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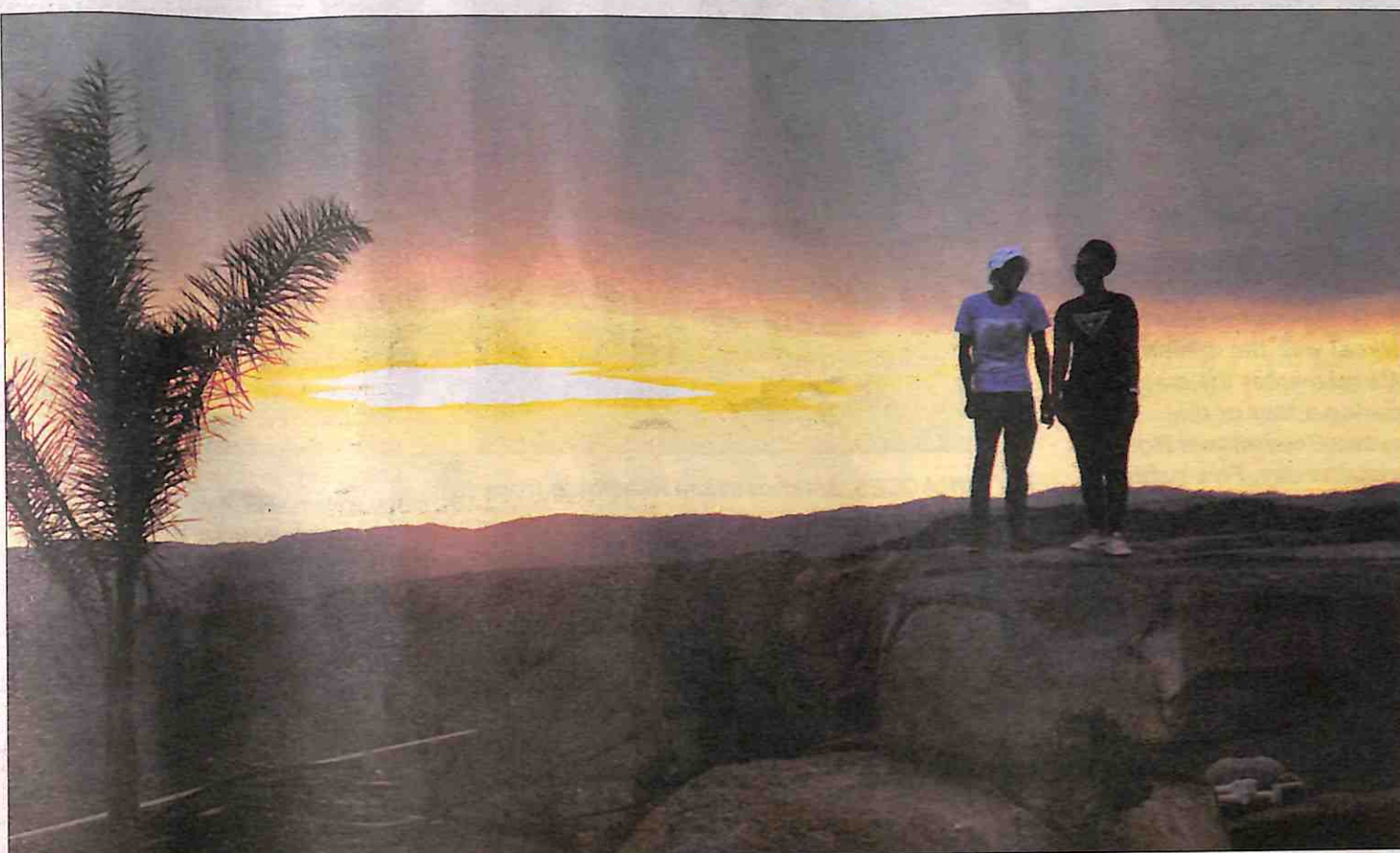
78 BABIES BORN ON XMAS



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BORDER POSTS NOT SO BUSY THIS FESTIVE

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SUNSET GLOW: Sandile Khumalo and Pile Nxumalo enjoy the after sunset glow at Sibebe Resort, where they had gone to enjoy their Christmas lunch. **SEE MORE CHRISTMAS PICTURES INSIDE.** (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

ENRAGED MOB KILLS TWO BROTHERS

- Duo hacked, stabbed and stoned
- Nine arrested

STORY ON PAGE 3

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78 NEW BORN BABIES ON CHRISTMAS

...Her Majesty Indlovukazi gives them 60 packs of disposable nappies

STORIES BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mankayane

AT least 78 babies were born in the country's hospitals on Christmas Day.

These babies will grow sharing their birthday with Jesus Christ of Nazareth, that's why they are special.

As per the norm in the past few years, more girls were born than boys. Out of the 78, 45 were girls and 33 were boys.

Last year, a total of 55 babies were born. Mbabane Government Hospital recorded the highest number of births.

This was revealed by Deputy Director of Health Services Rejoice Nkambule yesterday. She was part of the minister of health's entourage when she toured Mankayane Government Hospital on Christmas Day. The Minister of Health Lizzy



TOURING: Minister of Health Lizzy Nkosi with the ministry's Tony Maseko enter the maternity ward during a tour of the Mankayane Government Hospital on Christmas day. Five babies had been delivered at this point. (Pics: Nokuzola Thwala)

Nkosi was also in the company of Dr. Gcinile Buthelezi, the hospital's Senior Medical Officer Dr. Mbuso Dlamini, doctor responsible for the children's ward Dr. Yamile

Padilla Torres and other senior government officials.

Nkosi visited the maternity, children's, male, females and TB male wards, amongst others, in the hos-

pital. The minister disclosed that it was the first time she conducted a tour at the hospital, noting it was well built for a good purpose, well ventilated and lovely in general.



MY MIRACLES: Makhosazane Nkambule from Ndlinilembi admiring her twins Sibahle and Sibakhile Mnisi.

INDLOVUKAZI, FNB GIFTS FOR NEW MOTHERS

HER Majesty the Queen Mother Indlovukazi gave 60 packs of disposable nappies to 12 new born baby mothers.

The minister said with the nappies, they had initially targeted Lubombo and Shiselweni regions. Two weeks ago they gave mothers at Sulutane the disposables from Her Majesty.

"The disposable nappies that were distributed today were left then. We decided to give them to the new mothers and it is always a good thing for them," she said. Nkosi added that as they

entered the hospital, they were lucky to experience and welcome a child being delivered. She also said they gave out 27 bags from the First National Bank (FNB) and distributed these to 26 mothers, double portion for the mother who gave birth to twins.

"These bags have starter pack clothes for new born babies.

We also gave these to mothers who gave delivered on Monday and Tuesday. We wish them all a merry Christmas," said the minister.

Different forms of birth for twins

IN a rare situation, twins of different genders born three hours apart were given birth to differently.

The first one Sibakhile Mnisi was born naturally in the morning, he was weighing 3.02kg. The twin sister Sibahle was born through caesarean section just after 10am weighing 2.95kg.

The mother Makhosazane Nkambule from Ndlinilembi said as much as parents were psyched up for twins, they were not for a boy and a girl as they expected girls only. She said she has twins in her side of the family.

She, however, said she dreamt that the other would be a boy but the father of the babies dismissed her. She said all her children were December babies.

"I dreamt that I had given birth to twins but the other had both genitals and the female genitalia disappeared and he had a penis. When I told Mnisi, he instantly dismissed me.

The scan showed that there was a girl and the other was hidden. The father works at Phutfumani in Matsapha. Weird enough, all my children were born between

December 21, 23 and 25. Their father was born on December 21," elaborated Nkambule.

The mother added that the names were given by the father but she never asked what he meant by them.

Meanwhile, a baby with a peculiar name was also born on the day.

Thafalethu Maseko's mother Cebile Shabangu said she didn't really understand what the name meant as it was given by the father. Her little understanding of the name was; 'our territory' or 'our boundary'.

Mentally challenged gives birth to sixth child

A visibly mentally challenged woman gave birth to her sixth child on Christmas Day at Mankayane Government Hospital.

Tholakele Fakudze gave birth to a healthy baby boy Bandile Ngubeni who was born in the early hours of the day weighing 3.97 kg.

She said the other five children were also healthy and alive.

Fakudze was due for a bilateral tubal ligation (BTL) on the same day.

Tubal ligation is a surgical procedure for female sterilisation in which the fallopian tubes are permanently blocked or removed.

This prevents the fertilisation of eggs, considered a permanent method of sterilisation or birth control.

BABIES BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY	
Name of Facility	Total number of babies
Mbabane Government Hospital	20 (12 girls, 8 boys)
RFM Hospital	18 (10 girls, 8 boys)
Hlathikulu Government Hospital	11 (8 girls, 3 boys)
Mankayane Government Hospital	11 (7 girls, 4 boys)
Good Shepherd Hospital	6 (1 girl, 5 boys)
Pigg's Peak Government Hospital	5 (3 girls, 2 boys)
Nhlangano Health Centre	3 (2 girls, 1 boy)
Sithobela Health Centre	3 (1 girl, 2 boys)
Matsanjeni Health Centre	1 girl
Dvokolwako and Mkhuzweni	0
Private Hospitals	0
Total	78



IN COMMAND: Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini.

WARM WEEKEND

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

FOLLOWING a very hot week, the last weekend of 2019 is predicted to be cool, warm and hot in the Lowveld.

Weather information sourced from Accu Weather Services indicates that the weekend will be less hot as com-

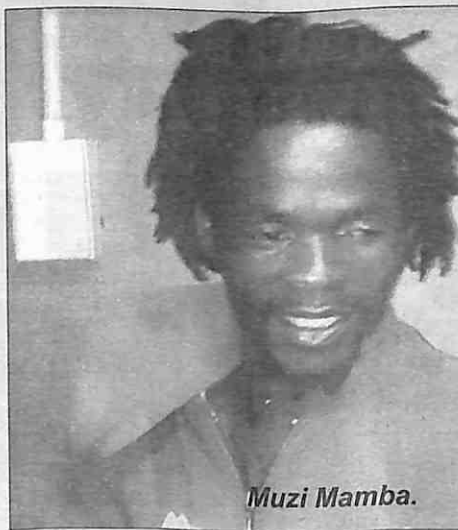
pared to the week with clouds.

Temperatures will range between 12 and 34 Degrees Celsius. Afternoon thunderstorms are expected in the Highveld.

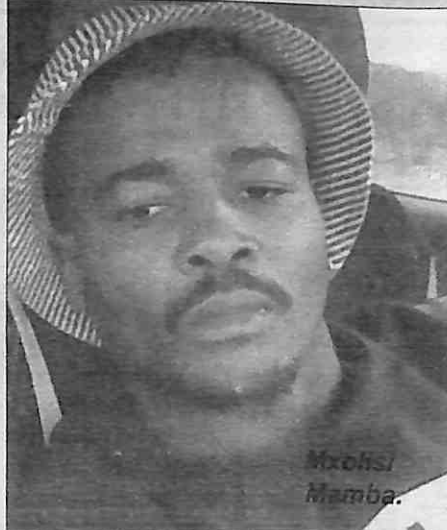
Today it will be partly cloudy and cool in the morning becoming sunny and warm to hot in the Lowveld; and do expect afternoon showers or thunderstorms in the Highveld.

Today	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big Bend
Mbabane 12/27	13/28	15/30	14/29	17/31	18/32
Tomorrow	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big Bend
Mbabane 13/20	14/21	16/23	15/22	17/24	18/26
Sunday	Mankayane	Manzini	Siteki	Mhlume	Big Bend
Mbabane 16/28	17/29	19/31	18/30	20/32	21/34

Tomorrow, temperatures will drop drastically becoming cool to warm in the Lowveld with sunny intervals. Temperatures will range between 13 and 26 degrees Celsius. Sunday is expected to be partly sunny to sunny in the Lowveld becoming cloudy in the evening with temperatures reaching 34 Degrees Celsius.



Muzi Mamba.



Mxolisi Mamba.

BROTHERS BRUTALLY MURDERED BY MOB

STORIES BY STARKY MKHONTA
Nhlangano

A mob of about 20 individuals brutally murdered two Mamba brothers, Muzi (31) and Mxolisi (29) of Letindze, KaNkonjwa, by hacking, stabbing and further stoning them to death on Christmas Eve.

Letindze is a community between Sithobelweni and Ngudzeni Constituencies, which is partly in the Lubombo and Shiselweni regions.

It is alleged that spears, axes, bush-knives, knives and stones used in the incident were collected from the scene as exhibits by Sithobelweni police.

The two brothers were dragged out of their home on Tuesday afternoon by the enraged mob which took turns assaulting them in what was a never been before witnessed incident in the community. It is alleged that it all started when one of the deceased persons, Mxolisi attacked another resident at a funeral three weeks ago whom he stabbed around the arm.

This incident was amicably resolved by the warring parties though such that it was not

...family still shocked, nine suspects arrested

even reported to the police.

However, Mxolisi reportedly threatened to assault the same resident when they were in a watering hole (shebeen); something that is suspected to have enraged the community.

Upon invading the Mamba homestead, the angry mob found only the deceased brothers.

"Kube bawufola wonkhe umndeneni waka-Mamba, ngabe kuvale ngelihlahla," one of our sources said.

Others said one of the deceased, though unconscious, was dragged to a sports field where they continued to assault him with all sorts of objects.

"We are not sure what motivated the killings or if it has anything to do with the threats uttered by the deceased (Mxolisi) in his drunken stupor," said an impeccable source.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed the incident, adding that nine suspects had already been arrested and would appear in court soon.

FAMILY MEMBERS NOT SURE WHY SONS KILLED

THE family members of the deceased brothers are still blank as to why their sons were killed.

The two brothers were killed by a mob of close to 20 people. Zeblon Mamba, the uncle

(Babe lomkhulu) of the deceased, said as a family they were still asking themselves as to what the two had done to necessitate such gruesome murder.

"We are still baffled as we

don't know what led to the mob behaving in this manner

We are sad because the world at large is in a festive mood yet we have nothing to celebrate as a family," said Mamba.

They would wait for the post-mortem results as the bodies of the two would be taken to pathologists today.

Family appeals for financial help

ON the other hand, Mamba said even though they were still to meet as a family to decide the date of the funeral, they were requesting for help from anyone to cover the funeral expenses.

"We are yet to decide on the funeral date but once we are done with the postmortem; we

will meet for all these logistics.

We appeal to anyone who can help, asinalufu.

Coffins and food; we can appreciate whatever donation from those willing to assist us," said Mamba.

Mamba can be reached at 7813 2312.

'Don't touch political activists'

STORIES BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
High Court

HIGH Court Judge Nkosinathi Maseko has ordered that no action should be taken against political activists.

This is while the court is still dealing with the issue of the legality of the search warrants which were used to seize the documents and electronic gadgets belonging to the activists.

Judge Maseko made this order on Christmas Eve after the political activists approached the High Court where they challenged the legality of the search warrants used against them.

Sibongile Mazibuko, Wandile Dlodlu, Jan Sithole and Musa Nkambule have since, through their attorney Thulani Maseko, approached the High Court to seek for redress in the issue.

Justice Maseko said he was now dealing with the matter

where the applicants are challenging the warrants and the very same search warrants which will result to their arrest.

Stated

The judge stated that he does not want to see a situation whereby political activists are arrested while the matter is pending.

"What guarantee are we giving to the nation that once people are in court trying to enforce their rights in the meantime they are arrested?"

Why can't the court processes be finished first," Judge Maseko stated.

He said he will not allow a situation whereby individuals come to court and then the next day they are arrested on the very same allegations which they made before court and have not been answered by government.

In their submissions the applicants indicated that given the haste with which the searches

were conducted there is a likelihood that the police intend arresting them for crime save for expressing themselves on the governance of the country.

The applicants indicated that the police seek to use the information obtained from the gadgets to develop the basis of their arrest and detention.

They said the police were likely to formulate criminal charges and haul them before a court of law on the basis of information unlawfully obtained.

The applicants stated that once they are charged, their right to a presumption of innocence as guaranteed in Section 21(2) (a) of the Constitution will be infringed as they will be charged with criminal offences that have no basis in law given the unlawfulness of the search warrants.

The matter will be argued before court on 8 January before the same Judge.

Political activists rush to court, demand seized gadgets back

FOLLOWING the issuing of search warrants which saw items belonging to political activists being confiscated by the police, have since approached the High Court to seek for redress.

The four made an urgent application at the High Court on Christmas Eve. They were represented by senior lawyer Thulani Maseko.

The matter appeared before Judge Nkosinathi Maseko. Representing the crown was Deputy Attorney General Mbuso Simelane.

The political activists want the search warrants issued against them set aside as they argue that this is because they do not comply with the requirements of Section 46 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, 1938 (the Act) as read with Section 22 of the Constitution, Act No. 001 of 2005.

The political activists also sought for an order directing police to hand back the documents and electronic gadgets including cellphones and laptops, taken from them during the raids conducted at their homesteads by the police.

The applicants submitted that they have been deprived of their mobile cellular phones, laptops and tablets and other electronic gadgets rendering their lives disorganised, yet electronic gadgets are vital instruments in modern societies as these are used not only for communicating purposes but for banking, money transfers and payments.

Maseko further submitted that this is a busy time of the year and depriving the political activists the use of their gadgets means they may not be able to execute certain trans-

Investigations started months back now at 95% complete - Crown

THE investigations that led to the seizure of items belonging to political activists started some months back.

This was revealed by the Crown, which is represented by Assistant Deputy Attorney General Mbuso Simelane in the matter that is now at the High Court. Simelane indicated that if anything will be found by the police on the seized items, it will just be five per cent of what the police already have.

He said it would just be a drop in the ocean. Simelane argued that whatever crime is alleged to be committed by the applicants, it would continue abated if they are

let free. The Crown informed the court that they do not know what next move the applicants are planning.

Simelane stated that the applicants come to court claiming that they are PUDEMO presidents and secretaries, which are proscribed entities in the country.

He said the very same individuals were claiming that they will do whatever pleases them and the courts must not do anything to them.

Justice Maseko indicated that he has a problem because on one hand the matter is before court and the information at his disposal is that the search warrants might result into arrest without warrant.

actions as they see fit and expedient. The applicants stated that in this modern world of technology they have been greatly inconvenienced by the seizure of their cellphones and other electronic gadgets.

Important

They said these are important in the running and managing their daily lives, including banking facilities.

The attorney stated that the search warrants are an aberration of the rule of law in that they amount to a continuation and perpetuation of an unlawful act as they fall outside the ambit of Section 46 and therefore constitute a violation of Section 22 of the Constitution which guarantees the rights to privacy.

Maseko argued that the police intend to use whatever information they may find in the

political activists gadgets to institute criminal proceedings, yet the information would have been unlawfully and unconstitutionally obtained. Maseko submitted that the political activists are susceptible to unlawful and malicious prosecution based on evidence unlawfully obtained.

He added that if the matter is not heard urgently and the overly broad search warrants remain in effect, the applicants are at risk of being prosecuted and detained on the basis of an unlawful process.

Coming

Maseko said the High Court was justified in coming to the assistance of the applicants to prevent the perpetuation of an unlawful act, abuse of power by the police in breach of rule of law and constitutional behaviour and conduct.

Food, laughter, love at Lugogo on Xmas Day

BY ANDILE DLAMINI

IT was a Christmas filled with food, laughter and love at the Lugogo Sun Christmas lunch on Wednesday.

Families filled the Ilanga Restaurant to celebrate the birth of Christ in buffet style.

The hotel also had a raffle draw for the families who came for the lunch. The prizes included dinner and lunch vouchers from Lugogo Sun Hotel and the Royal Swazi Hotel, skin care products and other surprise gifts that were not visible as they were wrapped. The families came all out to celebrate this day, with others saying that they specifically came to Lugogo because they love the food that the hotel serves on this special day. The hotel staff was also Christmas ready as they came dressed for the day in Christmas attire.



JUST THE THREE OF US: Dineo Mogathusi came out to have lunch with her sons Thando and Ngcebo Matsebula.



'TIS THE SEASON: Staff from Lugogo posing for the camera during the Christmas lunch.



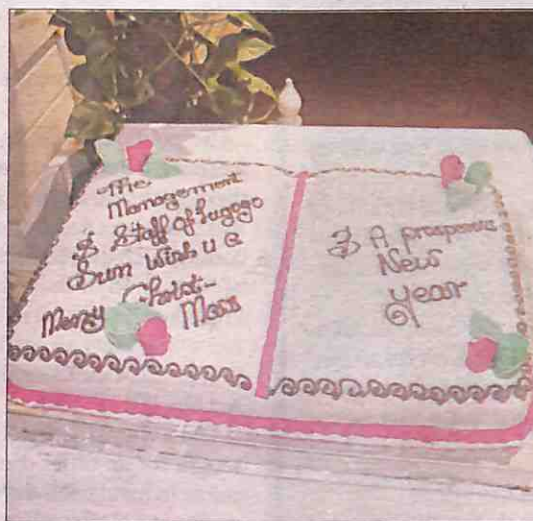
HAPPY FAMILY: The Sibandze family came out to enjoy Christmas together.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Themba Xaba spent Christmas celebrating his mother's birthday, Sibongile Xaba.



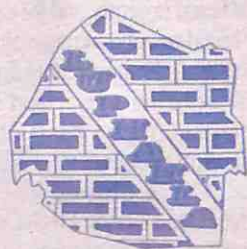
FAMILY TIME: Peter, Nikiwe, Mayibongwe and Nomsilo Nxumalo posing for our lenses during the lunch.



DESSERT: The cake that the hotel had baked for its guests.



JOLLY JOLLY: Former minister Owen Nxumalo with his wife Patience, son Bandzile and daughter Simlindile were also there and took time to pose for our lenses.



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TIBIYO TAKA NGWANE RELEASES 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE PUBLICATION

Lozitha – Tibiyo Taka Ngwane has released a publication documenting its 50-year history. The book was commissioned by the organisation to trace its formative years leading to its present day.

The organisation's Managing Director Dr Absalom Themba Dlamini said the publication would shed light on the historical narrative of Tibiyo Taka Ngwane, particularly how it had evolved to be a profitable, sustainable entity that supported the nation's cultural, social, educational and economic development programmes. It highlights the challenges and achievements it has faced in pursuing its mandate in the face of changing social and economic landscapes. "Tibiyo Taka Ngwane was established in 1968 with a mandate to support the nation, which was at its early stages of its independence, ensuring in particular, that the new nation was self-sufficient economically, remained peaceful, retained its cultural identity and was socially stable," said Dr Dlamini.

The content of the publication was well researched and compiled, and facts were verified with relevant authorities, assured Dr Dlamini, adding that the documentation of such information was important in assisting the organisation and the nation to reflect on how far it had come as well as proposals on how it would position itself for the future. He thanked His Majesty Ingwenyama for commissioning and supporting the documentation and publication of the organisation's history. "We thank His Majesty Ingwenyama and Her Majesty Indlovukazi for their continued guidance and support, and we remain inspired by their vision of ensuring that Tibiyo Taka Ngwane's performance is measured against its contribution to the development agenda of the Kingdom of Eswatini," he said. He also thanked the organisation's Main Committee for supporting and participating in the compilation of the publication.

Dr Dlamini paid tribute to companies, organisations and individuals who supported the publication. "We are extremely humbled by the companies that sent messages of support and goodwill to the organisation. On behalf of Tibiyo Taka Ngwane, may I convey our deepest appreciation for your support and your continued partnership with the organisation. I would also like to thank individuals and organisations who shared their valuable institutional memory with our editorial team. Among these are business associates, former Prime Minister Prince Mabandla, Prince Mhlambanyatsi as well as leaders of past Imbali and Lutsango LwakaNgwane. Your contribution was highly appreciated and valued," he concluded.

The project was led by Dr Dlamini himself working with a team from his organisation. Dr Mike Matsebula was the lead researcher and compiler. The Managing Director thanked him and his team for doing a diligent work in collecting and verifying information. Copies of the publication will be available at strategic distribution points and public information centres.

Dr Absalom Themba Dlamini
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Neighbours plead for help for ailing Mkhulu (76)

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

AN elderly man from Mpholi in Manzini is pleading with the public to help rebuild his dilapidated house.

The elderly man, Bacondzile Khumalo, who is 76 years old, stays alone and is a sickly person. His neighbours in support have also appealed on his behalf to help in rebuilding the house for Khumalo.

One of the residents of Mpholi, who commented on condition of anonymity, said the old man's situation worsens day-by-day.

He said there were times where Khumalo would go to bed on an empty stomach.

What worries the residents most is that Khumalo still has relatives and some of them work.

"This is very sad and as neighbours we think it's high time we mobilise resources to help Khumalo because we cannot sit back and watch," he said.

On another note, it transpired that Khumalo was once offered help by one of his relatives who was discouraged by some family members after insinuating that he was bragging about his money.

Contribute

The family members said he should not construct the house as they would contribute equally and build him one.

"That's when we noted that there were a lot of problems between the old man and his family members," said the resident.

He said when he visited Khumalo a couple of days ago, he found that he only had a vetkoek which Khumalo said was from the previous week and there was nothing else to eat.

He said the house was in a terrible state such that the roof leaks and the walls make it easy for lizards and mice to gain entry into the house.

The resident further said the old man needed attention as he was a sickly person. He said Khumalo also needed a wheelchair as the one he used was now damaged.

He then pleaded with anyone who may have assistance of any sort to help the old man.

VICTORY FOR LOBAMBA FIRE-FIGHTERS

BY NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

AFTER weeks of unrest particularly at Lobamba Fire Station, there has been a major reshuffle of senior officers at the National Fire and Emergency Services.

Shortly before Christmas Day, the National Fire and Emergency Service announced a major reshuffle of senior officers effective next month.

In a letter signed by Denis Khumalo on behalf of the national fire chief officer the reshuffle was aimed at improving services.

"Their posting is with effect from 13 January 2020," he said.

The reshuffle came as a ray of sunshine for Lobamba fire-fighters. It comes a month after they delivered a petition to the Chief Fire-Fighter Jabulani Ndzimandze, where they listed a number of grievances including calling for the removal of Thamsanqa Mndzebele as Lobamba Station Manager. They also cited horrible working conditions at the station.

Following several communications with Ndzimandze the officers had opted to lock down Lobamba Fire Station if serious actions that included the removal of Ndzimandze

were not implemented.

Therefore before the week ended, the chief fire-fighter announced the reshuffle which included Lobamba Station Manager Thamsanqa Mndzebele.

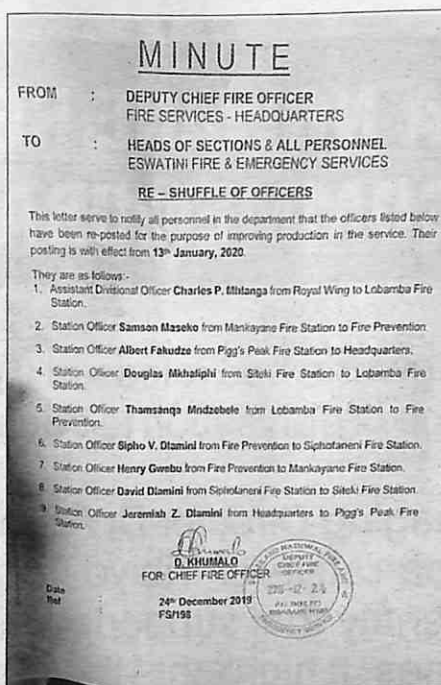
He has been moved to Matsapha Fire Prevention.

From January 13, 2020 Lobamba Fire Station will be managed by Douglas Mkhaphi from Matsapha Fire Prevention.

Charles Mhlanga from the Royal Wing has also been added to Lobamba Fire Station.

In total, nine fire senior officers across stations were affected by the reshuffle.

The reshuffle brought hope to Lobamba fire-fighters as well as all the other fire stations because



of the defoliating working conditions that were faced by employees at the service.

In addition to the reshuffle the chief fire-fighter delivered according to the demands of the petition that was handed to him by the workers on November

sonable doubt that Mndzebele had failed the Lobamba station and to be a team player.

"Moreover, this is a clear sign that the officers did not have a vendetta against Mndzebele."

The shop steward added that they had no hard feelings for Mndzebele as they still loved and respected him as their boss but from a distance. "We would like to thank our union, NAPSAPU for the support they have given to us," he said.

He also thanked all the fire-fighters from Lobamba, Siteki, Pigg's Peak, Mbabane and all those individuals who supported them as they communicated their grievances.

Moreover, this is a clear sign that the officers did not have a vendetta against Mndzebele

COURT STOPS PIGG'S PEAK HOTEL STRIKE

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

THE Industrial Court of Eswatini has stopped a proposed strike action by Pigg's Peak Hotel staff over a 13th cheque and freebies.

The employees had intended to down tools, starting on Christmas Eve and subsequent days. The hotel through its attorney Sikhumbuzo Simelane stated that the workers' contemplated strike action was unlawful because the workers had not reported the dispute to CMAC nor had there been compliance with the Industrial Relations Act 2000.

The hotel management stated that the Industrial Relations Act states that there has to be proper procedure followed before employees engage in a strike action. The hotel alleged that what the employees wanted to do was unlawful and would have constituted a wild-cat strike action.

The hotel through its attorneys argued that festive holidays, especially from 24 to 31 were the busiest days of the year.

The hotel submitted that the employees who had threatened to strike were very key in the day-to-day services of guests and if they engaged in a strike, then there would have been serious disruption in the operations of the hotel business.

The court issued an interim inter-



dict stating that the hotel had a clear right to engage all its employees to report for duty and to work on Christmas Eve and Christmas day and any other subsequent date thereafter. The court indicated that the employees have legally binding employment contracts with the hotel which must not be violated.

Simelane submitted that the contracts have legal rights and obligations. "The respondents have issued a notice in which they say they will infringe the applicants' aforesaid right and therefore applicant is enti-

tled to an interdict," part of the papers submitted in court read.

The court was informed that there was a reasonable apprehension of irreparable harm and prejudice that the hotel would suffer if the employees would not be interdicted and restrained from engaging in the strike action because guests would not be serviced.

The court further added that there would be no prejudice to be suffered by the workers if interdicted from proceeding with their strike action.

It was stated that in any event the issues the workers were complaining about could be resolved through dialogue in the workplace and also through dispute resolution mechanisms provided by labour laws of the country.

The hotel through its lawyers claimed that it had no other satisfactory remedy other than to apply for an interim interdict in court because CMAC is now closed and also because CMAC would not have the power to issue and interdict even if it was still opened.

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Two killed on the road on Xmas, one commits suicide

BY SIFISO DLAMINI
Mbabane

TWO people lost their lives on the country's roads over the Christmas period.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Phindile Vilakati confirmed that there were two fatal road traffic accident reported over the past 48 hours.

She said on Christmas Eve at 1945 hours, a 16-year-old male lost his life after he was knocked down by a car.

She said the accident occurred along

Matsapha/Lozitha public road on the Mbabane lane at Mfabantfu, when a Mazda Demio sedan driven by a 36-year-old man of Siphocosi knocked down the 16-year-old teenager of Madlenya. She said the pedestrian sustained serious head injuries and was rushed to Raleigh Fitkin Memorial (RFM) Hospital, where he was certified dead on arrival. She said the other accident occurred on Christmas Day at 2230 hours along Mnyokane/Maguga public road at KaNcesi. She said a VW Golf 5 sedan driven by a 30-year-old man of Mnyokane lost control and knocked guardrails, overturned sever-

al times and fell into a valley. A 21-year-old man of Mnyokane who was a passenger sustained serious injuries all over the body and was rushed to Mbabane Government Hospital, where he was certified dead on arrival. She said the driver was admitted at Pigg's Peak Government Hospital after complaining of pain all over the body. On another note, a man ended his life on Christmas Day after committing suicide. She said on Wednesday at 0745 hours, a 38-year-old man of Lavumisa died while undergoing treatment at Mhlume Clinic after he ingested brake fluid while at Mhlume Hlanganani South.



Dr. Tsai Yuan Chun attending to an elderly woman during the outreach service at Mhlambanyatsi.

Taiwan Medical Mission serves 260 at Mhlambanyatsi constituency

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

THE Taiwan Medical Mission treated 260 community members from Mhlambanyatsi Constituency during an outreach service at Mlindazwe High last Saturday.

A total of 11 doctors from Taiwan Medical Mission held the outreach service, which saw 130 females, 81 males and 49 pupils treated.

The outreach team included specialists in paediatrician, orthopedic, general medicine, urologist and neurosurgeon from Taiwan Medical Mission and volunteers from Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU). The outreach provided physical check-up, disease consultation and free medication.

During the service, Dr. Tsai Yuan Chun mentioned that a pupil came with an ear discharge problem and hearing impairment. After examining the minor's ear with an otoscope they discovered a turbid eardrum, which is likely to be an acute otitis media. This is an infection that occurs behind the eardrum. "Most of the otitis media may be treated without antibiotic treatment but the prevention for further otitis media should not be overlooked. To prevent recurrent of the otitis media, parents should maintain environmental hygiene for children, washing hands and toys frequently, and prevent flu infection, choose breast-feeding during infancy and also prevent smoking," said Chun.

Dr. Hsieh, Shang-Jung noted that

many senior citizens complained of blurred vision and they may possibly be suffering from cataract, which is a degenerative lens disease that is common with the elderly. Usually patients with cataract may suffer from photophobia, progressive nearsightedness or loss of distance vision and eventually loss of vision as lens opacity develops.

He said risk factors of cataract includes age, smoking, diabetes mellitus, sunlight exposure and long-term use of corticosteroid. Thus, it is important to have good lifestyle habits and control of blood sugar.

He warned the patients not to forget to wear sunglasses to protect eyes from sunlight exposure.

He went on to say that it was a pleasure for the Taiwan Medical Mission to conduct the medical outreach under Mhlambanyatsi Inkhundla. The location was recommended by the Member of Parliament Petros Mavimbela.

Mavimbela expressed appreciation to Taiwan Mission for the services rendered and said in the near future, the mission may have another outreach service at Lundzi.

Mavimbela said there were still many communities that need the medical assistance. "It is important for us to hold outreach services in the rural areas as the mission understands that it may be difficult for community members, especially the elderly to seek medical attention," he said.

In 2020, the Taiwan Medical Mission is planning to hold six outreach services in different constituencies.

Border posts not so busy this festive



SMOOTH: The only queue at Lavumisa Border Post on Tuesday. (Pic: Nonduduzo Kunene)

When asked on the places that he and his family had visited this year, he said they headed down to Siphofaneni for two lodges they hadn't seen before.

"We task our family locally with checking for spots throughout the year that we can then check out together in the festive.

This time, we went down to Lubombo region at Siphofaneni for Wendy's Lodge where we enjoyed ourselves fully," he said. Meanwhile, nothing was out of the ordinary in the second busiest border date in the country, Lavumisa, which was also not busy as in previous years.

At the time the border was visited posts from noon till 1500 hours, only a few people went through the immigration process on both ends. Notably, a few tourists used the border. Most individuals who were interviewed were heading home as they work in South Africa, mostly in KwaZulu-Natal. In addition, most of the travellers

cited that they were early to beat the queues which are normally longer after noon but that was not the case this time around.

The short queues were also welcomed by the immigration staff as well as the travellers. This is because they said it made their work easy and less stressful.

However, the officers were not relaxed as they indicated that the numbers normally escalated from 1700 hours. That seemed not to be the case as the queues even then were manageable and nothing out of the ordinary happened on both sides of the border post. Worth mentioning every counter at the border had an officer which was ready to serve travellers coming in and out of the country. This was testimony to what the ministry of home affairs communicated at the beginning of the festive season that they have beefed up staff to endure smooth operations.

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI AND
NONDUDUZO KUNENE
Mbabane

IT turned out a quieter day at the country's busiest border post, Ngwenya as not many travellers were coming in or out of the country on Tuesday.

When a team from this publication visited the border gate after lunch, less than 20 travellers were getting their documents checked and there weren't any long queues as per the norm around the same time during the festive season. One Nkosi family from South Africa who were heading out of the country expressed their delight at how fast the process was this time around.

"To be honest, we wanted to be out first thing in the morning mostly because there's usually a long queue and delays during the festive, but this year it was none of that.

You saw us walking in there and we were all done in less than 15 minutes and that's commendable. It was also the very same thing when we came in, so whatever the government did, it's really working because we'll be able to get to Gauteng before it gets too dark.

Eswatini is home for us because we have family down in Malkerns and we spend our holidays with them. We have been sight-seeing for the past week and unfortunately this time, our visit has been cut short due to the fact that my wife has to report for work," said Jackson Nkosi.

Stay away from crime, Chief Mlotshwa II tells subjects

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

CHIEF Mlotshwa II of Ka-Liba in the Shiselweni region has urged his subjects to stay away from crime.

The chief was speaking during the end of year meeting with the inner council and his subjects held at Ka-Liba Royal Kraal on Sunday.

He said it was very worrying to see a lot of young people from the chiefdom involved in criminal activities.

He noted that this was letting down the efforts of the authorities and the society as a whole, in making sure that the area is crime free.

He stated that it has been a norm that young people involved in

criminal activities such as theft and rustling.

The chief mentioned that there is a need to come up with solutions to address such issues in the area. "We are going to find it difficult to attain His Majesty's Vision 2022 if such things are still hard to solve, so I call upon everyone to frown upon any criminal activity," he said.

He went on to say as a community, they would do all in their power to see the lives of the young people being transformed.

Dlamini called upon all religious leaders to work hand-in-hand with the authorities in coming up with solutions that will see the area transformed spiritually, socially and economically.

He added that the issue of rustling in the area was increasing at an

alarming rate. He said the residents need to champion the fight against these crimes.

The chief stated that if this act continues without being addressed, it could stall the development of the area and it is currently dragging down the name of the chiefdom as it appears that those behind all the nefarious acts are from the area.

He further called for peace and unity among the residents saying nothing will ever be achieved without the two.

He said if there is peace, progress in every aspect of life is inevitable and that is what is recommended.

"Without peace there is nothing we can do or even achieve so it will be very wise for all of us to be each other's keeper at all times," he said.

LIQUOR NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licensing Board will hold its sitting to hear the following applications at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Conference Room on the **13 JANUARY** starting at **09.00am**.

Region HHOHHO

1. SENELISO C. SILINDZA, P. O. Box 1309 MBABANE, RENEWAL of a WINE AND MALT Liquor Licence situated at NGWENYA DROXFORD FARM #1007 known as SUMMERTIME WINE & MALT.

Any person who wishes to lodge an objection to the above-mentioned application may do so with the Secretary of the Liquor Licensing Board in writing, sending a copy to the applicant by registered mail to reach him/her at least ten days before the sitting of the Board.

**SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD
P.O. BOX 451
MBABANE**

WARRANT OF EXECUTION AGAINST MOVABLE PROPERTY

IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MANZINI

HELD AT MANZINI CASE NO: 919/2019
In the matter between:

ELLEN FUTHI MASONDO PLAINTIFF
And

RICHARDN MAGISHA DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a warrant of execution issued by the Above Honourable Court in the above matter, the undermentioned property will be sold by public auction by the Messenger of Court for the district of Manzini.

VENUE: Manzini Magistrate Court Car Park
TIME: 11:00am
DATE: Friday 27th December 2019

1. Mazda Verissa
Colour silver grey
Registration PSD 213 CM

Dated at Manzini on this **19th December 2019**

Bongani Zikalala
Messenger of court
7612 3834

R/N169719

HEALTH SCARE

...as shop owners fiddle with expiry dates

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI
Mbabane

MEMBERS of the public, especially those buying food in bulk for stokvels, have been urged to be careful when purchasing in large quantities from shops.

This follows a discovery that some shop owners fiddle with expiry dates for spoiled food items that should be taken out of the shelves.

Information gathered is that some shop owners go as far as replacing the original expiry date in food items

with an extended one. Some of those who have fallen prey to these antics are those who were buying food in bulks for stokvels.

Manzini is where this illegal practice has been found to be rife. This has led to Manzini Municipal Council Public Relations Officer Mathokoza Thwala to sending out a stern warning to members of the public.

Thwala said consumers should thoroughly check food labels for dates of expiry before buying items this festive.

He said council had since intensified health inspections in shops around

town. He said during these inspections bakkie loads of expired and other not-fit-for-consumption food items were removed from the shelves.

Thwala said the health inspection operation is still on-going. Pointing out to some of the shocking discoveries made by council during the operation, Thwala said some shop owners fiddled with the expiry date while others covered it with an extended one.

"That's an illegal practice," Thwala stated.

In one food item, two expiry dates were found which indicates that the item had long expired while another expiry date which was on top of the original one indicated that the item will expire on December 31, 2020.

The Municipal Council of Manzini has since pleaded with consumers not to buy expired food stuff no matter the price discount. "Always check the expiry date. Don't buy if the date has been scratched or replaced," Thwala stated.

Meanwhile, consumers have been warned to look out for blown, leaking, dented and rusted tins. These, according to Thwala, must be avoided at all costs.

Those who will be shopping in town were urged to be always on the lookout for the food establishment's grade. Thwala said shops with Grade A and B labels were quite safe to buy from



FIDDLED: A food item with a forged expiry date extended to 2020.

while Grade C is not so bad but requires caution.

He said shops with Grade D were a danger zone.

Thwala added that as a municipality they have worked so hard with regard to grading of shops. He said they used to have up to Grade F but recently phased out Grades E and F. "We've actually warned the business

sector that even Grade D will not be tolerated in our city in the near future," Thwala stated.

The municipality public relations officer stated that they conduct routine inspections throughout the year. He said they decided to triple the energy during this time of the year because they have realised that most crime elements usually double the rate of

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FULL DECK PLATTER SERVES 5
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Christmas Lunch
Ocean Basket Gables,
Ezulwini only.
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contact 2416 1428 / 7602 8293

Assault case leads police to stumble on 10.8kg dagga

BY SIZWE DLAMINI
Pigg's Peak

POLICE who were initially investigating a man for an assault case ended up busting him for possession of 10.8kg

of dagga at his homestead near Nsangwini on Sunday.

Initially, the police who made the discovery were responding to a distress call received from Gcinile Mhlanga, who claimed that she had been assaulted by Melusi Dlamini.

After receiving the phone call, Pigg's Peak police raced to the scene and located Dlamini at his homestead.

When the police gained access to the homestead they started to interview Dlamini pertaining to the alleged assault incident. However, during the interview Dlamini led the police to a secluded room near his bedroom. This action proved costly as when the police entered the room they were overcome by a very strong smell of dagga. This led to the police enquiring about the banned substance and ended up arresting Dlamini after finding the dagga concealed inside three large refuse bags. After making the arrest, Dlamini appeared at the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court with police officer Sandile Dlamini who gave the aforementioned details. The case was then referred to the High Court of Eswatini by Pigg's Peak Magistrate Sibonelo Dlamini for purposes of bail application due to the size of the dagga found in his possession.



THE FESTIVE 5
IT'S FAM TIME
5 PIECE CHICKEN, 4 ZINGER WINGS AND LARGE CHIPS
FOR ONLY **99,90**

such illegal acts during this time of the year.

Those who come across food items that are unfit for human consumption have been urged to contact town council.

The number for those who want to report the spoiled food items found in shops is 2508 5034, 2508 5037 or Council's 24/7 Call Centre (800 2004/2505 7000).

The Municipal Council of Mbabane has also sent out a warning to consumers. A message from the communications office warned consumers against purchasing of unsound or unsafe food commodities.

The message stated that this is a time where shoppers buy impulsively in bulk without paying much attention to the condition of the food items.

"Members of the public are therefore cautioned to be on the lookout for any defects on food items," part of the message from Mbabane Municipality reads.

Usual procedure dictates that non-complying food premises are served with notices to rectify the short comings. In cases where expired or unsound food is found in shops, the food is seized and sanitary disposed at the landfill.

The ministry of commerce industry and trade when drawn for comment on this issue indicated that the municipalities have their own regulations on how they deal with such offenders. Ministry of Commerce Communications Officer Thabile Mdluli said in urban areas town councils have their own health inspectors while in the rural areas government provides health inspectors.



GARBAGE: Expired food items collected from shops by Manzini Municipal Council loaded in the back of a van.



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• A ENERGY CLASS
• AUTOMATIC DEFROST
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DEFY
**323LT FRIDGE
METALLIC
DAC627**

NOW ONLY

E4999⁹⁵

SAVE
E1000

FROM ONLY

E349^{pm}

FOR 24 MONTHS
DEPOSIT E500
CREDIT PRICE E8538

HURRY IN-STORE NOW! 27TH DECEMBER 2019 - 21ST JANUARY 2020, WHILE STOCKS LAST.

B. BRADLOWS

DOC29790

OVC, elderly enjoy Christmas lunch at Gogo Nde Orphanage

BY BONGUMUSA SIMELANE
Mbabane

GOGO Nde Orphanage brought smiles to over 130 elderly and orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) during Christmas Day.

The orphanage, which is situated at Ka-Zenzile in Hlatikulu, saw the elderly and OVC having a Christmas lunch courtesy of Philani Maswati's Donate-A-Can campaign where the orphanage was one of the beneficiaries. Speaking shortly after the Christmas lunch, Tsabile Simelane, famously known as Gogo Nde, said it was very humbling to see the less privileged in the community enjoying Christmas like everyone.

She said the orphanage usually hosts Christmas lunches every year for the less privileged in the area and this year was the biggest lunch they ever had due to the many people who supported the cause.

Simelane added that it is not only the Donate-A-Can campaign that supported them but it was also God Never Fails Ministries' Bishop N.D. Nhlapho who pumped in E15 000 towards the Christmas lunch. Nhlapho made the donation during Divine Ministries' Gala Dinner recently, where he was the guest speaker.

She said over 100 orphaned and vulnerable children came to enjoy Christmas at the orphanage and about 30 elderly were also treated to the best meal.

"We have been very blessed this

year as we have more than enough food for our beneficiaries and I hope they also enjoyed their meals," she added.

Simelane went on to say they also donated food parcels to four families from Ka-Zenzile and Hlatikulu. She said these were families that were mostly in need of the food parcels were assisted courtesy of Philani Maswati Charity Organisation through the campaign.

"Among the four families is one that is dependent on an elderly woman who stays with her grandchildren and the other is headed by a widow who stays with her three children and she is a sickly person," Simelane said.

Among the donors who made the day brighter for the OVC was one Mavimbela family which is originally from Eswatini but has since relocated to South Africa. The family also brought some food stuffs and was even present during the lunch.

Gogo Nde voiced her deepest appreciation to all those who believe in her vision with the orphanage. She said it is not that she wants to be famous but she was all about caring for the needy. Simelane further stated that her vision about the orphanage is to see it having its own premises to house a vocational training centre, a crèche, soup kitchen and a home for the elderly.

"I would like to urge the nation and other companies to emulate the spirit of Philani Maswati Charity Organisation because there is no way we can beat poverty without collaboration," she said.



CHRISTMAS TIME: Some of the orphans at Gogo Nde's Orphanage during their Christmas lunch at KaZenzile.

Woman fined E500 for false birth certificate particulars

BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrates Court

A woman desperate to have her birth certificate handled in a speedy manner was arrested after she submitted false information.

Thuli Nkonyane (50) of Mahlanya was alleged to have submitted incorrect or false documents when she made an application for her birth certificate. According to court records, Nkonyane was found guilty of having contravened the Identification Order of 1998 when she, on April 9 at the ministry of home affairs in Mbabane, gave out incorrect particulars for birth to an immigration officer.

Nkonyane did this knowing that

the particulars were false and misleading and in doing so for the purpose of obtaining the birth certificate.

In her mitigation before the court, Nkonyane stated that her husband was unemployed and she needed the birth certificate in order to seek employment.

"Your Worship, my husband's unemployment has put us in a bad space and I was desperate to provide for our family. I submitted the false records to speed up the process when applying for the birth certificate," Nkonyane stated. After hearing her mitigation, presiding Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati sentenced her to serve five months in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E500.

FOCUS on DD cases

XMAS DD OFFENDERS TAKE ONE TOO MANY

STORIES BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

AFTER enjoying Christmas Day festivities, several road traffic offenders confessed to have taken one too many drinks.

This was an excuse put forward by some of the road traffic offenders who appeared before Magistrate Xolile Nxumalo at the Manzini Magistrate's Court yesterday. One of these offenders, Kukhanya Dlamini, who was arrested

yesterday while at Kwaluseni, told the court that he found himself indulging in more alcohol than necessary as he got too thirsty.

Dlamini was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol. His alcohol content was 1.15mg/l.

In mitigation, Dlamini told the court that, "Bengitsi ngehlixa koma kani sengitotsatsa kakhulu kwatise kutsi bekunguKhismusi ngayitolo."

Another offender, Theminkosi Ndlela, who was arrested on Christmas Day along the Police Academy in Matsapha,

pleaded for the court's leniency when meting out sentence.

He said breaking the law was not his intention as he was only trying to quench his thirst after a good Christmas meal. Ndlela's alcohol specimen reading was 0.42mg/l.

"Bengitsi ngehlixa emafutsa enyama kani sengephula umtsetfo," he said.

Dlamini and Ndlela were sentenced to 12 months imprisonment with an option of E1 700 fine and six months imprisonment with an option of E800 fine, respectively.

I'd rather walk next time - DD offender

Choose your ride. Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.



AFTER finding himself before the court of law, a drunk driver swore never to risk it by asking for a lift from equally intoxicated people.

Mandisa Dlamini was before Magistrate Nxumalo on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

He was arrested on Christmas Day near Checkers in Manzini while driving a Toyota vehicle with registration number SSD 320 CM. His alcohol specimen reading was 1.22mg/l, exceeding the legal limit of 0.38mg/l.

In addition to this charge, Dlamini was also charged for stopping in the middle of the road, blocking other road users from accessing the public road freely.

In mitigation, Dlamini told the court that he is not usually keen on driving but on this day, he was forced to get behind the wheel as the people from whom he had asked for a lift were intoxicated.

He said he was forced to drive because he felt the need to take over from the initial driver because he was too drunk.

"I promise that the same mistake won't

happen again. Instead, I'd rather walk than ask for a ride from drunk motorists," he said. Dlamini was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment with an option of E2 200 fine.

Offender pleads guilty after denying charges

A road traffic offender startled the court when he vehemently denied the charges levelled against him but pleaded guilty at the same time.

Bongani Shongwe faced three counts of contravening the Road Traffic Act of 2007, with the first one being that of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

According to his charge sheet, Shongwe was arrested on Christmas Day at Ngwane Park while driving a VW sedan with registration number HSD 119 CH.

He was suspected to have driven this vehicle while intoxicated.

His second charge was for refusing to have his breath specimen reading taken by a traffic police officer. Additionally, he was also charged for failing to comply with instructions by the same officer. When asked of his plea to the aforementioned charges, Shongwe denied that he was intoxicated when driving his car.

However, he pleaded guilty to the charge. Regarding the first count, Shongwe said he was not drunk since he had never taken alcohol in his life.

For the second count, he conceded that he had refused to have his breath specimen taken due to that he was not comfortable about the breathalyser that

OTHER OFFENDERS

1. Siphon Nhlabatsi	8 months imprisonment/ E1 200 fine
2. Njabulo Magagula	12 months imprisonment/ E1 400 fine
3. Mduduzi Methula	8 months imprisonment/ E1 400 fine
4. Lukhetfo Dlamini	8 months imprisonment/ E1000 fine
5. Thando Monde Bhembe	12 months imprisonment/ E1 600 fine
6. Linda Petros Dlamini	14 months imprisonment/ E1 800 fine
7. Petros Chisuko Zimala	12 months imprisonment/ E1 100 fine
8. Angel Nxumalo	10 months imprisonment/ E1 400 fine
9. Muzi Mamba	12 months imprisonment/ E1000 fine
10. Meluleki Thwala	10 months imprisonment/ E1 200 fine
11. Sifiso Dlamini	10 months imprisonment/ E1 400 fine
12. Mbongiseni Mavimbela	10 months imprisonment/ E1 200 fine
13. Bheki Wilson Dlamini	12 months imprisonment/ E1 500 fine
14. Thobile Makhubu	12 months imprisonment/ E1 700 fine
15. Celumusa Zwakele Dlamini	18 months imprisonment/ E2 600 fine



the officer wanted him to use. In this regard, Shongwe said he refused because the breathalyser appeared to have been used.

On the count of failing to comply with instructions by the police officer, Shongwe said he did not hear of any instructions by the officer. When given an opportunity to mitigate, Shongwe apologised for the offences though he said he was not sure of them.

"Ayidle itshiyele Nkhosi yenkantolo noma ngingawati kahle lamacala," he said.

He was sentenced to 20 months imprisonment with an option of E3 000 fine for his offences.

SA woman, 2 others nabbed for DD on Christmas Day

STORIES BY VUYILE DLAMINI
Mbabane Magistrates Court

WHILE many people celebrated Christmas with friends and families, others spent the day behind bars after being nabbed by traffic police officers for drink-driving.

In what may be deemed as the quietest day in law enforcement history, only three motorists were arrested for having been found driving while under the influence of alcohol on Christmas Day.

The three were said to have appeared before Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi yesterday, where it was ascertained that the three motorists were nabbed in Ezulwini, with none making an appearance from Mbabane.

39-year-old Sive Dlamini of Bhunya was arrested on Christmas Day at Lobamba along the MR103 Public Road, where he was charged with drink driving after he was found driving a BMW sedan while under the influence of an intoxicating substance.

When a breathalyser test was conducted on him, Dlamini was found to have an alcohol reading of 0.87mg/l. In his mitigation, Dlamini pleaded with the court to be lenient in his sentencing as he promised never to commit the offence again.

After hearing his mitigation, Dlamini was sentenced to serve 18 months in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E1 800.

Later on that evening at around 2340 hours, Lobamba traffic police officers also arrested 39-year-old Madoda Masuku of Mbabane who had been driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Masuku was nabbed at Ezulwini while driving a Mazda station wagon sedan. When a breathalyser was administered on him, he was found to have a blood alcohol content reading of 0.67 mg/l.

Masuku told the court that he regretted having committed the offence, especially because he had to spend time behind bars rather than spend time with his family on Christmas Day.

Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi sentenced him to serve 16 months in prison, with the option to pay a fine of E1 600.

A South African national and the only female to be nabbed for drink-driving on Christmas Day, Erica Cassamo (30) claimed that she was currently unemployed and pleaded for a lighter sentence.

"Your Worship, I am a first offender and I honestly did not think that my stay in the country would turn out in this manner. I am currently unemployed with children and I am pleading with you to be lenient with my sentence," Cassamo pleaded.

After hearing her mitigation, the court sentenced Cassamo to pay a fine of E1 500 and in default of payment, serve 15 months in prison.

No Mbabane offenders, well done – Principal Magistrate

ON a lighter note, Principal Magistrate Fikile Nhlabatsi commended Emaswati, specifically the Mbabane residents for being well behaved this Christmas.

After only three drink-drivers appeared before the court on Thursday, the judicial officer expressed her content at the low numbers of offenders. "It is not every day that we come to court and there are so few drink-drivers before the court, especially during the festive season. It is visible that Mbabane residents were well behaved today, or rather they adhered to the traffic laws. Journalists, take note that good behaviour should be jotted down as well," the jubilant judicial officer said.



GENERAL NOTICE

THE URBAN GOVERNMENT (ACT NO. 8 OF 1969)

INTENT TO EXTEND THE BOUNDARIES OF MALKERNS TOWN TO INCORPORATE CERTAIN PROPERTIES, NOTICE 2019 (Under Section 4)

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 4 of the Urban Government Act, 1969, the Minister of Housing and Urban Development issues the following Notice

Citation and commencement

- (1) This Notice may be cited as I Intent to Extend the Boundaries of Malkerns Town to Incorporate Certain Properties, Notice 2019.
- (2) This Notice shall come into force on the date of publication in the Government Gazette.

Notice of intent to extend the boundaries

- The general public is notified that the Minister of Housing and Urban Development intends to alter/extend the boundaries of Malkerns Town to incorporate the immovable properties listed in the 2nd schedule as shown in the map in the 1st schedule in terms of Section 4 of the Urban Government Act, 1969.

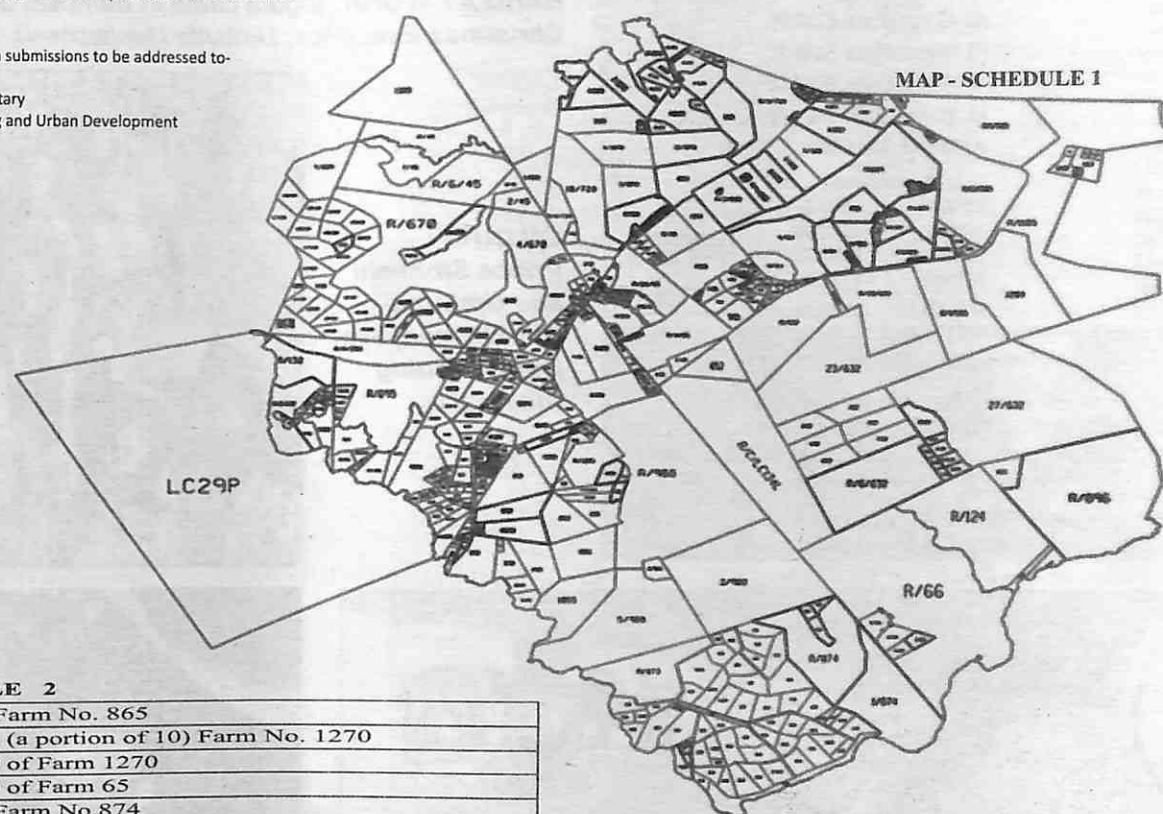
Public representations

- Members of the public who intend to make submissions or objections on the extension of the Malkerns Town Boundaries to incorporate certain properties into the town may do so within 30 days of the first publication of this notice.

Submissions

- All written submissions to be addressed to:-

The Principal Secretary
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
P.O. Box 1832
MBABANE



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750R16	E1600.00
255/70R16	E1250.00
235/60R16	E800.00
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COMBO from
E2800.00 up.

Truck Tyres

12R22.5	E2300.00
11R22.5	E2300.00
295/80R22.5	E2300.00
10.00R20	E2200.00
9.00R20	E2200.00

FREE FITTING

NHLANGANO
Cell: 7656 7396
Physical Address: Plot 171, St Georges Street,
Next to Nhlanguano Electrical Sales.

MBABANE
Cell: (+268) 7679 4094
Physical Address: Sheriff's road Mbabane,
Behind Casabula opposite Bandag Tyres

MATSAPHA
Tel: (+268) 2518 8749 Cell: (+268) 7672 4731
Physical Address: King Sobhuza avenue Opposite
Brewery: Matsapha Next to S&B Restaurant

P.O. Box 3333 Mbabane Email: superfitmzansi@gmail.com



HARD AT WORK: Ingaja came in numbers during the weeding of Royal fields at Majumba on Christmas Eve. (Pics: Umbutfo Maphepheni)



ON DUTY: Prince Sibhimbi and Umbutfo Khokhamanyeva Kunene doing their part.

LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR SUPPORT GROUPS OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV (PLHIV)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Are you a Support Group (SG) of PLHIV? Currently engaged in a programme that will improve livelihoods of PLHIV and communities around the SG? Have interest in contributing to the countries vision of ending AIDS? Then this is for you.

A small grant for PLHIV livelihoods has been established in November 2019. Each SG may apply for funds not exceeding E30,000 to support initiatives within the National Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS 2018-2023 and geared to contribute to vision of ending AIDS. You are invited to submit an Expression of Interest to be considered for qualification for the programme.

- Name of Support Group:
- Community:
- Area of focus for SG:
- In no more than 3 paragraphs explain the programme to be supported by the grant
- Results to be achieved by the programme.

Send your Expression of Interest to Regional HIV and AIDS offices or email it to info@nercha.org.sz Successful applications will be contacted in January 2020.

Closing date is 22nd January 2020

COMMUNITIES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Doc.20437

SUN VALLEY BLUES @ EZULWINI

IS NOW OPEN

FORMER EZULWINI SUN

THURSDAY **DJ MIXMASH** // FRIDAY **WICKED** // SATURDAY **CROOKS**

FROM 4 PM TILL LATE **E100 GETS YOU IN AND A DRINK**

SUNDAYS, FAMILY DAY FROM 10 AM TILL LATE **FREE ENTRY**

VERBODEN WED. SUN VALLEY BLUES - EZULWINI

SUN VALLEY BLUES

@ezulwini

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL: 24165037 / 24165090

Royal fields



UMGUBHO: Lacwebetelako sing and dancing at Majumba.



ATILUDLE MAJAHHA: Lacwebetelako doing their part.



ORDER: A police officer making sure that the young boys do a perfect job.



WE WERE THERE: State Photographer Umbutfo Mtfwalo'usemotweni, Phithiyamugwebvu and Phulisiphanga were also present.



Umbutfo Makawosi among the Inkhanyeti regiment as they go about weeding.

JOIN THE WINNING TEAM

The Central Bank of Eswatini wishes to appoint a suitable candidate for the following position:

ESTATE ASSISTANT OFFICER

Full job and application details are available at www.centralbank.org.sz/careers

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!!



APPLICATION DEADLINE



CENTRAL BANK OF ESWATINI
Gumtshele Wemacwati



Energy for the Future

ESWATINI ELECTRICITY COMPANY (EEC)

Eswatini House, Mhlambanyatsi Road,
Mbabane PO Box 258, Mbabane H100,
Tel: 2499 4000, Fax: 2404 2335
www.eec.sz Toll Free: 800 9000

PLANNED POWER OUTAGE NOTIFICATION

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

DAY:	DATE:	MAINTENANCE BY (DEPOT):	AFFECTED AREAS:	DESCRIPTION OF WORK :	PERIOD:
Saturday	28 Dec	Siteki	Ntokozeni	ABC Installation	9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.
Sunday	29 Dec	Matsapha	Eswatini Civil Aviation Authority Office and Staff Houses, Mgenule Bar, Barracks, Flying Club, Fortune Motors	GIS and RMU Installation	10:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.
		Siteki	Siteki Town, Build It, KaNdawo, New Mall, FNB, MTN, Pep Store, Baceth, Mathuthuthu Butchery, EWSC Regional Offices	ABC Installation	9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.
Tuesday	31 Dec	Pigg's Peak	Gilinyatsi, Nginamadvolu, EWSC Pumps, Magadzeni, Mnyokane, Kangakhulu, KaNcesi, Luvunjelweni, Nkhalangeni	Dual Line Stringing and Routine Maintenance	9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.
Wednesday	1 Jan	Pigg's Peak	Maphalaleni, Bumeni	Routine Maintenance	9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.
Thursday	2 Jan	Pigg's Peak	Luvunjelweni, Kadiomo, Maphalaleni, Lotubovu, Lubhujini, Bulimeni, Nkhalangeni	Routine Maintenance	9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.
Friday	3 Jan	Sithobela	Lomagengane, Madvubeni, Phophonyane	Closing Span and Line Dismantling	9:30a.m. – 4:00p.m.
		Pigg's Peak	Mahebedia, Longadvumi, Lujingela, Majotini	Routine Maintenance	9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.

Marketing and Corporate Communications

Housing minister pleased with portfolio committee support

STORIES BY STARSKY

MKHONTA

Nhlango

MINISTER of Housing and Urban Development Prince Simelane is pleased with the support he receives from the ministry's portfolio committee.

The minister said the committee was of great assistance to the ministry, especially in dealing with challenging matters that needed political intervention.

He was making these remarks at Phumula Guest House in Nhlango during a familiarisation tour, where he was accompanied by the Principal Secretary (PS) Clifford Mamba, senior officials and members of the portfolio committee.

"My gratitude goes to the ministry's portfolio committee which has assisted us in a number of issues.

We overcame some of the challenges because of the commitment and dedication shown by the mem-

bers of the portfolio committee.

They have shown us the direction and I foresee the ministry achieving the targets set," said the minister.

The minister appealed to the committee to continue with the good work it was doing. "Success will be determined by how well the portfolio committee supports us. Even if we discuss the ministry's budget, we get the support of our portfolio committee," said Prince Simelane. Commenting about the progress by Nhlango town, the minister said they were impressed.

He urged the town council and management to improve the lighting system. He said there was a time when he was part of an activity at Mbangweni Royal Kraal and he decided to visit the town where he noticed how dark the streets were during the night. "Improve the lighting system as I see this as a challenge. I don't want the fast developing area to be called 'Dark City' and so something about this please," said the prince.



PLEASED: Minister of Housing and Urban Development Prince Simelane.

Minister advises councils to be considerate of ratepayers

TOWNS and cities need to be considerate when effecting rates increase for properties as not everyone can afford the hiked fees, Minister of Housing and Urban Development Prince Simelane said.

The minister said payment of rates was obligatory as per one of the clauses in the Urban Government Act. He said for the towns and cities to function without hindrances, rates must be paid timeously.

He, however, said effecting the increase in rates should take into

account that within the urban areas with ratable properties, there were those that did not afford paying rates due to a number of reasons.

He said some of the properties in towns and cities were owned by the destitute such as widows, orphans or child-headed families who have no income and earn a living through the generosity of others.

He said it was time this issue was addressed. "I am not saying they should be exempted but government should look into how these people can be assisted.

In schools, there is a programme known as orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) catering for the pupils who lost their parents or whose parents are incapacitated and their school fees is paid by government. We need to devise a way of assisting those urban predicaments.

The ministry, in my own opinion, needs to determine how those who can't afford to pay rates are assisted at least half way. Some of these people know no other homes than their properties within the

urban area," said the prince.

"I am not saying they should be exempted but government should look into how these people can be assisted"

Three granted E700 bail for stabbing another

BY VUYILE DLAMINI

Mbabane Magistrate's Court

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

Bandile Shongwe (23), Eddie Mondlane (23) and Thando Dlamini (18) have been granted bail though after they were arrested and charged with two counts of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. The three are said to have on November 30 at Nkwadini Zone 4, assaulted Bongani Mthimkhulu with open hands and fists several times on his head.

They are further alleged to have stabbed him once with a knife on his shoulder, with intent to cause him grievous bodily harm.

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

They also allegedly stabbed him several times with a knife on his head, with intent to cause harm. The three appeared before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati while represented by Mabila Attorneys law firm.

XMAS HERE!!



COME ALL: Father Christmas invites customers to their shop in Manzini. (Pic: Mduduzi Mngomezulu)

Retired magistrate happy to reach finishing line

BY STARSKY MKHONTA

Nhlango

"IT has been a long journey but I am happy that I managed to make it to the finishing line still full of vigour and energy.

I am now celebrating with you for this achievement and simultaneously passing the baton to others."

These were the words of retired Nhlango Magistrate Peter Simelane.

The likeable Simelane officially retired last month after reaching 60.

He worked in a number of Magistrate's Courts around the country.

During his farewell function held at the Golden Gate Guest House in Nhlango recently, Simelane recalled a number of challenges he encountered, including how he almost lost his life while on duty when inmates brought for remand hearing assaulted him.

He also recalled how another magistrate made a mockery of him whilst presiding on a matter where he (Simelane) was an interpreter.

"During our time as interpreters, magistrates never hesitated to ridicule you anyhow.

They had no time of 'babysitting' you as they were harsh on us.

I remember how one of them (presiding officer) said something irritating me and I ended up gossiping that: 'Udzakiwe'. I was so irritated with what he was saying while interpreting. I wanted him to educate me on how to pronounce a certain word.

Touched

We used to have magistrates who were seemingly only interested in undermining those junior to them.

But we never threw in the towel but continued with our work," said Simelane.

When Simelane started telling the gathering how he was almost killed in a courtroom, many of those in attendance were touched. "There have been a number of episodes some which were a threat to my life. I remember how I survived the wrath of a group of inmates who were brought to be remanded and out of the blue, they started assaulting me with fists and kicks.

The commotion in the courtroom was too much but God saved my life.

My life was in danger but the Correctional Services officers were able to contain the situation," said Simelane.

Simelane thanked all those he worked with from the first day he started working for government.

He spent all his working life in the Judiciary where he started as an interpreter and climbed the ladder until he became Senior Magistrate.



ROBBERY SUSPECTS LAND IN HOSPITAL AFTER MOB ATTACK

BY BONGIWE DLAMINI
Manzini

TWO men were admitted in hospital after they were heavily assaulted by a mob on suspicion that they had robbed a community member.

The two men from Luve were attacked by a mob on Sunday afternoon. The mob reportedly used bush-knives, sjamboks and knobkerries to assault the two men who were suspected to have been responsible for a string of robberies in the area.

A recent robbery incident apparently irked the group of about 20 Luve residents, where one of them was hacked and robbed. This incident reportedly happened in the wee hours of last Saturday.

According to well-placed sources, the two men, who are apparently known in the community for engaging in criminal activities, were at the same drinking hall as the unidentified man who looked loaded as he was from Manzini. It is said the man went to the bar to enjoy some alcoholic beverages until he decided to leave



A robbery incident.

at around 2am.

When he left, the two young men allegedly followed him and were noticed by another who was at a car wash. While headed towards where the three men had gone, the vigilant resident met the two suspects running back towards the drinking hall.

One of the two suspects had been carrying a bush-knife.

Worried, the resident continued surging forward until he

found the robbed man lying in a pool of blood, with a gaping wound on his arm.

Although he was weak, the robbed man informed the resident about his assailants, adding they took some cash amounting to E600 and a cellphone. The bleeding man was then assisted in getting to Dvokolwako Health Centre.

On Sunday afternoon, one of the two suspects was spotted around the area and the mob

attacked him with all sorts of weapons.

The suspect reportedly ran into a homestead where he sought refuge at his friend's

house. This friend, according to sources, is not the one who was with the suspect when he attacked the elderly man, but the angry mob allegedly assaulted him, along his friend.

One of them sustained severe injuries on his diaphragm and arm, while the other had a concussion on his head.

They were admitted to

Dvokolwako Health Centre overnight.

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

She said the two attacked men were discharged from hospital yesterday, and they had since opened a case against their assailants.



Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise

VACANCIES

Procurement Manager

Main Purpose of the Job To provide a complete procurement function for the organizations expenditures with external suppliers of goods and or services in accordance to policies and procedures; and, in full compliance with the Public Procurement Act and guidelines thereto.

Principal Accountabilities

- Develop and manage the procurement department including setting targets and monitoring performance
- Develop and deliver a Procurement Strategy and departmental structure of the Procurement Unit.
- Oversee the operations and performance of the Procurement Unit - including assigning tasks, mentoring, training and assessing performance of the entire unit and individual employees.
- Use all relevant market intelligence in executing procurements.
- Develop and ensure execution of a consolidated annual procurement plan and ensure that implementation and compliance are optimal; promote the effective management of suppliers to sustain value for money and operational efficiency of funded projects including grants.
- Establish, as often as is necessary, new processes and systems for effective procurement - including the systems of monitoring and exercising warranties.
- Provide specialist advice, guidance and service on leading practice procurement to all divisions; lead in the identification, assessment and management of potential risks associate with differing sourcing strategies; provide insight through the analysis of spend, supply markets and savings;
- Ensure all goods and services purchased comply with user specifications and are of good quality.
- Define and manage supplier relationships and performance to ensure that accesses the best products in the market and obtains value for money in all procurements.
- Develop a mechanism to ensure compliance with donor requirements, including those of the Global Fund, in procurement management.
- Negotiate credit terms with suppliers to ensure that purchase orders are accepted in the market.
- Develop and disseminate management reports arising from all procurements (ageing analysis of outstanding purchase orders, requisitions status reports, variance analysis reports and procurement plan update) and other reports required by Management.

Required Education / Qualifications

- Minimum:**
 - Business Related Degree or Degree in Supply chain management or Procurement and Inventory management
 - CIPS - Intermediate Professional level or higher
 - Added advantage: CIPS - advanced Diploma (Chartered Institute of Purchasing and supply)

Required Experience

- 3 years' experience in procurement at middle management level
- Added advantage:** 3 years' experience in procurement in a donor funded environment

Required Competencies

- A: Skills**
- A good technical appreciation of the range of procurement categories (tendering, shopping etc.)
 - Excellent analytical, interpersonal, project management and team management skills
 - Strong influencing skills at senior levels to influence acceptance of a new way of working
 - Ability to negotiate at the highest levels with suppliers
 - Good IT skills to include wide experience of word documents, Excel spreadsheets (including pivot tables and charts) and PowerPoint
 - Excellent organizational and communication skills (written and oral)
 - Ability to live under ambiguity and change
- B: Competencies**
- Effective stakeholder management (internal and external)
 - Ability to prioritise own and others work load, coach and develop people effectively
 - Ability to analyze, evaluate and recommend on risk at strategic level; employ lateral thinking for problem solving
 - Ability to negotiate at the highest levels with suppliers
 - Competent project manager

C: Knowledge

- International Procurement standards and best practice
- Swaziland Procurement Act
- Risk management
- Budget management

D: Behaviours (Attributes)

- Attention to details
- Confidentiality
- Integrity
- Result oriented
- Team work
- Customer oriented

IMS Officer - Network Administration and Support

Objective

The Information Systems Officer: Network and Systems Administration monitors network performance against organizational operational needs. The incumbent is responsible for the configuration, maintenance and operation of ESWADE network, servers, desktop, and storage infrastructure. Ensures that the organizational IT and all related equipment are functional to accommodate system users.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Installs, configures, tests and maintains servers, SAN, LAN and WAN and related networking equipment.
- Performs all critical data backups and secures data according to established procedures.
- Liaise with Network Security Officer to install firmware and security updates on servers, printers, and related networking equipment.
- Configures and maintains Microsoft Active Directory
- Installs, configures and maintains Intrusion Prevention Systems /Intrusion Detection Systems, Firewall, Anti-Virus, Anti-Spam, Antimalware, etc. for maximum internal network protection
- Maintains Unified Communications, VoIP, and any related equipment, services, and platforms
- Troubleshoot network problems / outages, diagnose and solve hardware faults
- Configure and setup Cisco Firewalls and wireless, VPN Concentrators and Security appliances for access to vital business applications
- Monitor and document network problems and resolution for future reference
- Draft and communicate upgrade schedule for network optimization
- Monitor remote sites for traffic patterns using the monitoring tools and report on performance trends
- Conduct configuration and hardware changes to keep network running
- Conduct configuration and operating systems back ups
- Monitors scheduled network jobs and computer output for completeness, accuracy, and errors.
- Plans, advises and assists with software upgrades and installations.
- Liaise with third party service provider's providers for planned infrastructure upgrades.
- Monitor service level agreement indicators and report on delivery of service
- Support helpdesk system implementation and
- Maintains an updated IT asset inventory database and works with Project IMS officers for regular checks and updates
- Provides support to project implementation staff and other IMS staff and ESWADE as needed
- Ability to write reports.
- Other duties and projects as assigned.

Qualifications and Experience

- Degree in Information Technology or Computer Science or a closely related technical field with a minimum of 3 years on the job experience
- A professional industry certification; experience in networking systems, information technology, or network security is recommended; CISCO Certified Network Associate or Professional
- ITIL Certification
- Knowledge and experience with database systems is a requirement.
- Experience with Microsoft SQL Server, Microsoft Access, Microsoft Excel, Windows 7/8/10, Windows Server, networking and client server systems required.
- Ability to recommend, plan and implement IT solutions.
- Ability to lead and develop individuals within group.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.

Written applications and detailed resume should be emailed to: recruitment@eswade.co.sz before 1645hrs on Friday, 03 January, 2020. Please ensure that subject line on emailed applications details position applied for as advertised e.g. Procurement Officer.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Should you not be contacted within 21days of the deadline, please consider your application unsuccessful.

DOC:20975



Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise

Smallholder Market-Led Project/Climate Smart Agriculture for Resilient Livelihoods (SMLP/CSARL)

Position: Information Management System (IMS) Officer- Database Systems Administration Reports to: IMS Manager / Project manager

Objective

The IMS Officer - Database Systems Administration provides project implementation and partners support through design, implementation, maintenance of information management databases. The incumbent is also responsible for testing and modifying databases to ensure that they perform reliably.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Responsible for monitoring, tuning, change control, scheduled tasks, backup jobs, recovery processes, alerts, and database storage needs for operational databases.
- Assists with designing, evaluating, and testing new database applications using MS SQL Server, MySQL Server.
- Document, develop, test and implement updates to operational databases.
- Provide training and performs user support when a user is having a problem with database operation or performance.
- Perform fault diagnosis, troubleshoot, and correct problems that occur within operational databases.
- Recommend system enhancements to maximize application efficiency.
- Setup new users on email and MS Office.
- Performs database server administration and associated daily administrative tasks.
- Responsible for providing trend analysis information to allow informed decisions regarding resource management.
- Design and implement replication solutions for operational databases.
- Meets with internal and external stakeholders to identify database requirements and develop appropriate solutions.
- Work closely with the Project Management Expert to refine and help make operational the Results and Impact Management System for the Project.
- Ensure that IFAD's Results and Impact Management System (RIMS) has been set up and is monitored.
- Performs analysis of existing processes and procedures and makes recommendations when changes are required.
- Performs analysis of departmental resources to ensure that all database solutions are integrated into ESWADE standards and that all databases are tested to ensure complete compatibility with the organization's hardware, software, and peripherals.
- Ensuring all backup and disaster recovery plans are followed including doing daily, a weekly and monthly backups
- Develop data migration /conversion techniques.

Qualifications and Experience

- Degree in Information Technology or computer science or a closely related technical field with course work in relational database management systems (RDMS) with a minimum of 3 years on the job experience
- 3 years job experience with MS SQL/MySQL Server is required.
- Extensive knowledge of current database technologies.
- Understanding of GIS and related technologies is highly desirable
- Experience with other database software or web applications
- The ability to work quickly, under pressure and to deadlines
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.

Written applications and detailed resume should be emailed to: recruitment@eswade.co.sz before 1645hrs on Friday, 03 January, 2020. Please ensure that subject line on emailed applications details position applied for as advertised.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Should you not be contacted within 21days of the deadline, please consider your application unsuccessful.



DOC:20976



Ngobile Magagula
Corporate Affairs Manager

Tel: 2405 2298

Email: ngobilem@sptc.co.sz

POSTAL & TELECOMS on Observer



Rethink Uncapped!

AT EPTC, we strive to give our customers more than they expect, for less, because the customer is the centre of our universe.

We have gone an extra mile to ensure that our customers have the best experience using the internet we provide for them by lowering the price, doubling the volume and increasing the speed for both prepaid and postpaid packages, a clear sign that at EPTC, the customer comes first because the customer is the purpose of our work. Whether it's connecting your home and family to the internet, managing your business online, distance learning, doing research or surfing the internet, Eswatini Telecom offers you fast inter-

net speeds using an ADSL broadband connection with speeds of up to 15Mbps.

ADVANTAGES OF OUR INTERNET CONNECTION:

1. Free Installation: We do not charge our customers installation fees. You simply apply, and a technician will visit your premises to install our ADSL broadband internet for you at no extra cost. The customer is only expected to recharge the required amount for the package he/she has chosen before they can be connected to the internet.

2. Free Modem: We do not charge you for the modem. In the installation process, our techni-

cians will supply the customer with a new modem that will help connect our customer to the internet.

3. High Speeds: We have ensured that our customers get the best experience when surfing the internet by raising our speeds to a minimum 2MB and to a maximum of 15MB. The traditional 512kbps speed is no longer available on any of our packages.

4. Pricing: Our packages start from as little as E120.00 a month for a prepaid package of 4GB, with a speed of 2MB and E313 for a postpaid package of 40GB, with a speed of 2MB. We also provide an uncapped package at E499 with a speed of 3MB for unlimited access to the internet for a month.

5. Connectivity: Our ADSL service transforms your ordinary analogue line into a high speed

multi-tasking point. Hence multiple computers can be able to access the internet at the same time, without any interference.

6. Bandwidth: Although ADSL provides shared bandwidth, it far exceeds the old fashioned dial-up connection in terms of speed. It offers high performance at low cost, which makes it suitable for small to medium size companies and home use. It provides an always on connection at a monthly flat rate. There is no need to dial every time you connect to the internet.

7. Reliability: Our customers can rest assured that our service is reliable and won't experience interferences. In cases of copper theft, our customers are quickly alerted and technicians are sent out to restore the lost copper, reviving the service within 24 hours.

8. Customer Service: Our well trained consultants are always ready to serve our customers, as they are not competitor-obsessed, but rather customer-obsessed. At EPTC, we know that each customer has special demands and needs in terms of their internet connection and our telecentre consultants are always available to listen and advise our customers on the best package to suit their needs. Our contact centre agents are also available 24 hours a day to assist our customers with any queries they may have concerning our products and services. As a Corporation it is our obligation to execute with discerning efficiency our best customer service through the practice of the values that drive this corporation.

OUR CORE VALUES:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The people of Eswatini have shown tremendous support to this corporation and we stand by our promise to provide superior service quality benchmarked against world class standards and remain faithful to all our stakeholders as we go about our business. With your continued support, EPTC, shall hold true to our mission of running our communications business more efficiently for the benefit of all our stakeholders through the application of modern technology and sustaining an overriding customer focus.

How to get Eswatini Telecom Internet (ADSL) Service

To get ADSL broadband visit your nearest Telecentre. If you are a business customer you can contact your Key Account Manager.

For any queries on our broadband services please call us on 800 2000 or email info@sptc.co.sz



DOUBLE DATA, DOUBLE THE CHRISTMAS FUN

Eswatini Telecom has doubled the data, increased speeds and added FREE on-net minutes on all Home Packages.

Home Classic		
Offering	WAS	NOW
Capped Volume	4GB	10GB
Speed	Up to 2MB/s	Up to 3MB/s
Free Voice	0 Minutes	60 Minutes Un-lim. Calls
Price (incl. VAT)	E33.00	E33.00

Home Way2Way		
Offering	WAS	NOW
Capped Volume	Uncapped	Uncapped
Speed	Up to 2MB/s	Up to 3MB/s
Free Voice	0 Minutes	60 Minutes Un-lim. Calls
Price (incl. VAT)	E499.00	E499.00

©2019 EPTC

For more info visit your nearest Telecentre
or call 800 2000 or email info@sptc.co.sz

in touch...

Eswatini
Telecom



CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT MANTENGA CULTURAL VILLAGE



HAPPY: Nomahlubi Dlamini, Gcinile Mbuli and Dumsile Dube joined by the young ones whilst enjoying their lunch at Mantenga Cultural Village. They were among many families and friends who decided to eat out on the special day.

(Pics: Simon Shabangu)



XMASS: The Mavuso family from the Lubombo region bonding.



ENJOY: Lindani and Nosipho Mavimbela from Manzini in a cosy chat.

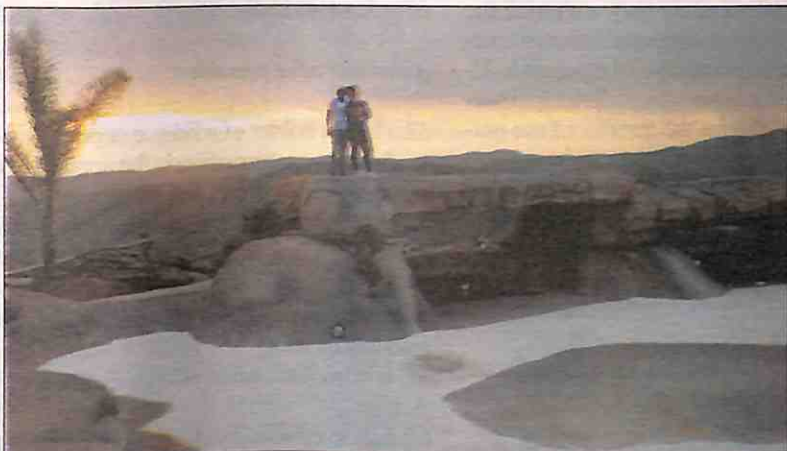


FULL HOUSE: The attendance made for a sight to behold as guests came from near and far to celebrate the day.



LIGHT MOMENT: Lucky and Xolile Zikalala from Springs in SA with friends Sithembile and Elvis Dlamini of Woodlands relax.

XMAS LUNCH @ SIBEBE RESORT



ON TOP: Sandile Khumalo and Pile Nxumalo enjoying sun-set by the giant pool at Sibebe Resort on Christmas Day. This is the beautiful view one gets to experience at the magnificent resort located on the Sibebe rock. The place attracted scores of people who came through for Christmas lunch. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



KU-NICE: Delisa Malinga and his wife Nothando had a great outing as well.

SGUDIS NICE: Waiter Sailas attending to Zinhle Masina and Tessy Gumbi.



OUTING: Lenhle Simelane and Faith Malinga enjoying the beverages.



NICE TIME: Friends relaxing after enjoying the delicacies served.



COOLING: The young ones cooling off in the pool due to the soaring temperatures.

ON THIS DAY

...DECEMBER 27

1979 - Afghanistan -- Soviet Union Seizes Control
The Soviet Union seizes control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin, who was overthrown and executed, has been replaced by Babrak Karmal.

1983 - USA -- Recession More Jobs Lost
1983 : With the recession continuing to effect manufacturing in the United States. US Steel announces that it would reduce its steel making capacity by roughly 20 percent laying off a further 4 600 bringing the total lay-offs for the year to 15 400.

1985 - Rwanda -- Dian Fossey
The American Zoologist Dian Fossey, who had studied mountain gorillas in Rwanda, was found hacked to death at a research station in Rwanda.

1985 - Italy / Austria -- Terrorist Attack
A twin terrorist attack at Rome and Vienna airports by gunmen on waiting passengers has left more than 100 people injured and reports of 15 fatalities.

1987 - Canada -- Chrysler Motors
In Bramalea, Ontario Chrysler Motors had a new 1.8 million square foot factory where the 1988 Eagle Premier intermediate sedan would be built. The factory was L shaped and sat on 216 acres. One hundred and fifty thousand vehicles a year would be produced there providing thousands of local jobs.

2001 - USA -- Guantanamo Bay
US officials announced that Taliban and al-Qaida prisoners would be held at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

2002 - North Korea -- Nuclear Programme
2002 - North Korea ordered UN nuclear inspectors to leave the country and said it would restart producing plutonium for nuclear weapons.

2006 - Israel -- Palestinians No To Peace
Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, held out an olive branch of peace to the Palestinians promising land, release of prisoners, reduction in check points, and other concessions. However Palestinian extremists in Gaza fired two rockets into Israel.

2007 - Pakistan -- Benazir Bhutto assassinated
Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has been assassinated in Pakistan by suicide attack. Bhutto, who was the first woman Prime Minister of an Islamic state, was leaving an election rally in Rawalpindi when the gunman shot her in the neck and set off a bomb. At least twenty other people died in the attack, and several more were injured.

2011 - Israel -- Israelis Protest Against Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Extremism
Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has been assassinated in Pakistan by suicide 27th December, 2011 : Thousands of Israelis gathers in Beit Shemesh to protest against ultra-Orthodox Jewish extremism. The protests came after a young girl stated she had faced harassment while on her way to school. The protests were also over concern that some ultra-Orthodox groups in the city were trying to segregate men and women. Protesters also had the support of Israel's president who said that the protests were necessary to defend the majority of Israelis against a minority trying to change the country.

2012 - United States -- Man Admits Fossil Smuggling
Eric Prokopi, a Florida fossil dealer, admitted to smuggling dinosaur bones in to the country. Prokopi could face up to seventeen years in prison.

2013 - China -- GM Recalls Vehicles in China
General Motors announced a recall of over 1.4 million cars in China. The recall focused on an issue with a securing an oil pump.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Cesaro
(Wrestler)
December 27, 1980
Lucerne, Switzerland
39 years old



Kristina Pimenova
(Model)
December 27, 2005
Moscow, Russia
14 years old



WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Utsini umtsetfo

THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ACT, 2019

Fish export and import permits

12. (1) A person may not export or import any fish, or aquatic material or product thereof whether live, frozen or processed in any form without an export or import permit.

(2) An application for an export or import permit shall be made to the principal secretary in the format prescribed.

(3) An application to import live fish shall be denied if the principal secretary is of the opinion that to permit that import would threaten or harm any indigenous or endemic fish or aquatic resource or in any way harm fish or aquatic biodiversity.

(4) The principal secretary shall issue export and import permits for a period not exceeding twelve (12) months.

Aquaculture licences

13. (1) A person shall not undertake small-scale commercial or large-scale commercial aquaculture without an aquaculture licence issued by the Board.

(2) An application for an aquaculture licence shall be made to the Board in the prescribed form.

(3) The Board may issue an aquaculture licence authorising one of the following categories of aquaculture -

- (a) small-scale commercial aquaculture; or
- (b) large-scale commercial aquaculture.

(4) The Board shall not grant an aquaculture licence for a period in excess of five (5) years renewable for small-scale and large-scale commercial aquaculture.

(5) Small-scale commercial aquaculture licences may not be granted to persons other than citizens or permanent residents of Eswatini.

(6) Large-scale commercial aquaculture licences may be granted to any person resident in the Country.

(7) The minister shall annually prescribe the fees applicable for the granting and renewal of aquaculture licences by notice published in the Gazette.

(8) The Board shall annually prescribe the levies applicable to the gross annual production of fish by notice published in the Gazette and that notice may set different levies for different species of fish farmed.

(9) Aquaculture licences are not transferable except in accordance with sub-section (10).

(10) The Board may authorise the transfer of an aquaculture licence upon written application by the holder of an aquaculture licence showing good cause why the Board should transfer the licence.

Fish processing establishment.

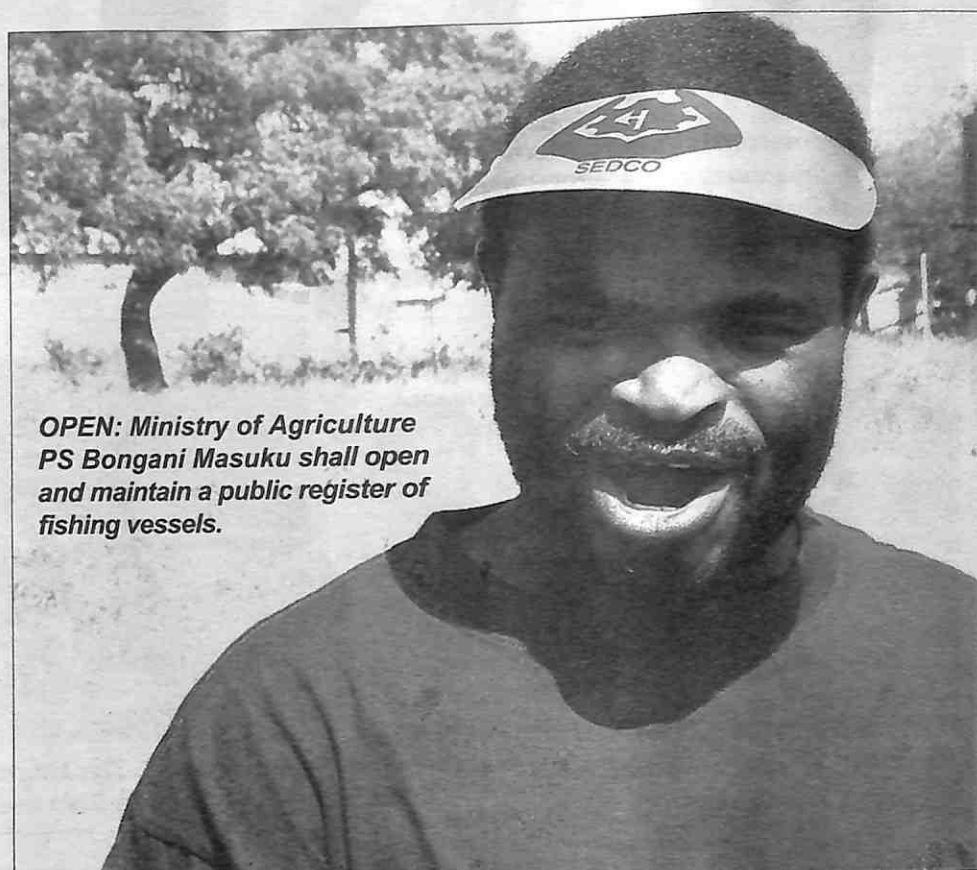
14. (1) A person or establishment shall not undertake fish processing without a fish processing establishment permit issued by the principal secretary.

(2) An application for a fish processing establishment permit shall be made to the principal secretary and in the format prescribed.

(3) The principal secretary may not grant a fish processing establishment permit for a period in excess of (5) five years.

(4) A fish processing establishment permit may only be granted to any person resident in Eswatini.

(5) The principal secretary shall annually prescribe the fees applicable to the granting of fish processing establishment permits by notice published in the Gazette.



OPEN: Ministry of Agriculture
PS Bongani Masuku shall open and maintain a public register of fishing vessels.

(6) Subject to sub-section (7), fish processing establishment permits are not transferable.

(7) The principal secretary may authorize the transfer of a fish processing establishment permit upon written application by the permit holder showing good reasons why the principal secretary should authorize the transfer of the permit.

(8) Where the principal secretary considers it appropriate, a permit issued under this provision may be suspended, withdrawn or terminated.

Fishing vessels

15. (1) A person responsible for a fishing vessel flying the Eswatini flag shall cause the vessel to be registered.

(2) The registration of fishing vessels shall be the responsibility of the ministry responsible for fisheries and aquaculture.

(3) A person shall not operate a fishing vessel in any national, foreign or international water body without a vessel permit.

(4) An application for a fishing vessel permit shall be made to the principal secretary in a format to be prescribed.

(5) The principal secretary shall not grant a fishing vessel permit for a period exceeding a period of one (1) year.

(6) The principal secretary shall annually prescribe the fees applicable to the granting of fishing vessel permits by notice published in the Gazette.

(7) The principal secretary shall open and maintain a public register of fishing vessels.

(8) A vessel flying the Eswatini flag shall comply with any relevant legislation whether of local, coastal state or the international law of the sea.

Register of licences and permits

16. (1) The principal secretary shall open and keep a register of all licences and permits granted or issued in terms of this Act.

(2) The register contemplated in sub-section (1)

shall be publicly available and accessible.

(3) The register shall be maintained and updated at least annually.

Administrative penalties

17. (1) If a holder of a licence or permit -
(a) furnishes information in the application for that licence or permit, or submits any other information which is false or incomplete;
(b) contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the licence or permit;
(c) contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of this Act;

(d) is convicted of an offence in terms of this Act; or

(e) fails to effectively utilise that licence or permit, without any reasonable cause, the principal secretary may, by written notice delivered to that holder, request for the holder to show cause in writing within a period of twenty-one (21) days from the date of the notice, why the licence or permit should not be revoked, suspended, withdrawn or altered as the case may be.

(2) The principal secretary shall, after the expiry of the period referred to in sub-section (1), refer the matter together with any reason furnished by the holder in question, to the Minister for a decision.

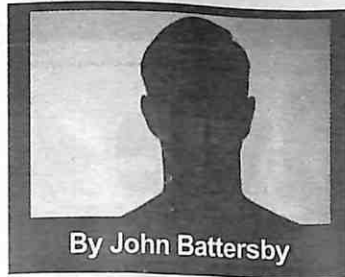
(3) When a matter is referred to the minister in terms of sub-section (2), the minister may -

(a) revoke, suspend or alter the licence or permit; or

(b) decide not to revoke, suspend or alter the licence or permit.

(4) Without conflicting the provisions of sub-sections (1), (2) and (3), the minister may, whenever the minister is of the opinion that it is in the interests of promoting, protecting or utilising on a sustainable basis of a particular aquatic resource, at any time by written notice to the holder of a licence or permit, revoke, suspend or reduce that licence or permit.

ENIGMATIC ETHIOPIA: AFRICA'S (STILL) HIDDEN JEWEL IN THE CROWN?



By John Battersby

ADDIS ABABA, a seething and rapidly developing African metropolis, is a regular transit stop for north-south travellers and a destination for officials connected to the African Union and its many commissions.

While transit travellers benefit from the cheaper rates of Ethiopian Airlines – Africa's largest and most globally connected national carrier – the development of Ethiopia's tourism industry is still at an early stage.

It will not stay that way for long. Africa's diplomatic capital – which means "New Flower" in the native Amharic language – is inundated with construction sites, leading hotel chains and sprawling markets amid chaotic traffic in overcrowded streets.

Mountain lodges and hilltop hotels are appearing in the main historic towns in the north of the country where ruined palaces, obelisks and monasteries of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church add to the Ethiopian enigma.

A recent 10-day visit to Africa's fastest-growing economy – it grew at an average of 10 per cent a year between 2008 and 2018 – revealed a country of 105-million people with a fascinating history and a kaleidoscope of ethnic, religious and cultural diversity.

It is Africa's second-most populous country and was the fastest growing economy in the world last year, albeit from a low base.

The ancient kingdoms of Yeha, Axum, Lalibela and Gondar weave a narrative rooted in a deep-seated faith spanning the three major monotheistic religions.

The 12 iconic rock churches of Lalibela – where Christianity was first declared a state religion in AD 300 – vie with the Seven Wonders of the World for sheer vision, scale and resilience.

The breathtaking rock churches, which have been in regular use continuously for the past 700 years, defy both imagination and description. We were in Axum, the 10th Century capital of the Kingdom of Ethiopia, on what is called Saint Mary's day: one of the most important festivals on the Ethiopian Christian calendar. From morning to night there were rivers of pilgrims clad in white muslin cloth streaming towards the Church of Saint Mary of Zion.

Axum is the city of the Queen of Sheba's ancient palace and the Ark of the Covenant which is never seen by anyone other than the lone custodian charged with its safe-keeping, according to the legend.

Today, the mosaic of Ethiopia is an intriguing intertwining of reli-

gious, ethnic and regional loyalties which appear to contribute to a somewhat precarious equilibrium which erupts from time to time.

Some 63 per cent of the population is Christian, 34 per cent are Muslim and there are some 80 ethnic groups living in 10 states or provinces.

The largest ethnic groups are the Oromo (34 per cent), Amhara (27 per cent) and the Tigrayans, who span the border with Eritrea and box well above their six per cent of the total.

The government is made up of four liberation movements which resisted and defeated the Soviet-backed military junta, the Derg (1974-91), headed by Mengistu Haile Mariam, a brutal dictator who fled to Zimbabwe where he still lives in exile.

The Derg was followed by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) which ruled for 27 years under Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's policy of ethnic federalism and his successor, Hailemariam Desalegn.

The four movements are now being subsumed along with five other groups in a single party – known as the Prosperity Party – which is the brainchild of reformist Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali who was awarded the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating a peace deal with Eritrea.

Since Abiy was elected in 2018, he has pursued a vigorous process of reform, releasing political prisoners, promoting freedom of speech and attempting to unite a country driven by ethnic and regional conflicts which have claimed hundreds of lives and seen 3.5-million people displaced since 2015.

Lifting decades of repression has unleashed resistance including an attempted coup in which two senior officials were killed in June and a spontaneous uprising in his Oromia heartland in October which claimed more than 80 lives, with 200 injured.

The recent referendum granting the Sidama ethnic group in the south a tenth state has opened the floodgates to demands from at least five other ethnic groups wanting their own states.

The dynamics of conflict are complex and often occur within ethnic groups over differences regarding regional vs federal power; sometimes, religion also plays a part but is not the primary cause of conflict.

Ethiopia has survived catastrophic famines (1888, 1973 and 1984/85), Muslim-Christian wars (1490-1529), invasions by the Egyptians and Somalia, five years of occupation by the Italians (1935-1941), decades of war with Eritrea and a seventeen-year liberation struggle against the Soviet-backed Derg (1974-91).

But the country has never been colonised and it shows in the pride, dignity and independent spirit of the people ruled by successive emperors and kings over two thousand years, culminating with the interrupted four-decade rule and



ignominious death of Emperor Haile Selassie (1931-1974) ousted by the Derg.

Ethiopia has not yet managed to fully realise its natural position as a regional power in the Horn of Africa due to landlocked territory – and conflict with troublesome neighbours such as Eritrea, the Sudan and Somalia.

But there is opportunity looming now for a forward leap under the energetic leadership of Abiy.

Investment flows from China, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and India. Chinese friendship signs abound and it is a major investor in the massive Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and other key road, rail and telecommunication infrastructure projects.

The IMF and World Bank have also weighed in with major support.

Ethiopia is Africa's major producer and exporter of coffee but it is diversifying a traditionally agricultural economy with a focus on the industrial and service sectors.

Abiy has encouraged liberalisation of the economy but despite the phenomenal growth – it has halved poverty in a decade – Ethiopia is still one of the world's poorest countries and faces massive youth unemployment. Yet some experts see Ethiopia as the future "China of Africa" and Bloomberg has listed Ethiopia and the Ivory Coast as the only two African countries in the world's top 10 growth destinations.

The mountain landscapes in the north are breathtaking as are the cultivated plateaus, river canyons and patchwork of smallholdings clearly visible on the flight from Lalibela to Axum.

And the four-hour drive from the ancient city of Gondar to Bahir Dar reveals fertile plains and valleys planted with the staple grain, teff, and cow-drawn ploughs and threshing circles that are as ancient as the Bible.

The Ethiopian belief that it houses the Ark of the Covenant, containing the tablets bearing the 10 Commandments, is at the centre of the faith of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Ethiopian Christians also believe that the first King of Ethiopia, Menelik I, was conceived in a union between the Queen of Sheba – known as Queen Makeda in Ethiopia – and King Solomon in Jerusalem during a visit to the Holy City.

Lake Tana, adjoining Bahir Dar, is the source of the Blue Nile as it begins its journey to the Mediterranean. The Blue Nile Falls,

several hours away on foot, are an impressive sight.

But the volume of water cascading 150 feet has been diminished by the diversion of water to the massive Renaissance Dam which is already a source of tension with the Sudan and Egypt as the main source of water for those two countries.

As our visit with New York Times Journeys had as its focus ancient lands and religious Festivals we did not get to see the renowned bearded monkeys in the Simeon Mountains or the extraordinary Danakil Depression which claims to be the lowest and hottest destination on earth.

But we did get to visit the Ethnographic Museum in Addis which houses a replica of Lucy, which vies with South Africa's Little Foot, as the oldest hominid of the genus Australopithecus found in Africa, which is estimated to be 3.2-million years old.

Little Foot is estimated to be 3.7-million years old. The species Afarensis has been found only in the Afar depression – dubbed the Cradle of Civilisation – in Ethiopia while Africanus has been found only in the vicinity of the Sterkfontein in South Africa known as the Cradle of Mankind.

Hominids are the oldest known relatives of Homo Sapiens, modern humans, who are about 200 000 years old. Successive finds in South Africa since 1925 of the species Australopithecus Africanus have included the skull of Mrs Ples, the Taung Child and most recently the almost complete skeleton of Little Foot.

Even older species of hominids, which are found only in Africa, have been found in Ethiopia, Kenya and Chad and go back between five and six million years.

We learned from our guide at the museum was that Lucy, Ethiopia's oldest and most famous female, owes her name to famous Beatles' hit Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds (LSD), from the album Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Heartsclub Band, which is said to have been inspired by the psychedelic drug LSD.

It could be that enigmatic Ethiopia is still Africa's best-kept secret. DM

• **John Battersby, a former New York Times southern Africa correspondent, accompanied a tour of Ethiopia organised by the New York Times Journeys as Africa expert and raconteur.**



● "A true friend is someone who is there for you when he'd rather be anywhere else."

– Len Wein

● "A conservative is a man with two perfectly good legs who, however, has never learned how to walk forward." – Franklin D. Roosevelt

● "A grieving woman could sit alone on a jetty in the early morning. But not with a book in her hands."

– Pia Juul

● "A painting is worth a thousand confused art-gallery visitors."

– Ljupka Cvetanova

● "A person is wise if he listens to millions of advice and doesn't implement any of it."

– Michael Bassey Johnson

● "A person with a sharp tongue will eventually cut themselves."

– J. Robson Koenig

● "A skunk is better company than a person who prides himself on being 'frank'."

– Robert Heinlein

● "A true friend is someone who is there for you when he'd rather be anywhere else."

– Len Wein

● "A true friend overlooks your failures and tolerates your success!"

– Doug Larson

● "A witty saying proves nothing."

– Voltaire

● "A word of kindness is seldom spoken in vain, while witty sayings are as easily lost as the pearls slipping from a broken string."

– George Dennison Prentice

● "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."

– William James

● "Action will destroy your procrastination."

– Og Mandino

● "All progress has resulted from people who took unpopular positions."

– Adlai E. Stevenson

● "An ounce of action is worth a ton of theory."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

● "And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

– Abraham Lincoln

● "Arguing with a fool proves there are two."

– Doris M. Smith

● "Ask me no questions, and I'll tell you no fibs."

– Oliver Goldsmith

● "Better a witty fool than a foolish wit."

– William Shakespeare

"By working faithfully eight hours a day, you may eventually get to be boss and work twelve hours a day."

– Robert Frost

● "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." – Confucius

● "Courtship is to marriage, as a very witty prologue to a very dull play."

– William Congreve

● "Do your own thinking independently. Be the chess player, not the chess piece."

– Ralph Charell

● "Don't be too timid and squeamish about your actions. All life is an experiment."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

● "Don't worry about people stealing an idea. If it's original, you will have to ram it down their throats."

– Howard Aiken

● "Dreams don't work unless you do."

– John C. Maxwell

● "Dreams have only one owner at a time. That's why dreamers are lonely." – Erma Bombeck

● "Every habit makes our hand more witty, and out wit more handy."

– Friedrich Nietzsche

● "Everyone has a sense of humor. If you don't laugh at jokes, you probably laugh at opinions."

– Criss Jami

● "Faced with the choice between changing one's mind and proving that there is no need to do so, almost everyone gets busy on the proof."

– John Kenneth Galbraith

● "Fools learn from experience. Wise men learn from the experience of others."

– Otto von Bismarck

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	1.6%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	10%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	6.5%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E13.65 per litre
Replacement	E13.70 per litre
Diesel	E13.65 per litre
Paraffin	E9.15 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 23 DEC 2019

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	14.1915	14.2415
British Pound/SZL	18.3644	18.4291
Japanese Yen/SZL	7.6832	7.7089
Swiss France/SZL	14.4472	14.4966
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3241	1.3373
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.8148	9.8508
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.7895	10.8242
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	15.7334	15.7888
Gold	1,490.2925	
Oil	69.33	

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Standard Bank

Non-cost reflective tariffs unsustainable - Businesses

...One of the challenges cited in cross-subsidisation of electricity

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

BUSINESSES reportedly regard non-cost reflective tariffs as unsustainable, and are exploring alternative self-generation options.

This is one of the challenges resulting from cross-subsidisation, which according to Wikipedia, is the practice of charging higher prices to one type of consumers to artificially lower prices for another group.

According to an economic regulation presentation by the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA) Regulation Manager Simphiwe Khumalo, the top four customers contributed to about 16 per cent to the total revenue. It highlighted that the business customers, especially industrial, were growing at a very slow pace.

The presentation also pointed that some business customers charged up to 40 per cent more to pay for lower domestic customer tariffs.

He said the migration of business customers' off-grid would decrease economies of scale and significantly increase tariffs for remaining customers while excessively high tariffs would make it unaffordable for most Eswatini.

Khumalo also explained the benefits of cost-reflective tariffs, noting that the electricity industry was less reliant on single customer group

for sustainability.

"The reduced cost of doing business in Eswatini is attractive to investment.

Businesses are likely to reinvest savings into expansion of economic activity, thus more jobs are created.

"Also, the utility is able to maintain and invest in infrastructure for improved quality and reliability of electricity," he said.

He further mentioned that the captive electricity consumers were protected from potential excessively high electricity tariffs.

Prices

In his presentation, Khumalo cited that The Electricity Act states that prices shall be regulated according to one or more of the following tariff methodologies, which shall allow a licensee that operates efficiently to recover the full costs of its business activities, including a reasonable return on the capital invested in business, provide incentives for continued improvement in respect of technical and economic efficiency with which services are provided, incen-

tives for continued improvement of quality services, give to consumers proper signals regarding the costs that their consumption imposes on the business of the licensee and to avoid undue discrimination between consumers and consumer categories.

He highlighted that the tariff methodology sought to balance the different and sometimes conflicting needs of the various stakeholders

"There is also the cost of service study (CoSS), which is a tool used to ensure that rates are tied to the costs of providing electricity to customers.

It involves analysing historical expenses and projecting future cash flow needs to arrive at a revenue requirement.

"The components of revenue requirement are functionalised, classified, and allocated to a utility's various customer classes to arrive at proposed rates. The CoSS is the basis upon which cost-reflective tariffs are set," he said.

ESERA Regulation Manager Simphiwe Khumalo.

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Close to 40 constructors attend Project Management and Costing course

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

CLOSE to 40 participants attended a course on project management and costing for the construction industry organised by the RTBD.

The 37 participants included project

managers, engineers, site engineers, quantity surveyors and directors whose responsibilities require skills for managing projects and costing.

Information sourced from the Council's newsletter Tekwakha is that participants were equipped with skills and techniques for performing their roles

effectively.

It stated that the aim of the course was to develop the delegate's capacity on cost management techniques, budgeting and principles of quality projects. In addition, the delegates were equipped by SWASA on the importance of quality management and the

Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA) on procurement and tendering process.

Highlighted

Also, highlighted in the newsletter is the trade testing of individual artisan which saw the RTBD in collaboration with the Directorate of Industrial

and Vocational Training (DIVT) conducting train tests for individual artisans. Three trades tested in these included electrical works, block layer/ plaster works and carpentry works.

"The testings were conducted at the DIVT centres in Mbabane and Voctim in Matsapha. The testing was conducted by panel members from the industry and assisted by personnel from the DIVT," it read.



AT WORK: Vendors who tried their luck on Christmas day were disappointed as they made little or no sales on the day.

Not so merry Xmas for vendors

BY BAHLE GAMA

VENDORS who tried their luck on Christmas were disappointed as they made little or no sales on the day.

Speaking during interviews many vendors around Mbabane expressed sadness over the lack of customers available to purchase their products.

Some ended up packing and headed home whilst others suffered the evening rains which made their day worse.

"I had come to try my luck hoping to make a few bucks but made nothing," said one of the vendors.

INTERVIEWS

1. Zandile Msimango (Nkwadini)

"As a woman who has a family to look after I couldn't bring myself to assume that Christmas day was a day off for me as I need to be making money. Unfortunately today (Christmas day) it did not turn out the way I had hoped it would.

For that reason I will head home but will come back even tomorrow (Boxing day)

to try my luck. There are school fees to pay and children to feed so I cannot afford to relax."

2. Tembusi Matsebula (Mahwalala)

"My mission was to make a few bucks to at least cater for my family on New Year's but today has been a very lousy day.

It is however understandable because people are home with their families celebrating Christmas. It's just that when

you're a business person you always try

your luck every

now and then

but it has not

been a merry

Christmas for me

unfortunately."

3. Musa Ndzabukelwako (Nkoyoyo)

"Having no customers to buy my stock is one thing but the rain set me back as my merchandise is now wet and I'm most likely to make a loss after this.

I had only come to try my luck on a beautiful Christmas day you know. However, this does not mean I have to give up. I am a family man and I have to make sure that my children are catered for one way or the other."

4. Zinhle Mkhaphi (Nkwadini)

"I played myself by coming to the market on Christmas Day.

It was scorching hot and rained after. I have decided to go back home to spend the rest of the day with my family.

I have an ill child and I make a living by being a vendor, selling fruits and vegetables, so I came to sell on Christmas with the hope that some people will need some of the products I sell and I would make a few bucks."



I had come to try my luck hoping to make a few bucks but made nothing

ZMCK scoops over E3m tender from MCM

BY BAHLE GAMA

ZMCK Consulting Engineers has been awarded a tender worth E3 783 398.66 by the **Municipal Council of Mbabane (MCM)**.

ZMCK has been tasked with detail design, tender documentation and assistance with tender evaluation for Malagwane Township infrastructure.

This is according to the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA) which stated that the company was awarded the tender in terms of Section 45 of the Public Procurement Act No. 7 of 2011 (the Act), following a competitive bidding process.

ZMCK is a Swati company and in bidding for the tender one company named BICON Consulting engineers had also applied for the

tender and lost with an evaluation score of 76.98 per cent whilst ZMCK's evaluation score was 83.54 per cent.

Meanwhile, Nhlangano Town Council has awarded 360 Degress Business Solutions with a tender worth E253 000.

They have been tasked with Request For Proposals (RFP): consultancy services for the preparation of Nhlangano town council five-year integrated development plan/strategic plan and yearly implementation plan.

360 Degress Business Solutions is a Swati company and in bidding for the contract, three other companies had applied for the tender. These are Ndallahwa and Company, JBH Management Consultancy and VIP Property Planning Consultants. 360 degrees won with an evaluation score of 93.9 per cent.

DETAILS FOR BEST EVALUATED RESPONSIVE TENDERER

Municipal Council of Mbabane	
Name	ZMCK Consulting Engineers
Nationality	Swati
Name of Tender	Detail design, tender documentation and assistance with tender evaluation for Malagwane Township infrastructure
Proposed Contract Price	E3 783 398.66
Total Evaluation Score	83.54 per cent
Nhlangano Town Council	
Name	360 Degress Business Solutions
Nationality	Swati
Name of Tender	Request For Proposals (RFP): consultancy services for the preparation of Nhlangano town council five-year integrated development plan/strategic plan and yearly implementation plan
Proposed Contract Price	E253 000
Total Evaluation Score	93.9 per cent

NERCHA awards over E770 000 contract

BY BAHLE GAMA

The National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS (NERCHA) has awarded a tender contract worth E770 255 to **Alfred Mndzebele**.

This information is according to Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (ESPPRA) in terms of Section 45 of the Public Procurement Act No.7 of 2011 following a competitive bidding process.

Alfred Mndzebele is a Swati company and has been tasked with the provision of consultancy services-KAP study relating to malaria elimination amongst malaria at risk populations in Eswatini.

They had two competitors in bidding for the tender and won with an evaluation score of 73 per cent.

These are Mandhla Mehlo who had an evaluation score of 77 per cent and Datamatics Swaziland (Pty) Ltd with an evaluation score of 52.5 per cent.

DETAILS OF BEST EVALUATED COMPANY

Name	Nationality	Proposed contract price	Evaluation Score
Alfred Mndzebele	Swati	E770 255	73 percent.

Burger King SA will sell proudly South African soft drink in its restaurants

DURBAN - Burger King South Africa (SA) has announced that PURA Soda will be sold nationally in all its restaurants effective immediately.

PURA Soda, a proudly South African soft drink with low sugar, natural flavours and no colourants, will add to Burger King SA's variety refreshment options for calorie

"PURA Soda has the taste and refreshment of a soft drink - all at a skinny 65 calories per 330 ml can," said Burger King SA's Ezeln Jones, Group Marketing Executive.

Jones added, "We know our guests want to have it their way - and for many this means having alternate options to regular fountain drinks. We added soda water as refreshment option and now



we're excited to announce the addition of PURA Soda to the selection".

As South Africans become increasingly ingredient-aware, Jones explains that options such as PURA Soda provide a perfect alternative for these guests.

PURA Soda contains 5 simple ingredients - carbonated soda water, a small amount of pure cane sugar to enhance flavour, natural flavours, a dash of citric acid to balance the flavours and sodium benzoate to preserve the product integrity over the shelf life.

Offers

"As a brand, we welcome everyone with a variety of menu offers. We've introduced PURA Soda for our guests who prefer an alternative beverage that is low in sugar with natural flavours," said Jones.

Customers have the option to swap out the soda from any meal for an additional R3 or simply by purchasing a PURA for R15.90.

Business Report Online

SARS collected R421.1bn off the personal PAYE of SA workforce in 2018

CAPE TOWN - The SA Revenue Service (SARS) received more than 18.2 million employees' tax certificates or IRP5s showing PAYE collection of R421.1 billion last year.

According to the latest statistics released jointly by SARS and the National Treasury, personal income tax (PIT) is South Africa's largest source of tax revenue, and contributed 38.3 per cent of the total tax revenue collected in 2018/19, reflecting a marginal increase in the contribution share of 38.1 per cent in 2017/18. SARS identified nearly 13.1 million unique individuals and an analysis of the IRP5 certificates linked to them shows that 6.1 million were female taxpayers and 7 million were male.

A statement from SARS and the Treasury read: "These unique individuals should not be regarded as an indication of the number of people working in the formal labour market.

"Some individuals who are not formally employed are also issued with IRP5 certificates. These include individuals who receive benefits from retirement funds or

annuities. SARS could not link all the IRP5 certificates to specific individuals as some certificates were incorrectly completed by employers or contained inaccurate information."

Meanwhile, 1 342 511 (27.3 per cent) of assessed taxpayers were aged 35 to 44 years; and 1 976 674 (40.2 per cent) of assessed taxpayers were registered in Gauteng, of whom 636 460 lived in the Johannesburg metro and were taxed on an average taxable income of R446 838. The Western Cape came second with 15.39 per cent or 753 652 taxpayers.

Published

The National Treasury and SARS have published the 12th annual edition of the tax statistics.

The 2019 edition provides an overview of tax-revenue collections and tax-return information for the 2015 to 2018 tax years, as well as the 2014/15 to 2018/19 fiscal years.

Most individuals receive their income as salaries or wages (75.8 per cent, pension or annuity payments and investment income.

Cape Argus

Toyota's 2020 forecast edges it closer to Volkswagen

NEW YORK - Toyota Motor Corp. is forecasting sales of 10.77 million vehicles worldwide during 2020, nudging it closer to No. 1 automaker Volkswagen AG.

Toyota's outlook, which includes vehicles sold by subsidiaries Daihatsu Motor Co. and truck maker Hino Motors Ltd.,

shows slight growth from an estimated 10.72 million vehicles this year. Volkswagen sold 10.8 million units in 2018 and said in October it expects deliveries to be little changed this year. Automakers are fighting to sell cars in a difficult environment, with tepid economic growth worldwide and trade tensions forcing them

to cut profitability outlooks and slash more than 80,000 jobs.

At the same time, they are seeking new growth by investing in a once-in-a-generation industry shift toward electric vehicles, self-driving technologies and ride-on-demand business models.

Iol.co.za

From South Africa to Egypt, 10 African markets to watch in 2020

JOHANNESBURG - Global bond traders who ventured into Africa this year have reaped rich rewards.

The continent's sovereign Dollar debt has generated total returns of 20 per cent since the start of 2019, more than any other region in emerging markets.

Local bonds have also performed strongly. Egyptian Pound and Nigerian Naira bonds each returned more than 30 per cent in Dollar terms.

If the world's major central banks remain dovish in 2020, that should sustain a dash for higher yields in emerging markets and mean that African bonds remain in hot demand.

The extra yield investors get when buying sovereign Dollar bonds in Africa rather than US Treasuries has narrowed almost 100 basis points this year, according to J.P. Morgan Chase & Co's indices. Still, at 461 basis points, that spread remains the highest of any emerging-market region and double that of Eastern Europe.

Africa is a "land of opportunity" and could be one of the main beneficiaries if the US and China make more progress on trade talks, said Bank of America strategists including London-based David Hauner.

But investors face plenty of potential risks in 2020. South Africa could lose its last investment-grade rating, Ghana's government might ramp up spending ahead of elections, Zambia's debt crisis could spiral out of control and Nigeria may be forced to devalue its currency.

Here's what to watch for in 10 key markets.

● SOUTH AFRICA

Portfolio investors have exited South Africa en masse this year, pulling a net \$10bn from its stock and local-bond

markets, according to data from the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. They've been concerned by the deepening crisis at state-owned power company Eskom, which can't service its R450bn of debts without government support, and the increasing chance that Moody's Investors Service will cut South Africa's final investment-grade rating to junk.

But if President Cyril Ramaphosa makes headway in reforming Eskom, investors will probably be quick to come back. Bank of America and Goldman Sachs both say its inflation-adjusted bond yields are attractive and the central bank has room to cut interest rates.

● ANGOLA

Africa's second-biggest oil producer is still reeling from a crash in crude prices five years ago. The economy will contract for a fourth straight year in 2019, the International Monetary Fund said this week. Still, investors have been impressed by the central bank's reforms, including the devaluation of the kwanza.

Its fall of 32 per cent this year against the Dollar - only Argentina's Peso has weakened more - has increased inflationary pressure. But it's also eased a shortage of foreign exchange that was crippling businesses.

● EGYPT

Egypt remains a favourite among portfolio investors. Carry traders, attracted by yields of around 14 per cent on pound bonds, have flocked to the Arab nation. The currency has rallied 12 per cent this year, its best performance in at least 25 years - and Societe Generale SA forecasts it will gain another 4.5 per cent to 15.35 per Dollar in 2020.

But the reforms of President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi are yet to translate into the foreign direct investment and jobs that Egypt badly needs. Aware of that, investors will watch to see if there's any repeat of the anti-government protests in September that briefly rocked local markets.

● ETHIOPIA

The Horn-of-Africa nation remains one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. But that masks deep problems: inflation has accelerated to more than 20 per cent and shortages of foreign exchange are acute. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner, recently turned to the IMF for a \$2.9bn, three-year loan.

Investors welcomed the move, which should speed up plans to open up and modernise the state-controlled economy. The central bank has already started to weaken the overvalued birr, which had been largely pegged to the dollar. "This IMF deal is one of the biggest ideological shifts I've seen in Africa this decade," said Charlie Robertson, Renaissance Capital's London-based chief economist.

● GHANA

West Africa's second-biggest economy holds general elections in late 2020, with President Nana Akufo-Addo probably seeking a second term. The country has a history of fiscal profligacy in the run-up to polls and investors will watch whether the government is more cautious this time. The cedi has been under pressure and fell to a record low this month. But Renaissance Capital, which recommends that clients buy Ghana's Eurobonds, says it is now one of Africa's most undervalued currencies.

ties.

● IVORY COAST

The Francophone country is set to hold a general election in October. Many analysts hoped it would mark a transition to a younger generation of leaders. But there's a chance it will be a contest between President Alassane Ouattara, who came to power in 2011, and his long-time rivals Henri Konan Bedie and Laurent Gbagbo.

If so, "the country risks slipping back into the political turmoil it seemed to have escaped barely 10 years ago," said Teneo Intelligence analysts Anne Fruhauf and Malte Liewerscheidt.

● KENYA

Kenya's economy is forecast to grow 5.8 per cent next year, making it one of Africa's most buoyant nations. Bank of America says the removal of a cap on interest rates in November is a further reason for optimism and should help the government obtain a standby loan from the IMF. Key to the East African country's longer-term prospects will be whether it can rein in the budget deficit. Forecast to be 6.6 per cent of gross domestic product this year, it's one of the widest in sub-Saharan Africa.

● MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique completed a debt restructuring in October that had dragged on since it defaulted on \$727m of Eurobonds in early 2017. That should pave the way for the government to raise the funding it needs for its portion of multi-billion-dollar gas projects. Once they're finished, the impoverished southern African country is set to become a major exporter of liquefied natural gas.

● NIGERIA

Nigeria's status as one of the world's best carry trades will probably last as long as central bank Governor Godwin Emefiele keeps the Naira stable. That's becoming harder, with Nigerian foreign reserves having dropped 14 per cent to \$39bn since July. Emefiele's signaled he'll let them fall a lot further before loosening his grip on the currency, which barely budges. Fiscal authorities, meanwhile, will try to boost an economy that's been growing more slowly than the population for the past five years.

● ZAMBIA

Zambia's economy has worsened this year, the latest problems being severe drought and electricity outages. The copper producer's Dollar-bond yields trade at almost 20 per cent, suggesting investors see a high risk of default. The government still has some time on its hands - its next Eurobonds don't mature until September 2022. But many analysts believe it will struggle to avoid a restructuring unless it quickly gets debt relief on loans from China and a bailout from the IMF. President Edgar Lungu has so far seemed reluctant to accept the conditions that would come with a loan from the Washington-based lender.

Fin24

Its fall of 32 per cent this year against the Dollar - only Argentina's Peso has weakened more - has increased inflationary pressure.

Focus on World News

Global News

TRUMP BLASTS CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

NEW YORK - President Trump has taken time out from his Christmas Day festivities to blast California Governor Gavin Newsom for failing to adequately address the state's growing homeless crisis.

The president took to Twitter on Wednesday afternoon, threatening to get the federal government involved in the crisis because Newsom is doing 'a really bad job'.

The tweet comes after the Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] released data last week revealing that the homeless rate in California has surged a staggering 16.4 per cent in the past 12 months.

Residents

Now, more than 140 000 California residents are without shelter on any given night - accounting for more than a fifth of the entire homeless population across the United States.

Newsom, who only took office this year, appears to be blaming the Trump administration for the escalating crisis.

He was seen on camera last week, stating: "They're [the Trump Administration] not serious about this issue. They're playing politics with it, expect nothing but division coming and emanating from

...for state's homeless crisis and says federal government may get involved - as it's revealed that more than 140 000 residents are now without shelter



BLASTS: US President Donald Trump.

the folks at HUD and the president."

Conservative commentator Tomi Lahren posted the clip to her Twitter account last week and added the comment: "Take accountability, Gavin. This is your state and you and your Democratic cohorts created this mess. You can't blame @realDonaldTrump forever. Step

away from the hair gel and get to work!!!"

Trump then retweeted Lahren on Christmas afternoon, before adding his own threat to get the feds involved in the state.

"Governor Gavin N has done a really bad job on taking care of the homeless population in California. If he can't fix the problem, the Federal Govt. will get involved"

Controlled

Meanwhile, the recent study from HUD found that homeless rates are more prevalent in Democrat controlled states.

Blue states, such as New York, Hawaii, California and Washington had the highest rates of homelessness per 10 000 people.

States with the lowest rates of homelessness per 10 000 people are Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Virginia and North Dakota.

The HUD report found that California was not the state with the largest percentage increase in their homeless population. The number of homeless people in the state of New Mexico increased by 27 per cent in 2019. *Daily Mail*

Robber throws cash in air, shouting 'Merry Christmas'

COLORADO - A man with a white beard was being held on \$10 000 bond for allegedly robbing a Colorado bank and throwing the stolen cash into the air while shouting, "Merry Christmas" to passersby, police and local media reported on Tuesday.

David Wayne Oliver, 65, was arrested at a nearby Starbucks coffee shop after he held up the Academy Bank in Colorado Springs on Monday afternoon, according to a police report. Police said the suspect had "threatened the use of a weapon" and left the bank with an undisclosed amount of cash.

A police spokesperson could not immediately be reached for comment, but Colorado Springs television station

KKTV reported that eyewitness Dion Pascale recounted Oliver stepped outside the bank and tossed the money "all over the place". "He started throwing money out of the bag" before yelling, "Merry Christmas," the TV station quoted Pascale as saying.

Pascale said bystanders retrieved some of the money and returned it to the bank as Oliver walked to the Starbucks, sat down and appeared to be waiting for police to arrest him, KKTV reported.

The Denver Post quoted police as saying "thousands of dollars remained unaccounted for," adding there was no indication Oliver used a weapon in the heist.

AFP



MERRY CHRISTMAS: The Queen was buoyed on a Christmas Day after her great-grandchildren stole the show in their first public appearance on her Norfolk estate. (Daily Mail)

'Prince Andrew skipped church service to avoid being heckled'

LONDON - Prince Andrew skipped the Christmas Day church service to 'avoid being heckled' while the other royals beamed with joy as they met an adoring public at Sandringham.

The Queen was buoyed after her great-grandchildren stole the show in their first public appearance on her Norfolk estate.

But the absence of her poorly husband, Prince Philip, and shamed son, the Duke of York - as well as Harry and Meghan - cast a shadow over the occasion. After four days in hos-

pital being treated for a mystery ailment, frail Philip, 98, was being cared for at the main house on the Norfolk estate as Her Majesty and other senior royals attended church.

During the service, which was broadcast over speakers to the public outside, Canon Jonathan Riviere appeared to refer to the Duke of Edinburgh when he told the congregation: "We pray for those struggling with illness." Prince Andrew was forced to step down from public duties over his friendship with paedophile Jeffrey Epstein. *Daily Mail*

The Queen's plea for unity...



UNITY: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

seated divisions".

And, for the benefit of those who had still not got the message - or only just switched on the telly - she ended on the same thought: Christmas was "a timely reminder of what positive things can be achieved when people set aside past differences and come together."

The best way to achieve this, she explained

repeatedly, was through "small steps" - a phrase she had borrowed from the first man on the Moon. Recalling that this year is the 50th anniversary of Nasa's Apollo 11 mission, she spoke of being 'transfixed' watching Neil Armstrong 'taking a small step for man and a giant leap for mankind'.

Daily Mail

LONDON - At the end of what she called a 'bumpy' year, in which the kingdom has arguably been less united than at any point in her reign, the Queen used Wednesday's Christmas message to make a simple request.

And she made it several times over: could we all, please, let bygones be bygones.

There was no mention of this year's political upheavals, of course. But she spoke explicitly about the need to settle disagreements and move on. The wartime generation had managed it, she said, as powerful images were broadcast of this year's 75th anniversary of D-Day. "Sworn enemies came together in friendly commemorations, she went on, "putting past differences behind them."

Noting all the efforts towards reconciliation since the war, she employed the phrase again: "By being willing to put past differences behind us and move forward together, we honour the freedom and democracy once won for us at so great a cost." Christ, said the Queen, had shown the world how to "overcome long-held differences and deep-

BRIEFS

'White House campaign used prison labour'

NEW YORK - Billionaire US presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg on Tuesday said his campaign had unknowingly used prison workers to make telephone calls on his behalf. Bloomberg, who last month entered the Democratic Party race to face Republican President Donald Trump in the November 2020 election, said the campaign had ended its relationship with a company that used prison labour for making phone calls. "We do not support this practice and we are making sure our vendors more properly vet their subcontractors moving forward," Bloomberg said in a statement.

AFP

Typhoon Phanfone ruins Xmas for travellers

MANILA - Christmas turned to chaos for many holiday observers in the central Philippines as a typhoon with strong winds and heavy rains destroyed homes, cut off power and stranded travellers, disaster officials said on Wednesday. Typhoon Phanfone, rated category 2 by Tropical Storm Risk, was packing maximum sustained winds of 120km per hour with gusts up to 150 kph when it made landfall in the eastern province of Samar on Tuesday, weather and disaster officials said. More than 4 000 people have been evacuated in the Eastern Visayas region of the central Philippines, disaster officials said, although no deaths have been reported. *Reuters*

Netanyahu rushed off stage, into bomb shelter

GAZA - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was forced to take cover in a bomb shelter after a rocket was launched from the Gaza Strip to city where he was hosting a campaign visit. The Israeli military confirmed the launch against Ashkelon, which is 7.5 miles (12 km) from the coastal Palestinian enclave, saying the rocket was shot down by an Iron Dome air defence interceptor. There was no immediate claim of responsibility in Gaza, which is under the control of Hamas Islamists and where a smaller armed faction, Islamic Jihad, exchanged fire with Israel during a two-day surge of violence last month. *Daily Mail*

Voters ditched Labour over Corbyn's leadership

LONDON - The biggest reason that voters ditched the Labour Party at this year's general election was Jeremy Corbyn's leadership, a YouGov poll claims.

Following the left-winger's disastrous performance as Boris Johnson secured a landslide victory, the polling group asked 500 people who backed him in 2017 why they did not this time around. Labour's vote share fell by almost eight per cent this time and 35 per cent of respondents said they didn't back them this year due to Corbyn's leadership.

BBC News

Focus on Africa News

Continental News

President Erdogan closer to deploying troops in Libya

TRIPOLI - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has hinted he is edging closer to deploying troops in Libya.

Erdogan paid a surprise visit to Tunisia on Wednesday to discuss cooperation for a possible ceasefire in neighbouring Libya, where Ankara supports the internationally recognised government.

The Turkish president, speaking at a joint news conference with Tunisia's President Kais Saied, also reaffirmed Ankara's willingness to send troops to

Libya if it received such a request.

Erdogan's visit to Tunis came a month after Turkey and Libya signed two separate accords, one on maritime boundaries in the eastern Mediterranean and another on security and military cooperation.

Turkey backs Fayeze al-Serraj's Government of National Accord (GNA), which has been fending off a months-long offensive by Khalifa Haftar's forces in eastern Libya.

Erdogan, the first head of state to visit Tunis since Saied's landslide election win in October, said the developments in Libya were having a negative impact on neighbouring states, including Tunisia.

Discussed

"We discussed the possible steps we can take and cooperation opportunities with the aim of establishing ceasefire in Libya as soon as possible and returning to a political process," Erdogan

said.

In Tunisia's hybrid political system, the prime minister controls most policy areas, while the president is in charge of foreign affairs, defence and security. Tunisia's main foreign policy interests have traditionally been in maintaining strong ties with its two much larger neighbours Algeria and Libya.

Last week, Erdogan said Turkey would not remain silent in the face of

"mercenaries" such as the Russian-backed Wagner, a group of private military contractors, supporting Haftar's forces in Libya. Moscow has said it is very concerned about the prospect of Turkish troops being deployed there.

Deploying

On Wednesday, Erdogan reiterated that Turkey would evaluate the option of deploying troops if the GNA asked for support after signing the military agreement, and added that the Wagner group had "no connections, nothing" in Libya.

Daily Mail

US PULLS AMBASSADOR FROM ZAMBIA

...after he criticised jailing of gay couple and was told he 'crossed the line'

ZAMBIA - The US State Department has recalled its ambassador to Zambia after he criticised the harsh laws around sodomy and the jailing of a gay couple.

A spokesperson for the US State Department said Washington is 'dismayed' by the Zambian government's statement that

Ambassador Daniel Foote's position 'is no longer tenable.'

"Despite this action, the United States remains committed to our partnership with the Zambian people," the spokesperson said.

Relationship

"We seek an open and frank relationship of mutual respect, commensurate with the generous aid provided to the Zambian people by the United States."

Zambia's High Court last month jailed the male gay couple for 15 years for engaging in sexual relations "against the order of nature", a decision the US ambassador said was horrifying.

When Foote publicly stated he was 'personally horrified' by the

jailing, he was told he had "crossed a line."

Foote added: "Meanwhile, government officials can steal millions of public dollars without prosecution, political cadres can beat innocent citizens ... with no consequences, poachers can kill numerous elephants... and face a maximum of only five years."

Beneficiary

President Edgar Lungu said on December 15 that Zambia, a major beneficiary of US aid, had sent a protest letter to Washington over the remarks by Foote and was awaiting a response.

A US embassy source who is not allowed to issue statements told Reuters that Washington had decided to recall its ambassador because it was difficult for him to work in Zambia. "Since Lungu says he does not want to work with Foote, there was no point of him remaining. Also don't forget that there are security issues so Washington want their man back," the source said.

"The US cannot be paying a



KICKED OUT: US Ambassador Daniel Foote and Zambia President Edgar Lungu.

salary to someone who cannot work because the hosts don't want him," a second US embassy source said.

Zambia's foreign affairs ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

Zambia receives hundreds of millions of dollars every year in financial support from the United States, some of which goes toward fighting HIV/AIDS.

African countries have some of the world's most prohibitive laws governing homosexuality. Same-sex relationships are considered taboo and gay sex is a crime across most of the continent, with punishments ranging from imprisonment to death.

"The United States firmly opposes abuses against LGBTI persons. Governments have an obligation to ensure that all people can freely enjoy the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms to which they are entitled," the State Department spokesperson said. *Daily Mail*

BOKO HARAM JIHADISTS KILL 7, ABDUCT TEENAGE GIRL

ABUJA - Boko Haram jihadists killed seven people in a raid on a Christian village in Nigeria on Christmas Eve.

Dozens of fighters driving trucks and motorcycles stormed into Kwarangulum late on Tuesday, shooting fleeing residents and burning homes after looting food supplies.

"They killed seven people and abducted a teenage girl in the attack," local vigilante David Bitrus said.

"They took away food stuff and burnt many houses before leaving," he said, adding that a church was also burnt. The jihadists were believed to have attacked from Boko Haram's nearby Sambisa forest enclave, said Chibok community leader Ayuba

Alamson who confirmed the toll.

Boko Haram and its IS-affiliated Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) faction have recently stepped up attacks on military and civilian targets. Kwarangulum, which is 10 miles from Chibok, came under attack in April by Boko Haram terrorists who stole food and burned much of the village. Residents had managed to flee before the arrival of the jihadists following tip-off from people who saw the gunmen heading toward the village.

Chibok is the scene of the mass kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls in 2014 by Boko Haram which sparked global outrage and drew attention to the group's notoriety. *Daily Mail*

Road carnages claim 589 lives in SA

CAPE TOWN - A total of 589 people have been killed on South African roads since the start of this year's festive season, Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula said this week.

The fatalities were the result of 489 crashes, the minister said in his latest update on road fatalities during the festive season which began in mid-November.

The toll remained high despite a 25 per cent drop from the same period last year, when 839 people were killed in 656 fatal accidents, the minister said.

"The majority of those who died were pedestrians, at 39 per cent, followed by passengers, at 34 per cent, drivers, at 26 per cent, and cyclists, at one per cent," Mbalula said.

The minister attributed most of the fatal accidents to drunk driving, speeding, and reckless and negligent driving. Law enforcement agencies have made 2 915 arrests, a slight drop from the 3 052 arrests recorded during the same period last year, according to the minister.

Improvement

The drop represented a slight improvement in driver behaviour, Mbalula said. "However, we remain concerned about the high number of people who continue to drive under the influence of alcohol," he said.

Among those arrested this year, 1 397 were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and 272 for speeding, Mbalula said.

Xinhuanet.com

BRIEFS

35 civilians killed in attack

OUAGADOUGOU - A militant attack in northern Burkina Faso killed 35 civilians, almost all of them women, the president said, one of the deadliest assaults in nearly five years of jihadist violence in the West African country. Seven soldiers and 80 jihadists were also killed in the double attack on a military base and Arbinda town in Soum province, the army said. Burkina Faso, bordering Mali and Niger, has seen regular jihadist attacks which have left hundreds dead since the start of 2015 when militant violence began to spread across the Sahel region. *All Africa*

Man dies of suspected suicide in custody

LONDON - A Nigerian man died in federal immigration custody over the weekend, just days after he was convicted of a sex offence and assault in Maryland. Anthony Oluseye Akinyemi, 56, died early on Saturday morning after being found unresponsive in his cell at the Worcester County Jail in Snow Hill, Maryland, according to a Monday news release from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The official cause of death was not immediately determined, but authorities believe Akinyemi took his own life by strangling himself. *Daily Mail*

Court rejects opposition election fraud claims

GABORONE - A High Court in Botswana's capital on Tuesday dismissed the opposition Umbrella for Democratic Change's (UDC) call to have the results of the October general election thrown out over "irregularities". Botswana voted on October 23 and the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) won with a majority of 38 seats against the UDC's 15 seats in the 57-member Parliament. The UDC had petitioned the court and contested the outcome of the election citing "irregularities in some of the constituencies". *AFP*

Rights activist charged with money laundering

DAR ES SALAAM - A Tanzanian court charged rights activist Tito Magoti with money laundering and other offences after holding him in custody for four days, the organisation for which he works said. Prosecutors in Kisumu court said Magoti and co-worker Theodory Giyan had been charged with leading organised crime, money laundering and possessing computer programmes designed for the purpose of committing crimes. Both were being held in custody to await a January 7 hearing. Magoti, of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), was arrested by plain-clothed officers who bundled him into an unmarked car, initially raising fears that he had been abducted. *AFP*

Focus on SA Scene Your Daily Mzansi News

'KING DALINDYEBO JAILED FOR JOINING DA'

CAPE TOWN - It is claimed that AbaThembu King Buyelekhaya Dalindyebo was punished and sentenced to jail for his decision to dump the ANC and join the DA.

This is according to the President of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of SA (Contralesa), Kgoshi Mathupa Mokoena, in his reaction following King Dalindyebo's release from the East London Correctional Centre where he was serving a 12-year jail sentence.

"The incarceration of King Dalindyebo was politically motivated. At some point, the King joined the DA and that did not go down well with the authorities in government," Kgoshi Mokoena said.

He maintained that King Dalindyebo was also punished for calling a senior government official

a boy - "meaning he was not circumcised".

"As you can remember, one former minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Richard Baloyi) was sacked for refusing to take disciplinary action against King Dalindyebo," Kgoshi Mokoena said.

King Dalindyebo's Spokesperson, Prince Mthunzi Ngonyama, said the royal family was planning to conduct a ritual for the king that would include a "cleansing ceremony" before he could take up his duties. After his release on Sunday night, King Dalindyebo travelled from East London Correctional Service Centre for two hours and 30 minutes on a road trip to the Great Bumbane Palace in Umtata.

Prince Mthunzi Ngonyama accompanied the king's wife, Queen Nokwanda Dalindyebo, to East



PUNISHED: AbaThembu King Buyelekhaya Dalindyebo.

London for a formal hand-over to his family upon his release on Sunday.

The King was, however, driven to his family home by prison officials. "The King is resting at his private residence. He will, in the coming days, address his people and make pronouncements to them about things he intends to do for them," Ngonyama said. *The Star*

Zahara owes me R20k! - Sangoma

CAPE TOWN -Sangoma Sibusiso Mathe is furious with Zahara.

The 38-year-old from Khayelitsha, Cape Town, told Daily Sun the artist owed him money. He had booked her to perform at the End of the Year Music Festival in Khayelitsha, which took place last Saturday, but she didn't show up.

"I'm very unhappy with what she did. I loved her so much but she disappointed me. I never received a proper apology. I just got a phone call to say she was sorry for what happened," Mathe said. The sangoma had booked a flight from Joburg to Cape Town for Zahara and her manager, but the artist apparently only rocked up after the show. Mathe claimed he had already paid Zahara an appearance fee deposit of R10 000 of a total R20 000 she was supposed to be paid for the performance. He said: "I want my money back. I paid her R10 000. My expenses to bring her to Cape Town with her manager is another R10 000. *Daily Sun*

Zuma spotted at chess tourney

DURBAN - Former president Jacob Zuma has made his first public appearance since reports that he was in Cuba seeking treatment for an illness.

Zuma was spotted at the 11th annual JG Zuma Chess Tournament at Sibusisiwe Hall in Mandeni, where he went to "encourage schoolchildren competing in a tournament", according to TimesLive.

According to the publication, the chess tournament reaches out to scores of schoolchildren across the province during the December holidays. Weekly newspaper Sunday World previously reported that Zuma was in Cuba seeking treatment for an illness linked to an alleged poison plot in 2014. He also, apparently, was struggling with memory loss.

Investigate

The National Prosecuting Authority, however, in September declined to investigate claims of him being poisoned, saying there was no evidence that such an act had taken place.

On December 9, Zuma's lawyers told the Zondo commission of inquiry into state capture that he would not meet his deadline to respond to an application by journalist and broadcaster Redi Tlhabi for leave to cross-examine him, because he had been hospitalised, TimesLive reported.

During his testimony in July, Zuma claimed that Tlhabi was working on a film about his rape trial. He was acquitted on a charge of rape in 2007, News24 reported.

The former president claimed there were attempts by certain individuals to "assassinate his character" and that the media was part of this attempt.

He said Tlhabi was working on a movie to push a narrative that he is a rapist.

News24



SPOTTED: Former president Jacob Zuma has made his first public appearance since reports that he was in Cuba seeking treatment for an illness.

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Buy these awesome phones and keep up with the summer vibes.



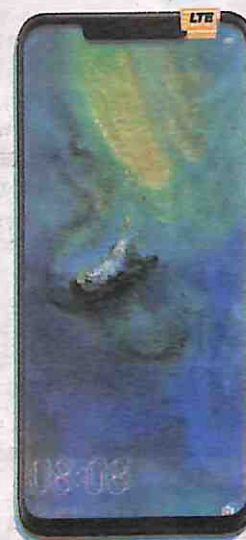
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ESWATINI Observer ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEWS | STAR SIGNS | CELEBRITY WATCH | CARTOONS

BYE BYE 2019, HELLO 2020

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

CAN you believe it, well 2020 is already here and it's time to party.

With just a few events over the weekend but worry not because crossover parties will be scattered all over the country.

This week, El World will take over Solani's Shisanyama with S-Tone, Sun El Musician, Simmy and many others. Head to the entertainment hub and be entertained by these artists.

Mega Lounge will also be hosting an all

deep house music line-up show with only locals.

For all your crossover events, make sure you attend at least one if you cannot hop from one to the next because they are all promising to be the best.

From Umlilo Crossover to the All White and many others, pick one or more and enter 2020 on a high.

Whichever event you decide to attend, make sure you are safe and do not drink and drive.

See you next year!

TONIGHT
El World Music Experience
Where: Solani's Shisanyama
Time: 4pm

Solani's Shisanyama will be hosting El World; a Sun El Musician stable. Catch Eswatini's very own S-Tone joined by Sun-El Musician, Simmy, Sino Msolo, Mthunzi, Claudio X Kenza and DJ Mondy at Solani's tonight and get ready to be rocked by the El World.

They will also be joined by Sgitha, Rythmic Soul, Culolam, Bloss and many more.

Tickets cost E120 and dress code is smart casual.

Deep in the City
Where: Mega Lounge
Time: 12pm

Recently opened the Mega Lounge will be hosting their second event where they will be hosting deep house music deejays around the country.

If you are a deep house music fan, then this is definitely your event. Catch Mistosoul, Msakrie, Jazzinsoul, Yugo, Tibza, Csar, Nkam V, The



LINED UP: Jazzinsoul.



EL WORLD EXPERIENCE: S-Tone.

Groove Dokotela, Orthodox, Mseto, Master Jack and many others. E50 gets you in.

Sun Valley Blues
Where: Sun Valley Blues
Time: 4pm till late

Newly launched night club Sun Valley Blues is officially opened and



DEEP: Msakrie.

their Deejays include Mixmash, who will headline the club on Thursday. On Friday DJ Wicked will be behind the decks and Crooks will take over on Saturday. The place opens at 4pm till late and E100 gets you in and a drink. On Sunday will be a family day with gates opening at 10 am till late and entry is free.



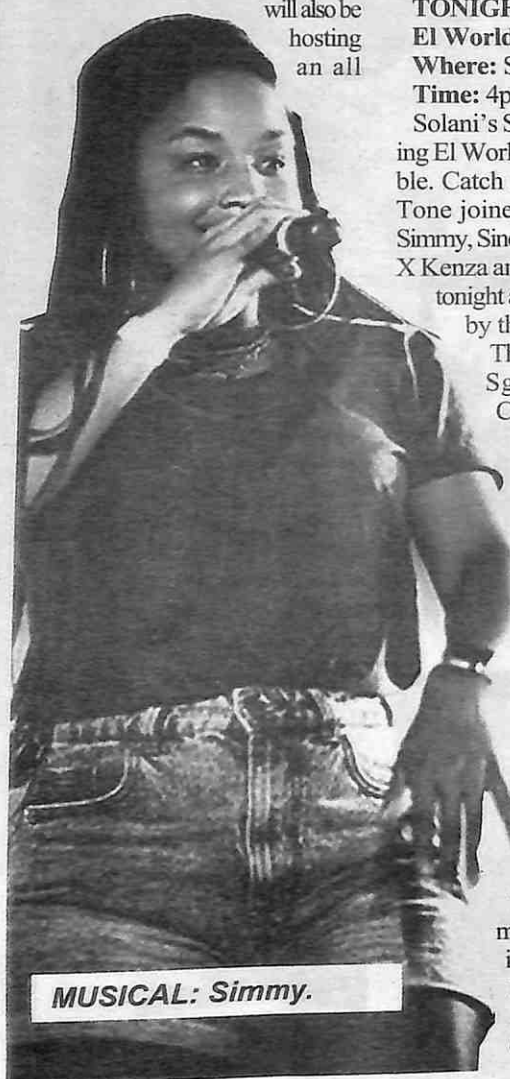
CATCH HIM: Mistosoul.



SUN VALLEY BLUES: Wicked.

SAVE THE DATE

The Shutdown Crossover
Where: Malkerns Country Club
When: December 31
All White New Year Eve Party
Where: Esibayeni Lodge
When: December 31
Music and Spin Shutdown
Where: Turns Water World
Time: December 31
X-Change Crossover
Where: X-Change Lounge
Time: 10am
Encrypto Arts Lounge Crossover Party
Where: Encrypto Arts Lounge (Ngwenya)
Time: 6pm



MUSICAL: Simmy.

Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group shines in Zim

BY NJABULO DLAMINI

POPULAR gospel music outfit, Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group, is currently in Zimbabwe delighting the masses there.

Honouring an invitation by the Zimbabwe Municipality, the group has been entertaining the multitudes

from Monday this week gracing at least three shows. The last of the shows is on Sunday.

"The shows are being hosted in three different towns and Zimbabweans have been turning up in numbers to support Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group. This has created a new fan base for us and we believe it's a significant and welcome development

as we surge forward in our music," Reverend Elias Shongwe, lead singer of the group and frontman said.

Reverend Shongwe said the invitation by the Zimbabwe Municipality is an endorsement of their music by fans beyond Eswatini borders. "This has given us an impetus to continue pushing our music as the backing by the supporters is evident," he said. The

Lubombo based group returns to the country on Sunday, meaning they would have 24 hours rest prior to gracing the Lubombo Regional Crossover show at Mayaluka Stadium on December 31. This is not the first time for the group to perform in Zimbabwe as they did a few years back. They also previously performed in Botswana alongside Youth Ablaze. Shongwe said on January 3, the group would be flying out of the country for another big show in Cape Town. "In closing, I would

like to invite all Emaswati to the crossover show where we would have the likes of Thokozani Langa the SA maskandi star, Pongola Gospel Wagon and Donny Ngwenyama. "Ndawonye Christ Worshipers, Maphatsindvuku Nazarene, Lavundlamanti, Police Gospel Messengers, Bishop Geina Masuku, Come to Jesus, Spirit Quest, and many more from the local front will also be there." Gates at the crossover show open at 3pm on December 31 while entrance fee is E50 per head.



MEN OF THE MOMENT: Blaq Diamond renders a splendid performance during the Eswatini Kuse Khaya event which was held at the XChange on Monday evening. (Pic: Setsabile Nkambule)



SMALLZ TEAM : Smallz and his team came to celebrate their end of year party.

TOS, BLAQ DIAMOND HEAT UP THE XCHANGE

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

...It was a bitter sour show

DJ TOS and Blaq Diamond gave great performances during the Eswatini Kuse Khaya show which was held at The XChange on Monday evening.

After a few sound glitches, and

poor attendance in the early hours of the night, the two performances rescued the show.

Allowed

At 9pm, fans were allowed to enter the venue at no cost.

DJ TOS kept the crowd danc-

ing throughout his set.

He was followed by LK Baba who kept hip hop lovers dancing to his songs.

Splendid

Blaq Diamond gave a splendid performance during the Eswatini

Kuse Khaya event which was held at the XChange in Manzini.

Danced

Fun lovers danced and sang along to all the songs from the beginning of their set to the end.

Fans even tried to push to get to the front to watch their favourite entertainers perform.



FRIENDS: Friends enjoy the cool breeze while they wait for the show to start.



ENJOYING : Blaq Diamond's fans enjoy performance.



MC: WELZ dances for the crowd.



DLALA DJ : The DJs kept the crowd dancing.



HIP HOP: LK BABA was among the best performers of the night.



HAPPY : DJ TOS and Sifiso Dlamini enjoy the night while awaiting for Touch to perform.

...Artists complain of no professionalism at The XChange

ARTISTS who were meant to perform at the event complained about lack of professionalism from event promoters.

One major factor to this was the lack of transparency and promises not being kept.

One artist, who preferred to be anonymous, confirmed that some artists had not received their deposits as promised. Hence they could not perform.

He stated that he was disappointed at how the organisers failed to take those artists seriously with regards to the lack of communication.

"As we speak, I have not received my deposit and I don't see myself getting on stage to perform. The hospitality from these organisers is very poor. We are very disappointed with the reception we are receiving today," he said.

He stated that for the industry to grow, event organisers and artists need to be able to work hand in hand and this was something that did not happen on the night.

Although the show began later than the estimated time and a number of artists who were booked didn't perform, this didn't stop people from having fun.

Artists like Mduduzi Nezinceku ZaMagawugawu, Smokey and Wigo, Jurie and a few other artists did not perform.

According to organiser Ndoda Mabuza, they were humbled on how the show turned out.

"We want to apologise to the artists who ended up not performing. We will make it up to them just after the holidays," he said.



LOYAL CUSTOMERS: A section of the customers that attended the Christmas lunch.



FRIENDS: Rowen Simelane, Ngimphiwe Khoza, Kyle Venter and Mbulelo Hlatshwayo also had a good time.

ROYAL SWAZI ALL ABOUT VIP TREATMENT ON XMAS

BY NOKWANDA SIBANDZE

ROYAL Swazi Sun was all about VIP treatment for all their customers on Christmas day.

With good food and drinks, the hotel also gave away gifts to a number of their customers during a draw.

Some customers walked away with two-night-stays at the hotel, gift vouchers, Christmas gift baskets and many other exciting presents from the hotel.

Most of the families at the event

held at Convention Centre, said they loved how the hotel gave back to them.

Admitted

They also sang high praises about the hospitality of the hotel staff. Most of the families also admitted to have spent most of their holidays at the hotel and not just on Christmas Day.

The place was decorated in a Christmas theme and families and friends who came to enjoy together were also given a chance to take pictures at the beautifully decorated photo-booth.



MATCHING OUTFITS: The Maseko family also stuck to the Christmas theme with their red outfits at the Royal Swazi Christmas Buffet held at the Convention Centre. (Pics: Nokwanda Sibandze)



HAPPY: Nonhlanhla Hlophe, Ntfombikayise Dlamini and Nomsa Simelane said it was their first Christmas together and they enjoyed the food served at the hotel.



SMILE: Cleo Levendale smiles for the camera.



IN SONG: The Spotlight contestant Mbali Gamedze serenades the audience.



WINNER: Ofanisile Mabuza walked away with a goody basket during the draw.



SANTA: These children were happy to take a picture with Santa.



FAM: Stewart family stuck to it's christmas tradition of spending the day at Sibane Hotel.

Sibane; home away from home on Xmas

BY SETSABILE NKAMBULE

IT was a great Christmas as families went out to celebrate at Sibane Hotel, where they enjoyed great food and music.

The scorching sun did not stop them from driving to the hotel for its aura and to spend the day in unity.

They ate delicious food, listened to great music and played a few games that were on offer for the children.

The hotel's a la carte menu had a wide range of delicious dishes to choose from.



HAPPY: The Ngcamphalala family poses for a picture during their Christmas lunch at Sibane Hotel. (R) **MUSIC:** Trumpet blesses the guests with good music. (Pics: Setsabile Nkambule)



CHRISTMAS MODE: Temaswati Nhlabatsi, Aphiwe Kunene, Hleko Kunene and Sima Masuku enjoy their lunch with mother Faith Manyatsi.



EXTENDED FAMILY: The Dlamini, Shiba and Ngwenya families decided to switch things up this Christmas and go out for their lunch.



DELICIOUS: The people dish up good food. (R) **OUR LITTLE FAMILY:** Mfanukhona Nkambule decided to switch things up this year by taking his family to Sibane Hotel.



HAPPY: Nhlanhla Dlamini and Siphwe Dlamini enjoy a nice meal at Sibane for the very first time.



RELAXATION: MP Nokuthula Dlamini was also spotted enjoying her Christmas at the hotel with her children, Vuyokazi Thwala, Mhlonishwa Dlamini, Lindokuhle Dlamini, Sebenzile Dlamini and Siphesihle Dlamini.



RELAXING: Gogo Ginindza and her daughter Bongile Dlamini enjoy their first Christmas lunch at Sibane Hotel.



Celebville

International Celebrity News

Kelly, Chad da Don's rollercoaster romance

JOHANNESBURG - It was a fairytale romance that was set to last a lifetime, a romance that had already been revived once before; but 2019 was the year that Kelly K and Chad da Don's love finally died.

As Kelly and Chad celebrated the start of 2019, their romance was solid. Kelly had found her missing piece and the couple had referred to each other as husband and wife.

But not long after reports that there was trouble in paradise surfaced, with all their loved-up pictures from social media being deleted.

Chad confirmed the split but was upset and told Drum that Kelly was the best thing that had ever happened to him.

"We split up but there are no bad vibes. Her husband-to-be is out there somewhere and I will also find my wife one day. I've been through a lot and Kelly's love was



LOVE LOST: Kelly K and Chad da Don.

medicinal, My heart feels sore but there is no pain God cannot cure. Kelly and I had a good run. We were blessed with a great time but

now it's over," he told the publication. A month later they were back together and were apparently 'engaged', with the rapper's moth-

er slamming claims that the break-up was a publicity stunt

Kelly hit back at all those who told her to tone down the romance or shaded the interracial romance, telling people to sit down.

"Our lives, our decisions. Don't f*cking tell us what to do," she told a follower in April.

Kelly K on interracial relationship with Chad: "We don't really care."

"Being in this relationship has taught me that love has no colour."

They also took a spiritual step and got baptised to signal their commitment to each other.

Kelly posted a cute snap on Instagram of Chad and Christian rocking the same pose and a sweet caption to go with it.

"I could never ask for a better role model for my son Chad, the God in you reflects in everything you do," she wrote. *Times Live*

PEARL MODIADIE CLAPS BACK AT PREGNANCY RUMOURS

SANDTON - Pearl Modiadie has slammed swirling pregnancy speculation, which dominated her TL on Monday.

This after she shared a picture of herself at the zoo, which sent the rumour mill into a tizz.

In the snap, Pearl was wearing a crop top and some tweeps said she looked like she could be pregnant. Imagine! Pearl cautioned fans on social media: "Wait for someone to make a pregnancy announce-

ment before you start congratulating them. There are health conditions that can make women appear to be 'pregnant'. It's insensitive and rude to simply assume they are just from their appearance". Many people backed Pearl, while actress Terry Pheto said she had given up correcting people. "Babe, I've been 'pregnant' for two years now. I've stopped correcting people. It's insensitive and tiring ... if only they knew what most women go through with

fertility issues." Wait for someone to make a pregnancy announcement before you start congratulating them. There are health conditions that can make women appear to be 'pregnant'. It's insensitive and rude to simply assume they are just from their appearance.

Pearl reiterated Terry's comment, saying a person could not explain everything to everyone. "There actually shouldn't be a need to! Urgh, it's so tiring!" *Sowetan Live*

Sbahle celebrates her 'second Christmas'

CAPE TOWN - Sbahle Mpisane is celebrating only her second Christmas in memory after surviving a horror car crash last year.

Sbahle lost control of her car during the early hours of August 9, 2018 on Margaret Mncadi Avenue (Victoria Embankment) in Durban and was seriously injured in the accident. Paramedics had to use the Jaws of Life to remove her from the wreckage.

The star had amnesia after the accident and told Tshisa Live that last year was her "first Christmas". "I've celebrated one Christmas so far because I forgot everything else, but irrespective, I think for me it was more special last year because I didn't know what Christmas was or how it felt like. I was surrounded by family, gifts were received and exchanged and sending special messages to everyone in the house was very touching. I know this year's Christmas is going to be much bigger and full of more love. I'm very excited."

Times Live

Khloe, Tristan reunite at family Xmas party

HOLLYWOOD - Khloe Kardashian and Tristan Thompson are coming together to celebrate the holidays with daughter True Thompson.

The Kardashian-Jenner family hosted their annual holiday party on Christmas Eve and A-listers from far and wide came to celebrate, including Khloe's ex. A source tells E! News that while Tristan wasn't spotted in any photos or videos from the party, he was very much present for the exclusive and fun event, which Kourtney Kardashian hosted this year. "There was no tension or drama, just a lot of love and family time. Khloe and Tristan were great," the Kards source reveals. "They hung out together with True and were chatting a lot."

Khloe and Tristan weren't the only ones enjoying themselves. According to the source, "The beginning of the evening started off being all about the kids. They had a Santa Claus, sleigh and a candy shop. All the kids were running around and completely in awe of all the entertainment. They watched Sia's dancers and sat in the front row watching the performance." *ENews*

DAILY SOAPIE DIGEST



Watch Harriet on The Queen tonight.



Mabuyi and Qaphela cook up a storm and find comfort in each other's arms. Judas' anger pushes a cop to the deep-end and Phumelele's famous bean salad saves the day.



Lincoln's situation becomes increasingly complicated. Aunt Tilly takes the Matabane men to task. Sibiyi has a serious case of counting his chickens.



Vho-Masindi succumbs to the decided fate that the villagers have chosen for her. Qhawe gives Gugu exactly what she asked for. Vhangani gets the biggest panic of his life.



Ayanda's worry turns into horror when she hears why her daughter went missing. Mpho isn't ready to host half of Jozi for New Year. Crazy J makes a spur-of-the-moment decision which he hopes is not a mistake.



Harriet's health deteriorates further and Kagiso goes on the hunt for the person who hurt her. Lesterina's demands throw Sthembiso for a loop.



Sibonelo fights dirty to tear Nonka and Khehla apart. Sbu goes out of his way to prove to Fikile that he has really changed. Mazaza's daring act doesn't yield the results she expected.



Boniswa seems to be full of care for a family member but she has an ulterior motive. Yvonne has plans for an adventurous new start. Kgosi is determined to go through with a risky idea despite several objections.



SLAMS: Pearl Modiadie.

Am I the only one who pretends to look aside when someone is typing a password so I won't look like a thief?

Follow Us @
No Chill in Mzansi



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

You can be a little stubborn, and it seems that you're in the process of giving a wonderful demonstration of this. You can be a little slow when you need to move, but once you get started, it's very hard to get you to stop! Still, there's nothing terribly difficult about making the necessary adjustments. You need to give yourself time.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

You may feel like you can no longer explore your inner feelings, but you must persevere. You have a tremendous capacity to bury problems deeply, and you can go through life obliviously surfing on top of them. It's true that this strategy allows you to remain in a good mood. But you may never be in such a good mood that you're profoundly happy. Wouldn't you agree?



Pisces February 19 – March 20

You're in the process of changing directions in your professional life. This can't be done in a day. It's sometimes painful. Things will be going slowly and require you to think and confront yourself honestly. Don't run away even if you're tempted to do so. Trust that you aren't far from your goal.



Aries March 21 – April 19

You'll have to demonstrate your endurance today. Much is required of you, and you have no choice but to make the contribution expected of you. There's no way around it. You're a key player in the events swirling around you. Surely you've noticed. Much as you'd like to take off for a vacation, you can't do it now.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

You may have some very good ideas relating to your professional field, but do you have complete mastery of them? If not, accept the fact that you can still learn from courses or experts in your field. It won't kill you to be guided a bit. Stop doubting or criticizing what others propose to you.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

There may be some worries nagging at you. Perhaps you have a financial concern or minor health complaint. Don't let it get you down. You have the inner resources to overcome it. Although the current state of affairs has you feeling gloomy, your optimism will return soon. Until then, put your trust in other values, such as love, friendship, and faith.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

You may feel somewhat grumpy and sluggish, like you have an energy deficit. But the oppressive mood of today will also lend objectivity and reality to any examination you make of what's happening in your life. For example, any matter that fails to elicit your enthusiasm is probably due for some changes.



Leo July 23 – August 22

The mood is somewhat oppressive today. If you could, you'd send away anyone who tries to put obstacles in your path. Or maybe you'd prefer to go away yourself! The day ahead is good for a realistic test of the waters. How far do you think you can go with your individual potential, emotionally and professionally?



Virgo August 23 – September 22

You've decided to blow the whistle on yourself! All of a sudden it's obvious that you're not performing as well as you should be. It's time to put your self-discipline to work. You may change your work methods, budget your money more carefully, or diversify your activities. Perhaps you'll reorganize your work team. All sorts of solutions are available to you.



Libra September 23 – October 23

Career or family? Social recognition or personal gratification? You may feel torn between two poles and spend the better part of the day searching for answers to such questions. Now you're trying to keep all the bases covered, but the weariness you feel on days like this is a hint that you need to make some wise, realistic changes for the future.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

You'll have to deal with some internal and external conflict. Often you're so happy to be lost in your dreams that you don't really focus on what's going on in the real world. But today alarm bells relating either to work or finances rudely awaken you. It's useless to panic. You've learned that running away only worsens the situation.



SAGITTARIUS

Your legendary impatience is playing tricks on you. You're in too much of a hurry. You may have changed things on the outside but you haven't changed who you really are. Resist the temptation to sweep everything away to start all over again. If you did, in a few months you'd just be back where you started.



BABY BLUES



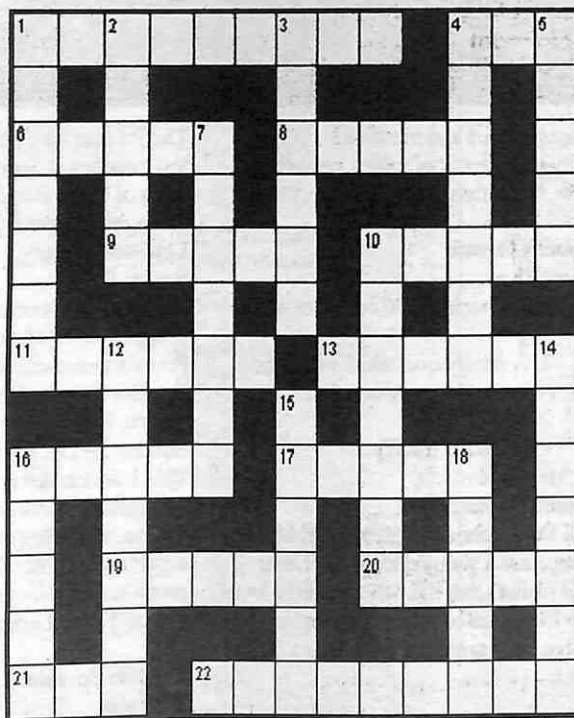
BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CRYPTIC - 25



Across

1. Observe confused car beetle (9)
4. Sounds like a beverage for the golf course (3)
6. Viper illusion conceals danger (5)
8. Deduce from pain ferocity (5)
9. Unclear theory obscures planet (5)
10. Taxi omnibus reveals expression (5)
11. Actors for additional items? (6)
13. Discovered pitiless drunk indoors (6)
16. Stories contained in pasta lesson (5)
17. Team leader requests chores (5)
19. Found midi omits a manner of speaking (5)
20. Sounds like very much to distribute (5)
21. Finish in seven days (3)
22. Holidays on cat visa perhaps (9)

Down

1. Madcap rice impulse, essentially (7)
2. Big in popular genre (5)
3. Sounds like an illuminating way to set down (6)
4. Merit in various depots (7)
5. Real army reveals warning (5)
7. Rails at whirling ropes (7)
10. Confusion is a mean loss of memory (7)
12. All diet adjustments corresponded (7)
14. Indicates concealed grade not estimated (7)
15. Tomato microbe contained something minute (6)
16. Furniture item and data set (5)
18. Colossal volley produces fusillade (5)

LOL

ADAM, EVE

Adam and Eve are wondering whether they are black or white. Eve says why don't you go and ask God.

So Adam goes into the Garden of Eden and shouts out to God: are we black or white? A big booming voice bellows out YOU ARE WHAT YOU ARE.

He immediately goes back to Eve and tells her that they are white. How do you know asks Eve. Because he said you are what you are Adam replied. Why does that mean we are white? asked Eve. Because if we were black he would have said 'You is what you is'.

DID YOU KNOW

1. The only Blockbuster store in the world that is still operating is in Bend, Oregon.

2. Bees sometimes sting other bees.

3. The healthiest place in the world is in Panama.

4. A pharaoh once lathered his slaves in honey to keep bugs away from him.

MOVIE QUIZ
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Movie Quiz

Yesterday's Quiz

1. Which actor rose to international fame with his role as the Man with No Name in Sergio Leone's Dollars trilogy of Spaghetti

Westerns during the 1960s?

Answer:
A. Clint Eastwood

Tuesday's Movie Quiz

1. Which actor received an Academy Award nomination for his portrayal as Vincent Vega in the 1994 film Pulp Fiction?

A. Sean Connery
B. John Travolta

Answers:



DSTV
Feel every moment

NEWS



DSTV WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

(Today – 2 January 2020)
All times CAT

LOCAL (SOUTHERN)

Abobaba

Genre: Reality

Saturday at 19:30 on Mzansi Wethu

EPISODE 13: We bid goodbye to Sello Maake Ka-Ncube as he accompanies fathers as they attempt to reunite with their children.

Ithemba

Genre: Drama

Monday 30 December at 20:00 on Mzansi Magic

EPISODE 13: In this season finale, things fall apart for Kingdom of Blessings as the community marches on the property, Mangaliso returns to get his revenge on the family and the sisters go on the run.

Yim Lo

Genre: True Life

Tuesday 31 December at 20:00 on Mzansi Magic

EPISODE 13: The final episode of the season with TV personality, Dineo Ranaka, helping various people come clean to their loved ones about their double lives. How will their loved ones react?

LOCAL (WEST)

Girke Girken Hauwa Maina

Genre: Cooking, Food

Friday 27 December at 08:00 on Africa Magic Hausa

A show that showcases a wide variety of delicious and affordable cuisine and the process of how it is made.

Brethren

Genre: Action, Thriller, Crime, Drama

Tomorrow at 21:30 on Africa Magic Showcase

NYPD Blues meets 24 and Line of Duty. With the crime rate at a dangerous high in the city and fingers pointing at the dreaded Aja Isale Eko gang, the Special Crimes Unit (SCU) and its leading team of Bara, Bassey and Jo are determined to bring down the gang; a relentless and dangerous pursuit where their lives and that of those they hold dear is put on the line and will intertwine with those they are sworn to death to bring to justice.

Star Scholar Naija

Genre: Reality, Educational

Sunday 29 December at 19:00 on Africa Magic

Family

EPISODE 7: Star Scholar Naija is a children's reality TV show where 16 teenagers (ages 13 to 16 years) are nested for 14 days. While in the



nest, they are nurtured and mentored academically in the areas of values, personal development and nation building.

The Big Family Dream

Genre: Game Show

Tuesday 31 December at 16:30 on Africa Magic Family

EPISODE 12: A family quiz show where the winner gets a three-bedroom apartment.

LOCAL (EAST)

Love And Medicine

Genre: Drama, Romance

Saturday 28 December at 20:30 on Pearl Magic

Medicine becomes a weapon to conquer love when David realises that the two woman he loves are about to leave him because they have found out that he has been going out with both a mother and daughter.

Last Verdict

Genre: Drama, Thriller

Sunday 29 December at 20:30 on Pearl Magic

Love! Agony! Tragedy! Haunting! Right from the onset, their first date ends in ruins which leads to disaster for one.

Gani Kali

Genre: Music

Monday 30 December at 09:00 on Maisha Magic East

An East African Swahili Magazine show, where we play back to back East African music with a seamless flow and with host Aisha Wanjiku.

SPORT

Test Cricket Series, SA v England

Sport: Cricket

Today at 09:30 on SuperSport 2

The Proteas take on England in the first of four test matches at SuperSport Park under the new helm of Mark Boucher.

Gallagher Premiership Rugby, Harlequins v Leicester Tigers

Sport: Rugby

Saturday 28 December at 18:25 on SuperSport 8

It is a battle to avoid the bottom of the Gallagher Premiership table when Harlequins host Tigers. English Premier League, Arsenal v Chelsea

Sport: Football

Sunday 29 December at 15:50 on SuperSport 3

This London derby pits together two teams struggling for consistency and identity this season, with the Gunners reeling after the departure of Unai Emery and the Blues showing promise but also major vulnerabilities under club legend Frank Lampard.

English Premier League, Manchester City v Everton

Sport: Football

Wednesday 1 January at 19:20 on SuperSport 3

Another key clash in the Premier League this round sees Manchester City host Everton. The Toffees demonstrated some resilience in the wake of Marco Silva's departure, but a clash at the Etihad Stadium against the reigning champions will be a true test of their determination, while Pep Guardiola's Citizens must claim all three points if they are to continue pushing the log leaders.

MOVIES

Second Act

Genre: Comedy, Romance

Sunday 29 December at 20:00 on M-Net

It's street smarts versus book smarts in this Jennifer Lopez comedy. When a 40-year-old box packer gets an opportunity to work on Madison

Avenue she uses the chance to prove herself. Starring Jennifer Lopez and Vanessa Hudgens.

Yomeddine

Genre: Comedy

Sunday 29 December at 21:50 on M-Net

A touching Egyptian drama. A Coptic leper and his orphaned apprentice leave their leper colony to go on a journey to find their families. Starring Rady Gamal and Ahmed Abdelhafiz.

The Favourite

Genre: History, Drama

Monday 30 December at 20:00 on M-Net

Movies Premiere

A star-studded Oscar-winning period drama that is set in the 18th century, England, Queen Anne's close friend and a new servant fight for her affection and the influence it brings. Starring Olivia Colman and Emma Stone.

The Crow

Genre: Horror, Drama, Action

Thursday 2 January at 20:00 on TNT

A black bird resurrects a rock musician who then avenges his own murder and his fiancée's. Starring Brandon Lee, Ernie Hudson, Michael Wincott, David Patrick Kelly, Angel David and Rochelle Davis.

TELENOVELAS

Betty In New York

Genre: Drama, Comedy

Friday 27 December at 20:00, daily on

Telemundo

Daniel is evicted from his offices after failing to pay rent on time. Meanwhile, Efrain sees Jenny kissing Peter, and confronts her.

Queen of the South

Genre: Drama

Monday 30 December at 22:00, weekdays on

Telemundo

Pati chases Veronica and learns the whole truth. Saturnino discovers that Teo has a lover.

Lady Luck

Genre: Drama

Wednesday 1 January at 18:00, daily on Zee World

Pavitra tries to break the trust between Ansh and Bhoomi as she brings another person into their relationship. Bhoomi and Ansh stand together against Pavitra.

King of Hearts

Genre: Drama

Tuesday 2 January at 22:00, weekdays on Zee World

Satya finds a way to weave himself into Payals household. However, he doesn't know that the members of the house all knew his father Siddharth, how will they react when they see him?

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DEATHS

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Zwane



Funeral: 28/12/19
Vigil: 27/12/2019
Place: kaHlatsi

Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani kutsi Vusimuzi Ephraem Zwane lotalwa ngu Bhukubhuku nemfwanenkhozi Cabati Zwane, kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Inkonzo yesikhumbuto imhla 27 December 2019 eSt Peter and Paul ekwaluseni nga 1:00 e m i n i . Utongcwatjwa kaHlatsi mhlaka 28 December 2019 emva kwemlindzelo ekhaya eSibetsamoya nga 5:00 ekuseni. Ngumndeni lo kh ip ha simemetelo.

Takhona Mhlanga



Funeral: 29/12/19
Vigil: 28/12/2019
Place: eNkiliji

Relatives and friends of Takhona Mhlanga are notified of her demise. Funeral at Nkiliji on Sunday 29 December 2019 after a night vigil. Announcement by family.

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'MY WORLD RECORDS COULD BE BROKEN'

TOKYO - Sprinting legend Usain Bolt believes that his world records could fall at next year's Olympic Games in Tokyo.

The 33 year old was in Japan for the officially opening of the new National Stadium, the main Olympic venue which will host the opening and closing ceremonies, along with all athletics events at the games.

The 68000 capacity stadium, which started to build in 2016, was completed in November and the three-time Olympic 100m champion participated in a commemorative relay race dubbed 'One race', which featured Olympic and Paralympic athletes. Bolt said in an interview with Olympic.com that there is a chance that some can step up to claim his 100m world record. "Anything is possible, you know what I mean. I'm



MY WORLD: sprinting legend Usain Bolt.

looking to see what happens next season," he said. "Let's see whose running fast, let's see who is doing good."

One of the athletes that could seriously challenge Bolt's 100m record is American Christian Coleman, the holder of the

60m world record. The 23-year-old captured his first outdoor world title at the World Athletic Championships in Doha, winning the 100m in a lifetime best and world-leading time of 9.76 seconds. jamaica-star.com

Williams, Wozniacki to team up in doubles

NEW YORK - Good friends Serena Williams and Caroline Wozniacki will team up on the doubles court for the first time next month at the ASB Classic in New Zealand, which runs Jan. 6-18.

Williams was one of the bridesmaids in Wozniacki's wedding to former NBA standout David Lee last June. Now with Wozniacki set to retire following the Australian Open to focus on marriage and starting a family, the duo will team up after years of battling in singles.

"We've been wanting to play doubles together for a long time, but it just hasn't worked out so I'm really excited that it's finally going to happen, especially at one of my favourite tournaments on tour."

"It's going to be so much fun!" Wozniacki said. Williams, considered by many the Greatest of All Time (GOAT) of women's tennis, leads Wozniacki 10-1 all-time in singles, including a victory in the 2014 US Open final.



TEAM UP: Good friends Serena Williams and Caroline Wozniacki.

Together, the duo have 102 WTA singles titles, 24 Grand Slam crowns and have spent a combined 390 weeks at No. 1. Williams, currently ranked No. 10 in the world, has earned close to \$93

million in on-court earnings, per her WTA bio, while Wozniacki, ranked No. 38, has earned north of \$35 million on the court. forbes.com

Schumacher's wife gives cryptic update

GENEVA - Michael Schumacher's wife has given a rare update about the Formula 1 legend's condition ahead of the six-year anniversary of the skiing accident which left him in a coma.

The seven-time champion suffered a serious brain injury while skiing in the Alps on December 29, 2013, and has not been seen in public since.

He hit his head on a rock and was placed in a medically-induced coma

for six months and has been treated at his family's home in Lake Geneva ever since. But as fans are preparing to launch a new 'KeepFightingMichael' social media page on the anniversary of the accident, Schumacher's wife Corinna has opened up, saying "big things start with small steps", The Mirror reported.

She reportedly told fans: "Many small particles can form a huge mosaic. Together you are stronger, and that

is exactly how combined forces of the KeepFighting movement make it easier to encourage others."

The fan club based in Kerpen, Germany, Schumacher's birthplace, has announced it will use the hashtag 'KeepFighting' for its campaign.

It is also the name of the family foundation which supports accident victims and invests in brain and spinal cord research.

Chairman of the club Reiner Ferling said he hopes to see Schumacher in public again. Daily Mail

KIM CLIJSTERS RETURNS TO ACTION IN MARCH 2020

LONDON - Kim Clijsters plans to make her delayed comeback to tennis at the Monterrey Open in March, more than seven years after her second retirement.

Clijsters said she accepted wild cards into the Mexican hard-court event which begins on March 2, followed by Indian Wells from March 11, then the Charleston clay tournament from April 6.

The former No. 1 and four-time major champion, who already is a member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, announced her comeback attempt in September. Her plans were delayed in November when she tore a ligament in her right knee.

"I am really pleased with my progress and it's been great to get

back on the court and play tennis again," Clijsters said in a statement. "It's been a setback but has really shown me how determined I am to return to the game I love."

WTA rules allow her, as a past Grand Slam champion, to receive unlimited wild-card invitations to tournaments and, as someone who is older than 30, to opt out of mandatory appearances at certain events.

The 36-year-old Clijsters left the tour in 2007 and got married and had the first of her three children. She returned about two years later and won her second and third US Opens and an Australian Open. She retired again in 2012 and was working in television. Daily Mail



Slade facing race to play in Six Nations

LONDON - Henry Slade could face a fight to be fit for the Six Nations after injuring both ankles playing for Exeter against Leicester last weekend.

The centre, 26, hobbled off at Welford Road during the first half of Chiefs' 31-22 win.

While Exeter were unable to confirm the extent of the injury after initial scans, Slade will almost certainly miss the festive fixtures and the European Champions Cup games in January.

"It's not something he will be able to get over in a week or two, it will be a bit more significant than that," said Exeter Director of rugby Rob Baxter.

"He picked up injuries to both ankles. "He hobbled along with one and then picked up a second one."

"The second one is an injury to the old injury he had which he had

plated.

"It's not so much that he has done the two as they both could end up being similar times, but it's not an insignificant injury."

"We will know later in the week when he has more scans and we get into the early treatment phase over the next couple of days."

He's going to be out for a little while. We are hoping it is weeks not months at this stage."

England's opening Six Nations game is on February 2 against France in Paris, so if Slade's injuries are significant they could well rule him out of at least the early stages of the championship.

Slade was involved in every match-day squad at the World Cup and started the quarter-final against Australia before moving to the bench as Eddie Jones picked George Ford, Manu Tuilagi and Owen Farrell together. Daily Mail

'Ronaldo had agreement with AC Milan before signing for Juventus'

JUVENTUS - Cristiano Ronaldo almost joined AC Milan before the deal hit the rocks, according to former sporting director Massimiliano Mirabelli.

The Portuguese superstar made the most high profile move of 2018 when he swapped Real Madrid for Italian champions Juventus in a £100-million deal. But the 34-year-old's future

could have panned out differently if previous Milan owner Li Yonghong hadn't pulled the plug on the move.

Mirabelli admitted that the move wasn't financially feasible but he would be playing in a Milan shirt now had the current owners been at the helm.

Speaking to TV channel Sportitalia, he said: "It was something we talked

about with Jorge Mendes.

"We knew there could be problems with Real and Ronaldo.

We did everything, but then the Chinese owners blocked the deal because it was not sustainable.

"With the current owners CR7 would have been a Milan player."

AC Milan were taken over by American hedge fund Elliot

Management in July 2018 to end Li's one-year spell at the club.

Mirabelli also revealed how they attempted to appoint former Chelsea boss Antonio Conte as manager.

He added:

"I was proud to have made this choice [when appointing Gattuso] because of his professionalism, his seriousness and the love he and his

staff put into their work.

"The Chinese owners did not agree because they thought from the outside it would look like a backward step, but I explained that for me Rino was the coach of the future."

He has worked in Greece, Serie C and B and for me this is a positive.

"We listened to [Conte], we talked directly. It was a chat that didn't result in anything."

The Sun

THE BEST PICTURES FROM AN EXTRA

LONDON - From the moment Andy Murray announced his premature 'retirement' from tennis in early January, it has proved to be a roller-coaster of emotions in the sporting world throughout 2019.

Tiger Woods completed an emotional comeback to the top of world golf by winning his fifth Masters title in April, his first major in 11 years, before England triumphed over New Zealand at Lord's in the first of two World Cup final appearances in the most dramatic of circumstances.

Ben Stokes dominated the summer and grabbed the limelight with a redemptive hundred against Australia at Headingley, while there was finally global success for Katarina Johnson-Thompson at the Athletics World Championships in Doha.

Lewis Hamilton became the second-most decorated Formula One driver of all time with his third successive world title, moving just one behind the legendary Michael Schumacher.

And early this month Anthony Joshua bounced back from his shock defeat by Andy Ruiz Jr in New York by beating the Mexican in a rematch in Saudi Arabia to reclaim his belts.

Sportmail take a look back through an eventful year in pictures.

From Andy Murray's tearful 'farewell', to Tiger Woods' emotional Masters comeback and Ben Stokes' redemptive Headingley heroics.



LEAPS: Alex Morgan leaps onto the shoulders of Megan Rapinoe after she opened the scoring for the USA in the final of the Women's World Cup against Holland in Lyon on July 7.



BREAKS DOWN: Andy Murray breaks down in tears during a press conference on January 11. The former world number 1 said: "I'm not sure I'm able to play through the pain for another four or five months. I want to get to Wimbledon and stop but I'm not certain I can do that".



FIRST EVER: Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge makes history as he breaks the two-hour barrier for the marathon on a specially prepared course in a huge Vienna park. With an unofficial time of 1hr 59min 40.2sec, the Olympic champion became the first ever to run a marathon in under two hours in the Prater park with the help of laser guidance, 41 pace-makers and groundbreaking shoes.

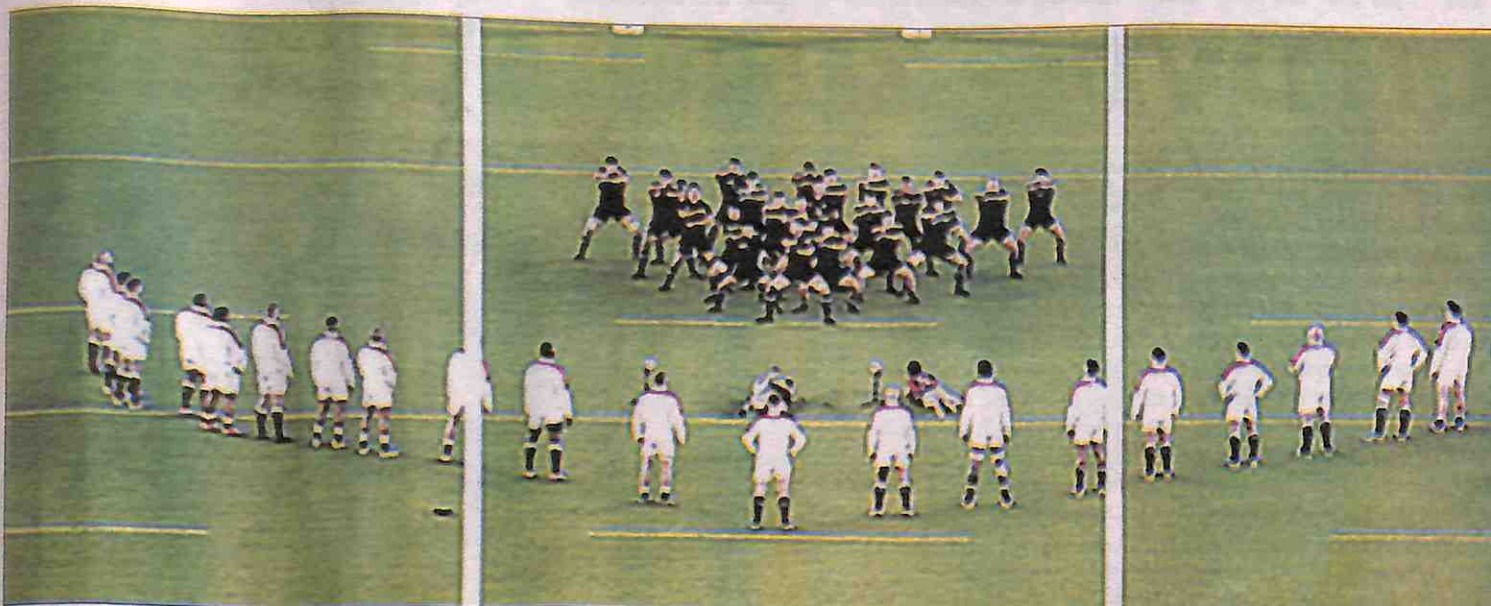


SHOCKING: Anthony Joshua's world comes crashing down in New York. Andy Ruiz Jr produced one of the biggest shocks in the history of heavyweight boxing to rip AJ's IBF, WBO and WBA world titles from his grasp. The boxer bounced back early this month.

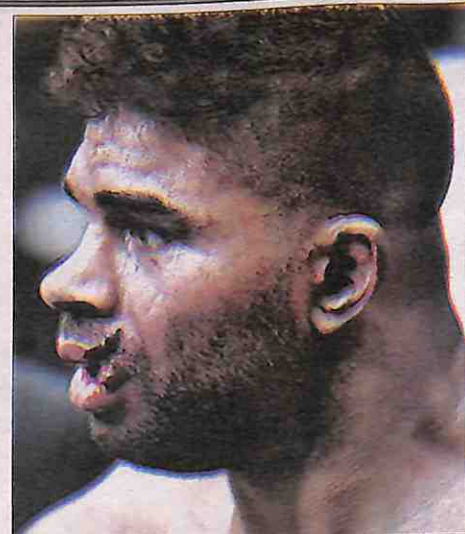


ANNIVERSARY: A giant Chinese national flag can be seen during the Chinese Super League match between Guangzhou Evergrande and Wuhan Zall at Tianhe Stadium to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The night lights of the city of Guangzhou can be seen in the background.

ORDINARY YEAR OF SPORT



STARE DOWN: England's players line-up in a 'V' formation as they stare down the New Zealand haka ahead of kick-off in their Rugby World Cup semi-final in Yokohama on October 26.



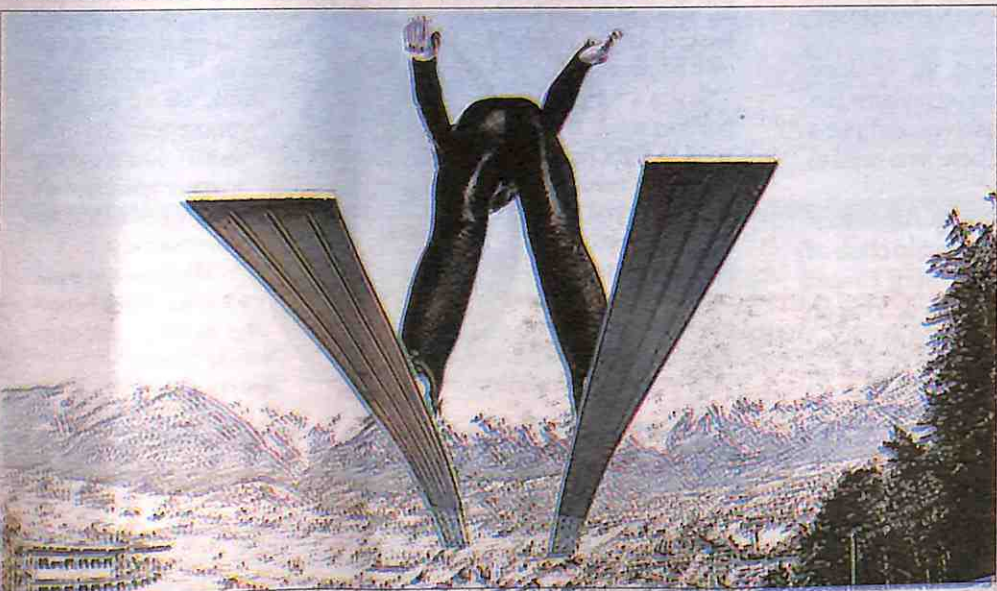
TORN OPEN: Alistair Overeem had his lip brutally torn open during his TKO loss to Jairzinho Rozenstruik in their heavyweight bout during UFC Fight Night in Washington.



HISTORY: Siya Kolisi, the first black captain in South African rugby history, lifts aloft the Webb Ellis trophy as he makes history in Yokohama.



OUT: Pandemonium in the stands at Lord's as Jos Buttler runs out Martin Guptill off the final ball of the super over to give England victory over New Zealand in a gripping Cricket World Cup final.



SKILLED: A shot of German skier Johannes Rydzek leaping off the slope during ski jumping training for the Nordic Combined ahead of the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships on February 19 in Innsbruck, Austria.



PILE-UP: A pile-up of cars at the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup series at Daytona International Speedway on February 17.

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South African SOCCER

Pirates shirt too heavy for these 8 players?

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates players come under the microscope as they find it difficult to get game-time at the club, begging the question whether the club's jersey is too heavy for them.

The Buccaneers have a squad size of 35 players but some of them spend more time off the field than on it, including a number of foreign stars that have cost the club a small fortune to lure into the country.

KickOff.com looks at eight players not pulling their weight at the Soweto giants:

JORIS DELLE (29)

The former French youth international joined the Mighty Bucs in July this year but has played only three games for the club this season. With his credentials, a lot more is expected of the former Feyenoord shotstopper, who has yet to prove his worth to the Bucs faithful.

SIYABONGA MPONTSHANE (33)

Mpontshane is into his fifth season with the club but has never really established himself as first-choice keeper, and this season has seen him fail to make a single contribution to the team as he continues to watch from the stands.

JUSTICE CHABALALA (28)

Once regarded as one of the best defenders in the country, he has played only two games this season as Pirates technical team appear to see something lacking in his game. Starved of opportunities, there is a belief that Chabalala is not in the plans of the club as a possible move away in the January transfer window looms.

TEBOGO TLOLANE (24)

The former Chippa United defender has made just a solitary appearance this season, with the left-back position covered by Innocent Maela and Paseka Mako. Tloane was once a key figure at The Chilli Boys but now finds himself in the stands at the Soweto giants.

BONGANI SAM (22)

Sam played no less than 25 matches for Bloemfontein Celtic last season as he received widespread plaudits for his influence at left-back. However, he has yet to make his competitive debut for Pirates, after coming off the bench in the Carling Black Label Cup Soweto Derby back in July.

AUGUSTINE MAHLONOKO (18)

In 2018 Mahlonoko was named by UK publication The Guardian as one of the Top 60 young players in the world. This season, the youngster finds himself playing with the club's ABC Motsepe League feeder team Pele-Pele FC.

AUSTIN MUWOWO (23)

The Zambian footballer of the year has managed only one appearance for the club this season and is taking up a valuable foreign space in the club's stable. Whether he could impress new coach Josef Zinnbauer remains to be seen.

ZAKHELE LEPASA (22)

Lepasa was once dubbed the 'Kaizer Chiefs slayer' after he condemned Pirates' Soweto rivals to an embarrassing Nedbank Cup final defeat to First Division side TS Galaxy in May. He has since been recalled from that loan spell but has so far featured just once for The Buccaneers this season as he finds himself in the periphery at the club.

I WATCHED THE GAMES ON DVDs - ZINNBAUER

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates' new coach Josef Zinnbauer, naturally, having had so little time to work with his team, saw plenty of room for improvement as Bucs got off to a decent 3-1 Absa Premiership winning start under his tenure against Polokwane City at Orlando Stadium on Saturday.

Zinnbauer's background, though, and the manner in which he came to Pirates, remains shrouded in mystery as questions related to such in the post-match press conference were quickly shut down by Bucs' Media Officer Thandi Merafe.

The German coach had not been presented to the media since his sudden appointment was announced on social media on Tuesday, December 10 - the club said during the week

because he had not yet received his work permit. That paperwork reportedly arrived by Saturday morning, and Zinnbauer was the head coach on the bench.

Strangely, at the first opportunity to ask the coach about the link to Pirates, and how his new posting had come about, Merafe interjected, saying: "We have just played an ABSA Premiership match."

"There was an announcement that was made on Orlando Pirates' platforms regarding the coach's contract. If you want to know, it's three years. Beyond that ask us about the game. I'm not allowing the question."

Some illumination on Zinnbauer's background might have helped resolve some of the question marks on his lack of a trophy and apparent top-flight inexperience.



ence.

Zinnbauer has coached six months in the Bundesliga with Hamburger SV, and two seasons in Switzerland with St Gallen.

On the game, the 49-year-old was pleased at the result, though, of course, with just "five or seven training sessions," knows he has a long way to go implementing his philosophy.

He said ball retention is the first and most important aspect he can see that

needs improvement.

"Before I came here I watched the game on DVDs, and I saw a very good quality in the team, and Pirates are a big club in Africa," the coach said.

"The players are very fast, they are quick, and they are good technically. And we will improve, I think, in the next games, in the tactics. And then I think we can get a good solution for success." *Sports Live*

'CHIEFS DON'T NEED PLAYERS IN JANUARY'

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs coach Ernst Middendorp has made it clear that he does not think the ABSA Premiership leaders need reinforcements in January.

The Glamour Boys enjoy a seven-point lead over defending champions Mamelodi Sundowns at the top of the domestic standings and Middendorp doesn't feel there's a need to bring in new players.

"We have a seven-point lead (at the top of the PSL table)," Middendorp told the media.

"We have a team that has done well in these five-and-a-half months or six months of the season. They have done a fantastic job and why should we now be targeting changes?"

"Some players didn't perform as we were expecting as we have seen it in the season and the next point is, let's be honest, where are the players?"

"Here in Maritzburg on the Ayrshire street or on William Nicol streets? Where are the players really?"

"Let's be honest, we've done some planning, and everybody has organised themselves and put a team together. There's no need to run around."

Middendorp's charges drew their final ABSA Premiership clash of 2019 against Maritzburg United 1-1 and will get the New Year up and running at SuperSport United on Saturday, January 4. *Daily Sun*

Tembo unsure of catching up with leaders Chiefs

PRETORIA - SuperSport United must put aside immediate thoughts of being title contenders and go back to a game-by-game approach for the second half of the season after slipping at the weekend and falling 11 points behind leaders Kaizer Chiefs, says coach Kaitano Tembo.

SuperSport ended 2019 with a 1-0 loss at Chippa United in Port Elizabeth at the weekend and looked flat by Tembo's own admission.

"It was a very disappointing result. If you want to fight for the league you need to be consistent, you need to win games, five, six in a row, but if you cannot do that you are always going to have to play catch up."

"We had an opportunity

against Chippa to close the gap a little bit but we didn't and that's one area where we need to improve.

"The gap is now too big, so we need to focus on closing the gap first before we start speaking about the title."

But Tembo still believes SuperSport have the right resources to go on and take a first title since 2010.

"We've got a very good team, to be honest we've got enough talent to really give it a go

but at the same time I think we've got a few youngsters and (with them) you are going to have games where you don't find the consistency."

"We have to make sure we keep believing in them and motivating them."

Sports Live



PITSO QUESTIONS FACTS IN SIRINO CASE

PRETORIA - Sundowns are still waiting on the outcome of Leandro Sirino's pending disciplinary case for allegedly assaulting SuperSport United duo Dean Furman and Clayton Daniels.

The incident occurred in the MTN8 semi-finals in September, with the hearing having been postponed in November for an unknown date, after it was said the Uruguayan was unfit to attend the hearing due to stress.

Mosimane is aware of the seriousness of the case and what punishment Sirino could face if he were to be found guilty, but he has since raised some questions.

"I don't know if you have luck [if the ban was] four games, because why four games, if I may ask? How do you come to four games? According to them [the prosecutor], he slapped both [Furman and



Daniels], but did he really slap them both?" asked 'Jingles'.

"Okay, that's the argument. Look at the video footage and look at it

very, very carefully, because it's your word against my word. Are you sure he slapped the other one? "The first one I think there was

contact [on Daniels], but the second one was there contact? The second one he pushed, and everybody was pushing."

ALLI CAPS SPURS FIGHTBACK TO SINK BRIGHTON

LONDON - Dele Alli got Tottenham back on track as the England midfielder capped a gritty escape act with the late winner in yesterday 2-1 victory against Brighton.

Jose Mourinho's side were in danger of a second successive Premier League defeat when Adam Webster headed Brighton into a shock lead at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

But Harry Kane equalised after the interval and Alli finished off a flowing Tottenham move in the closing stages to erase the bitter taste of last weekend's acrimonious London derby loss to



VICTORY: Tottenham Hotspur players celebrates.

Chelsea.
"I'm very happy with the second half. I'm not saying players were wrong but we changed bits and that makes a difference," Mourinho said.

"It's hard after a defeat to have confidence and we started poorly, it affects the confidence. Brighton have monsters in the air and it affected the self-esteem of our team.

"In the second half the players put all the negative aside and were very strong in their performance."

Avenging their defeat at Brighton in October, Tottenham, unbeaten in Boxing Day fixtures since 2003, have won three of their last four league games as they try to climb into the top four.

Saluting Alli's crucial contribution, Mourinho said: "Another goal and another incredible performance and effort. The work rate was absolutely incredible from Dele.

"The little details are more important than what people look at. His

attitude and fighting spirit was so good."

That Chelsea setback was completely overshadowed by the alleged racist abuse of Blues defender Antonio Rudiger by Tottenham fans after his role in Son Heung-min's red card.

Amid widespread calls for stronger action to stamp out racism in football, Tottenham fans appeared to behave better this time.

Since Mourinho's first game in charge of Tottenham, no Premier League team had conceded more goals than the 14 his side allowed across all competitions heading into this round of matches.

Those defensive frailties were on display when Steven Alzate lost his marker and forced Paulo Gazzaniga into a sprawling save.

Kane has a knack of scoring on Boxing Day and the Tottenham striker thought he had netted again when he fired home from Winks' pass, but the goal went to a VAR review and was ruled out by the narrowest of offside decisions.

SuperSport



Tottenham Hotspur's Dele Alli

Arsenal reign begins problems after Bournemouth draw

LONDON - Mikel Arteta's Arsenal reign began with a draw as Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's 12th Premier League goal of the season earned the Gunners a 1-1 draw at Bournemouth.

Former Arsenal midfielder Arteta was in the dugout for the first time since being appointed Unai Emery's successor.

Having opted to recall Mesut Ozil

to his starting line-up in one of three changes, Arteta saw his side fall behind to Dan Gosling's goal 10 minutes before half-time.

Arsenal almost fell behind within five minutes as Bernd Leno's right foot denied Ryan Fraser following good work from Lewis Cook and Callum Wilson.

England international Wilson then fired a volley over following a one-

two with Fraser as the Cherries continued to press down Arsenal's left. It was from that flank that the opening goal arrived, an overlapping Jack Stacey sliding the ball across for Gosling to poke home a first-time finish at the near post. The Gunners were fortunate not to be 2-0 behind at the break too, with Leno having to claw Joshua King's effort behind after the

Norwegian had beaten two Arsenal defenders. Aubameyang had been virtually anonymous in the first period but he fired over early in the second half and almost collected a brilliant threaded pass from Ozil. However, in the 63rd minute, the striker was in the right place to sweep home after Reiss Nelson's shot deflected into his path. *Goal.com*

Super Saints provide more home misery for Lampard

LONDON - Chelsea's recent home woes continued as they suffered a first Boxing Day defeat in the Premier League since 2003, going down 2-0 against a Southampton side who moved up to 14th.

Frank Lampard's side were outstanding in Sunday's victory over Tottenham but fell well short of the same standards four days later and could have few complaints after falling a third defeat in four top-flight matches at Stamford Bridge.

Michael Obafemi, who started as Southampton rested the in-form Danny Ings for the first of two games in 48 hours, lit up a poor first period with a fine run and finish after 31 minutes.

Chelsea upped their tempo after the interval following the introduction of Mason Mount and a switch to a back four, but the Saints - who have now won back-to-back away games to climb away from the relegation zone - were worthy winners and grabbed a second goal



MORE MISERY: Frank Lampard.

when Nathan Redmond finished a wonderful move with 17 minutes remaining.

Neither goalkeeper was forced into a meaningful save in a dire opening half-hour as Chelsea dom-

inated possession but offered a distinct lack of quality in the final third.

The hosts were then stunned after Callum Hudson-Odoi was dispossessed near the halfway line. Saints skipper Pierre-Emerick Hojbjerg played

an incisive ball into Obafemi and the striker quickly turned and drove forward, cutting inside Kurt Zouma, before curling a glorious left-footed finish into the top-left corner.

Alex McCarthy pawed away a Chelsea corner that had been flicked on at the near post eight minutes later and Tammy Abraham fired into the side-netting at the start of the second half.

However, it was Southampton who continued to produce the best attacking play despite their limited share of possession.

Fikayo Tomori got a key touch to prevent Che Adams connecting with another cross from Redmond, who also drew a save from Kepa Arrizabalaga.

With Chelsea labouring at the other end, a flowing Southampton move then sealed the points, Redmond dinking the ball over Kepa after great work from Stuart Armstrong.

Goal.com



Jordan Ayew earns 90th-minute victory for Palace

LONDON - Same player, same result. The only difference? No VAR was needed this time round.

As he did at the London Stadium earlier in the season, Jordan Ayew provided the decisive late contribution as Crystal Palace completed their first league double over West Ham since 2013/14, with a 2-1 victory.

That night, the striker had to wait several minutes before he could toast a crucial winner. This time, with the clock ticking towards 90, he could celebrate unabated after jinking past several defenders and dinking the ball over the onrushing Roberto.

The stunning winner sent Palace into the top half, while West Ham are again staring over their shoulder. The problem was Mark Noble had tried to take on his own player. It took both Michail Antonio and Aaron Cresswell to stop their captain from confronting Angelo Ogbonna as tempers flared at Selhurst Park.

Yet very soon the visitors were in dreamland after Robert Snodgrass put them on course for a crucial victory.

It was three minutes that encapsulated the inconsistency, the circus and the yo-yoing emotions of West Ham's season.

But then Ayew, and first former Hammers midfielder Cheikhou Kouyate, turned the game on its head.

The flurry of second-half action was in stark contrast to the first 45, which passed without much quality or action in either box.

Pablo Fornals had the ball in the net, only to be flagged offside, before Ayew wasted a glorious opportunity to open his account.

Daily Mail

Battling Watford hold Sheffield United to a draw

LONDON - Watford moved off the bottom of the Premier League after a spirited performance earned them a 1-1 draw at dominant Sheffield United yesterday.

The visitors took a 27th-minute lead through Gerard Deulofeu against the run of play before Oliver Norwood levelled with a 36th-minute penalty after Will Hughes tripped George Baldock.

The result left Watford 19th on 13 points from 19 games, one ahead of bottom team Norwich City, while Sheffield United slipped one place down to sixth on 29 points.

After a 10-minute kick-off delay over what Sheffield United called operational issues, Oliver McBurnie twice went close for the home side before Deulofeu struck from out of the blue as he raced clear and scored with a neat finish from 12 metres.

Norwood levelled when he drove his spot-kick low past Watford keeper Ben Foster, who kept his side afloat with a superb 64th-minute reflex save to deny John Fleck from close range.

Foster palmed away an Enda Stevens scorch before the visitors came agonisingly close to snatching a late winner, with Deulofeu curling a free kick inches wide of Dean Henderson's left-hand post. *SuperSport*

DU'S CORNER

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

WITH
DUMSANE SIBANDZE
PLS Youth Development
Communications Manager



A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL SPORTS FANATICS!

WE are already counting the days before saying goodbye to 2019 and what a year it has been for sports in the country in particular football.

Granted, there is still a lot that needs to be done to get local football to the level we all want but the effort from all football principals to improve our game has been really good to see. The truth is that they all want to see our football competing effectively with the rest of Africa, whether at national or club level and for that to happen, they need unequalled support from all football stakeholders.

"Our football will only get bigger and better with time"



ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (EFA) PRESIDENT ADAM 'BOMBER' MTHETHWA

Respected and experienced Eswatini Football Association (EFA) President Adam 'Bomber' Mthethwa is wishing all football followers country-wide not just a happy 2020 but a productive one as well.

The FA chief is further thanking all football stakeholders who continue to make our football bigger and better, promising that their hard work will reap the desired results with a bit of patience.

Mthethwa is also extending words of warm appreciation to all the association's affiliates who worked tirelessly in supporting the EFA's initiatives in this ending year, not forgetting those who took time to attend the ongoing Incwala ceremony.

He showered such people with huge praises and noted that such effort was creating a very good picture of local football to the country's leaders.

The EFA president added that he was proud of teams' officials and players who have been visible at the royal fields where there is lot of work going on as part of the Incwala ceremony.

Lastly, Mthethwa urged all football people to stay safe and disci-

...as we count down the days to 2020, let us all pray and wish for a productive new year in local sports, particularly football

plined throughout the festive period.

"Football partners hold special place in our hearts"



PREMIER LEAGUE OF ESWATINI (PLE) CHAIRMAN PETER 'TOUCH' MAGAGULA

PLE boss Peter Magagula is taking the opportunity to thank all Board of Governors and executive members who continue to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty to ensure that premier league football is successful in all fronts.

Magagula is also appreciative of the support and words of advice he gets from members, something which he feels has helped him to be the ideal leader of premier league football.

The PLE chairman is further wishing all football sponsors in the country a wonderful and productive new year as they continue doing their business in the country.

He is also underlining the fact that football partners hold a special place in his heart, promising that his organisation will always provide them with the best support ever.

Magagula is also commending the efforts from premier league clubs to make this year competitive and entertaining especially in the MTN Premier League where there is little separating the competing teams.

He is hoping that all clubs will put in more energy in the new year, stressing that this is one of the best ways to attract big numbers in stadiums.

"Officials must make use of football courses"

FREDERICK MNGOMETULU (EFA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

EFA CEO Frederick Mngometulu is singing praises for the entire association's executive committee, staff

and affiliates for their support and hard work this year.

The CEO is treasuring the input of these individuals to make our football attractive to watch and follow.

He is also encouraging all football officials to take advantage of courses offered by the association so that they are able to capacitate themselves for the benefit of the local game.

He is emphasising the importance of local football officials honing their administrative skills as he is adamant that this is the only way the local game can be more professional.

The CEO is further wishing Sihlangu and all other national squads a productive 2020, pointing out that success can only be achieved through hardwork and discipline.

"Our football is making positive progress but..."



BOY 'BIZZAH' MKHONTA (EFA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)

EFA TD 'Bizzah' Mkhonta is convinced that local football development has made some positive progress this year though admitting that there is still a lot of room for improvement.

The TD also believes that there is still a lot of work to be done to get local football to the level that we all want to see.

He stressed on the importance of all football stakeholders pulling in the same direction to ensure that such dreams are achieved, explaining that such efforts will be in vain if football people do not make a united front and work towards achieving the same goals.

The TD then implored football officials to take interest in the courses provided by the EFA meant to enhance their administrative skills for the benefit of the local game.

He concluded by thanking the

EFA executive along with the CEO for the support they provided him this year and observed that the courses would not have been possible without such backing from the country's football mother body.



FROM THE PLE COO PAT VILAKATI

PLE Chief Operations Officer (COO) Pat Vilakati is commending his staff along with the support employees for their hard-work this year, admitting that running the PLE is no child's play as it requires total commitment from all those involved.

Vilakati credited his staff for executing their respective roles to almost perfection and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

He also made special mention of stadium representatives, referees and coaches whom he feels played a pivotal role in making this a successful year for the PLE.

He concluded by warning elite league players against bad behaviour during the festive holidays.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUNG BUFFALOES FOR WINNING E350 000 'CARROT'

They are currently setting the pace for others to follow and that is the story of Young Buffaloes who are taking the premier league by storm this season.

On Sunday, the army side defied all odds to win the E350 000 put up for the team to finish on top of the log standings, managing to beat off fierce competition from Mbabane Swallows.

That said, words of advice to Buffaloes is that they must not forget that the E350 000 is just an incentive for the first round, not winning the league championship hence there's still a lot of hard-work

and games to be played in the second round of the league.

Credit must still be given to the team's technical bench led by Dominic Kunene, players and management for achieving such a feat.

To the other teams, they must keep in mind that the league champions have not yet been crowned and no teams have been relegated as yet. So, there's everything to play for in the second round of the league, which will resume early next month.

FESTIVE STOKVELS A BIG NO FOR ELITE PLAYERS

We have reached that time of the football season where we get to see stokvels being played in the different constituencies of this country.

The objective of staging such tournaments is obviously for entertainment purposes but for premier league players, they can only be spectators during such games.

Elite players that will be found to have featured in such unofficial tournaments will be punished accordingly.

We do not want to see players risking injuries in these games especially because the league fixture will resume on January 4.

So, it is important that elite players are not tempted at all to play in these tournaments but of course, they are free to watch on the sidelines like fans.

SHORT BREAK FOR ESIBAYENI LODGE UNDER 17 LEAGUE/UNDER 20 GAMES

PLE Development officer Banele Masondo is confirming that there will be no action in the organisation's developmental leagues including the Esibayeni Lodge Under 17 and the Under 20s as teams have been afforded the chance to spend Christmas holidays with their families.

Masondo is thanking parents who allowed their children to play in these developmental leagues this year and appealed for such support even in the new year as it has been proven that balance can be found in education and football.

He then reminded development teams that action will return on January 4.



Our football is making positive progress but...



NOMADS JUNIORS GOLF TOURNAMENT



WINNERS: Siphesihle Mhlanga, Vikelwa Magagula, Joshua Potgieter, Sisekelo Masuku and Mfundo Nxumalo display their trophies. They are joined by EGU President Albert Mhlanga after they were awarded their prizes during the Nomads Juniors Golf Tournament at Royal Swazi Golf Course on Monday. (Pics: Jongile Xuba)



CRUNCHING NUMBERS: Banele Shongwe, Lindelani Matimba and Naye Mkhaliphi count their scores before submitting their cards after playing.



FULL HOUSE: A section of the participants follow proceedings during the presentation.



WELL DONE: Eswatini Golf Union President Albert Mhlanga making his remarks during the presentation.



Nomads Golf Clubs' Arthur Horne also made some remarks during the presentation.



CHAMP OF CHAMPS: EGU coach Moses Shongwe hands Mfundo Nxumalo his Nomads Juniors Champ of Champs after he finished on 50 points.



B Division Champion Sisekelo Masuku receives his prize after he finished on 21 points.



Vikelwa Magagula was crowned girl's A Division Champion with 44 points.



ALL SMILES: Brett Cutting was the December Tournament winner with an impressive score of 76 gross.



GOOD TURNOUT: The young golfers and coaches shared a group picture after the tournament was completed.



■ Manchester City are demanding £1m from Arsenal to release assistant Mikel Arteta from his contract, with the Gunners wanting to name their former Spanish midfielder as their new manager. (Mail)



■ Carlo Ancelotti is set to be named Everton manager after signing an £11.5m-a-year deal. (Mirror)

■ Tottenham Chairman Daniel Levy says the club are not "scared" of selling Danish playmaker Christian Eriksen, 27, to a domestic rival in January. (Evening Standard)

■ Spurs will provide boss Jose Mourinho with transfer funds but the Portuguese is not expected to spend big next month, with West Brom defender Nathan Ferguson and Norwich right-back Max Aarons, both 19, among the targets. (Mail)

■ Liverpool are set to snub a January swoop for German RB Leipzig striker Timo Werner, 23, after agreeing a deal to sign Japanese Red Bull Salzburg forward Takumi Minamino, 24. (Star)

■ Paris St-Germain will line up a move to bring Pep Guardiola to the Parc des Princes to replace Thomas Tuchel. (Le 10 Sport via Daily Mail)

■ German winger Leroy Sane, 23, wants a move to Bayern Munich and is contemplating leaving Manchester City in January. (Bild via Mirror)

■ The Abu Dhabi consortium set to take over at Charlton Athletic was questioned by the English Football League over the extent of its links with the owners of Manchester City. (Telegraph)

■ Liverpool, Chelsea and Tottenham are among a host of clubs monitoring Lille's 20-year-old Nigerian striker Victor Osimhen. (Sky Sports)

■ Juventus are set to keep hold of Turkish defender Merih Demiral, 21, amid interest from multiple Premier League clubs as well as AC Milan. (Calciomercato)

■ Barcelona right-back Nelson Semedo's house was burgled as he prepared for Wednesday's El Clasico. (Cadena SER via Marca)



■ Spanish midfielder Marcos Llorente, 24, is wanted by clubs this January but Atletico Madrid do not want to sell him. (AS - in Spanish)

ESWATINI TO HOST 2020 TRI-NATION RUGBY TOURNEY

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

RUGBY- Eswatini has been given leeway to host a Tri-Nation Rugby Tournament.

This was announced during the international conference that was held in the country a week ago at Lugogo Sun Hotel.

Eswatini Rugby Union secretary Bonginkosi Dlamini said the conference was aimed to discuss a way forward on the development of the sport within the Southern African region.

Three SADC nations by Eswatini and Lesotho, Mozambique took part in the recently ended meeting.

"It's true that we will host the 2020 Tri-Nations tournament in April. Details of the tournament will be release in due course," he said.

The conference came after the September tournament in Lesotho where the Africa Rugby President Khaled Babbou sanctioned the three countries to establish a tri-nation's tournament that will ensure competition between the three countries. Dlamini further mentioned that the country would also participate in another nation's rugby tournament where senior men's rugby team will play an away and home format. Dlamini further stated they would also

compete in a 15 nation's international tournament to be held at a country yet to be announced.

"We are also going to attend another major international tournament and we will also exchange several programmes such as training, referees and coaching course.

This has been sorely made to improve the sport at grass-root level," he said.

"We strongly believe that such programmes will propel Olympic participation, Africa Youth Games 2020, in Maseru and all Africa Games 2022 and we will make sure that we meet the required standards as a country".



Litsito Motseremeli (Lesotho), Tiago (Mozambique) and Simanga Magagula captured during the recent international conference. (Pic: Melusi Mlotsa)

Cycling teams urged to recruit more Female Riders

BY JONGILE XUBA

CYCLING - ESWATINI Cycling Association (ECA) President Sihlangu Nhlabatsi has urged teams to recruit more female riders in order to increase female participation next year.

The president said this in his end of the year press statement released by the local cycling mother body yesterday.

He said this was a growing concern. "The sport has grown in stature especially on the men's category where we have seen

tremendous improvement. The female category needs serious reconsideration as the numbers have dropped significantly, the federation is working tirelessly to ensure more female participation and urges teams to play the most part in growing female participations especially in big races," he said.

He further added it was a tough year for the current executive committee but with the unity that prevailed amongst the remaining executive members they were able to pull through serious challenges.

Nhlabatsi thanked all sponsors for continuing to fund races.

"We would also like to thank our sponsors for funding on a monthly basis. This has been achieved despite the ailing economy we are facing, and we are very grateful," he said.

A highlight of this year pointed out was that there were minimal accidents and few incidents.

He also sent a festive season message.

"We wish the cycling family happy holidays and a prosperous New Year. Let's keep the wheels turning as we indulge in festive goodies," he said.

Pool best players meet in Trophy Challenge

BY MELUSI MLOTSA

POOL - ITS all systems go today in the Trophy Floating Challenge as the country's best pool players will face each other this evening at the Mbabane Express Car wash.

The much awaited match is between the pair of Dodge Matsebula and Siyabonga Dlamini who will be facing Flag Nxumalo and Eddie Mkhonta in the Double Trophy Challenge billed for 8.30pm

The winner for the highly anticipated encounter will take home E2 000 plus a trophy.

The action will kickoff at 6.30pm with the Single Trophy Challenge between defending champion Jarius Mhlanga taking on Dumsani Mnyakeni where E1 000 will be at stake.

The tournament's coordinator Sicelo Mndzebele confirmed the fixtures and further urged pool lovers to attend the games in their numbers.

"We are inviting pool lovers to come in their numbers

tomorrow(today) at Mbabane Express Car Wash. The fixtures will be pitting the country best pool players, hence, they are not to be missed," he said.

Mndzebele further thanked pool players in the country for the sportsmanship they have displayed throughout the year.

"We have all supported each other throughout the year and I hope the spirit will continue next year so that the sport can grow to greater heights," he said.

MFUNDO CROWNED NOMADS JUNIORS CHAMP OF CHAMPS

BY JONGILE XUBA

GOLF - MFUNDO Nxumalo won this year's Nomads Juniors Champ of Champions during the last leg of the competition played at Royal Swazi Golf Course on Monday.

Golfers had to play a final leg which determine their final standings.

In the A Division Nxumalo managed to get 50 points which saw him snatch the title away from last year's champion Phayo Dhlamini. Runner-up was Qiniso Mkhonta who had 46 points followed by former champ Phayo Dhlamini who finished third with 37 points.

The B Division saw Sisekelo Masuku finish first with 21 points followed by Naye Mkhalihi who finished second with 20 points. Mphilo Nxumalo finished third with 15 points to roundup the top finishers.

In the girl's A Division Vikelwa Magagula topped them all with 44 points followed by Simangaye Tfwala on 42 points. Channel Groening finished third with 40 points as Vuyiswa Dlamini came fourth with 30 points.

Two golfers Joshua Potgieter and Siphesihle Mhlanga were awarded the Most Improved golfer prizes for making great progress throughout the year.

Also, worth mentioning is that Brett Cutting won the December Tournament with a score of 76 gross points.

Eswatini Golf Union (EGU) Development Coach Meshack Zwane thanked all the participants and parents for making the competition a success.

"We would like to thank the parents and sponsors for the support, thank main sponsors FNB Eswatini, Eswatini Sugar Corporation, AD Enterprises and Eswatini Nomads Golf Club for making it possible for our juniors to shine," he said.

Zwane further acknowledged House on Fire who sponsored E4 000 towards prizes as well as Century Fashion who sponsored E2 000 also towards prizes and Eswatini Galitos, who contributed with sandwiches.

Meanwhile, EGU President Albert Mhlanga congratulated all the winners and continued to urge more parents to support their children as they learn golf.

"We would like thank Nomads for their continued support of our juniors and once again we had a great competition. We hope next year's edition will be bigger. We also thank all the parents who have supported the youngsters this year and urge them to continue," he said.

The outstanding golfers have boosted their chances of making it in the Eswatini junior national squad expected to represent the country in the 2020 All Africa Junior championships slated for Egypt in March.



WINNERS: Siphesihle Mhlanga, Vikelwa Magagula, Joshua Potgieter, Sisekelo Masuku and Mfundo Nxumalo display their trophies and are joined by EGU President Albert Mhlanga during the Nomads Juniors Golf Tournament at Royal Swazi Golf Course on Monday. (Pics: Jongile Xuba)

MTN urges teams to shift focus to league title

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

SOCCER - MTN Eswatini Senior Manager Consumer Meshack Maseko has called upon local teams to shift their focus to the league title following an exhilarating first round campaign.

Interviewed after the 3-1 Young Buffaloes victory against Moneni Pirates at the Mavuso Sports Centre on Sunday, Maseko congratulated the army side for the first round best finisher and further encouraged them to continue working hard. "Congratulations are in order for Buffaloes for winning the first round finisher and runner-ups Mbabane Swallows and Moneni Pirates.

We call upon teams to shift their entire focus to the league title which has a lucrative first prize of E1 million," he said.

Maseko also appreciated teams for violent free games, saying that they were looking forward to a wonderful



URGES: MTN Eswatini Senior Manager Consumer Meshack Maseko.

second round.

"The teams performed well and they should continue working hard.

MTN is pleased with the commitment displayed in the first round.

We are committed to improving the sport next year," he said.

Meanwhile, Premier League of Eswatini

(PLE) Executive member Sicelo Mkhonta also congratulated Young Buffaloes for their victory, saying they should continue working hard.

"Buffaloes showed that they had experience and they should maintain the good performance in the next round," he said.



VICTORY: Callies players celebrate their goal against Citizens.

CALLIES MAINTAIN FINE FORM IN NFD

BY JONGILE XUBA

SOCCER - MTN National First Division first round kings Tambankulu Callies have maintained their fine form in the league following their 3-0 home victory over Young Movers at Tambankulu Stadium.

The victory has ensured that the Mduduzi 'Nyama' Shongwe led charges remain at the summit of the standings with 31 points, six points clear ahead of second placed Madlenya who have 25 points.

The struggle continues for relega-

RESULTS		
Seven Dreams	3-1	Tycoons
Tinyosi	1-1	Illovo
Citizens	1-0	Madlenya
Ranger's	1-2	Vovovo
Callies	3-0	Young Movers
Umbelebele	0-1	Killers

tion threatened Umbelebele and Young Movers who are still languishing at the 12th and 11th positions respectively, after their defeats to Vovovo and Movers, respectively.

MTN NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION									
Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	
Callies	12	10	1	1	25	7	18	31	
Madlenya	12	8	1	3	16	8	8	25	
Tinyosi	12	7	4	1	19	6	13	25	
Illovo	12	6	4	2	13	7	6	22	
Tycoons	12	6	2	4	21	20	1	20	
Seven Dreams	12	5	3	4	23	20	3	18	
Citizens	12	4	3	5	17	12	5	15	
Vovovo	12	4	3	5	12	16	-4	15	
Killers	12	3	3	6	10	15	-5	12	
Movers	12	2	0	10	15	31	-16	6	
Umbelebele	12	1	3	8	6	21	-15	6	
Rangers	12	0	3	9	11	27	-16	3	

E2 000 UP FOR GRABS FOR DUZE YOUNGSTERS

BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - NOAH's Ark Hardware has pumped in E2 000 for Duze youngsters under the Lubombo region.

This was revealed by Manzini Wanderers Under-17 Manager Sihle

Mamba, who said the tournament kicked off on Wednesday at the Duze High School sports ground and it would come to an end tomorrow.

Mamba also invited all supporters from surrounding areas to come and watch the games in their numbers.

"We would like to thank the sponsor as this initiative has given the young

boys something to do this season.

This season the goal is to train more boys to boost our squad.

Refrain

When sought for Comment Noah's Ark Hardware Chairman Sandile Gwebu said tournament is aimed at keeping the youngsters busy order for them to refrain from drug abuse.

Zamalek maintain lead in RSSC Siyakha League

STORIES BY COLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - Leaders Zamalek FC have maintained their position in the RSSC Siyakha North East League following their 2-1 win over Zwelabantu FC in their weekend fixture.

They are now at 19 points after seven games. Their closest challengers Shewula Professionals beat Free At Last 3-2 to reach 16 points to maintain their second position.

Both Zamalek and Professionals are unbeaten so far in the campaign. Third placed Bacambi beat XI Stars 3-0 while Summarise beat Silver Stars 2-1.

Bacambi now have 14 points while fourth placed Summerise have 11 points.

Juventus recorded their first win at the expense of Shewula Classic whom they beat 4-1.

Juventus are now position nine with six points while Classic are 11th with three points, having managed only one win and six defeats. JB who were not in action this weekend remain rooted at the bottom with two points.

In six games they managed two draws and four defeats. In terms of goals, Free At Last has proven to be the high scoring side, having scored 16 goals. They are positioned sixth with 10 points.

...NISELA EXTEND LEAD IN SOUTHERN ZONE

NISELA FC beat Matata 4-2 to extend the lead in Lubombo Southern Zone league.

Nisela who were tied at 25 points with second placed Richmond Aces going to the weekend fixture, are now at 28 points.

The latter now have 26 points after dropping points in a 2-2 draw against Future Stars. Crookes are third with 23 points following their 6-0 win over Luvatsi.

The latter are pushed to sixth with 17 points.

Liverpool have since jumped to

fourth spot after their 2-0 win over Ubombo United. Phafeni remain fifth following their 2-1 defeat at the hands of Young Stars.

Other results of the weekend saw bottom placed Gamula beating Asbestors 1-0 to jump to 15th spot with four points, while the latter was pushed to the basement.

Juluka beat Manyovu 6-2 to jump to 10th spot with 13 points while Manyovu was pushed to 11th position. Manzanyama were held to a 2-all draw against Black Aces.

Arthur Hone gets early Xmas from UGI Leg of Lamb

BY NOMALUNGELO PHIRI

GOLF - RENOWNED businessman and seasoned golf administrator Arthur Hone is the winner of this year's last edition of the United General Insurance (UGI) Leg of Lamb played at the Royal Swazi Spa Golf Course on Friday.

Hone's victory was spectacular in that this was the last Leg of Lamb for this year before the festive season break and it will resume on 17 January 2020. Playing of handicap three, he miraculously collected an inspiring 21 points from a record field of 36 golfers. He walked away with a prize to die for, which was half a portion of a lamb from the nine-hole tournament. Hone, who has been playing golf since 1985, described his victory as a huge surprise because he had played poorly on the Royal Swazi Spa Golf Course about two days before the UGI tournament. He defined golf as an exceptionally humbling and unpredictable game. "I was here on Wednesday and shot a 47 gross on the same nine, which was horribly bad. Here I am today with a fantastic 36 gross. All I can say is that golf is a humbling sport that you must never think you're bigger than, it'll bring you down to earth," he said. The champion expressed gratitude

to the sponsor of the tournament Philip de Sousa, who is the owner of UGI's parent company United Holdings. He labelled it as a coincidence that early in the week he had a business meeting with De Sousa only to win a competition sponsored by his company about two days later. Hone said he was encouraged to see the competition growing at such an alarming rate since its launch at the beginning of last month. "A lot of esteemed golfers, mostly business people, are keen to play in this tournament and I'm happy to learn that the numbers are growing every week," he said. Royal Swazi Sun Golf Director Kevin Connor disclosed that the competition has been well attended since its launch, estimating that about 160 golfers have taken part.

"This is a very good sign and we're looking forward to an even brighter 2020 in our partnership with United General Insurance," he said.

Meanwhile, UGI's Operations Manager Patrick Gamedze shared similar sentiments as Connor that the tournament was growing at an alarming rate much to their surprise. "There are a lot of other tournaments around but you chose to be with us here, many thanks. We've no doubt that you're enjoying your game and we appreciate interacting with you," Gamedze noted.

RESULTS

Thursday 26 December 2019

AFC Bournemouth	1-1	Arsenal
Chelsea	0-2	Southampton
Crystal Palace	2-1	West Ham United
Tottenham Hotspur	2-1	Brighton & Hove Albion
Everton	1-0	Burnley
Aston Villa	1-0	Norwich
Manchester United	4-1	Newcastle United



MKHWELI ON BULL RADAR



- Ex-Birds, Weslans defender has already met with Landers boss
- Director confirms interest in player
- Likely to join the list of players to have played for the 'big three'

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER - FORMER MANZINI Wanderers and Mbabane Swallows left back Sanele Mkhweli is on the verge of joining capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders.

The ex Sihlangu defender has reportedly held talks with Highlanders Director Chief Ally Kgomongwe in a bid to secure a move to the black and white ensemble in the upcoming transfer window.

Highlanders is set to become Mkhweli second local move within eight months following his unsuccessful stint with Manzini Wanderers which ended last month on mutual consent. Kgomongwe confirmed this when reached for comment yesterday.

"We have met with Mkhweli and he has shown interest to join us next month but we are still tying a few loose ends on the contractual agreements. He is an experienced player who can add depth and quality into the team," he said.

Mkhweli confirming said, "It is true that I am in talks with a couple of teams including Highlanders but nothing has been finalised for now," he said.

On another note, Kgomongwe also thanked the team supporters for their good behaviour during the recent Mbabane derby against Swallows at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

"I would like to commend our supporters for showing maturity during our recent match.

"We appeal to them to continue

behaving themselves and we will ensure to reward them with good results and silverware.

We also appreciate the loyal support which they always give the team," he further said.

Mkhweli is likely to become one of the few players to play for the country's big three teams after the likes of Stanford Ncube and Mfanufikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze, among others.



WANTED: Former Manzini Wanderers defender Sanele Mkhweli.

Milton linked with Baroka return

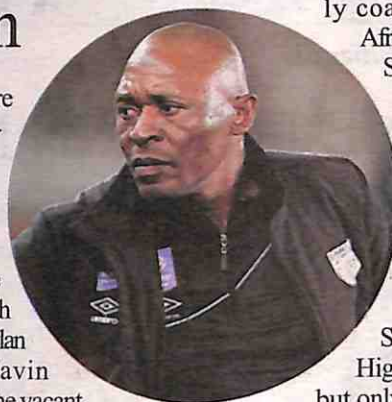
BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER- ESWATINI born coach Milton Dlamini is linked with a move to ABSA Premiership side Baroka FC.

Bakgaga are looking to appoint a new head coach in the next coming weeks or so following Wedson Nyirenda resignation this week.

Dlamini is currently attached at National First Division outfit, Free State Stars after leaving ABC Motsepe side Sivutsa FC. According to Soccer Laduma, Milton Dlamini confirmed that he was approached for the vacant post position at the Limpopo based side (Baroka). If the deal becomes fruitful, this will be Dlamini's second spell with Baroka following his previous stint

in 2017 where he was a co-coach with Kgologo Thobejane. He is believed to be competing with the likes of Dylan Kerr and Cavin Johnson for the vacant



position. Dlamini has previously coached three South African teams in Platinum Stars, Amazulu and Mbombela United. Locally, the coach had a short stint with Denver Sundowns. As a football player he played for Duze Peacemakers, Simunye FC, Mbabane Highlanders to mention but only a few.

Martial helps Red Devils get in the festive spirit

MANCHESTER - Newcastle United held an early lead at Old Trafford but were soundly beaten in the end, going down 4-1 to Manchester United.

Manchester United return to winning ways as Anthony Martial scored twice in a 4-1 triumph over a generous Newcastle United side at Old Trafford.

Having lost 2-0 to then-bottom Watford last time out, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side appeared to be suffering a Christmas hangover when they fell behind to Matty Longstaff's 17th-minute opener on Boxing Day.

Manchester United's defence had been given an early reprieve when Dwight

Gayle carelessly blazed over when clean through, but Longstaff - scorer of the only goal in the reverse fixture back in early October - made them pay, collecting Joelinton's layoff before angling a low shot beyond David de Gea.

However, any thoughts Steve Bruce may have harboured of completing a league double over his former club had disappeared by half-time.

Martial drew the home side level when his low first-time shot from Andreas Pereira's cushioned pass crept in at the near post, the ball squeezing beyond Martin Dubravka to reach the net.

Newcastle then gifted the hosts a sec-

ond, their attempts to play their way out of trouble only seeing Fabian Schar play a pass straight across his own penalty area to Mason Greenwood, who let loose a thumping left-footed drive that flashed beyond Dubravka with the aid of a slight deflection.

Marcus Rashford climbed above Schar to head home Aaron Wan-Bissaka's inviting cross and make it 3-1 by the interval, while Martial added a fourth when converting a one-on-one opportunity early in the second half.

The Frenchman was once again the beneficiary of a present from the visitors, played clear by Sean Longstaff's

under-hit back pass. Denied a hat-trick by a post, he was withdrawn with the crowded festive fixture list in mind.

Paul Pogba continued his return from injury by playing the entire second half in what became a procession, with the emphatic result lifting Manchester United up to seventh in the table, just four points behind fourth-placed Chelsea.

A much-needed win for Solskjaer after the embarrassing setback at Vicarage Road, though the Norwegian will be concerned at the way his team started the game. Matty Longstaff's precise finish means Manchester United have not kept a clean sheet in the Premier League since beating Leicester City at Old Trafford back on September 14. Long-term growth will require firmer foun-

dations than we have seen so far this season, despite the massive outlay to bring in Harry Maguire and Wan-Bissaka.

The former Monaco forward makes a habit of scoring against Newcastle - he has done so now in all three appearances against them. His opener owed much to the failure of Dubravka to make what appeared to be a comfortable save, though his second was a delightfully deft chip over the advancing goalkeeper when in the clear. If Dubravka could have done better with the equaliser, Schar then hurt his team further by inadvertently setting up Greenwood to put Manchester United in front. However, the Swiss defender was far from alone in having a nightmare after Christmas.

Goal