police ser-

vice, hence at times, police encounter problems in executing their work.

Hitchhiking

"It is sad to see police officers sacrifice their own resources when doing government's work. There is a need to fast-track implementing the police budget, it should be a priority and should not be delayed as the present situation has turned us as a country, into a laughing stock.

"There is no way the officers have been motivated when considering that they don't have working tools. Others are found hitchhiking to attend to accidents or to crime scenes. Something needs to be done honourable PM," said the RS.

About promotions, the RS said it was worrying that it was like officers from the region were not considered. He said when promotions were announced, the list of promoted officers were usually dominated by the other regions.

"Officers from the region are left out each time promotions are announced and if there are those that are fortunate to be considered, the number is usually low compared to those promoted in the other regions. You then start wondering what criteria is used in this exercise," said Dlamini.

Car lands in ditch as driver avoids dog

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

TWO men appeared before the court following being involved in accidents while trying to avoid hitting stray animals.

They appeared before Magistrate Lenhle Zulu. Ncamiso Simelane told the court that he was trying to avoid hitting a cat and in the event he ended up knocking down two teenagers aged 15 at Mvakwelitje on February 5.

He stated that while avoiding the cat, the teenagers emerged from a corner and he did not see them in time. Luckily, the minors did not sustain severe injuries when the accident occurred.

Helps

He pleaded for leniency and told the court that he is unemployed, adding that he survived through piece jobs and as a breadwinner he helps look after his grandmother and his children. He was sentenced to five months in prison with an option of a fine of E500.

However, the sentence was wholly suspended on condition that he does not commit a similar offence.

Meanwhile, Vuyo Evans Mbatsana also appeared in court having been



arrested on February 4 at Mpolonjeni after recklessly driving his motor vehicle into a ditch.

Swerved

He told the court that he was trying to avoid knocking down a dog and by the time he swerved his car on track it was too late as it was in the ditch.

He further stated that according to his knowledge it was unlawful for one to knock an animal on the road which is why he took the liberty of swerving his car not knowing that there was a ditch nearby. He also pleaded for leniency.

"You would have rather died than hit a dog Mr Mbatsana?" asked Magistrate Zulu.

He was sentenced to six months in prison with an option of a fine of E600 and the sentence was wholly suspended with a warning that he should be careful when driving.

CIT lecturer wears suit in court to impress magistrate

BY BAHLE GAMA
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

A CIT lecturer left the court in stitches of laughter when he told Magistrate Lenhle Zulu that he spent his money to buy a new suit to impress her.

Phumlani Mamba had been to court for recklessly driving his motor vehicle and in the event knocked another vehicle and he was charged for contravening Section 89(1) as read with Section 85 together with Section 122 (2) of the Road Traffic Act No 6 of 2007.

He pleaded for leniency and told the court that he was in the process of fixing both cars as the damage was severe.

He further disclosed that he also

bought a suit to wear in court, much to the amusement of everyone in court. "I bought this suit to impress the magistrate as I heard that first impressions last," he said leaving the entire court room in stitches of laughter.

He further disclosed that he saw on television that when people had to appear in court they wore suits and as a first time offender he thought he ought to do that as well.

"You watch a lot of television Mr Mamba," said Magistrate Zulu.

He was sentenced to six months in prison with an option of a fine of E600 and the sentence was wholly suspended.

"It's not that I'm impressed, don't get it confused Mr Mamba," said Magistrate Zulu, cracking everybody up some more.

TICKING TIME BOMB:



NCENGANI ECELENI... SIMO SIBUCALU: Motorists are now forced to drive on the road side in a bid to avoid damaging their cars on the potholes along the Motshane/Pigg's Peak road. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

'Storm forced me to drive while drunk'

BY WONDERBOY DLAMINI
Siteki

A motorist who was nabbed driving while under the influence of alcohol blamed his act on the hail storm which was experienced on Sunday evening.

Some parts of the Lubombo region were exposed to a heavy hailstorm on Sunday evening after an instant gathering of clouds.

The sudden change of weather also saw motorists driving off the roads

to avoid further damage to their vehicles. In the meantime, some of these drivers were intoxicated.

Bongani Sibandze (31) of Malindza appeared before the magistrate's court after he was nabbed driving while under the influence of alcohol. He was charged for contravening the Road Traffic Act of 2007. He was alleged to have driven a motor vehicle while the content of alcohol in his system read as 0.77 mg/l, which is above the legal limit which stands at 0.38 mg/l. Particulars of the offence included that the accused person drove

the vehicle in a zig-zag manner, posing a danger to other motorists. When the charge sheet was read to him, the accused pleaded guilty to the charge.

Risk

He appealed to the court to hand him a lenient sentence, saying that he was a first time offender. The accused told the court that he actually did not mean to drive the vehicle while drunk. He stated that he felt compelled to drive home after noting the clouds gathering. "I was thinking of my children back home, and decided to risk by taking to the road,"



he said. He said he was eventually arrested by the police who overtook him while making his way home. The accused person was eventually

found guilty by the court.

He was accordingly sentenced to three months in a correctional facility with an option to pay E1 000 fine.



FOR THE NEEDY: Local motorcycle group members, the Swazi Orphans MCC, have donated part of the rice which was given to them by the Chinese Association –Kai Chi to the needy opharns and the elderly people of Edwaleni community over the past weekend. Handing over the rice to the area's Prince Bhokokwakhe of Mphini is the Swazi Opharns' Sean 'Blade' Nord, while Gracia and Thandie look on. (Pics: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

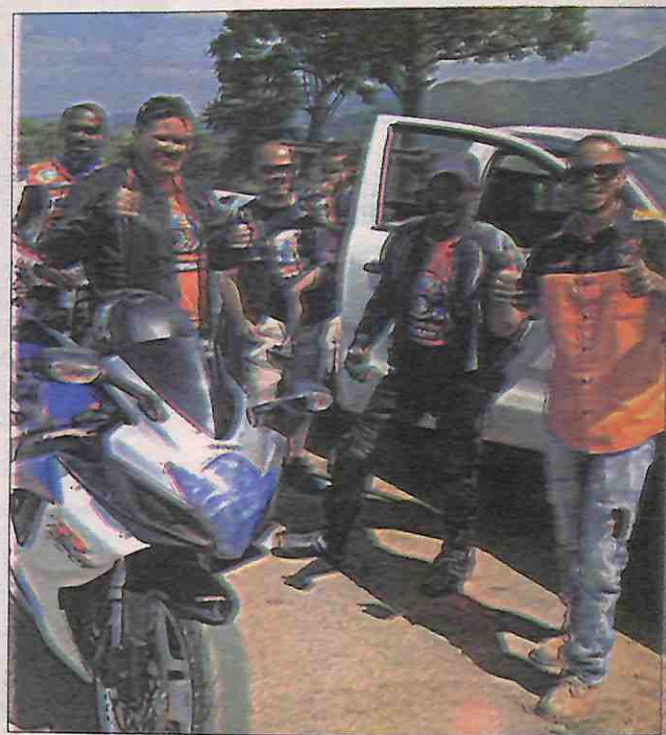
SWAZI ORPHANS MCC DONATES RICE TO EDWALENI COMMUNITY



CARING: The Swazi Orphans MCC members pose with some of the needy people and the rice from Chinese Association.



FROM THE BIKERS' HEARTS: Some of the bikes parked next to the bags of rice before the presentation. (R)SHARE: Some of the residents leave with their bags of rice.



ORGANISED: Members of Swazi Orphans MCC pose on their way to the Edwaleni Umphakatsi.



(L) WITH LOVE FROM TAIWAN: The residents in a queue for the rice.

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- PC Upgrading & Repairs
- Human Resource Development
- Accounting & Finance
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- Tourism & Business Studies

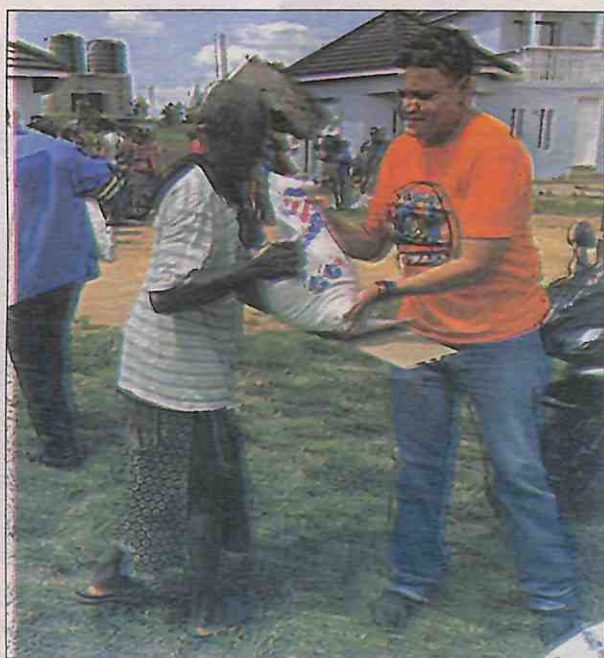
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BAMBA: The club's Treasurer Thandie hands over a bag of rice to an elderly man.



SPEND WISELY: Swazi Opharns MCC President Sean Nord speaking at the presentation. He also thanked the Taiwan community for being the donor for this special initiative. "As bikers one of our duties is doing charity work and we feel happy to put smiles on the faces of the vulnerable and needy elders of Eswatini," he added.

What's in Your Mind

info@observer.org.sz

Features & Opinions

Refresh What You Think

PASTOR WAKES UP 'DEAD' MAN!

...TOO MANY QUESTIONS, NOT ENOUGH ANSWERS

JOHANNESBURG - It's a Sunday morning and a healing and deliverance miracle service is on at the Alleluia Ministries International Church, north of Joburg, led by Pastor Alph Lukau.

Wheelchair-bound congregants are rising up and walking, those who struggle to walk and use crutches toss them aside and start running. But something much bigger is about to hit.

While these miracles were still going on inside the church, a hearse pulls up outside, with weeping family members in tow.

Lukau is called outside to tend to the mourners, who've brought a deceased man in a coffin. He'd allegedly been dead since Friday.

Some minutes later, the coffin is opened, with thousands of eyes now watching, Lukau lays his hands on the dead man in a white suit named Elliot, prays and boom! - the man is brought back to life.

Miracle

The congregants and Elliot's family lose it. A miracle has happened right before their eyes and in broad daylight.

A clip of the 'miracle' is posted on social media, sending users into a frenzy over the authenticity of this alleged act of God wrought through the hands of a 'man of God'.

Questions from the public have varied: Is this real? Why did the man not look like someone who'd been dead two days? Where is his death certificate? Why was he not immediately tended to by a health care professional?

The funeral parlour which brought the coffin to the church, Kings and Queens Funerals, were duped into being part of the spectacle.

The questions outnumber the answers by far.

Of course, social media could not pass the opportunity to turn this into a challenge. Introducing the Dead Man Challenge.



RISE: A 'dead' man in a coffin was brought to Alleluia Ministries International church to be prayed for by Pastor Alph Lukau.



DEAD MAN WALKING: The 'miracle' performed at Alleluia Ministries.



THEN HE ROSE: The 'dead' man rose from the dead.

Lukau no stranger to controversy

LUKAU may be unfamiliar to some, but he is no stranger to controversy.

In 2016, he made news headlines and was even the subject of an investigation by eNCA's Checkpoint after he held a gala dinner at the Gallagher Conference Centre, where thousands of single and divorced women were invited to come and be prayed for so they could find their soulmates and get married.

This gala dinner did not come cheap though. The cheapest ticket was R450, while R5 000 got attendees a seat at the VIP section.

The following Sunday at his church, a mass wedding was held with women who'd attended the dinner getting married to their partners.

Lukau has also raised eyebrows for claiming to heal HIV/AIDS, TB and other illnesses.

However, unlike his counterparts Prophet Shepherd Bushiri and Timothy Omotoso, Lukau has not faced any criminal charges nor had he been referred to the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Cultural and Religious Rights (CRL).

He has, however, been embroiled in a legal battle with South African-based Nigerian journalist Solomon Ashoms after Lukau sued Ashoms for defamation of character after the journalist claimed he was a fake preacher on his Facebook account.

-Eyewitness News

“Lukau has also raised eyebrows for claiming to heal HIV/AIDS, TB and other illnesses”

ON THIS DAY

...February 26

1815 - Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from the Island of Elba. He then began his second conquest of France.

1848 - The second French Republic was proclaimed.

1863 - US President Lincoln signed the National Currency Act.

1870 - In New York City, the first pneumatic-powered subway line was opened to the public. (Beach Pneumatic Transit)

1881 - SS Ceylon began his world-wide cruise, beginning in Liverpool, England.

1907 - The US Congress raised their own pay to \$7500.

1916 - Mutual signed Charlie Chaplin to a film contract.

1919 - In Arizona, the Grand Canyon was established as a National Park with an act of the US Congress.

1929 - US President Coolidge signed a bill creating the Grand Teton National Park.

1930 - New York City installed traffic lights.

1933 - A ground-breaking ceremony was held at Crissy Field for the Golden Gate Bridge.

1945 - In the US, a nationwide midnight curfew went into effect.

1952 - British Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed an atomic bomb.

1957 - The Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award was established by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

1979 - 'Flatbush' debuted on CBS-TV.

1986 - Corazon Aquino was inaugurated president of the Philippines. Long time President Ferdinand Marcos went into exile.

1987 - The Tower Commission rebuked US President Reagan for failing to control his national security staff in the wake of the Iran-Contra affair.

1987 - The USSR conducted its first nuclear weapons test after a 19-month moratorium period.

1991 - Iraqi President Saddam Hussein announced on Baghdad Radio that Iraqi troops were being withdrawn from Kuwait.

1993 - Six people were killed and more than a thousand injured when a van exploded in the parking garage beneath the World Trade Center in New York City. The bomb had been built by Islamic extremists.

1995 - Barings PLC collapsed after a securities dealer lost more than US\$1.4 billion by gambling on Tokyo stock prices. The company was Britain's oldest investment banking firm.

1998 - A Texas jury rejected an US\$11 million lawsuit by Texas cattlemen who blamed Oprah Winfrey for price drop after on-air comment about mad-cow disease.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Michael Bolton (Rock Singer) - February 26, 1953 (66 years old)



DeRay Davis (Comedian) - February 26, 1968 (51)



BACKWARDS: A water reservoir in the Louga region of Northern Senegal.

How pollution and greenhouse gases affect the climate in Sahel

OVER the last decade many countries in the Sahel region – the semi-arid southern edge of the Sahara that stretches from Senegal to Ethiopia – have been embroiled in conflict.

Populations in these countries are growing. This means that resources are increasingly scarce, and a highly variable climate is making agriculture based livelihoods more uncertain.

These events in the region have been linked to climate change.

Over the last 100 years there have been major swings in the region's climate. Abundant rains in the 1950s and 1960s were followed by persistent drought in the 1970s and 1980s. The period since the mid-1990s is characterised by the alternation of good and bad years.

My latest research attributes this evolution to emissions from fossil fuel burning. We show that the most recent generation of global climate models account for the Sahel's persistent drought when information about emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases is included.

And that these models can do that. This is because they simulate changes in ocean temperatures and in regional rain consistently with what's observed in the real world.

This is the first time that the 20th century evolution of rainfall over a region is shown to have been directly affected by human emissions – specifically pollutants and greenhouse gases. It's also the first time that a single argument is proposed that consistently explains natural fluctuations and anthropogenic change. This argument rests on the influence of the oceans on regional climate.

DRYING SAHEL

The Sahel gets its rain from moisture that is carried by monsoon winds from the North Atlantic Ocean.

As air rises, it cools and condenses the moisture that falls back as rain. The warmer the North Atlantic Ocean, the greater the moisture that evaporates from its surface and is carried onto

land, the wetter the Sahel.

But whether air can rise locally depends on where else air is rising globally. For example, during an El Niño event, air rises over a much warmer tropical Pacific, and, sinking elsewhere, produces widespread drought.

During the second half of the 20th century greenhouse gases warmed the tropical oceans, making conditions for air to rise elsewhere similarly unfavourable.

At the same time the amounts of fine solid particles – known as sulfate aerosols – that were emitted by coal-fired plants increased, as countries rebuilt their economies after World War II.

These cooled the North Atlantic directly, by reflecting incoming solar radiation, as well as indirectly, by favouring the formation of clouds which in turn reflect incoming radiation.

Our analysis of an ensemble of 29 global climate models shows that the unique combination of the warming of tropical oceans – caused by greenhouse gases – and cooling of the North Atlantic Ocean – caused by sulfate aerosols – that characterised the second half of the 20th century led to the drying of the Sahel.

Our analysis also shows that despite the role of greenhouse gases in past drought, drought is

not necessarily the future of climate change in the Sahel.

Now that sulfate aerosol emissions have been drastically reduced around the North Atlantic, thanks to environmental legislation aimed at reducing acid rain and the public health consequences of pollution, warming has picked up in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Therefore, projections for wetter conditions under warming are in line with the explanation given above: air can now rise over the Sahel, fuelled by the increased moisture imported from a warming North Atlantic Ocean, in a challenge to the sinking motion imposed by warming tropical oceans elsewhere.

Projections are also in line with emerging trends in observations toward a more vigorous water cycle: the more intense, though perhaps less frequent, rainfall events that have led to recurrent episodes of flooding over the past decade.

FUTURE POLICIES

Attribution of Sahel drought to emissions demonstrates that climate change is real, and is already here. Technologies to adapt to drought and more generally to climate variability do exist.

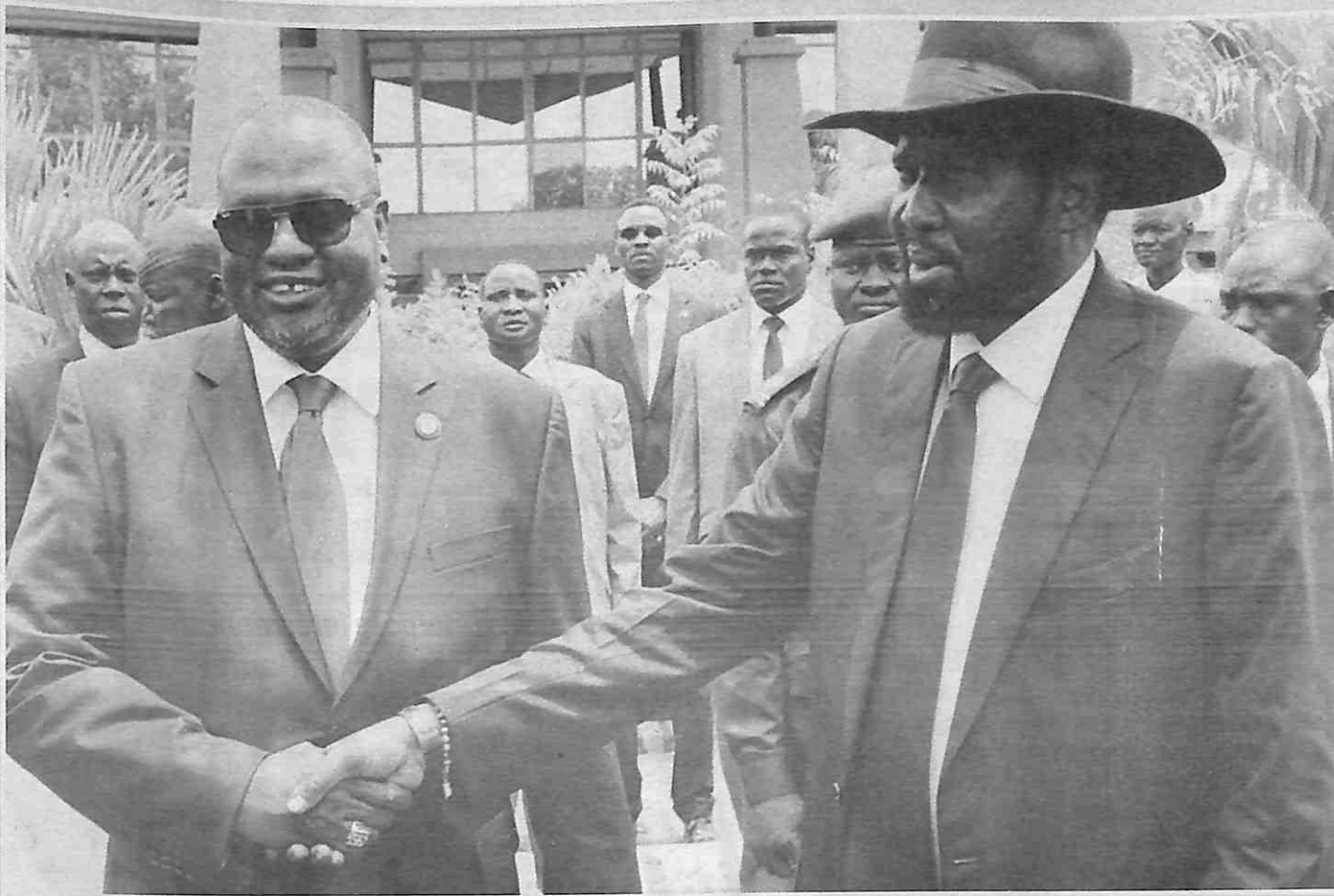
They include seasonal climate prediction and land management practices like agro-forestry, conservation agriculture, and soil and water conservation, which already play a role in resilience building.

However, given the societal pressures mentioned at the outset, to develop the Sahel needs to diversify economies away from agriculture. This needs a lot more energy than is produced in the Sahel at present.

Within the global context of climate change policy it is mitigation that opens up the opportunity to develop sustainably, with support for an energy transition toward renewable energy particularly appealing in a region endowed by an abundance of sun and wind.

-The Conversation

“This is the first time that the 20th century evolution of rainfall over a region is shown to have been directly affected by human emissions – specifically pollutants and greenhouse gases”



PEACE: South Sudan President Salva Kiir (right) shaking hands with former rebel leader and Vice President, Riek Machar.

S. Sudan peace deal offers promising end to conflict

JUBA - Many attempts at ceasefires and peace deals have failed in South Sudan.

But a 2018 peace agreement, signed five years after the 2013 conflict began, has inspired hope for a lasting peace treaty.

As part of the deal, former rebel leader Riek Machar has rejoined the government and resumed his vice president duties. However, it's still unclear when Machar will return to the capital Juba.

The young nation hasn't fared well since the optimism that was felt around the world when the Republic gained its independence on July 9, 2011.

Trouble began in December 2013, a mere 17 months after independence, when a power struggle within the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement divided the political party.

The movement is the political wing of the guerrilla army that led the struggle for independence.

President Salva Kiir retained leadership of the movement and his deputy, resigned from government to form the SPLM In Opposition.

The split triggered a new civil war between the two men's supporters. It started in Juba but by the start of 2014 it had spread across the country.

Sudan had once again descended into chaos assisted in no small way by the interference of its neighbours. Both Uganda and Sudan are reported to have backed factions during the war.

The expectation for sustained peace and prosperity had begun to fizzle until late 2018 when a revitalised peace deal was reached.

The hope is that peace will prevail. But after so many failed attempts to end hostilities there is some scepticism. Can this latest truce hold?

PROMISING ENDING

This deal certainly offers a promising end to

the young nation's conflict. Since the regionally brokered agreement was reached, President Kiir has also signed a declaration giving amnesty to the troops, army generals, and leaders of the SPLM in Opposition.

The amnesty included Vice President Machar and was an important gesture showing Kiir's commitment to moving on from the senseless war.

Moves such as these inspire optimism because they suggest that the government of South Sudan is finally committed to creating a functioning republic. So far Kiir and Machar have shown a willingness to act responsibly towards the successful implementation of the peace process.

But a lot still remains to be done. Stakeholders like the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union, United Nations, and other state and non-state actors must actively support the peace process. Their first challenge would be to manage the region's refugee problem.

“Trouble began in December 2013, a mere 17 months after independence, when a power struggle within the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement divided the political party”

REFUGEE MANAGEMENT

Regional stability should be considered a priority. East Africa is a volatile region with many shared problems.

A political challenge in any given state has the potential to immediately impact neighbouring states. And conflicts in any of the countries in the region have over the years created a variety of problems, one of which is an enduring refugee crisis.

Ethiopia now tops the global list of countries with the highest number of internally displaced citizens. Meanwhile, more than 800 000 Somalis have sought asylum in neighbouring countries.

In South Sudan, 2.4 million people have fled to neighbouring countries because of the war. Just over 2 million are internally displaced. Together, this is more than one third of the country's population.

This is a humanitarian crisis as well as a security risk because refugees are often targeted for recruitment by rebels, and even terrorists.

Refugee management and successful repatriation of nationals must therefore be a key pillar of South Sudan's peace strategy.

SOLID COMMITMENT

The second dragon that South Sudan must slay is disunity. The two SPLMs must present a united front. Their conflict resolution arrangements must be upheld at all costs.

If Kiir and Machar succeed in holding it together this time around the people of South Sudan may have a genuine shot at a peaceful existence. Which is not to say they won't face some obstacles along the way.

There have already been a few violations to the cease fire agreement. This is a worrying development that must be nipped in the bud if South Sudan, its neighbours, and the world are truly committed to a viable peace process.

-The Conversation

Wit and Wisdom

“Meditation is the art of doing nothing.” - **Naval Ravikant**

“Meditation is not evasion; it is a serene encounter with reality.” - **Thich Nhat Hanh**

“Even in the midst of disturbance, the stillness of the mind can offer sanctuary.” - **Stephen Richards**

“Learn to slow down. Get lost intentionally. Observe how you judge both yourself and those around you.” - **Tim Ferriss**

“Suffering is due to our disconnection with the inner soul. Meditation is establishing that connection.” - **Amit Ray**

“To really do nothing, with perfection, is as difficult as doing everything.” - **Alan Watts**

“You have a treasure within you that is infinitely greater than anything the world can offer.” - **Eckhart Tolle**

“Wisdom comes with the ability to be still. Just look and listen. No more is needed.” - **Eckhart Tolle**

“Be here now. Be someplace else later. Is that so complicated?” - **David M. Bader**

“Live the actual moment. Only this actual moment is life.” - **Thich Nhat Hanh**

“Don't seek, don't search, don't ask, don't knock, don't demand – relax.” - **Osho**

“Meditation practice isn't about trying to throw ourselves away and become something better. It's about befriending who we are already.” - **Pema Chödrön**

“In practicing meditation, we're not trying to live up to some kind of ideal – quite the opposite. We're just being with our experience, whatever it is.” - **Pema Chödrön**

“Life is a mystery – mystery of beauty, bliss and divinity. Meditation is the art of unfolding that mystery.” - **Amit Ray**

“Paradise is not a place, it's a state of consciousness.” - **Sri Chinmoy**

“Whatever state I am in, I see it as a state of mind to be accepted as it is.” - **Nisargadatta Maharaj**

“When we are unable to find tranquility within ourselves, it is useless to seek it elsewhere.” - **Francois de La Rochefoucauld**

“You are more than just your mind. You are more than just your habits. You are more than just your preferences. You're a level of awareness.” - **Naval Ravikant**

“To be concentrated means to live fully in the present.” - **Erich Fromm**

“Meditation is the discovery that the point of life is always arrived at in the immediate moment.” - **Alan Watts**

“The mind is definitely something that can be transformed, and meditation is a means to transform it.” - **Dalai Lama**

“The more tranquil a man becomes, the greater is his success, his influence, his power for good.” - **James Allen**

BUSINESS UPDATE

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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

MTS

Correct as at 25 FEB 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	13.9170	13.9670
British Pound/SZL	18.1972	18.2626
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.9201	7.9478
Swiss France/SZL	13.9309	13.9796
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3110	1.3269
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.9534	9.9920
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.5913	10.6286
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	15.7916	15.8484
Gold	1,331.3800	
Oil	67.45	

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



Standard Bank

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

MTN Eswatini has reviewed the international calling rates to nine countries.

The review was effected last week Thursday.

Interconnection rates are fees mobile operators charge each other and other network operators for carrying call traffic from their networks to their destination.

Some of the nine countries in which the tariffs will be effected are Zambia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Somalia, Cuba and Mauritania.

In effecting this change, MTN Eswatini sent messages to customers last week Wednesday and further engaged on social media on this development.

An interview was further made on national radio on Thursday morning to primarily allay fears that such increase is a blanket increase.

MTN Eswatini Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lumphondvo said they would continue engaging their valued customers as some still need clarification on the price review.

"We further assure our customers that this is not a blanket increase to all destinations but only those highlighted in the table below," he said.

MTN INCREASES INTERNATIONAL CALL TARIFFS

...This follows an announcement to increase interconnection fees by Eswatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC),



Destination	Old	New
Zambia	5.1	7
Uganda	5.1	5.1
Africa Mauritania (+222)	5.1	7
Somalia(252)	5.1	7.2
Zimbabwe(263)	5.1	7
Cuba	6.2	9
Maldives Mobile Other	6.2	12.5
Maldives Mobile Wataniya	6.2	12.5
Slovenia APK	6.2	7

Y'ELLO: MTN Eswatini Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lumphondvo.

Eswatini targeting 50% electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

ESWATINI has set a target to have 50 percent of all electricity consumed in the country generated from renewable energy sources by 2030.

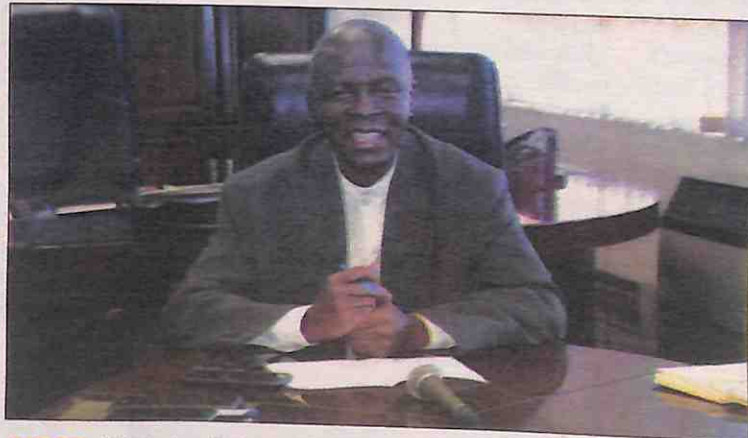
This is also contained in the Energy Master Plan by the ministry of natural resources and energy, which will provide a long term planning roadmap for the development of new generation capacity for the country from 2018 to 2034.

This was revealed by Acting Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Prince Simelane during the opening of the Electrifying Eswatini's Sustainable Future seminar hosted by Siemens last Thursday.

In his remarks, the minister said the Plan has stemmed the short-term generation expansion plan which provides information on the first technologies, initial capacities and timing of the generation capacity to be procured and delivered within the next five years.

"This short-term generation expansion plan identified solar photo voltaic and biomass power projects to be procured in the first procurement

...government implementing a new policy under which the procurement of new power generation IPPs will be undertaken through public competitive tendering processes



HOST: Minister Prince Simelane.

rounds," he said.

The minister also mentioned that government was tirelessly working towards increasing the country's energy security by reducing reliance on electricity imports, which currently sit at around 80 per cent, as the country is only able to generate about 20 per cent of its electricity needs.

"This aligns with the country's vision of attaining first world status by 2022 as sustainable energy supplies remains the key driver for

socio-economic growth. His majesty the king, in his recent Parliament Opening speech, underscored the importance of turning around the energy situation by looking into strategies to create enough energy for the entire country and export any surplus produced.

"In order to achieve this goal, government has been and will continue encouraging the development of renewable energy projects to meet our clean energy objectives and to underpin sustainable economic

growth," he said. The minister however noted that government cannot achieve this task alone but needs to work with the private sector.

"To foster our partnership with the private sector and to ensure the orderly development of new generation capacity that will achieve government's strategic objectives, government is now implementing a new policy under which the procurement of new power generation by independent power producers (IPPs) will be undertaken through public competitive tendering processes based on the country's laws, regional and international best-practice.

"As opposed to the unsolicited generation capacity procurement method, the competitive tendering process will ultimately benefit electricity users in the country as bidders will offer most competitive tariffs in relation to the technology being employed. I can mention that in the next few weeks, a request for Qualification will be launched to mark the beginning of the procurement process," he said.



The Ezulwini residents following the proceedings at Sibane Hotel. (Pics: Qondile Ntiwane)

Ezulwini residents give 30 year IDP a nod

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

EZULWINI – There has been a positive response and interactions as Ezulwini residents were engaged by the Municipal Council to contribute towards the town's 30 year Integrated Development Plan.

The council, last week, had consultative meetings with residents from various wards at the Eswatini Water Services Corporation auditorium and Sibane Hotel conference room respectively, with both venues attracting high turn outs.

The Chief Executive Officer Vusumutiwendvodza Matsebula said the response from the residents showed that they were eager to contribute to the development of the town.

"Both meetings have been very successful and engaging. We are quite impressed by the turn out as at Sibane the whole room was full with almost everyone raising their hand and making an input on how

we can develop. We will take all their suggestions into consideration and look towards implementing," he said.

Matsebula explained that IDP was an approach to planning that involved the entire municipality and its citizens in finding the best solutions to achieve good long-term development.

"The IDP process leads to decisions on issues such as municipal budgets, land-use management, promotion of local economic development and institutional transformation in a consultative, systematic and strategic manner," he stated.

The Mayor of

We encourage you to get to know your councilors and keep such development conversations going so we find solutions to service you better

Ezulwini Bongile Mbingo also appreciated the participation of the residents and encouraged them to continue engaging council daily on developmental issues.

"We encourage you to get to know your councilors and keep such development conversations going so we find solutions to service you better," she said.

The Mayor said the importance of the participation of residents and other affected parties in the development of Ezulwini could not be overemphasised as it helped create a sense of ownership of the urban area and in turn created civic pride.

Some of the main and common suggestions raised were around issues of improving security in the town and how to make Ezulwini continue to be a tourism destination of choice.

The IDP process has seen the council meet with business owners, utilities, umphakatsi, market vendors and now the residents.

...Residents concerned about 'mushrooming' guesthouses

EZULWINI – Ezulwini residents have expressed concern over what they have termed mushrooming guesthouses in residential areas.

The resident said during the consultative meetings with the Ezulwini Municipal Council, that they feared that in the next few years, Ezulwini would be more of a commercial than a residential area.

They therefore called on the council to ensure that they maintain a clear zoning between residential and commercial properties as the town continues to develop.

The Council CEO Vusumutiwendvodza Matsebula assured the residents that they would maintain the balance and said the town was clearly zoned.

"We have different zonings between residential and commercial areas. That said though there are applications that are made for rezoning and special consents but we always view all these within the policies and laws to ensure they do not infringe on ratepayers and residents," he said.

Matsebula thanked the residents for their suggestions.

REMARKS: Ezulwini Mayor Bongile Mbingo making her remarks



Council begins property valuation exercise

EZULWINI – The Ezulwini Municipal Council has begun a property valuation exercise and will issue out notices on a draft valuation roll of 2018/19 on May 7.

Town Treasurer Ruth Maziya made this announcement during a meeting with residents last Tuesday and Thursday stating that the deadline for submission of objection to this roll was June 6.

She also informed residents that Council had appointed Christian Amoako & Co Pty Ltd to prepare the 2018/2019 General Valuation Roll.

"The Valuer will have an identification card and a letter introducing him or her to enter into and upon any land or buildings within the Ezulwini urban area at all reason-

able hours during the day time. This started on February 11 and is expected to be end on March 16, 2019," she said.

Approve

She said this was in line with Section 10 of the Rating Act which states, "The Local Authority shall from time to time, but not less than once every 5 years, or such longer or shorter periods as the Minister may approve, cause a valuation to be made of all immovable property within its area and cause a valuation roll to be prepared."

She humbly requested residents to participate and cooperate with the exercise. During the IDP consultation meeting, the residents had a chance to pose questions on the roll out of the valuation roll as well to the appointed Valuer.



APPOINTED: Christian Amoako who has been appointed the Valuator, explaining his role.



STRESSING A POINT: The CEO addressing residents at the EWSC Auditorium.



DISCIPLINE is a way of behaving that shows a willingness to obey rules or orders.

The FSRA desirous to improve the consumer's money management skills. That could mean helping consumers get out of debt, invest, make money, save money, or plan for retirement. Almost any consumer or entity can improve their financial position by following a simple set of rules and sticking to those rules.

A financial guide for consumers.

Mismanaging money is equivalent to throwing it away and consumers need to learn to make informed decisions when it comes to issues of money.

1. Be accountable for your spending

Make sure that your spending is tracked as it helps to stay accountable for money used. If you are aware of your spending per week you can motivate yourself to think twice before making an impulse purchase.

2. Create your household budget

The most effective way to get financial help is to understand personal finances. To achieve this you need to thoroughly analyse daily and monthly spending habits and create a budget.

Find New Ways to Save Money

Saving money should be a lifestyle coupled with financial discipline. It should be an ongoing process of discipline and creative thinking on how to lower your expenses and use the savings to pay your debt and invest in meaningful assets. Start with items such as mortgage and insurance, and then find ways to save on everything else.

3. Give a challenge to yourself

Give yourself a challenge by eliminating unnecessary expenses. For



FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE

instance:

- Cook your food at home every day for a month instead of eating out.
- Not buying any new clothes for sixty days.
- Unsubscribe from all retail newsletters that offer sales you can't resist.

4. Change your environment

To change a habit, one may need to change an environment. Sometimes staying motivated is as simple as frequently reminding yourself of your money objective.

Create triggers that prompt one to

think what to be accomplished every day. For example; having a curfew at home, workplace, car and other strategic places that cannot be avoided. When those prompts get one's attention, they spark fresh inspiration and foster good habits.

5. Learn about stock markets

A stock market is a place, where shares, bonds, and/or derivatives of listed companies are bought and sold. A stock exchange provides a regulated place where brokers and companies meet in order to make

investments on neutral ground.

The stock market may seem very mysterious if consumers never really paid attention to it, or if one haven't learned enough about it to make a few investments of one's own.

6. Learn to save for retirement

Financial advice is to make sure that everyone is ready for retirement, and hopefully, ready to retire early. Retirement planning is not something that is done when turning sixty years old, retirement planning should be factored in to all of savings and

investment decisions throughout an entire life. The more a person have money in his or her bank account, the more money is generated through interest or other accruals.

7. Get support

You might find that it's easier to achieve your money objective with a partner or group than to work on it alone. Consider asking a close friend or spouse to help you stay accountable.

Likewise, you may be able to help him or her set and achieve a money goal. Set a time to check in with each other on a regular basis to report your challenges and progress, so you clear away barriers to success. Knowing that you have the self-control and discipline to achieve your money objective gives you energy to overcome challenges and completely transform your financial life. Information provided in this article is meant for tips that consumers can take to manage their finances.

For more information you can mail stakeholder@fsra.co.sz



Mining billionaire ends bitter Guinea dispute

JERUSALEM - Israeli mining tycoon Beny Steinmetz is making a dramatic return to Guinea after the billionaire ended a bitter dispute with the West African country that brought his business empire to its knees.

The settlement, brokered by former French President Nicolas

Sarkozy, ends a seven-year-old dispute centered around one of the world's richest mineral deposits that included a colorful list of characters from billionaire George Soros to former UK leader Tony Blair and mining heavyweights Rio Tinto Group and Vale SA.

Bloomberg

Stocks climb as China soars on optimism over trade

SHANGHAI - US equity futures advanced alongside stocks in Europe and Asia after President Donald Trump postponed the date for boosting tariffs on Chinese imports, taken as a sign of progress in the trade talks. Bonds fell and the dollar retreated.

The headlines boosted carmakers and miners, fueling an advance in the Stoxx Europe 600 Index, with contracts on the Dow, Nasdaq and S&P all climbing. In

Asia, the Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index rallied the most since 2015 and the yuan strengthened after Trump said he will delay the March 1 trade deadline, and as comments from China President Xi Jinping suggested top officials will focus on growth rather than cracking down on leverage. Emerging-market currencies and shares advanced despite China's state-run Xinhua news agency later publishing a commentary

saying talks will be harder at the final stage. Treasuries and core European bonds slipped, while Italy's securities advanced and the euro strengthened.

"This is a sigh of relief," Ben Emons, managing director for global macro strategy at Medley Global Advisors, told Bloomberg TV. "Markets will still keep a level of caution, but this news is encouraging."

Bloomberg

In one Market South Africa bonds look like junk

JOHANNESBURG - The consensus among economists is that South Africa will hold onto its investment grade status for the time being. Derivatives traders are not so sure.

The cost of insuring South Africa's government debt against default is higher than Brazil's, which has a non-investment grade rating from Moody's Investors Service, S&P Global and Fitch Ratings. South Africa's five-year credit default swaps were trading at 184 basis points

yesterday, compared with 162 for Brazil.

Moody's, which ranks South Africa's debt at the lowest investment level, is reviewing its assessment on March 29. The CDS spread was 164 basis points when the company last reviewed, and affirmed, the rating in November. S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings both cut the country's debt to junk in April 2017.

"The current CDS signals the market pricing in moderate risk of a down-

grade," Shireen Darmalingam, a Johannesburg-based economist at Standard Bank Group Ltd., said in a client note. "Nevertheless, despite South Africa's fiscal outlook now even worse and the economic outlook even bleaker, we believe that Moody's will likely keep the sovereign rating unchanged."

Finance Minister Tito Mboweni's budget last week went some way toward allaying concern about a cut to junk.

Bloomberg

Focus on World News

Global News

EU SEES FIRST ARAB SUMMIT AS RESPONSE TO RUSSIA, CHINA

SHARM EL-SHEIKH - European and Arab leaders last Sunday opened their first summit in a bid to bolster cooperation as EU President Donald Tusk said neighbours 'should not leave it to powers far from our region', alluding to China and Russia.

Host Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi painted a 'bleak' picture for a region hit by wars and terrorism as he appealed for deeper cooperation, in his opening summit speech at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

European Union countries view the summit as a way to protect their traditional diplomatic, economic and security interests while China and Russia move to fill a vacuum left by the United States.

Tusk, the president of the



MEETING: The European Union sees its first summit with Arab leaders as a way to bolster ties in a troubled region.

European Council who organises summits for EU countries, acknowledged 'there are differences between us' but said neighbours had more at stake than distant powers.

"We need to cooperate and not leave it to global powers far from our region," the former Polish

premier told leaders from about 40 countries.

He did not name those powers but an EU source confirmed he meant China and Russia. China is increasing trade with the region and has established a military base in Djibouti. Russia militarily backs Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in his civil war.

EU sources said the first EU-Arab summit is all the more important as the United States "disengages" from the region while Russia and China make inroads.

"We don't want to see this vacuum soaked up by Russia and China," one of the sources told AFP.

AFP

Anger as UK's May asks for yet more time to amend Brexit deal

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May last Sunday called for still more time to renegotiate her Brexit deal, and drew outrage by suggesting parliament may not be able to vote on the text until just 17 days before Britain leaves the EU.

Business leaders and MPs reacted with anger and dismay at the news, which also prompted fresh calls to delay Brexit to avoid a damaging 'no deal' exit on March 29.

Three of May's ministers had earlier warned that the House of Commons would seek a delay if there was no breakthrough this week.

May had raised the possibility of a vote on her deal in the coming days, but said last Sunday she was still negotiating with the European Union. "As we're continuing with those talks, we won't bring a meaningful vote to parliament this week," she said at a summit of European and Arab leaders in Egypt. "But that will happen by March 12. And we still have it within our grasp to leave the European Union with a deal on March 29." Lawmakers last month rejected her withdrawal deal, and since then, May has sought to address their concerns about its so-called 'backstop' plan for the border between Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland.

New Sudan PM sworn in as protesters rally against emergency

KHARTOUM - Bashir imposed a year-long emergency last Friday after a deadly crackdown failed to suppress weeks of protests against his three-decade rule.

The veteran leader, who swept to power in an Islamist-backed coup in 1989, dissolved the cabinet and provincial governments, and pledged to bring in technocrats to help end the economic crisis — the key factor behind the protests.

Last Sunday, former governor of the agricultural state of Jazeera, Mohamed Tahir Ela, was sworn in as the new prime minister at a ceremony, an AFP photographer said.

Defence Minister General Awad Ibnouf was also sworn in as the first vice president after his predecessor Bakri Hassan Saleh was sacked by Bashir.

Bashir also swore in 16 army officers and two officers from the National Intelligence and Security Service as new governors for the country's 18 provinces.



SWORN IN: Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir (3rd-R) swears in Mohamed Tahir Ela (2nd-L) as the country's new prime minister the past Sunday amid protests against the veteran president's rule and calls for him to resign.

He is also expected to announce soon an entire new cabinet as he pushes on with sweeping top level changes in the face of nationwide

protests that have rocked his rule.

Even as the new officials took oath, hundreds of protesters rallied in Omdurman, the twin city of

Khartoum, against the state of emergency. "We want to give the president a message that the state of emergency will not deter us," said protester Sawsan Bashir.

"Our aim is to overthrow this regime and we will do it."

Protest organisers have vowed to continue with daily rallies, accusing Bashir and his officials of mismanaging the economy that has led to soaring food prices and shortage of foreign currency.

Deadly clashes between protesters and security forces have left 31 people dead since protests first erupted on December 19, officials say.

Human Rights Watch says at least 51 people have been killed including medics and children.

Protests initially erupted in the labour town of Atbara after a government decision to triple the price of bread. But the rallies swiftly escalated into protests against Bashir's iron-fisted rule, with protesters calling for his resignation. **AFP**

'Scores killed in Nigeria poll violence'

ABUJA - As many as 35 people were killed in election violence in Nigeria civil society groups said last Sunday after voters went to the polls in a tight presidential race between President Muhammadu Buhari and businessman Atiku Abubakar.

The groups said the death toll during Africa's biggest election were higher than that of the 2015 poll which was widely considered to have been orderly, aside from a Boko Haram attack that killed more than a dozen people.

Past polls have been marred by violence and vote-rigging. Clement Nwankwo, convener of the Situation Room, which represents more than 70 civil society groups, said 16 people were killed in election violence across eight states, while Lagos-based consultancy SBM Intelligence cited 35 deaths. Police did not immediately respond to phone calls and text messages seeking comment. Buhari, 76, a former military ruler who is seeking a second elected term at the helm of Africa's top oil producer on an anti-corruption platform, faces Atiku, 72, a former vice president who has promised to expand the role of the private sector. **Reuters**

BRIEFS

Maduro faces 'diplomatic siege'

CARACAS - Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro faced growing regional pressure last Sunday after his troops repelled foreign aid convoys, with the United States threatening new sanctions and Brazil urging allies to join a 'liberation effort'. Violent clashes with security forces over the opposition's US-backed attempt on Saturday to bring aid into the economically devastated country left almost 300 wounded and at least three protesters dead near the Brazilian border. Juan Guaido, recognised by most Western nations as Venezuela's legitimate leader, urged foreign powers to consider 'all options' in ousting Maduro, ahead of a meeting of the regional Lima Group of nations in Bogota yesterday attended by US Vice President Mike Pence. **Reuters**

Nigerian security personnel ambushed

IPOKIA - Two Nigerian security personnel, escorting election results from Ipokia in Ogun State, have been rushed to hospital after they were ambushed and shot. Sunday's ambush near the border of Benin came as Nigerians went to the polls last Saturday to elect legislative members to represent them in the National Assembly, the Premium Times reported Monday morning. The election officials were on their way to Oronna Town Hall, where they were expected to deliver the local government's house of representative and senatorial election results. Presidential and legislative electoral results are being collated across Nigerian states. During the attack, a security officer and a driver were shot and were subsequently evacuated to hospital. **ANA**

President vows US\$30 billion transfer to villages

JAKARTA - Indonesian President Joko Widodo has pledged to raise the funds the government transfers to villages across the world's fourth most populous country to nearly US\$30 billion over the next five years if he wins a second term in April. The World Bank has questioned the effectiveness of the program, called Village Funds, while there are also concerns about how the transfers can fuel corruption. Widodo, who will be facing former military general Prabowo Subianto in a re-run of the 2014 contest, made the pledge in a televised speech on Sunday night. By the end of 2019, his administration would have transferred 257 trillion rupiah (US\$18.36 billion) to villages and this would rise to 400 trillion rupiah (US\$28.54 billion) if he got another five years, he said. **Reuters**

Ghana opposition picks ex-president to run in 2020

ACCRA - Mahama was the overwhelming favourite among seven candidates, winning 95 percent of 213 487 votes cast last Saturday, making him the flagbearer of the National Democratic Congress. Mahama was president from 2012 to 2016, when he lost a re-election bid to President Nana Akufo-Addo of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) over a faltering economy and corruption allegations. "Tonight, I want to serve notice to Ghana that from the outcome of this election, the NDC is strong," Mahama said after his victory was announced. "The NDC is united. The NDC is poised for victory in 2020." **AFP**

Focus on

SA Scene

Your Daily Mzansi News

RAMAPHOSA APPOINTS SIU GRAFT TRIBUNAL

CAPE TOWN - President Cyril Ramaphosa has appointed a special tribunal in a bid to fast-track proceedings from graft investigations by the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), the presidency said in a statement on Sunday.

"Fast-tracking these matters through the Special Tribunal will enable the SIU to recover monies and or assets lost by state institutions through irregular and corrupt means; thus ensuring that

those who are responsible for the loss of monies and or assets by state institutions are held accountable. The litigation process includes both public and private sectors persons and entities," the presidency said.

Ramaphosa has appointed Judge Gidfonia Mlindelwa Makhanya, as the President of the Tribunal for a period of three years.

He also appointed Judge Icantharuby Pillay, Judge Johannes

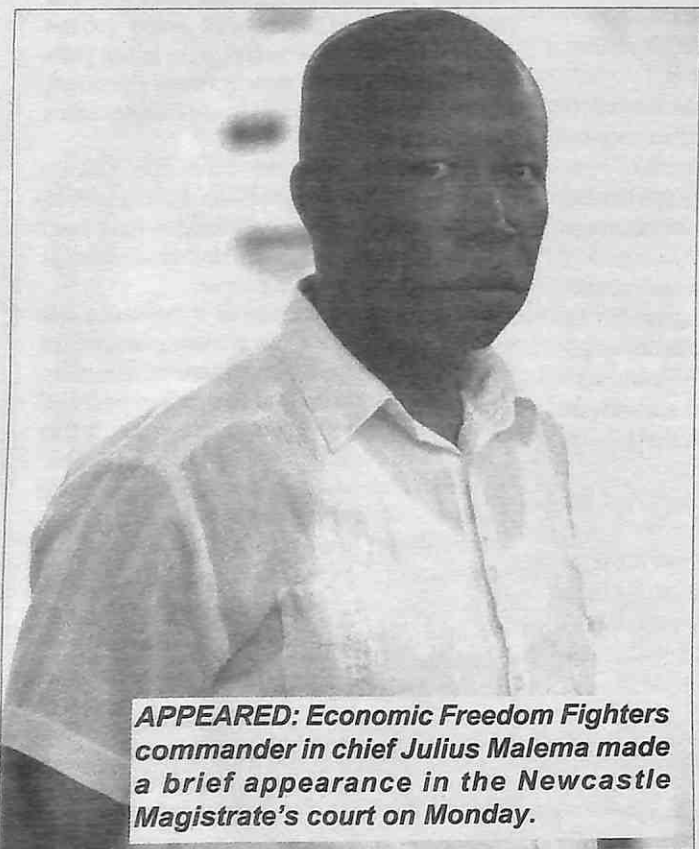
Eksteen, Judge Selewe Peter Mothle, Judge Lebogang Modiba, Judge Thina Siwendu, Judge David van Zyl and Judge Sirajudien Desai as additional members.

The tribunal seeks to tackle any civil proceedings brought before it by the SIU, which will investigate wrongdoing and malpractice in state institutions, state assets and public money, the presidency said in a statement.

IOL



Juju makes quick appearance in Newcastle court



APPEARED: Economic Freedom Fighters commander in chief Julius Malema made a brief appearance in the Newcastle Magistrate's court on Monday.

NEWCASTLE - The case against EFF leader Julius Malema has once again stalled because of his legal challenge of the law.

Malema made a brief appearance at the Newcastle Magistrate's Court on Monday where state prosecutor Jabulani Mlotshwa told the court that the matter could not continue until the finalisation of Malema's challenge of the Riotous Assembly act.

Malema filed an application to the Pretoria High Court in December challenging the constitutionality of the laws used to charge him.

Judgment was reserved on the matter. Mlotshwa said that there was no indication of when the Pretoria matter would be finalised but hoped it would be some time before March.

Malema faces separate charges under the 1956 Riotous Assemblies Act and the Trespass Act for inciting people to occupy any vacant land that they find. The charges

stem from two incidents in 2014 and 2017.

In 2014 he told the EFF's elective conference in Bloemfontein: "We're going to occupy the unoccupied land because we need land. For us to eat, we must have the land."

For us to work, we must have the land. I come from Seshego - if there is unoccupied land, we will go and occupy the land with my branch. You must go and do the same in the branch where you come from."

In June 2017, Malema told supporters in the northern KwaZulu-Natal town of Newcastle that white people could not claim ownership of land because it belonged to the country's black African majority. The matter will be back in court on July 8.

After his appearance, Malema strode out of court confidently to address about a thousand supporters who had each received EFF t-shirts.

Timeslive

'SIU must hand findings on graft at Eskom to State Capture Inquiry'

JOHANNESBURG - The Democratic Alliance last Sunday called on the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to present a report of its preliminary findings on 'industrial scale' looting at Eskom power plants by contractors to the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into state capture for inclusion as evidence into state capture.

'New evidence' had emerged from media reports that 11 contractors were currently under SIU investigation for allegedly stealing R139

billion during the construction of Eskom power plants at Kusile, Medupi, and Ingula, DA spokeswoman Natasha Mazzone said. The Zondo Commission should call on

The ANC knew about Eskom corruption and they must take responsibility for failing to act on it."

all the implicated contractors to come and give evidence before the commission on the role that each played in this staggering theft of public resources, she said.

"It is insincere for the failing ANC government to claim ignorance while taxpayers' money was being stolen by unscrupulous business people whom they had contracted to build the power plants."

The ANC knew about Eskom corruption and they must take responsibility for failing to act on it."

Now, more than ever, it had become clear that the ANC had "broken Eskom, left it bankrupt, and is now asking South Africans to pick up the tab through power tariff increases". ANA

ANCWL calls for Kodwa to step aside following rape, harassment

JOHANNESBURG - The ANC Women's League says it is disappointed by the emergence of rape and sexual harassment allegations against their leaders in the ANC as they should be championing women's right.

The women's league has called on the party's acting spokesperson Zizi Kodwa to step aside from his position pending the outcome of an investigation into allegations

that he raped and drugged women.

A letter from the unknown woman has been making the rounds on social media detailing her version of events.

Kodwa has denied the allegations, dismissing them as political blackmail and manipulation.

This comes days after another party spokesperson Pule Mabe was cleared of sexual harassment charges laid by his former personal assis-

tant.

The women's league's Meokgo Matuba says they believe and support the victim.

"Because it is the ANC that says we do have this wing in our organisation that should champion the interests and struggles of women. However, in the process when one of your own are being accused on serious matters, we feel disappointed." Eyewitness News



ACCUSED: The ANC's Zizi Kodwa at a press briefing held by the ANC on 22 January.

WOMAN WHOSE MEMORY WAS WIPED BY A RARE BRAIN INFECTION

SWANLEY - A computer analyst's short-term memory was completely wiped by a rare brain infection.

Clair Bennett, 29, of Swanley, Kent, suddenly developed 'violent headaches' and fevers in January 2015. Things took a turn for the worse when Ms Bennett became so disorientated she was convinced she was in the US.

After being rushed to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich, south east London, Ms Bennett was diagnosed with the rare brain condition encephalitis, which doctors suspect was caused by a virus.

Following a two-week stay, Ms Bennett was discharged, only to be admitted three days later to Dartford's Darent Valley Hospital in Kent when her symptoms reappeared. After a two-month stint in hospital, Ms Bennett is home but unable to remember anything beyond the past few minutes.

And with doctors warning her short-term memory will never return, she even has to remind herself to shower and eat.

Ms Bennett - who cannot remember the six months before she became unwell - had been looking forward to a solo holiday to Australia.

But amid the excitement of her upcoming travels, she began to feel unwell. Told by her doctor it was likely just flu and she should rest, things took a dramatic turn for the worse on January 12.

Ms Bennett's father Mark, 60 - who is now her full-time carer - said: "Clair's work had phoned her flatmate to say she hadn't come in, asking if she was okay."

"When she went to check on her, Clair was really disorientated, asking if she was in America."

"She phoned me to let me know what was going on, but I wasn't sure why any of this was happening, or what to think of it, which I feel guilty about now."

By the time Mark and his wife Penny arrived, doctors had already diagnosed their daughter.

"They told my wife Penny and I to go home and get some rest, as she'd be in intensive care overnight," he said. "The next morning, we came back and she was awake, but very disorientated."

"She kept asking if we had missed Christmas and then, when I asked if she knew who we were, she said no. "As a dad, that still makes me emotional - for your own daughter not to recognise you."

After a two-week stint in hospital, Ms Bennett was discharged but her memory has never been the same. While she is able to recall things that happened before she became unwell, her short-term memory was initially virtually non-existent. "Thankfully, she'd got back who we were and could remember things like where she grew up and who her old friends were," Mark said. "But she couldn't hold on to short-term memories."

"Friends would come round and

...cannot remember anything beyond a few minutes ago - and even has to write reminders to shower and eat



SHORT: Clair Bennett's short-term memory was wiped in January 2015 after she developed the brain-inflammation condition encephalitis as a result of a viral infection. She is pictured with her grandfather, Eric, during Christmas in 2014 in the last picture taken before she became unwell.



HOSPITALISED: Ms Bennett was rushed to hospital when she developed 'violent headaches' and became feverish. Things took a turn for the worse when she became so disorientated she was convinced she was in the US. Her first hospital stint lasted two weeks but it was not her last.



CARE: Ms Bennett is pictured being shown notes by her father and now full-time carer Mark.

visit and she'd soon forget she'd even seen them.' Hoping they could put the ordeal behind them and move forward, Ms Bennett's family were dealt another blow when she was struck by encephalitis again just three days after leaving hos-

pital. "She came downstairs one morning and seemed really wobbly, as if she could fall over at any second," Mark said.

"The only thing I could think to do was what I'd seen on TV, where police test drunk drivers, getting

them to count back from 20.

"She tried, but couldn't do it."

Mark phoned 111 - the NHS non-emergency number - who sent out a paramedic.

Ms Bennett was rushed to hospital, where her diagnosis was con-

WHAT IS ENCEPHALITIS?

Encephalitis is an uncommon but serious condition in which the brain becomes inflamed (swollen).

It can be life-threatening and requires urgent treatment in hospital.

Anyone can be affected, but the very young and very old are most at risk.

Encephalitis sometimes starts off with flu-like symptoms, such as a high temperature and headache, but these don't always occur.

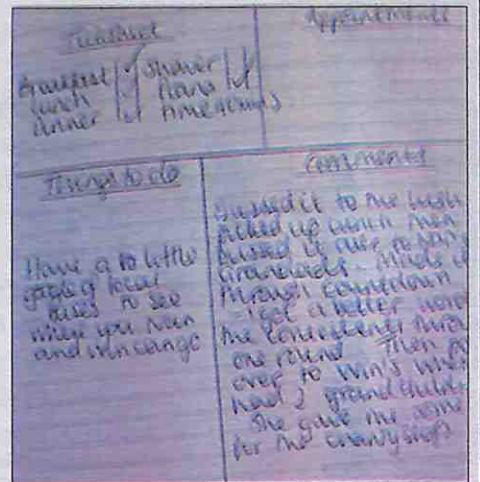
More serious symptoms develop over hours, days or weeks, including: confusion or disorientation, seizures (fits), changes in personality and behaviour or loss of consciousness.

Dial 999 for an ambulance immediately if you or someone else has these more serious symptoms.

It's not always clear what causes encephalitis, but it can be caused by viral infections. Several common viruses can spread to the brain and cause encephalitis in rare cases, including the herpes simplex virus (which causes cold sores and genital herpes) and the chickenpox virus.



PIANIST: Ms Bennett has piano lessons every Wednesday - and always forgets how talented she is.



DIARY: Ms Bennett ticks off simple tasks like eating breakfast and showering in her daily diary.

firmed. This time the computer analyst stayed in hospital for two months and one week, by which time her short-term memory was even worse. Mark recalls an instance in August 2015 when, on the way to the ferry port for a family holiday, Ms Bennett asked 48 times in a 90-minute journey if he had her passport.

Following several ECG scans, doctors have confirmed Ms Bennett is unlikely to ever see any significant improvement to her memory.

On the advice of an occupational therapist, she keeps a daily diary, where she records everything she has done that day, as well as reminders to do basic things like wash and eat. "She needs to be able to physically tick things off to remind her she's done them, or she'll have no idea," Mark said.

"For example, she still loves cooking, but she has to follow recipes with a tick list, otherwise she'll forget she has already finished a step and start peeling a load of potatoes or prepping veg again." *"Daily Mail"*

Observer Entertainment

New Reviews Star Signs Celebrity Watch Cartoons

SUNDAY CHILLOUT A HIT

.....Afrotrraction serenades music lovers

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

AFROTRACTION was a thriller at the Sunday Chillout which was held at The George Hotel Gardens.

Not only did people come in their numbers to witness the singer alongside other local artists, but they also dressed the part.

The warm weather allowed for people to rock their favourite outfits.

People came dressed mostly in summer clothes, the ladies showing a bit of some flesh and the gentlemen dressed the part.

The outdoor set up gave the event a chilled out mood. With chairs and benches all over the open area, fun lovers had ample space to enjoy themselves.

Starting off the show was radio personality Lindz Mafa, who warmed up the show with soulful tunes.

Zoe Genesis followed on stage with her performance. She rendered 'Grindin' and 'Naked', where she featured Mozaik The Producer.



MNIKE:
Afrotrraction singing and dancing for the crowd during his performance at the Sunday Chillout held at The George Hotel last Sunday evening. (Pics: Nokwanda Sibandze)

CLICK, CLICK: A section of the crowd trying to take pictures of Afrotrraction as he performs on stage.

Zoe Genesis wowed the crowd with her performance.

The audience was also taken by her outfit as she wore a red top and skirt with red fishnets.

The singer was then followed by DJ Cup, who gave the crowd exactly what they were looking for as they danced throughout his set.

DJ Cup was followed by Msizi, who serenaded the audience with his melodic voice. Msizi then brought to the stage his partner, Illa

Penboy, who was also the MC of the day. The two performed their song 'Illapineapples' and other songs.

After the pair, Mozaik The Producer took to the stage rendering songs from his upcoming album. The rapper clearly has a number of fans, as they gathered around the stage during his performance. Before Afrotrraction took to the stage, there was one more performance the crowd was never ready for; Nomalungelo Dladla.

She mounted the stage and ripped it apart with her fiery performance. She also looked stunning in her simple black and red outfit. She closed off the local performances with a bang. While performing her hit songs, the artist also jumped off stage dancing towards the audience. She danced together with the crowd and shut the place down.

The man of the night, Afrotrraction, then took to the stage. As his crew still fixing the sound system making sure it perfect, DJ Karly B made kept the audience was entertained.

He played old school mixed with current music that sent the crowd to a frenzy.

The DJ stopped as soon as Afrotrraction took to the stage. The singer started singing before he got on stage and the crowd went crazy.

Singing songs such as 'Imali yamalobolo', 'Ngamthanda umuntu', 'Emacala' and 'Ngeke kulunge' to mention a few, the artist proved to have more fans than he expected.

The singer would also engage the audience by allowing them to sing through his mic. Ladies flocked the front of the stage to get the opportunity to sing with the singer.

Afrotrraction also sang one of his new songs 'Uyanglimaza' saying it will be featured in his upcoming album. Ending his performance with his current hit song 'Mnike', the singer left the stage on a high note.

Speaking to the singer, he said performing in the country for him felt like home.

"As a Swati speaking singer, performing in the country for the first time felt like a homecoming performance," he said.

He also said performing in the kingdom was the biggest thing for him this year, and he was looking forward to doing more shows in the country. "I am definitely talking to my manager about doing more shows in the country, I would really love to do a show at Mavuso Trade Centre, but we are still discussing things," he said.

The night was still young for fun-lovers and DJ Karly B was also not ready to go home and he proved that by playing for the audience till the early hours of the morning.

Deluxe Band sets a different mood at The Millin

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

THE Albert Millin is well-known for its chilled vibes but the Deluxe Band together with other local artists set a different mood last Saturday afternoon.

The five-piece band gave Albert Millin devotees something to dance and sing to with the different acts they had lined up for the day. Dubbed the 'Love Breakdown', the show saw the band rendering different songs. The band's singers Teelou, Lusanda and Menzie rendered beautiful covers of hit songs such as 'Amazulu' by Amanda Black amongst many.

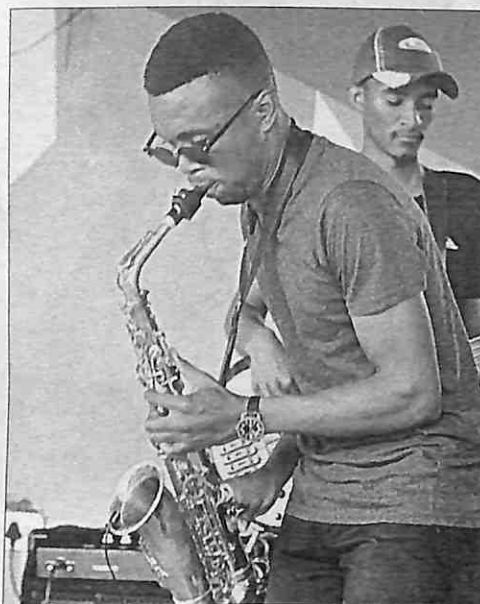
Menzi rendered a cover by Mlindo the Vocalist titled



HAVING FUN: A section of the audience enjoying the day.

'Amacala' featuring Kwesta and Thabsie. His rendition received a resounding response from the crowd. Most people in the crowd were taken by the band as they said it was their first time seeing the band perform. The band was also joined by saxophonists Zwile, Msimisi

Sithole, Liquid Gold and Qawali. They brought their A-game on stage. With their vibrant MC Wezzie, the show was a success, as he would keep the crowd entertained in between the performances. The crowd enjoyed the band's performance as they danced till late in the evening.



IN TUNE: Zwile on his saxophone during at the show together with the Deluxe Band The Albert Millin last Saturday afternoon. (Courtesy pics)



MR MUSIC: Msimisi Sithole also gave the crowd a stunning performance.

LET'S DANCE ESWATINI! COMPETITION POSTPONED

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

SUPPOSED to be held this coming Saturday at House on Fire in Malkerns, Let's Dance Eswatini! Competition has been postponed to a date that is yet to be announced.

This was revealed by the Event Coordinator Suzan Esteves yesterday.

"Out of respect for the Baganu ceremony scheduled for this coming weekend and our celebrities, who are involved in it, Let's Dance Eswatini! has been postponed from March 2 and a new date will be announced as soon as available. More time to save up for tickets," she briefly said.

The competition will see the kingdom's very own celebrities battling it out for the winner's trophy. Let's Dance Eswatini! Competition will be directed by Samukelisiwe Ndlangamandla, popularly known as Sam.

She is well-known for her bubble personality and hosting of Lyrical Live music nights at Esibayeni Lodge.

Similar to the 'Strictly Come Dancing' concept, Let's Dance Eswatini! has paired the celebrities with top Ballroom and Latin



POSTPONED: Let's Dance Eswatini! top Ballroom and Latin dancers who will be paired with the celebrities.

dancers. The couples confirmed for the competition are Gciniwe Fakudze and Wakhile Mkhonta, Penny Boucher and Basil Magongo, John Pires and Neliswa Bhembe, Jordy Shiba and Phumelele Thwala and Siphesihle Nkwanyana and Sthembiso Mthembu.

Couples will present two chore-

ographed dance performances at the event, the first of which will be a Ballroom and Latin dance, and the second will be a genre of the celebrities' choice.

Practices have already started and some of the celebrities have been sharing videos on their social media platforms. Tickets to the

competition are available and vying for E 400 VIP, which includes dinner and E 150 for general. They can be purchased at House on Fire Gallery, Computronics at Riverstone Mall in Manzini, Luxy Garden Restaurant at Corner Plaza in Ezulwini, or eDish Café at Computronics in Mbabane.

Thobile Makhoyane such a soulful performer

BY DELIA THWALA

NO eye was left dry when soul traditional singer Thobile Makhoyane mounted the stage last Saturday to deliver the most emotional performance during Sbu J's show dubbed 'A Poet's Intuition' at Eswatini Theatre Club.

Makhoyane is one of Eswatini's voices that has stood the test of time and has been on stage for two decades. Her first performance that marked her debut in the industry was in 1999 at trade fair show.

Since then, she has never looked back and has gone to perform internationally. The singer maintains her Swati roots as her performances are never without the traditional indigenous instrument called Makhoyane, which she fuses with the rhythm of western instruments, mostly the guitar. Her powerful capturing voice has seen her grace a lot of festival stages, which include the popular BushFire, Soweto Arts Festival, Agzo Festival only to name a few. She has also worked with influential artist like Bafana Nhlapho, Bhuloja and Frank Magongwa of Kwani Experience, and she is currently part of Spirits Indigenous and they are working with dancers from Mozambique.

Thobile will on Thursday share her heart and soul together with Bheki of Tindzaba Temdzabu, Mandla and John Philips at the Alliance Francaise in Mbabane.

The show, which is themed 'Life Portion,' will dig deep into a celebration of 'Life' and being madly in love with life. The show will start at 6pm and the entrance fee is E80.



Stall bookings at House Music Festival now open

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

SWAZIBOY Entertainment is calling all small business owners to book a stall to showcase their work at the first ever House Music Festival to be held at Esibayeni Lodge on Saturday.

The festival is set to see a 100 percent house music line-up, where local and international house music artists are to showcase their skills.

Speaking to this publication, SwaziBoy Entertainment PRO Ur Gal Zee invited business owners to come and join them and showcase their craft.

"We are allowing people to come and get themselves stalls at the festival, preferably non-food and non-beverage stalls," said Ur Gal Zee.

She said they decided to have stalls at the festival in order to give the festival a 'feel'.

"We are making it an action-packed event, with not only in music but also to showcase what other Swazis are doing in terms of business and we also hope to promote them," she said.

For a stall, business owners are required a ticket. "Each stall will have to buy a ticket for each person who will be at the stall," she explained. Pre-sale tickets cost E100 and E150 at the gate.

A WORSHIP EXPERIENCE WITH GABRIEL D

BY SIMANGALISO ZWANE



IN SPIRIT: Gospel artist Gabriel D.

MULTI-TALENTED gospel artist Gabriel D will be hosting a pre-show of worship and prayer at Jesus Calls Worship Centre in Mbabane on Friday.

The entrance is free and it is scheduled to commence at 6pm.

"Ahead of my live recording, on Friday we will be having our pre-show. This is an opportunity to have an experience with my music and also unveiling for the details of the live recording ahead.

"After a great experience at my show 'Worship in the woods' that took place last year in August, there has been an expectation for a proper musical production," stated the artist. "Fortunately this year we have our live recording and production is set to be released before the end of the year. This is also an opportunity for investors, companies and the entire audience to come and have a clear picture of my vision.

"South African artists like award-winning Sylvester and also Phindi Mashaba are coming through to support us," he added.

The artist, real name Sandile Dlamini, will be rendering new songs he has composed himself.

The artist, more than just being a star behind the microphone, has more to offer as he is also a drummer.

In addition, Dlamini stated that he was working on the production of a live DVD recording.

"I am very excited to be hosting a show like this one and I am looking forward to it.

The public must come in their numbers and they will not regret it as I intend to make it a memorable event," he said.

WIGO DROPS 'WITH ALL DUE RESPECT' EP

BY DELIA THWALA

SWAZI Jive rapper Wigo has dropped a second EP dubbed; 'with all due respect'.

According to the rapper, the second EP has five tracks and features local well-known and upcoming artists.

'All due respect' is a series of music compilation that is going to drop every month and the rapper has assured to drop 12 projects this year. Meaning each and every month, he would be dropping a project. "I'm planning to drop something every month and prob-

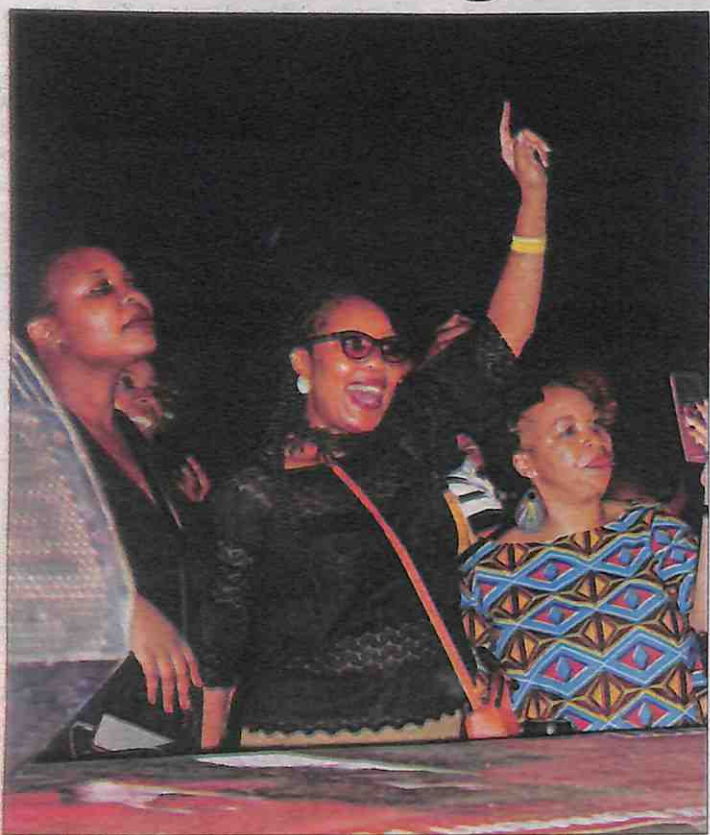
ably have about 12 projects dropped. This is going to mark me as the first person to do so," confessed Wigo. The artist has worked with CNX, Yung Boss and Lyrikal Busta to name a few. Speaking about his project he said, the EP is available on Sound Cloud. He also clarified that he was working alone on this project without his partner, Smokey.

"...I'm planning to drop something every month and probably have about 12 projects dropped

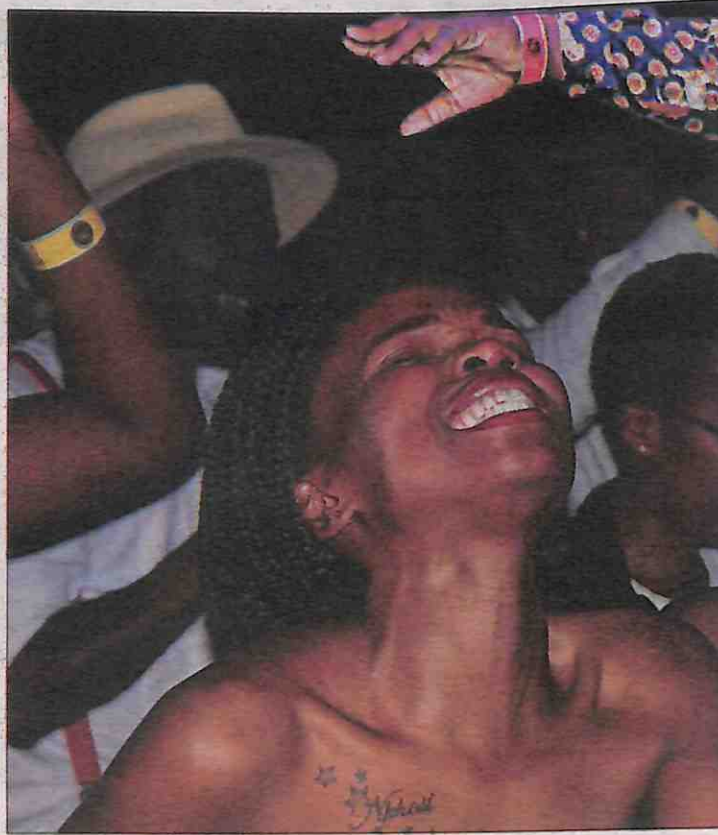


RESPECT: Swazi Jive rapper Wigo.

Sunday chillout a hit!



PICK ME: This lady raised her hand in the air as the South African singer Afrotraction serenaded them on stage.



MY SONG: This young lady could not help but scream during Afrotraction's performance.



MAN OF THE NIGHT: Afrotraction serenading the audience with his soulful music at the Sunday Chillout with Afrotraction yesterday at The George Hotel. (Pics: Nokwanda Sibandze)



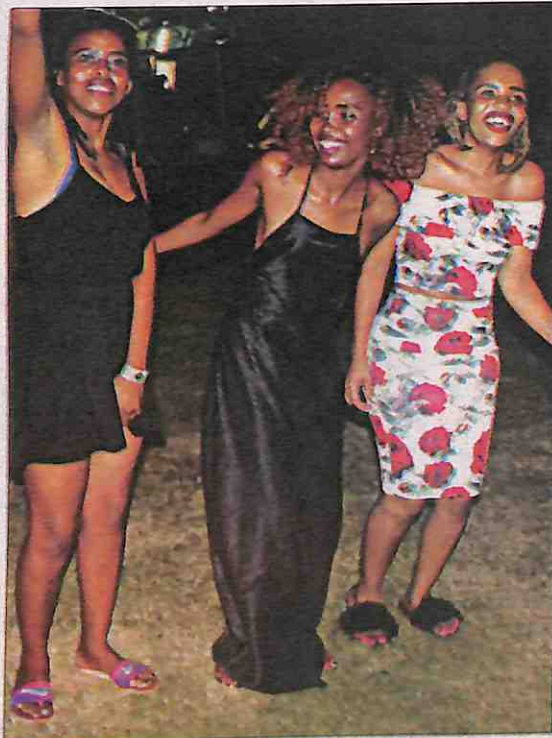
HAPPY FANS: A section of the crowd watching the singer on stage.



SING WITH ME: Afrotraction allows one of the audience members to sing along to one of his songs.



DANCE WITH ME: Nomalungelo walking around the crowd as she sings her lungs out.



LADIES: Zoe Genesis with her friends dancing to Nomalungelo's songs.



THREE IS A CHARM: Ndumi Mhlongo, Nokwazi Kunene and Ndumi Motsa made sure they looked beautiful for the show.



MR PRODUCER: Mozaik the Producer delivering his set for the night.

GLAMOUR AT OSCARS RED CARPET



ANGELIC: American Actress Amy Adams in her classy creamy gown.



POSE: Black Panther cast in stylish outfits.



CLASSY: Lady Gaga went for black class gown. She looked classy upon her arrival.



FASHION FORWARD: Billy Porter strutted the red carpet in a 'tuxedo gown' by designer Christian Siriano.

2019'S OSCAR WINNERS:

DOCUMENTARY (FEATURE) — Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, *Free Solo*
ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE — Regina King, *If Beale Street Could Talk*
MAKEUP AND HAIRSTYLING — Greg Cannom, Kate Biscoe and Patricia Dehaney,
COSTUME DESIGN — Ruth E. Carter, *Black Panther*
PRODUCTION DESIGN — Hannah Beachler and Jay Hart, *Black Panther*
CINEMATOGRAPHY — Alfonso Cuarón, *Roma*
SOUND EDITING — John Warhurst, *Bohemian Rhapsody*
SOUND MIXING — Paul Massey, Tim Cavagin, John Casali and *Bohemian Rhapsody*
FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM — Alfonso Cuarón, *Roma*
FILM EDITING — John Ottman, *Bohemian Rhapsody*
ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE — Mahershala Ali, *Green Book*
ANIMATED FEATURE FILM — Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey and Rodney Rothman
ANIMATED SHORT FILM — Domee Shi, *Bao*
DOCUMENTARY SHORT SUBJECT — Rayka Zehtabchi and Melissa Berton, *Period. End of Sentence.*
VISUAL EFFECTS — Paul Lambert, Ian Hunter, Tristan Myles and J.D. Schwalm and *First Man*
LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM — Guy Nattiv and Jamie Ray Newman, *Skin*
BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY — Nick Vallelonga, Brian Currie, Peter Farrelly and *Green Book*

BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY — Spike Lee, Sean McKittrick, Jason Blum, Raymond Mansfield and Jordan Peele, *Green Book*

BLACKKKLANSMAN ORIGINAL SCORE

— Ludwig Göransson and *Black Panther*

ORIGINAL SONG — Lady Gaga, Mark Ronson, Anthony Rossomando, Andrew Wyatt, 'Shallow' and 'A Star Is Born'

BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE — Rami Malek and *Bohemian Rhapsody*

BEST ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE — Olivia Colman and *The Favourite*

BEST DIRECTOR — Alfonso Cuarón, *Roma*

BEST PICTURE — *Green Book*

QUEENING: Angela Bassett rocked a bubblegum pink gown on the Oscars red carpet.

RIGHT - SULTRY: Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Hudson showed up to the Oscars in a dress that deserved a trophy of its own.

GLOW: Actress Regina King looked elegant in her white dress.



PRINCESS LOOK: 'All My Children' Actress Kelly Ripa had a princess moment in extravagant ballgown.



PERFECT: Jennifer Lopez wore the glitziest Tom Ford dress with Alex Rodriguez on the Oscars red carpet.



ELEGANT: South Africa's American-based actress and film producer Charlize Theron paired her daring new hairstyle with a stunning Dior Couture gown.



COUPLE: Pharrell Williams wore a camo-print jacket and matching shorts with his wife, Helen Lasichanh.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

Terrence Howard shows support for Jussie Smollett

CHICAGO - Actor Terrence Howard has shown his support for Jussie Smollett, who is accused of staging a hate crime last month.

Terrence, who plays Jessie's on-screen father on hit TV show, *Empire*, posted a video of Jussie playing with a baby.

In the caption, he said that "All your lil homies got you. We love the hell outta you." Jussie is being accused of staging a hate crime against himself where he was 'attacked', a noose put over his head and had bleach thrown on him. Two Nigerian men arrested in connection to the incident,



SUPPORT: Terrence Howard has shown his support for Jussie Smollett.

and who are known to Jussie, have said they were tasked with the attack by the actor himself. In the comments section, Terrence said that he believed Jussie was not capable of ordering the false attack on himself. *Showbiz*

Channelling America's black rage

HOLLYWOOD - For more than 30 years, Spike Lee has captivated audiences and sometimes angered them with his provocative, frank depictions of black America infused with his signature mix of entertainment, activism and rage.

And for the first time, that work has earned him a competitive Oscar as the 61-year-old Lee picked up the prize for best adapted screenplay on Sunday for his incendiary race drama 'BlacKkKlansman.'

"Four hundred years. Our ancestors were stolen from Mother Africa and bought to Jamestown, Virginia, enslaved," he said, referring to the first documented Africans to come to the first English settlement in the Americas,



RAGE: Spike Lee.

in 1619. It was a rousing impromptu address, delivered from the stage at Hollywood's Dolby Theatre, during which Lee spoke of slaves forced to carry out back-breaking work from dawn until dark. He paid tribute to his grandmother, who 'lived to be 100 years young, who was a Spelman College graduate even though her mother was a slave.' (*Sowetan Live*)

'Tough economy' keeps DJ Tira's price tag at R100k

DURBAN - Do you have R100k in the bank? Well then, the good news is that you can still get a Tira feature on your song.

The muso is one of the biggest stars in Mzansi and that talent costs a lot. In fact, it costs R70,000 for a verse and R100,000 for a hook. While petrol and the price of Pampers goes up, Tira announced this weekend that his price tag won't. He said the bad state of the economy at the moment motivated him to freeze his prices.

It seems we are all in the wrong career.

While there may be some who are celebrating the news, most fans still think it's too pricey and asked



TOUGH: Tira.

why they should pay R100k for Chiki Chiki Chiki Chaaaaa. In fact, they already have Tira's verse all figured out. (*Sowetan Live*)

Duma has 'no regrets' over heated exchange with Junior

SANDTON - Even though Ntando Duma and Junior De Rocka's nasty maintenance spat got tongues wagging, Ntando has no regrets over calling her baby daddy out. Many people voiced their opinions when Ntando and Junior had the heated exchange of words on social media, questioning Ntando's motives for dragging Junior in front of pham'kwa bantu.

Speaking to Drum Ntando explained she had to speak out for her daughter's sake. "I had to speak up for what's right for my daughter. I don't regret speaking up about my baby daddy and anything that has happened



NO REGRET: Ntando Duma.

between him and me," Ntando said. The Rhythm City actress said she didn't put much thought into airing their dirty laundry but now in retrospect takes full responsibility and also believes she had to speak up for all the single mothers. (*Times Live*)

Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper get intimate during Oscars duet

HOLLYWOOD - Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper tickled the ivories and tugged at the heartstrings when they performed the hit song *Shallow* from their film *A Star is Born* at the 91st Academy Awards ceremony in Hollywood on Sunday.

The pair walked onto the stage from their front row seats, with Cooper tapping into the raspy vocals he cultivated for the film while Gaga delivered her heart-thumping guttural wail.

Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper have been in a constant spotlight



INTIMATE: Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper perform.

since their movie "A star is born" was released. (*sunday Times*)

Woods says sorry for Tristan Hookup, blames booze

LONDON - Jordyn Woods can't handle her booze and that's why she was down to make out with Tristan Thompson and blow up her relationship with the Kardashians, that's her story, anyway.

Sources close to Jordyn tell TMZ, she has been begging her ex-bestie, Kylie Jenner, for forgiveness, ditto with Khloe. And, while she admits she made a stupid decision, we're told she's blaming it on the a-a-a-a-alcohol, as they say.

We're told Woods was wasted before she even went to the house party where witnesses say she snuggled up to Tristan. She's saying she was actually blackout drunk, as in, she



Jordyn Woods.

doesn't even remember how she got to the party or anything that happened there. Sources say Jordyn started crying when she was told what she did and as we told you, Kylie also couldn't fathom the news. We're told Jordyn rarely drinks, but when she does, it usually ends badly. (*TMZ*)

SA would be boring without me subs Cassper - AKA

PRETORIA - AKA's beef with rival Cassper Nyovest took centre-stage at his roast last Thursday night, with the rapper taking shots at his rival.

AKA was grilled by a panel of celebrities including Papa Penny Penny, Mark Fish, Joey Rasdien, Nina Hasties and his former nemesis Pearl Thusi.

And while his tormentors never missed a moment to tell him how Cassper was better than him, AKA was lethal with the comeback game.

It all started when Mark Fish came for the Super Mega, trying to be funny. Mark Fish, who started his own social media trend when he mistook Hugh Masekela for Siphon 'Hotstix' Mabuse after Bra Hugh's



BORING: AKA.

death last year, paid 'tribute' to AKA by reading Cassper's accomplishments. AKA responded by running to the front of the stage and pretending to do a Cassper dance move with a drink in his hand. He even pretended to have a ponytail like his rival once had. But the shots properly came at the end of the night when the rapper was finally unleashed and given a mic to address the panel. (*Times Live*)

Lasizwe, Pearl Thusi finally squash the beef

PRETORIA - After a cold war that could have frozen the Karoo, comedian Lasizwe and actress Pearl Thusi have finally put their beef back in the freezer.

The pair bumped into each other at the Comedy Central roast of rapper AKA on Thursday night in Johannesburg.

TshisaLIVE was there to observe as the pair seemed at first to just breeze past each other with their respective entourages with no real interaction. However, posting a picture backstage, Lasizwe revealed that the pair had actually got over their issues and said all was forgiven. The pair fell



QUASHED: Lasizwe and Pearl have settled their differences.

out two months ago over a Beyoncé video. It started when Queen Bey finally shared a video of her concert in SA and even used DJ Maphorisa's song, *iWalk Ye Phara*, as her background soundtrack. (*Times Live*)

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST



TODAY

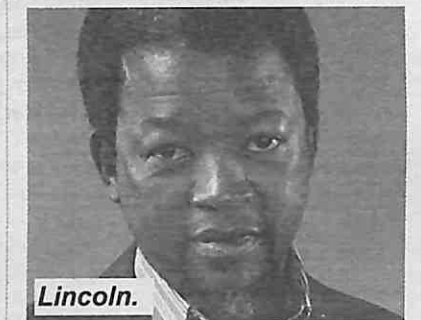


Mpiyakhe.

Ntwenhle makes a stunning discovery about Dabula and the mall. Mpiyakhe decides to choose a dark and self destructive path. Lillian convinces Qaphela to see the world her way.

ISIDINGO

TODAY



Lincoln.

Lincoln gets a step ahead of his enemies. When forced to face the truth about their affair, Wendy and Hendrik surprisingly have very different reactions and Mpumi sees trouble between her friends.



TODAY



Marang.

Marang and KK's romance is blossoming into a fairy tale. Moliehi and James' divorce negotiations begin. Mpho suspects something is amiss with Shaz once again.



TODAY

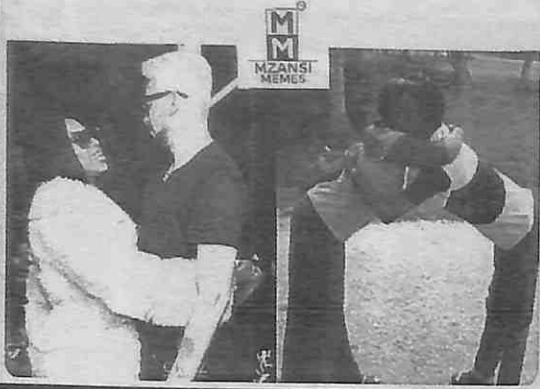


David.

Maponya and Madikgetla try to figure out a way to nail David. Sabelo is conflicted about the dirty money Dumi brings home. Mampho and Reneilwe trap Joe and Constance.

PICTURE OF THE DAY

How to hug a lover VS an ex



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19
The energy that you feel today may have you so jittery that others don't know what to do with you, Capricorn. The day's influences can bring a boost. You'd be wise to plan things to do to expend it all. Get busy with physical chores at work or home. Pull things out and organize, move furniture around, whatever it takes. It's better to be productive than drive everyone crazy.



Cancer June 22 – July 22
Your nature is intense, Cancer. You probably feel things deeply and spend a lot of time lost in thought. Yet, too much intensity can take a toll on your health and well-being. It might be time to go out and enjoy yourself. Get up from the chair and take a walk. Meet someone for lunch or do a little shopping or yoga. Find something active to do to break the monotony of your routine.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18
Venturing into something new and different may be what you need, Aquarius. You have a very solid, practical side to your personality, but the need for excitement and adventure is likely to be just as strong. If you've had your nose to the grindstone recently, take some time off for fun. Visit a friend or, better yet, drive to a place you haven't been to and explore.



Leo July 23 – August 22
Feed your mind today, Leo. While you no doubt enjoy being active and social, you get bored fairly quickly, too. You need a constant supply of intriguing, fresh material in order to feel your best. Explore an interesting subject or learn a new hobby. Stimulate your mind and your body will become more energetic. Use the Internet if you can't get away.



Pisces February 19 – March 20
You may want to learn about something today, Pisces. At work and home there's a set schedule of what you must tend to and when. On your own time, you're free to research anything your heart desires. Intellectual growth is something you enjoy, so why not spend time online or in the library finding out more about your favorite things? Whether cooking or genealogy, you will find something new.



Virgo August 23 – September 22
If you think you have to prove that you have something valuable to offer, Virgo, consider this carefully. You're naturally friendly and can get along with almost anyone. This may already be your strength. You have something great to bring to a crowd. Consider being yourself and not trying so hard to feel a part of things. Look at your qualities and you will prove your worth to yourself.



Aries March 21 – April 19
If you happen to meet new people today, Aries, be careful. Some folks appear interesting because they're bold or dangerous. Perhaps they do things you'd never dream of doing. This may seem interesting, but it can lead to trouble and hurt you if you aren't careful. Stick to your usual standards and ethics. If danger excites you too much, it may be time to reexamine your life and change things.



Libra September 23 – October 23
Consider putting your problem-solving skills to work today, Libra. You have a real flair for investigating situations and figuring out what happened. If something comes your way that seems mysterious, take the bull by the horns and get to the truth. If you're baffled, use the process of elimination to narrow things down. Stick with it and you will learn what's what in no time.



Taurus April 20 – May 20
You might have to make a choice between telling the truth and lying today, Taurus. In some circumstances, this can be difficult, especially if you're afraid you will hurt someone's feelings. Keep in mind that a lie can take more energy than the truth. Consider what you would want the other person to do in your place. Stick to your morals and ethics even if it's tough.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21
Scorpio, don't be fooled by others who aren't straight with you. If you don't know the person well, trust your instincts. You tend to care for others, so it can be easy for you to feel sorry for someone and be inclined to help. Make sure that the person you help really deserves it and is telling you the whole story. Taking this extra time can save you problems later.



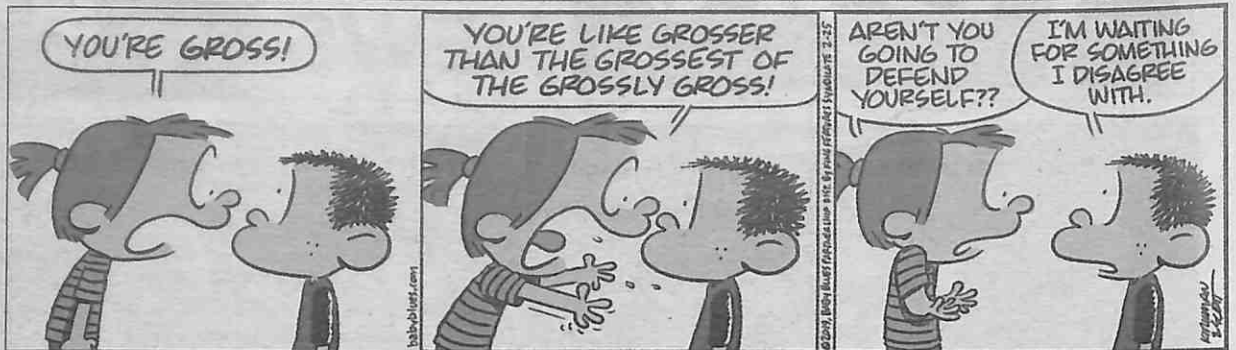
Gemini May 21 – June 21
You're known to be kindhearted. However, being taken advantage of can happen as a result. It's important for you to trust your instincts to prevent this from happening. If what you hear doesn't match your feelings, trust your feelings. If you think you're being used, try to move past it. It would be a real shame if resentment permanently squelched your giving nature.



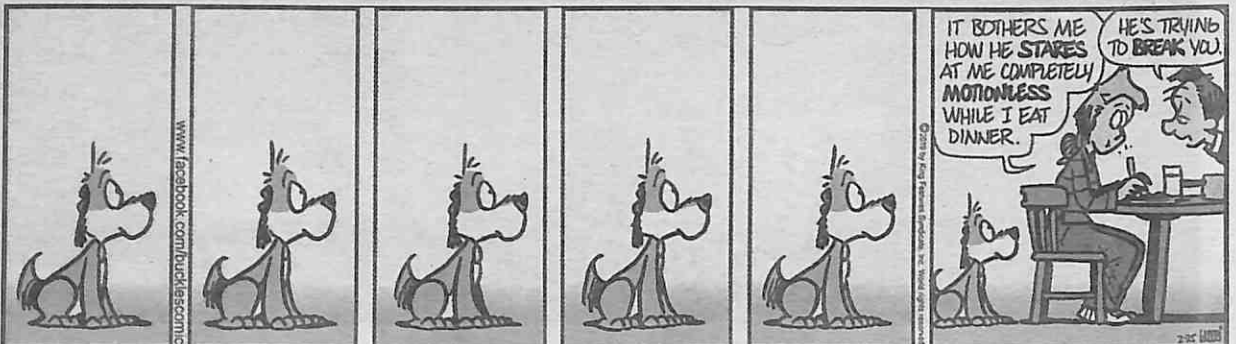
Sagittarius November 22 – December 21
It could be easy to get carried away today, Sagittarius. You might get caught up in some excitement or base your decisions on another's word. You need to use your head on a day like this. Double-check everything and moderate your activities. Keep your limitations in mind. There's nothing that says you can't do whatever it is that catches your eye. Just use caution and stay safe.



BABY BLUES



BUCKLES



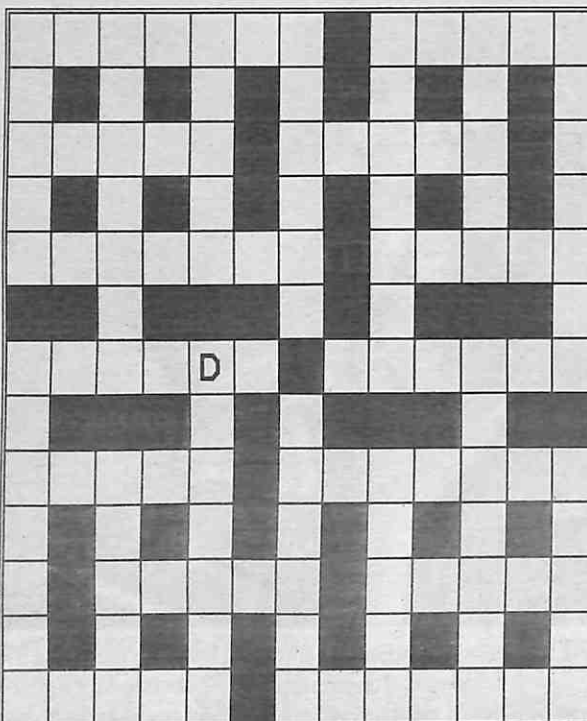
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



HOME WORD SEARCH

PUZZLE CHOICE Alpha-Cross 06

The first letter of each answer is written next to its clue in alphabetical order. One letter has already been entered. Can you find the words then fit them correctly into the grid?



- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| L. Beautiful (6) | A. Awake (5) |
| M. Secures a boat (5) | B. Dressing (7) |
| M. Enigma (7) | C. Desert plants (5) |
| N. Female relative (5) | D. Confines (7) |
| N. Part of the nose (7) | E. Foe (5) |
| O. Talk pompously (5) | F. Weak (6) |
| S. Take by surprise (7) | G. Profits (5) |
| T. Claw (5) | I. Loafer (5) |
| T. Insignificant (7) | I. Huge (7) |
| V. Obscure (5) | L. Deadlock (7) |
| W. Sapience (6) | L. Part of a jacket (5) |
| Y. Shouting (7) | L. Legal (5) |
| Y. Gives way (6) | L. Parts of a chain (5) |

On a train in Scotland



An astronomer, a physicist and a mathematician, are on a train in Scotland.

The astronomer looks out of the window, sees a black sheep standing in a field, and remarks, "How odd. Scottish sheep are black."

"No, no, no!" says the

physicist. "Only some Scottish sheep are black."

The mathematician rolls his eyes at his companion's muddled thinking and says, "In Scotland, there is at least one field, containing at least one sheep, at least one side of which appears black from here."

USELESS FACTS

1. Koala is Aboriginal for 'no drink'.
2. Shakespeare spelled his OWN name several different ways.
3. The first contraceptive was crocodile dung used by the ancient Egyptians.
4. A signature is called a John Hancock because he signed

the Declaration of Independence. Only 2 people signed the declaration of independence on July 4. The Last person signed two years later.

5. Arnold Schonberg suffered from triskaidecaphobia, the fear of the number 13. He died at 13 minutes from midnight on Friday the 13th.

BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's Brainteasers

1. Jessica just turned 13 years old. Her father Chris is 40 years old. How many years ago was Chris four times as old as Jessica?

Answer: Four years ago. Jessica was nine and Chris was 36, nine times four is 36.

2. I am in heaven but not in hell. I'm in the devil but not in god. I'm in the river but not in the

sea. What am I?

Answer: The letter "v".

Today's Brainteasers:

1. I can travel from there to here by disappearing and here to there by reappearing. What am I?

2. I move without wings, between silken string. I leave as you find, my substance behind. What am I?



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NEWS



ARE LESEGO'S SLAY QUEEN DAYS OVER? - UNMARRIED

NOW that Kenny has broken up with her, is it over for her slay queen days?

Lesego is the gorgeous friend that hasn't had to work a day in her life! Who can blame her? She uses her talent for beauty and charm to live like a queen! Recently, things have been taking a turn for the worst for her. We give you all the signs that her time might just be up:

Kenny broke things off for good

Kenny, her long-term married boyfriend has replaced her with a younger, trendier and less clingy

girl! Who ever would have thought that he would be over our beautiful Lesego? But it seems a new girl in town has her ex blesser spending money and time with her. Well, replacing him shouldn't be too hard for her should it?

Brenda's boss mistook her for a prostitute

Far from impressed

Her fishing game came on a bit too strong for Brenda's billionaire boss who offered her money before engaging in a fun time together. He misread all the signals, mistaking her for a lady of the night!

She was furious and immediately kicked him out. Does this mean she has to tone down her approach?

She needs 50K to maintain her lifestyle!

In debt.

Kenny has paid for her mortgage or her car in 3 months! It seems the transactional relationship between the two is really over! Now, she has to maintain it all by herself?

She has to move in with Trevor, in his one bedroom apartment.

Downsize the lifestyle.

How can she slay in a shared one bedroom apartment? Now that her

lifestyle and champagne popping days are over, will she still have queen status? If she can't be where the money is, where will she catch her next meal ticket?

Dololo DM's.

Lesego had an entire photoshoot update her social media portfolio, the purpose was to attract a new crowd of investors. However, not even one eligible bachelor went in for the kill. Has our beautiful Lesego lost that 'thing'?

Tune into #Unmarried every Wednesday at 8pm to see what the future holds for Lesego!

GOODBYE MNDENI - EHOSTELA



JAMA finally gets his wish and kills Mndeni.

No one could have seen it coming. Just last week, MaMkhize told her son, Jama, that she had seen him kill his father in cold blood. We thought this was the moment of reckoning, Mndeni knew the truth and would surely bring Jama to book.

But alas, things did not turn out that way. Does this mean there is just no happy ending for some people? Does Mndeni life start and end

with heartache and losing the people he loves the most?

MamKhize shocked us all by playing false witness and blaming Mancinza's death on Mndeni instead of Jama.

Attempt

In a last ditch attempt to connect with her evil son, she told ibutho that it was Mndeni who had killed Mancinza in cold blood.

Her guilt may be eating her to shreds, however, it is a little too late. Jama has succeeded in killing

Mndeni and throwing him into the sea. Juba finally got his chance to take a shot at Mndeni as revenge for killing his father. With a missed shot, Jama came in to finish the job gruesomely with a knife.

Mndeni has been through so much in his life already.

He lost both his parents at a young age, became an orphan and was taken in by Mancinza and trained to be hitman.

When he finally left ibutho and being a hitman, he met the love of

his life Khethiwe but even that was quickly taken from him when Jama revealed who Mndeni really was.

Does this mean there is just no happy ending for some people? Does Mndeni life start and end with heartache and losing the people he loves the most?

Are you ready to say goodbye to Mndeni? Who will stand against Jama with Mndeni out of the picture?

Stay tuned to #eHostelaMzansi every Sunday at 20:00 to find out!

Star-crossed lovers - Isibaya

No matter how much they try, love is just not in the air for these couples.

Jabu and Iris

The Jabu and Iris love story dates back many years. However, not even time is on the side of this couple. Iris was once Jabu's step-mother and is now the mother of Jabu's brother, making their love an almost impossible one. The bond between them, however, remains strong, broken only once by Zama. Now, with Jabu forgiven for choosing Zama and back in Iris' life, she has to choose between him and Manqoba because no matter what, their union is doomed.

"So what if you love me? What has love ever done for me?" - Iris

Saddam and Lillian

An unlikely pair, Dam-Dam and Vava Voom's love has even grown on Mzansi hearts. But the love story seems to be stop and start even for this couple. They have broken up on many occasions due to their age difference and trying to make things work in a gangster household. Perhaps the biggest tragedy to have faced the couple is losing their unborn son, Myken'eze at just 25 weeks while Dam-Dam remains hospitalized. Will they ever be able to be together without any problems?

Dabula and Ntwenhle

Just when we thought Dabula had won Ntwenhle's heart, he went back to his old criminal ways. Not only has he kidnapped MaMkhize, but he has also embroiled the Ndlovus in a corrupt mall deal that will leave them hated by their community and seen as crooks. Dabula seems to truly love Ntwenhle, but what has love got to do with it when Dabula is a kidnapping and corrupt criminal who just won't change even when he has been chief of Bhubesini?

Bongani and Kentucky

It seemed to be the most unlikely break-up: Bongani and Kentucky had been together for years until Chief Dabula came onto the scene and whisked Kentucky away in a fling. Now, Bongani and Kentucky are no more and may never be together again, and Kentucky does not even have Bongani. Could there be reconciliation for the lovers?

Dabula is trash, he's going to treat Ntwenhle the way he treated Kentucky #Isibaya

Mpiyakhe and Sibongile

Just a day after her wedding to Mpiyakhe, Sibongile goes missing without a trace. Mpiyakhe has lost himself in the search for his third wife but it serves no good because he simply cannot find her. Things have never been easy for the pair. When Mpiyakhe was ready to make Sibongile his third wife, his two other wives were up in arms and managed to chase Sibongile away wailing. Finally, she is married into the family but barely gets to enjoy a few days as Mrs Zungu as she is kidnapped by Dabula. Is their love just not meant to be? Was it always just a mistake?

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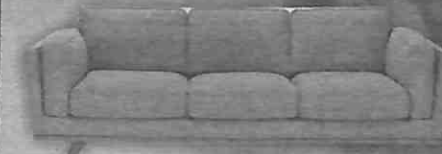
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ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



Neville insists Manchester United will face a 'mutiny'

LONDON - Gary Neville feels Manchester United face the prospect of a 'mutiny' should they decide against giving Ole Gunnar Solskjaer the job on a permanent basis.

Following the sacking of Jose Mourinho after defeat to Liverpool in September, United turned to former striker Solskjaer as an interim boss until the end of the season.

His impact has been sensational having got United's bid for a top-four spot back on track and after Sunday's 0-0 draw with Liverpool at Old Trafford, United remain unbeaten domestically since he took over. Despite suffering three injuries in the first half, United battled against their fierce rivals and were unlucky not to take all three points. 'Three months ago if it was 0-0 at home they would have been singing "attack, attack, attack"', Neville told Sky Sports

after the match.

'They were singing "Ole Gunnar Solskjaer" all of the second-half. The mood has completely transformed.

'He has the crowd with him. I think at this moment in time if you're the board you are not in a position where you could give it to someone else, I think there would be a mutiny.

'The fans love him.

They were getting behind the team in the second-half but mostly they

were singing for him.'

Solskjaer has a long-standing relationship with the club having represented them as a player. He has only one defeat to his name as United boss so far - the 2-0 home defeat to Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League.

Sunday's draw saw United drop down to fifth, one point behind Arsenal following their 2-0 win at home to Southampton.

- *Daily Mail*



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer now deserves the Manchester United permanently, says Gary Neville.

Mourinho insists Hazard has 'the talent and the personality' to play for Real Madrid

LONDON - Jose Mourinho says Chelsea star Eden Hazard possesses both the personality and the talent to succeed at Real Madrid.

Earlier in the month Hazard revealed he had made a decision on his future at the club but would, for now, be keeping that to himself.

Hazard is contracted to the Blues until 2020 and even despite FIFA placing a transfer ban on

the west London club, links to the Spanish giants refuse to dissipate.

Mourinho worked with Hazard during his second spell at Chelsea and also has experience in the hot-seat at Madrid and he feels it could be a perfect fit should the player make the move this summer. 'Does he have the talent to play for Real Madrid? He does,' Mourinho said, working as a pundit for sports streaming

service DAZN Espana.

'Does he have the personality to put on a 'super-heavy' shirt and play in front of the fans at the Bernabeu? Yes, he has the personality.

'Regarding Eden's ambitions... be it playing for Chelsea his whole life or playing for a giant like Real Madrid, I can't say, because I haven't spoken to him for a long time.'

Daily Mail

I did not mean to disobey Sarri - Arrizabalaga

LONDON - Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga insists his refusal to be substituted in the Carabao Cup final defeat to Manchester City was not a display of disrespect to manager Maurizio Sarri.

Sarri attempted to replace Kepa with reserve goalkeeper Willy Caballero ahead of the penalty shootout, with the Spain international appearing to suffer from cramp in the closing stages of Sunday's defeat at Wembley.

However, Kepa refused to leave the field - causing a lengthy delay to the match and prompting an angry reaction from Sarri, who stormed down the tunnel before returning to the touchline shortly afterwards.

Kepa played on but was able

ANGRY: Chelsea Manager Maurizio Sarri.



to save only one penalty in the shootout, as City claimed a 4-3 win to retain the Cup.

The former Athletic Bilbao player, who became the most expensive goalkeeper in history when he joined Chelsea for £71.6m in August, insists his refusal to leave the field was

not an act of insubordination against Sarri.

'I know if you see it from outside, I don't know how it went out, it is not the best image,' Kepa told Chelsea's official website. 'I have spoken with the boss. I think it was misunderstood. *Sky Sports*

It was a big misunderstanding - Sarri

LONDON - Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri has played down goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga's extraordinary act of defiance in the Carabao Cup final, saying it was a 'big misunderstanding'.

The Spaniard refused to be substituted in the closing stages of Sunday's game at Wembley, despite twice going down with cramp.

Sarri wanted to bring on substitute goalkeeper Willy Caballero but was left seething when Kepa

refused to leave the field.

After 120 goalless minutes, City went on to win 4-3 on penalties, Kepa saving from Leroy Sane but allowing a weak Sergio Aguero effort to creep beyond him, with Raheem Sterling converting the decisive kick.

Appeared

Sarri appeared in a much more conciliatory mood when asked about the incident by reporters after the game. 'It was a big misunderstanding,' said Sarri in

quotes published on Chelsea's official website. 'I understood he had a cramp so I didn't want the goalkeeper to go to penalties in that physical condition.

'I only realised the situation after three or four minutes when the doctor came to the bench. In the meantime I wanted Caballero on the pitch, and the keeper only wanted me to know he was in condition to go to penalties, so it was a big misunderstanding. *Sky Sports*

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Another four and a half more years for Africa's Number One

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns have confirmed that they have extended the stay of one of their key players.

Denis Onyango, who made CAF's Best XI for 2018, has committed his future to Sundowns, with the Brazilians confirming that the player has put pen to paper on a new deal at the club.

"Mamelodi Sundowns and Denis Onyango agreed on a contract extension of four and a half years. The Ugandan goalkeeper is currently the best goalkeeper in Africa having been named in the Confederation of African Football's Best XI," the club revealed on their official website.

Onyango joined the Brazilians from Mpumalanga Black Aces in 2011, where he was subsequently sent out on loan to Bidvest Wits to get in the needed game-time.

However, upon his return to Sundowns in 2014, Onyango managed to seal a place in the starting line-up under the mentorship of Head Coach Pitso Mosimane.

Onyango then went on to lift several trophies with Sundowns, adding the likes of the Absa Premiership league title, CAF Champions League trophy and the CAF Super Cup to his CV.

Now, it looks set that the 33-year-old could be retiring with the Brazilians after his stay was extended for another four and a half years.

Laduma

AGREE:
Denis
Onyango

'SUNDOWNS ARE NOT INVINCIBLE'

CAPE TOWN - Cape Town City head coach, Benni McCarthy thinks that Mamelodi Sundowns is not a team that his side should fear in the Absa Premiership.

The Citizens defeated Sundowns over two legs in the 2018 MTN8 competition and will lock horns with the Brazilians this week for the first time in this season's Absa Premiership campaign.

City will travel away to the Loftus Versfeld Stadium this week, Wednesday, this before welcoming the Brazilians to the Cape Town Stadium on March 9, 2019.

Games

City are fourth-placed on the league standings, trailing just three points behind Sundowns, who have two games in hand, and are five points behind log leaders, Bidvest Wits.

"If we are determined and if we are hungry and if we want



CELEBRATING: Cape Town City players celebrating one of their goals.

it more than them, it's possible, Polokwane went there and people said no chance and they came away with a point. Not saying that we are Polokwane but, Sundowns isn't invincible and Sundowns isn't that team

that you have to fear and now you have to change your way to play against them. No, that's how we go," McCarthy said as his side gear up to travel to Tshwane this week.

Laduma

Injuries to thwart Chiefs' title ambitions

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs have just a few months left now to try and bring to an end in 2018/19 the longest trophy drought in their history, however, injuries are certainly not helping their cause.

Take a look at Chiefs' problems in the gallery above!

The Glamour Boys are currently in sixth place on the Absa Premiership table with just nine games left to play, and as things stand they find themselves nine points adrift of the league leaders, Bidvest Wits.

It is likely that Chiefs' results over the course of the next month will signal whether they will be able to end their almost four-season trophy drought this season, though their best chance of doing that is likely to now be the Nedbank Cup.

While Itumeleng Khune and Lebogang Manyama were recently ruled out for the rest of the season - a big blow to Chiefs' ambitions - they have now had new starlet, Happy Mashiane, put out of action for around a month, while the likes of Lorenzo Gordinho, Joseph Molangoane and Erick Mathoho are all still recovering from their respective problems.

With a fully fit squad, Ernst Middendorp will have been confident of really putting up a fight towards the business end of the Absa Premiership campaign, but they are now three league games without a win and it's been more than a month since they last won a game in 90 minutes. *Laduma*

Chipezeze denies cheating time-wasting accusations

PRETORIA - Baroka FC goalkeeper Elvis Chipezeze has dismissed the notion that he is faking injuries to buy time during PSL matches.

Chipezeze was back at it again on Saturday during the league game against SuperSport United in Tshwane after falling down on a few occasions claiming an injury.

Bakgaga beat Matsatsantsa 2-1 to boost their chances of surviving relegation this season and are only two points above the drop zone.

"In games like these [against SuperSport United] the intensity is high. You also saw my defender was down and bleeding. (James)

Keene came and hit me on my head," said Chipezeze, who fell down while the medical team was attending to his team-mate.

Injuries

"I won't be faking injuries. You know sometimes some of these guys would be chasing games and want the three points at all costs. When you go down, it's part of football, it's not cheating. If a player is injured, he's injured."

Despite his team's precarious position, Chipezeze has enjoyed a fine season since arriving from Zimbabwe at the beginning of the season.

"We are working as a team. Most of the young boys started playing



DENIES: Baroka FC goalkeeper Elvis Chipezeze

in the PSL this season and as an international I try to help here and there with the experience I've gained

while still playing at home. It's not a one-man show. We are working as a unit," he added. *Kickoff*

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'Racist' S Williams cartoon given Australian all-clear

MELBOURNE - A controversial Australian newspaper cartoon of Serena Williams which was blasted as racist and sexist did not breach media standards, the country's press watchdog ruled Monday.

Melbourne Herald-Sun illustrator Mark Knight's caricature in September showed a butch and fat-lipped Williams throwing a temper tantrum at last year's US Open after losing to Naomi Osaka.

It sparked widespread condemnation across the world, including from Harry Potter author JK Rowling and the Washington Post, which likened it to the era of racial segregation in the United States.

The Herald-Sun defiantly republished the cartoon on its front page in the wake of the criticism under the headline "WELCOME TO PC WORLD".

The Australian Press Council received complaints that Williams' depiction "may cause it to be an offensive and sexist representation of a woman and a prejudicial racial stereotype of African-American people generally".

It said there was concern about her being shown with "large lips, a broad flat nose, a wild afro-styled ponytail hairstyle different to that worn by Ms Williams during the match and positioned in an ape-like pose".

But it accepted that the newspaper's intent was simply to depict her behaviour



RACISM: The Melbourne Herald-Sun cartoon of Serena Williams, published after her US Open final defeat, was widely criticised as racist and sexist.

as "childish by showing her spitting a pacifier out while she jumps up and down".

"The Council considers that the cartoon uses exaggeration and absurdity to make its point," it said.

"It accepts the publisher's claim that it does not depict Ms Williams as an ape, rather showing her as 'spitting the dummy', a non-racist caricature familiar to most Australian readers."

The Council did acknowledge that some readers found it offensive, but added that there was "sufficient public interest in commenting on behaviour

and sportsmanship during a significant dispute between a tennis player with a globally high profile and an umpire at the US Open final".

"As such, the Council does not consider that the publication failed to take reasonable steps to avoid causing substantial offence, distress or prejudice, without sufficient justification in the public interest."

The furore followed 23-time Grand Slam champion Williams smashing her racquet and calling the umpire a "thief" and a "liar" during her Flushing Meadows meltdown. **AFP**

Bayern ready to offer £105m for Marco Asensio

MUNICH - Bayern Munich are ready to step up their interest in Marco Asensio and are 'willing to offer £105million' to get him this summer.

Asensio is seen as one of Europe's most promising youngsters but under Real Madrid boss Santiago Solari he has struggled to gain regular starts, largely resigned to a place on the bench.

Having missed out on Chelsea teenager Callum Hudson-Odoi in January, Bayern are now eyeing a big-money switch for Asensio, according to Spanish publication Don Balon.

Real Madrid chief Florentino Perez has previously stated letting home-grown Spanish talents leave the club is not an option but according to reports in Spain, Asensio is 'growing tired of his peripheral role'.

Zinedine Zidane increased Asensio's involvement in the side and he has shown glimpses in a Madrid shirt of being the future of the club's attack.

For Bayern,

they are keen to revitalise their ageing squad with some of world football's brightest young players as they prepare for life without the likes of Arjen Robben and Frank Ribery.

Asensio would certainly attract plenty of interest at the age of 23 with Paris Saint-Germain, Liverpool, Manchester City and Chelsea all credited with holding an interest in the player.

A telling contribution against Ajax in the Champions League recently, coming off the bench to seal a 2-1 win in Amsterdam, shows he is a player ready to seize the moment in a bid to salvage a career in Spain.

The Don Balon report suggests there are 'several members of the staff at the club who feel the environment has deteriorated'.

considerably' between Asensio and Solari.

Daily Mail



Marco Asensio

Tsitsipas claims second ATP title in Marseille

MARSEILLE - Rising Greek star Stefanos Tsitsipas claimed his second ATP Tour title on Sunday by beating Mikhail Kukushkin in the final of the Marseille event.

The 20-year-old continued his excellent start to the year, which included a run to the Australian Open semi-finals on the back of a fourth round defeat of Roger Federer, by battling to a 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) victory.

"Winning titles is the thing that I

am working for... It is the biggest satisfaction and the biggest joy in tennis," said Tsitsipas, who won his first ATP title in Stockholm last year.

"There was a lot of stress this week because I knew I had to face some good opponents.

"When you care a lot, you tend to be more stressed than usual. I am happy that I got through that stress and played the game that I was supposed to play."

Tsitsipas went into the week having lost his last two matches to Gael Monfils and Damir Dzumhur, but cruised to the title without dropping a set.

"I lost the spark (after the Australian Open) and I was frustrated because it felt like I couldn't find it again," said Tsitsipas.

"This week, I can say I am really happy because I felt this hunger back again... I really hope it stays the same because there are many

good players out there that play for the same prize."

On Sunday, Tsitsipas edged a tight opening set with the first break of the match in game 12, before falling a break behind midway through the second set.

But Kazakh Kukushkin failed to serve for the set when leading 5-4, and Tsitsipas pounced to seal victory on his first match point in the tie-break. **AFP**



REFUSED: David Luiz talking to Kepa Arrizabalaga while he refused to be substituted.

Chelsea not planning to punish Arrizabalaga

LONDON - Chelsea have no plans to punish Kepa Arrizabalaga despite the goalkeeper refusing to be substituted during Sunday's Carabao Cup final defeat by Manchester City.

The Blues No 1, who moved to Stamford Bridge in a world record £71.6million deal last summer, defied boss Maurizio Sarri when he attempted to bring on Willy Caballero shortly before the penalty shootout at Wembley.

Kepa and Sarri have since explained that there was a misunderstanding between them, with the Italian believing his goalkeeper needed to be taken off due to cramp.

Sarri claimed on Sunday evening that he would not discipline the 24-year-old and the Evening Standard have now reported that club officials will not act either.

Chelsea will not punish or fine Kepa, who is in line to face Tottenham in the Premier League on Wednesday evening.

Sportsmail understands that Sarri will still be in charge for the London derby against Mauricio Pochettino's men after his side put in an improved display against City.

It was thought another heavy defeat, like the 6-0 thrashing Chelsea suffered at the Etihad earlier this month, could have earned the former Napoli boss the sack.

But he will remain in control for the midweek clash at Stamford Bridge as he bids to get Chelsea back on track in their bid to make the top four.

Meanwhile, David Luiz has denied that there is a problem with player power at the club following Sunday's incident with Kepa.

Asked whether the squad had control, the Brazilian defender said: "No. The coach has the power over the group. He has our respect.

"For me there is not a problem here for that. We all believe in his philosophy, we all believe in the way he wants us to play. "That's why we did a great game against the best team in Europe at the moment. It was a misunderstanding and we all want to do what is best for Chelsea." **Daily Mail**

Bale sinks dubious VAR penalty to seal win for Madrid

MADRID - Gareth Bale scored Real Madrid's winner but then pushed away a team-mate trying to celebrate with him as a hugely dubious VAR decision helped his side to a 2-1 victory.

Bale had been benched again and when, on as a substitute, he stepped up to score the spot-kick he did not celebrate. Lucas Vazquez put an arm around him but Bale pushed him away, before then accepting congratulations from Nacho.

His angry reaction is the latest chapter in an unhappy season for the Welsh superstar, who has been repeatedly criticised for failing to fill the void left by Cristiano Ronaldo's departure last summer.

But it was Levante who should have been fuming. Cheick Doucoure fresh-air kicked in the penalty area and Casemiro threw himself down in agony. Replays suggested Doucoure had made contact neither with the ball nor the Real Madrid midfielder.

Doucoure requested the referee consult VAR. He did but the decision stood and with a hop and a skip Bale rolled the spot-kick past Andres Fernandez.

Bale's non-celebration followed and he was not the only unhappy Madrid player. Toni Kroos had looked less than pleased when he was taken off early in the second half in an unconvincing Madrid performance.

Madrid had gone in at half time 1-0 up but from a penalty they had never asked for and despite Levante hitting the post twice.

Daily Mail

Weekend Sports Results

By Mthunzi Maziya

MTN Premier League

Sea Birds	0	R Leopard	2
Malanti Chiefs	2	Vovovo	2
Matsapha	1	Highlanders	3
Tambuti	0	Buffaloes	1
G. Mamba	2	M Pirates	1
M. Sundowns	0	M. Wanderers	2
M. Citizens	0	M. Swallows	0

MTN National First Division

Milling	5	Tycoons	1
Callies	1	Hub	0
Mbabane City	1	Tinyosi	0
Black Swallows	2	Red Lions	1
City Warriors	2	Seven Dreams	2
Madlenya	2	Rangers	1

EswatiniBank Under-20 Cup preliminary games

Malanti Chiefs	2-2	Matsapha United
(Malanti Chiefs win 7-6 on penalties)		
Tambuti	4-2	Mbabane Highlander

Brand Active Mbabane Juniors - U20

mbumbe	1	Mangwaneni	5
Hurricane	1	Dark city	2
Zulwini Aces	2	Buka Stars	1
Svutsa	3	Classic	1(P)

Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League - E77 000

Southern Zone			
Imbumbe	2	Billy Ocean	2
PMT	1	Wizards	0
Kupheleni	1	Community	0
Emajukjuku	2	Umbelebele	1
Sibovini	0	Shooting Stars	1
Burning Spear	0	Swazi Sun	3
Northern Zone			
Sigodlo	2	Pachanga	1
Horo Spinners	0	Vultures	0
Khanjana	1	Manchester	2
Mvuma	1	M. Arsenal	1
Msahweni	2	Kappa	1

Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League - E70 000

Interstars	4	Double Action	2
Corporation	3	Mb. Arsenal	0
Amawele	0	Mb. Celtics	1
Pot O Gold	1	Veni	1
Real Tec	3	Pine Valley	1
White City	2	Classic	1
Sidwashini Utd	0	Mvakwelitje	3
Sandra	2	Supersport	1

B. Division

FC Vaal	3	Lusoti	2
The Wallers	1	Mbabane Utd	2
National Rangers	3	Mantsholo	2
Junction Stars	2	Movers	2
Mphalati	0	Mantsholo Utd	0
Free Style	2	Dynamos	1
D. Darkies	1	Mangwaneni	2
Mpolonjeni	2	Hurricane	1

MP Mabulala & Gongz Maphalaleni League - E60 000

Eastern stream			
Professionals	5	Luvunjelo	1
Xi Experience	1	Y. Lovers	2
Thuluzobona	3	Umkhokha	2
Blue Birds	7	Barcelona	0
Junior Stars	2	Young Stars	0
Rangers	3	Khulawane	0
Manchester	3	Killers	1
HotSpurs	3	Liselesele	0
Western stream			
Rollers	2	Mighty Birds	0
Academy	2	Lunkanka	2
Happy Tigers	1	Hill Stars	2
Sphambanweni	1	Jubukweni	2
Happy Fighters	2	Love & Peace	1
Sunrise	1	Top Classic	1

Tee & Jay Lobamba League - E90 000

Promotion			
L. Sunrise	3	Ezulwini Aces	1
L. Wanderers	1	Emaselesele	0
Real Masters	1	Fast Reaction	3
M. Invaders	1	Dynamos	3
Luvve Killers	1	E. Rangers	1
Lusito lions	1	Vutha	0
Ekuzukeni Utd	0	Liwakawaka	2
L. Cosmos	2	City Stars	0
Ezulwini Aces	1	Emaselesele	4
B. Division			
Stoke City	0	Servest	7



Ezulwini FC	3	E.M.Bombers	2
X. Eleven	4	E. Vultures	2
M. United	2	Power Stars	11
Smuzamuza	0	Kasi Warriors	12

South Star Mzimba League - E65 000

Promotion			
Chiefs	2	Rebels	3
Timbungulu	2	Monaco	1
Amacabane	2	Swallows	1
Sibuyeni	1	Cosmos	0
Arsenal	2	Killers	1
Bush Bucks	2	Sundowns	0
Kasiko	0	Rangers	1
Black MASHUBA	1	Cosmos	0
Green Sea	1	Sibuyeni	2

Buy Cash Pigg's Peak League - E50 000

Mhlatale	2	White Killers	1
Ndeva Galaxy	2	Darkies Utd	1
Bush Bucks	2	Maguga	1
19 Celtics	10	Citizens	0
Phophonyane	0	Rockville	4
Rise & Shine	0	Mangwaneni	1
Supersport	1	Peak City	1
Thuluzobona	5	Hotspurs	3

Futis Nkhaba League - E30 000

Nkoyoyo	0	Majotini	3
Barcelona	1	Ngwenya Utd	2
Nkoyoyo Jnr	1	Super stars	1
Kasi Xi	2	Bafana	2
Real Rovers	0	Mhl. Celtics	3
Manyisa Utd	3	Dribbling Stars	0
Atletico	3	Crocodiles	0
Fast Movers	3	Lubhedze	3

MP Nelson MambaTimpisini Football League

Promotion			
Mv. Sundowns	1	Ngonini	1
Kudwawani	1	Soccer Rose	3
Njakeni City	2	Mb. Swallows	2
Matsamo	2	Golden Arrows	2
Stone Breakers	3	Vusweni	1
Gunners	1	Blue Birds	2
S. Wanderers	5	Ellegence	2
Ndlalambi	2	H. Pirates	2

B. Division

Njakeni Utd	0	Besutfwini	7
Young Tigers	3	Y. Bombers	2
Skhaleni	1	Y. Savilla	0
Red Lions	1	JB Arsenal	0
Juventus	0	Zamalek	4
AK 47	8	Y. Swallows	1
All United	2	All stars	1

Oupa Mhlangatane League - E50 000

Western stream			
Democracy	0	Weirna	3
Chelsea	2	Celtics	1
M. Professionals	0	Lonhlanane	1
City Stars	2	Arsenal	0
Zinyane	0	Manchester	0
Mpofu Aces	0	Thuluzobona	2
Hot Fighters	2	Fast Movers	2

Eastern stream

Manjengeni	1	H. Defenders	1
Tigers	3	Liverpool	0
M. Cosmos	1	Swallows	2
Newcastle	3	T. Wizards	1
Xi Men	0	Makhweya	5

Shebza Ntabezimpisi League - E50 000

Russian Bombers	6	Super Aces	1
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Killers	1	Professionals	1
Hungry Lions	2	City Stars	0
Cosmos	3	Sundowns	0
Fontotje	2	Arrows	1
Arsenal	2	Skom Boyz	1
Super Stars	1	Manchester	1

Bhulane Resort Ndzingeni League - E50 000

Bulandzeni stream			
Aces	2	Roman Utd	0
Young Stars	4	Supersport	1
Professionals	1	S. Banana	0
Liverpool	3	Arsenal	0
Rebels	1	Young Chiefs	1
White City	1	K. Celtics	0

Mvuma Stream

M. Madrid	2	Blue Ocean	0
D. Darkies	1	Blue Birds	0
Red sea	3	Zizweni Utd	2
KK Ajax	3	Tihlabani	0
Lozaza	3	Super Aces	1
Gebhulas	1	Happiness	1
FC Academy	3	Volcano	3
Tsunami	3	M. Celics	1

MP Sompisi Ntfontjeni League - E50 000

Liverpool	0	Nkonjaneni	4
Ntintinyane	0	Suncity	1
Chelsea	2	Trounge	2
Casino	0	Express	1
Mbabatane	2	Seven Up	1
Royal Madrid	1	Foster Utd	3
Sidwshini	3	Hellenic	2
Young Tigers	1	Gunwane	1

Manzini Regional Football Association

Dabulamanzi Civil Works & Irrigation Manzini Super League			
Masundwini Royal S	1	Villa Stars	1
Bad Boys	0	Timbutini	1
Mhlaleni United	0	Nsuka United	1
Sisonkhe	1	Villa Stars	2
Ludzeludze Killers	5	Mhlaleni United	0
Ludzeludze Brothers	2	Luve Cosmos	0

Manzini Promotion League

Home Sparrows	1	Green Way	1
Fairview Chiefs	3	Manzini United	0
Combine Stars	2	Kholwane Flying Birds	2
Two Sticks Comrades	1	Wonderful Touch	1
Siboniso Selwandle	1	Young Tigers	3
The Bones	3	Lwandle Classic	0
African Chiefs	1	Superstars	2
FC North	1	Maliyaduma United	3

KPMG Manzini First Division League

Ngwane Park	0	Healing Boys	2
City Eagles	3	Nhlambeni United	1
Bradford	6	Big XI	2

OK Foods Kwaluseni Promotion League

Fashion International	2	Real Professionals	3
Mhlane United	2	Dark City	2
FC Logoba	0	Kwaluseni United	4
Kwaluseni Rebels	0	Zombodze United	3
Gocweni Trompies	1	Nsenga Comrades	2
Supersport	1	Zama United	2
Ntunja Arsenal	2	Lozitha Spurs	4

OK Foods Kwaluseni First Division League

Ngonini United	7	Nsenga Shagari XI	0
Boyane United	5	Bafana Bafana	0
Mahashulan	0	Swazi Wire	3
Ludzeludze Celtics	4	AFC Heroes	1

Zero Boys	2	Mhlaleni Superstars	1
Manila Stars	0	Giant Clockwork	2
Ludzeludze Kicks	2	FC Matsapha Town	1

S & S Malkerns Promotion League

Phondo	1	Ngodini	3
Mahlanya United	1	Vuka Aces	1
Malkerns	0	Makhungutsha	0
Vickery Nomads	2	Gebeni	0
Cutter Cosmos	2	Swazi Can United	1
Vuka Aces	2	Phondo	0

Malkerns First Division League

MphMphofana United	1	Home Boys	1
FC Navara	1	Thunderbolt	3
Skom Boys	1	Mdonjane Arsenal	2
Red Swallows	1	Survivor	1

Premier Bakeries Mkhweni Promotion League

Bantu City	3	Toronto	2
Luve Home Defenders	0	Ngonini Young Aces	5
Sangotfo	3	Manchester United	0
Mliba Rangers	1	Moyeni	2
Liverpool	4	Luve Suncity	1
Step Ahead	0	Colani United	2
Mbashedi Brothers	1	Zama United	2
Luve Classic	1	Luve Stars	5
All Stars	3	Executive	0

Corban Mafutseni Promotion League

Nkonga Pirates	3	Diamond Hunters	1
Vultures	0	Khamatfo	4
Ma-G-Man	1	Bhudla Celtics	4
Young Cannibals	1	Emataliyane	1
Mafutseni United	2	Vulamehlo Classic	3
Sicamelo Sa-Chief	1	Timbutini Combine	5
Bhudla Celtics	4	Mamuleni United	4
MADubula Roers	3	Timbutini All Stars	2
Dynamos	1	Moyeni Supersport	0
Emataliyane	0	Vulamehlo Classic	0
Ntabamhoshana	3	Vultures	0
Young Cannibals	4	Ma-G-Man	2

Kukhanyeni Promotion League

Bhekinkhosi	3	Mphola Celtics	1
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Phunga Promotion League

Mpumalanga	2	Dynamos	3
Shepherd	1	Dumsnai Swallows	3
Phunga Rangers	3	Hotspurs	1
Phunga Fighters	3	Volcano	0
Youngstars	1	Real Amakhosi	1

Mbuso Maseko Malindza Football League

Zamalek	7	Mshana	0
Calabash	2	Home Sweepers	0
Malindza Utd	2	Dvokodweni	1
Promising Stars	1	Juventus	0
Young Aces	1	Siweni Utd	0
Highway	1	Umseshi	1

Swazi Trac - Shiselweni Southern Super League

All Nations	5	JB Tigers	0
Ngwane College	1	Mvela	2
Black Mashuba	3	Mazomba	2
Piano	2	Nsingizini Spurs	0
Manchester	2	Mashekesheni	0

Swazi Trac - Lubombo Super League

Crookes United	4	Mkhweli All Stars	0
Illovo	3	M. Peacemakers	0
Ubombo Flyers	2	Magwanyane	1
CPL	2	CK Survivors	2
Shewula Arsenal	2	Malaheni United	1
Ntengenyane	2	Bhelebane	2
Juventus	2	Samampela	1

RSSC Siyakha 1800 North - West

Young Killers	2	Skyline	0
Professionals	1	Eastern Pirates	2
Tabankulu Celtics	3	Revelations	1
Tabankulu FC	1	Tonga	3
Rovers	2	Equator	2

Lubombo Western Zone

Tawem	0	Kukhanyeni	0
Manchester	0	Seabirds	3
Vultures	2	Stone Breakers	1
Celtics	1	Gucuka	0
Red Lion	1	Black Swallows	3
Heroes	2	Mamisa United	2
Mamisa Prof	1	Bekela	3
Bombers	2	Sithobela	1

ESWATINIBANK CUP LAST 16 DRAW



TOP BRASS: EswatiniBank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele flanked by of Eswatini Football Association President Adam 'Bomber' Mtsetfwa and EFA Vice President Dr Comfort Shongwe during the EswatiniBank Cup last 16 draw held at the institution's boardroom yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: Premier League of Eswatini CEO Simanga Nhleko directing proceedings.



LUDZELUDZE KILLERS F.C.	VS	GREEN MAMBA F.C.
MATSEBULA UNITED F.C.	VS	MBABANE HIGHLANDERS F.C.
MONENI PIRATES F.C.	VS	ROYAL LEOPARD F.C.
MBABANE CITIZENS F.C.	VS	YOUNG BUFFALOES F.C.
TAMBUTU F.C.	VS	MBABANE SWALLOWS F.C.
TABANKULU CALLIES F.C.	VS	VOVOVO F.C.
PIGG'S PEAK BLACK SWALLOWS F.C.	VS	MALANTI CHIEFS F.C.
MANZINI WANDERERS F.C.	VS	MANZINI SUNDOWNS F.C.

HERE: The full draw.



PICK ONE BALL: PLE Development Officer Banele Masondo and EswatiniBank's Lungile Madolo conducting the draw.



WHO IS NEXT?: EswatiniBank Cup Management Committee member Thembumenzi Mamba assisting Madolo.



LOOK: Ludzeludze Killers was the first team to be drawn by Madolo.



ME ALONE: Vovovo FC CEO Stan Dlamini displaying the trophy after his side was drawn against Tambankulu Callies.



AI: Mbabane Highlanders PRO Paul 'Magidzeludzakeni' Masilela reacts after his side was drawn against Matsapha United.



FOCUSED: Some of EswatiniBank staff members who were present.



BLACK SWALLOWS VS MALANTI: Pigg's Peak Black Swallows Director Charles Matsebula and Malanti Chiefs PRO Lungile Dube.



BUFFALOES VS CITIZENS: Defending champions Young Buffaloes PRO Thando Nxumalo with his Mbabane Citizens counterpart Sifiso Magagula.



LUDZELUDZE KILLERS VS GREEN MAMBA: Ludzeledze Killers PRO Mxolisi Dlamini and Green Mamba CEO Thami Phakathi lifting the trophy.



PIRATES VS LEOPARD: Moneni Pirates PRO Mlungisi Simelane and Royal Leopard CEO Frank Hurube displaying the trophy.



SWALLOWS VS TAMBUTU: Mbabane Swallows PRO Jackson Dlamini with Tambuti FC's Senzo Sibandze.

MORE FROM ESWATINIBANK UNDER-20 CUP



WAR READY: Malanti Chiefs players pose for a group picture before their match against Matsapha United. (Pics: Sibusiso Dlamini)



BOGANDAGANDA: Matsapha United players pose for a group picture before their match against Malanti Chiefs. This was during the teams' EswatiniBank Cup encounter played at the Old Trade Fair Ground.



DANGEROUS PLAY: Manzini Sea Birds' Sibusiso Fakudze fouls Vovovo's Bongani Vilane.

RIGHT - BOYS, THIS IS IT: Manzini Sea Birds head coach Mbuso Motsa displays a depiction of the field and uses it to issue instructions to his charges during half-time.



THEY ARE GOOD: Green Mamba coach Mbuso Gina having a conversation with a spectator, whilst watching the Vovovo and Sea Birds match.



HAPPY: Malanti players celebrating their victory. Malanti won 7 - 6 on penalties after the match finished 2-all drawn regular time.



COME ON: Vovovo Head-Coach Bongumusa Mdluli issuing instructions to his charges.



PARAMEDICS: A player sprawls after picking an injury.

RIGHT - YEN-TANI KANJENA GENTS: A coach giving instructions to his players.



FOOTBALL TALK

All your latest WORLD FOOTBALL NEWS

● Leicester City are set to offer Celtic £6m to appoint Brendan Rodgers as manager after sacking Claude Puel on Sunday. (*Sun*)

● Former Huddersfield boss David Wagner is also among the targets to take over at the King Power Stadium. (*Huddersfield Examiner*)

● Ex-Everton and Manchester United manager David Moyes has admitted interest in the vacant Foxes post. (*Bein Sports, via Liverpool Echo*)

● Leicester's English striker Jamie Vardy, 32, punched a door in anger following his side's 4-1 defeat by Crystal Palace on Saturday. (*Mail*)

● Paris St-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi insists that neither 27-year-old Brazil forward Neymar, linked with Real Madrid, or France striker Kylian Mbappe, 20, will be sold this year. (*Marca*)

● Liverpool and Arsenal's efforts to sign PSG and France midfielder Adrien Rabiot, 23, appear to have been given a boost after Barcelona cooled their interest. (*Mirror*)

● Bayern Munich president Uli Hoenes says a decision on the future of 27-year-old Colombia midfielder James Rodriguez, whose two-year loan from Real Madrid finishes at the end of the season, will be in the hands of manager Niko Kovac. (*Goal*)

● Manchester United have been linked with a summer move for Sporting's Portuguese midfielder Bruno Fernandes, 24. (*A Bola, via Manchester Evening News*)

● Wolves captain Conor Coady says he is doing all he can to persuade Mexico striker Raul Jimenez, 29, to make his loan deal at the club permanent. (*Express and Star*)

● French side Lille are prepared to sell 23-year-old Ivory Coast winger Nicolas Pepe, who has been an Arsenal target, if the price is right. (*Telefoot, via Football London*)

● Burnley's England-born forward Ashley Barnes could pledge his international future to Austria - the 29-year-old qualifies through his maternal grandmother. (*Mail*)

● Former Chelsea and Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho believes the Blues' 28-year-old Belgium midfielder Eden Hazard would be a success at Real Madrid. (*London Evening Standard*)

● Portuguese Mourinho, 56, plans to be back in management this summer. (*ESPN*)

● Manchester United staff gave special instructions to the ball boys at Old Trafford to slow down in giving the ball back to Liverpool during Sunday's 0-0 draw. (*Mail*)



THE SUCKER PUNCH POW!

...with Mphikeleli Msibi

[STRIKING, STRAIGHT AND STRENGTHENED]

Are we creating an EswatiniBank Cup Animal Farm

...Eswatini Bank Cup literally shuts the door for a dream final, pitting low ranking teams barring any miracle

TODAY I have this one question after witnessing seeding, for the first time in the history of the EswatiniBank Cup last 16 draw.

Are we cultivating an EswatiniBank Cup Animal Farm?

For those new to this political satire, Animal Farm is an allegorical novella by George Orwell, first published in England on 17 August 1945. According to Orwell, the fable reflects events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917 and then on into the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union.

The story and language are very simple, but Orwell is unnervingly precise in the way he depicts each step on the road from revolution to tyranny.

After the first ever seeding of the tournament's round of 16, literally the template quote "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others," could be safely read "All Eswatini football clubs are all equal but some (the seeded teams) are more equal than others."

While seeding is done for opening round for most tournaments including the famed FIFA World Cup, implementing a seeding system in our own Eswatini Bank Cup literally shuts the door for a dream final pitting low ranking teams barring any miracle.

Furthermore, it breeds and cultivates high suspicions of sinister agendas driven at protecting some teams hence the Animal Farm famous quote.

Surely many of our finals are turning to a football cliché as long as we try to craft certain pairings in our tournaments.

Yes we understand the need to



give the sponsors maximum possible mileage by ensuring high attendance volumes but surely not long ago in 2017, we had the original Matsapha United dusting it out against Young Buffaloes and need I remind you of how much our Somhlolo National Stadium filled up to the rafters.

Teams

Needless to talk about the noise or excitement such a tournament creates among the so called small teams.

With the seeding in this year's draw, there could be no potential Mbabane Derby. Infact, fans have been denied an opportunity of exciting encounters.

The so called small teams do not need an easier path to qualify, but just a fair one.

As it is now the deck is continu-

ally stacked against them.

The point some people are missing is that some teams will get an easier run because of their perception as a big team when in reality they'd be worse.

I agree that if a team wants to win the major they should be ready to beat any team in the tournament. The seeding only allow for big teams not to play against each other in earlier stages.

Tournament

The tournament needs suspense and it is not good for fans or sponsors if the outcome gets decided too early. So, there is a desire to see it happen.

I am sensitive to the conflict between those opposed to change and those who want to modernise.

Of course, there is a danger of killing the goose that lays the gold-

en egg.

The tournament is fantastic in the world of football and if we have too many changes, might we harm it? So, let us be careful. But we also want to be modern. And that is why they needed to have thought so hard about seeding. It makes sense for many people but not me, at least for now.

The MC is just trying to be too clever, which is not good. With that said, I think we have exciting encounters and again any team can surprise you on any day.

All the teams have to prepare well for these games. The early rounds of the SwaziBank Cup have traditionally produced plenty of fireworks, whether they are in the form of giant killings or heavy scores and we expect more fireworks this weekend. 'Solo Inje' mbamba yini?

TWIST AND TURNS IN TITLE RACE

AFTER another enthralling week in the title race, it is Royal Leopard who are in charge of their own destiny.

They just need to win their games and not worry about how the other teams play.

Not that it is likely to be that simple, in a title race that has already played out with an abundance of twists and turns.

First it was Green Mamba in pole position, then Young Buffaloes, and now it is Royal Leopard.

This alone should tell you that it is indeed full of twists and turns. The good thing is that Leopard lead Green Mamba with three points and I think it is safe to say it is still a five-horse race.

The margins remain fine and from the looks of things, anyone can still win the league between these five

teams. These are Leopard, Green Mamba, Buffaloes, Mbabane Swallows and Mbabane Highlanders.

Of all the contenders, Mbabane Swallows should be the most worried of the lot, having struggled to play their normal game since the start of the league.

Dropping points over the weekend has harmed their chances of successfully defending their league title - for now.

You can say the 'Beautiful Birds' might have lost ground in the title race, but, with nine games to go, there will surely be more twists and turns before the final destination of the title is decided.

Race

In fact, the race is still wide open, with Leopard in a good position to walk away with the crown.

Worth noting is that at this stage

of the league, all the teams have played the same number of games which makes it very interesting.

Signs

The 'Black Bull' cannot be ruled out, having shown signs of resurgent lately as also trail log leaders with six points, which should tell you that they are very much in it as well.

Another interesting factor is that all these teams are also involved in the Eswatini Bank Cup which enters its last 16 games this weekend.

These teams are all focusing on just two tournaments, the EswatiniBank Cup and the MTN Premier League.

Some of the top five teams are yet to play against each other. It is only Highlander and Buffaloes, who also have their eyes on Ingwenyama Cup.

It's a fact that some of the matches between these top five sides are hard to predict and it is even more difficult now as a lot is at stake.

Moving further down to the foot of the table, Mbabane Citizens, Vovovo, Matsapha United, Moneni Pirates, Manzini Sundowns and Tambuti are all in danger of the looming relegation dagger.

Citizens are rooted at the bottom of the log with 15 points, just two points behind Vovovo who are tied on 17 points with Matsapha United. Teams like Manzini Wanderers, Malanti Chief and Sea Birds will be going for the kill in their next league games in a bid to move further away from the drop.

They currently have 21, 22 and 24 points, respectively which still put them in danger of relegation. Still a few games left before the end of the season and anything is possible in a game of football.

Matsapha vow to cut off 'Bull's horns

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – MATSAPHA United's PRO Bheka Magagula has vowed that his team will chop off Mbabane Highlanders' horns when the two teams meet in the last 16 of the EswatiniBank Cup.

Highlanders are nicknamed the 'Black Bull', and Magagula said he harboured hopes of being drawn against Highlanders following his team's 1-3 loss to them on Saturday.

"I would have not felt at peace had we not been drawn against them. We have unfinished business with Highlanders, and this will be the time to settle our scores. My wish was that the game be taken down to Mhlume, and if that is the case, it will be mission accomplished," he said.

Matsapha are also referred to as 'Bogandaganda', meaning giant tractors. Magagula said they suffered an unfortunate breakdown during their defeat to Highlanders on Saturday, but assured this would not be the case this time.

Highlanders' PRO 'Magidzeludzakeni' Masilela said Magagula had personally asked to exit the competition in their



AGAIN: Mbabane Highlanders PRO Paul 'Magidzeludzakeni' Masilela and his Matsapha United counterpart Bheka Magagula displaying the EswatiniBank Cup trophy after the draw.

private conversations.

He said they stood ready to grant him his wish.

"Our fans must buy tickets on time

and come support the team. "They must also open accounts with EswatiniBank because we intend to be in the competition until the end," he said.



EswatiniBank CUP		
VOVOVO F.C.	Vs	MBABANE SWALLOWS F.C.
TAMBUTI F.C.	Vs	ROYAL LEOPARD F.C.
YOUNG BUFFALOES F.C.	Vs	GREEN MAMBA F.C.
MALANTI CHIEFS F.C.	Vs	MANZINI SUNDOWNS F.C.
	Vs	
	Vs	
	Vs	

PICK ONE BALL: PLE Development Officer Banele Masondo and EswatiniBank's Lungile Madolo conducting the draw.

Security forces derby in Under-20's headliner

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

SOCCER – THE security forces derby pitting army side Young Buffaloes against their fellow counterparts Green Mamba will headline the quarter-final round of the EswatiniBank Cup Under-20 Cup.

This was during the draw held at the EswatiniBank auditorium yesterday morning.

The two security forces sides were among the four teams seeded in the preliminary round, hence they will both be playing their first matches of the tournament.

UNDER 20s QUARTER-FINAL DRAW

Vovovo FC	vs	Mbabane Swallows
Tambuti FC	vs	Royal Leopard
Young Buffaloes	vs	Green Mamba
Malanti Chiefs	vs	Manzini Sundowns

This was as part of perks of their top finishes in last season's league.

The two teams are very clear with each other's style of play as they clashed in the league just a fortnight back, where Buffaloes emerged victorious with a 3-1 win.

Young Buffaloes are dominant in the development league, but have lost out in the past three editions of this tour-

namment, with glamour capital city giants Mbabane Swallows winning last year's edition.

Other interesting games of the round will see Vovovo take on defending champions Mbabane Swallows, a match that is expected to be a thriller as both teams play a similar type of football, infused with pace and individual brilliance.

Police side Royal Leopard have a date with Tambuti, who booted out capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders out of the tournament with a 4-2 win last Sunday.

Northern Hhohho side Malanti Chiefs will take on Manzini Sundowns.

Swallows will not under-estimate Tambuti

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – MBABANE Swallows' PRO Jackson Dlamini says his team will not under-estimate Tambuti FC when they face them in the last 16 of the EswatiniBank Cup.

Swallows were eliminated by Matsapha United in last year's edition of the competition, and this is one trophy that has eluded them for a couple of years to date. Speaking after yesterday's draw, Dlamini said there were no longer any small teams in the competition, and for that reason they would prepare adequately

for the match against Tambuti.

"It has been quite a while since we last won this competition, and we want it this time. We intend to win and progress to the next round but we are fully aware that this will not be an easy game. We respect Tambuti, and hope for a good game," he said.

His counterpart at Tambuti, Senzo Sibandze said it was unfortunate that many people already expected his team to be out of the competition. He pointed out that he had been sent to draw a difficult opponent, and was happy to get Swallows. "This year, Tambuti FC will win the EswatiniBank Cup," he boldly declared.

Teams promise fireworks in EswatiniBank last 16

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER – TEAMS have promised to bring their best during the EswatiniBank last 16 games.

This was their reaction after the last 16 draw held at EswatiniBank boardroom yesterday.

This is what they said:

Mbabane Citizens vs Young Buffaloes

Mbabane Citizens Manager Sifiso Magagula thanked their lucky stars for getting Buffaloes, as they wanted to exert revenge on them for the league defeats.

"I was really hoping for this fixture and I am glad we got it because we know the team well. They have beaten us before and it will be the perfect revenge when we knock them out of this tournament".

Young Buffaloes PRO Thulani Thando Nxumalo said they wanted to win this match and move on. "We started a good 'marriage' (cup win) with Eswatini Bank Cup in 2017 and continued that last year. I do not see why would stop such a good relationship and will win it for the third time," he said.

Ludzeludze Killers vs Green Mamba

Killers Public Relations Officer (PRO) Mxolisi Dlamini said they were not afraid of Green Mamba and were ready for the big test. Green Mamba

CEO Thami Phakathi said they were not worried about this fixture.

"This will be the sixth time playing against Ludzeludze and they have never beaten us or given us problems. So I am confident it will be the same case this weekend."

Moneni Pirates vs Royal Leopard

Moneni Pirates PRO Mlungisi Simelane said he felt sorry for Leopard because

they would knock them out.

"I hope my counterpart Hurube will still have his job next Monday after we dump them out of the tournament. We will just beat Leopard and progress to the next stage."

Meanwhile, Royal Leopard Chief Executive Officer Frank Hurube apologised to Moneni Pirates fans in advance for the abrupt cup exit.

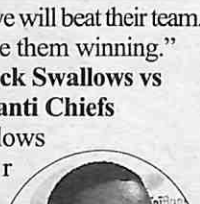
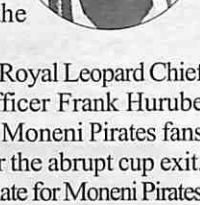
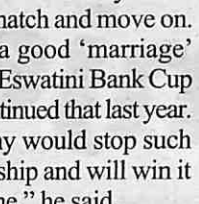
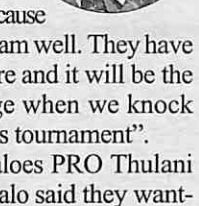
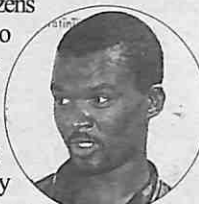
"It's unfortunate for Moneni Pirates fans because we will beat their team. I just don't see them winning."

P/P Black Swallows vs Malanti Chiefs

Black Swallows

Manager Charles Matsebula said they would give it their best shot and urged fans to make their way to the Pigg's Peak derby.

On the other hand, Malanti PRO Lungile Dube said she had hoped for an easy fixture and was glad they got Black Swallows as they know them really well.



FIXTURES

PLAYING TONIGHT

English Premier League		
21:45 Cardiff City	vs	Everton
21:45 Leicester City	vs	Brighton & Hove
21:45 Huddersfield	vs	Wolverhampton
22:00 Newcastle	vs	Burnley

PLAYING TOMORROW

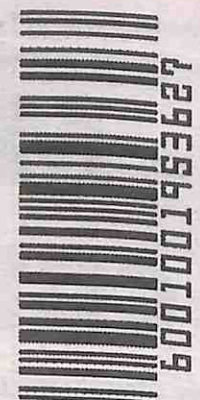
Absa Premiership		
19:30 Sundowns	vs	Cape Town City
English Premier League		
21:45 Arsenal	vs	Bournemouth
21:45 Southampton	vs	Fulham
22:00 Manchester City	vs	West Ham United
22:00 Chelsea	vs	Tottenham
22:00 Crystal Palace	vs	Man United
22:00 Liverpool	vs	Watford
Copa del Rey		
22:00 Real Madrid	vs	Barcelona

SPORTS

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Tuesday February 26 2019



EXCITING TIES IN ESWATINIBANK CUP LAST 16 AS

BY MTHUNZI MAZIYA

SOCCER – BARELY a week after beating Manzini Sundowns 2-0 to boost their relegation hopes in the MTN League, Manzini Wanderers will again face-off with their cross-town rivals this weekend in the last 16 of the EswatiniBank Cup.

This transpired in a dreaded draw held at the EswatiniBank boardroom in Mbabane yesterday. In another enticing encounter, Mbabane Highlanders are set to lock horns with Matsapha United in a repeat of last week's tightly-contested league match at Nsukuwansuku Stadium, which saw Highlanders prevail with a 3-1 win.

The last 16 ties are expected to be played this coming weekend in a fixture yet to be released by the EswatiniBank Cup's Management Committee (MC).

Reacting to the draw, Manzini Wanderers' PRO Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini said his team was looking forward to repeat the good work they achieved over the past weekend. He said their plans entailed gradual improvement in the EswatiniBank Cup.

"At first, our priority was to reach the final, and we achieved that last season. What remains now is for us to improve our performance in the final. I hope people will be in a position to deduce what is likely to happen this year from what I have just stated," he said.

Competition

Sundowns' Manager Thabo Mlambo assured his team's fans that Sundowns will be in the quarter-final draw. He said he deliberately let Dlamini speak ahead of him at the press conference because he understood that he would not get another chance to speak again.

"I invite our fans to come to the stadium, wherever we will play, and watch a very good game of football. We are looking beyond this stage of the competition," he said.

PLE's Chief Executive Officer Simanga Nhleko, who is also the MC's secretary, thanked both teams and fans for an incident free first round. He hoped the excitement that was witnessed in the first round of the competition would continue even during the last 16.

'DOWNS VS 'WESELI' PART 2



ESWATINIBANK CUP'S LAST 16 DRAW

Green Mamba FC	vs	Ludzeludze Killers
Mb. Highlanders	vs	Matsapha United
R. Leopard	vs	Mon. Pirates
Young Buffaloes	vs	Mb. Citizens
Mb. Swallows	vs	Tambuti FC
Vovovo FC	vs	Tambankulu Callies
Malanti Chiefs	vs	Black Swallows
Manzini Sundowns	vs	Mzn. Wanderers

UNDER-20 QUARTER-FINAL DRAW

Vovovo FC	vs	Mb. Swallows
Tambuti FC	vs	R. Leopard
Y. Buffaloes	vs	G. Mamba
Malanti Chiefs	vs	Mzn. Sundowns

"We welcome the good conduct by spectators in the first round, as it set a good example to those that would want to come into football as sponsors in the future. It also put the bank's name in the spotlight for the right reasons. We are very grateful for that," he said.

Nhleko added that it was not the PLE's wish to fine teams for the poor conduct of their fans. He said the money that teams end up losing by paying fines could be used for development purposes, which was why they appealed to fans to be well behaved at all times.

● 'Bull' to face Matsapha United also for second time in one week



ROUND TWO: Manzini Wanderers PRO Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini and Manzini Sundowns Manager Thabo Mlambo holding the EswatiniBank Cup trophy after the draw yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

FOR THE SECOND TIME: Mbabane Highlanders PRO Paul 'Magidzeludzeni' Masilela and his Matsapha United counterpart Bheka Magagula displaying the EswatiniBank Cup trophy.



Solo inje!

1ST PrizeE15,000

2ND PrizeE9,000

3RD PrizeE6,000

Consolation: E500 each for 10 winners

Deadline: 26 April 2019



PREDICT THE UNDER 20 CHAMPIONS & WIN A SHARE OF E35,000

Eswatini Bank and Swazi Observer employees as well as contestants under the age of 18 years are NOT eligible to enter competition.

Drop entry form at any Swazi Observer office or any Eswatini Bank branch.

Answer.....

Name.....Cell phone.....

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